



## Operational Update, Fall 2014

**Cushing Medal of Honor** - First Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing of the Army, who helped turn the tide at the Battle of Gettysburg 151 years ago, was awarded the Medal of Honor on November 6 at the White House. Mr. Cushing's cousins and their families joined President Obama for the ceremony. Superintendent Ed Clark represented the Gettysburg National Military Park (GETT) at the White House ceremony.

**Economic Impact** – The National Park Service (NPS) released a report shows that 1,213,349 visitors to GETT in 2013 spent \$73,224,900 in communities near the park. That spending supported 916 jobs in the local area. Eisenhower National Historic Site (EISE) had 59,180 visitors and provided an economic impact of \$3,262,000,

supporting 42 local jobs. NPS tourism returns \$10 to the economy for every \$1 invested.

**Volunteers in Parks, our VIPs** - GETT had volunteers in the cannon shop, library, museum services, visitor services, park watch patrol, living history, and adopt-a-position. In all 2266 people donated 35,270 hours of service. At Eisenhower National Historic Site, 844 people donated 19,136 hours of service – a record year for volunteers at EISE! This is equal to more than 52 additional seasonal employees in the parks and the total labor donated is valued at \$1,226,855.

**NPS Centennial Update** - On August 25, 2016, the National Park



Alonzo Cushing in the Gettysburg Cyclorama painting

Service will celebrate its 100th birthday. Each NPS employee, volunteer, and partner can begin today to communicate their passion for national parks and NPS programs. To celebrate 100 years of stewardship, our goal is to connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates.



Cushing's Battery: the 4th U.S. Artillery, Battery B



World War II Weekend,USO Dance at the Museum and Visitor Center.

## Interpretation

**Lincoln Mobile App** – Park staff worked with the Gettysburg Foundation to add content for the second phase of the Lincoln app, “Lincoln 1863.” Expanded content includes a GPS-enabled tour that will feature videos of park ranger-presented short talks. The app is now available on iTunes.

**Ford Family Day** – In August the park developed and

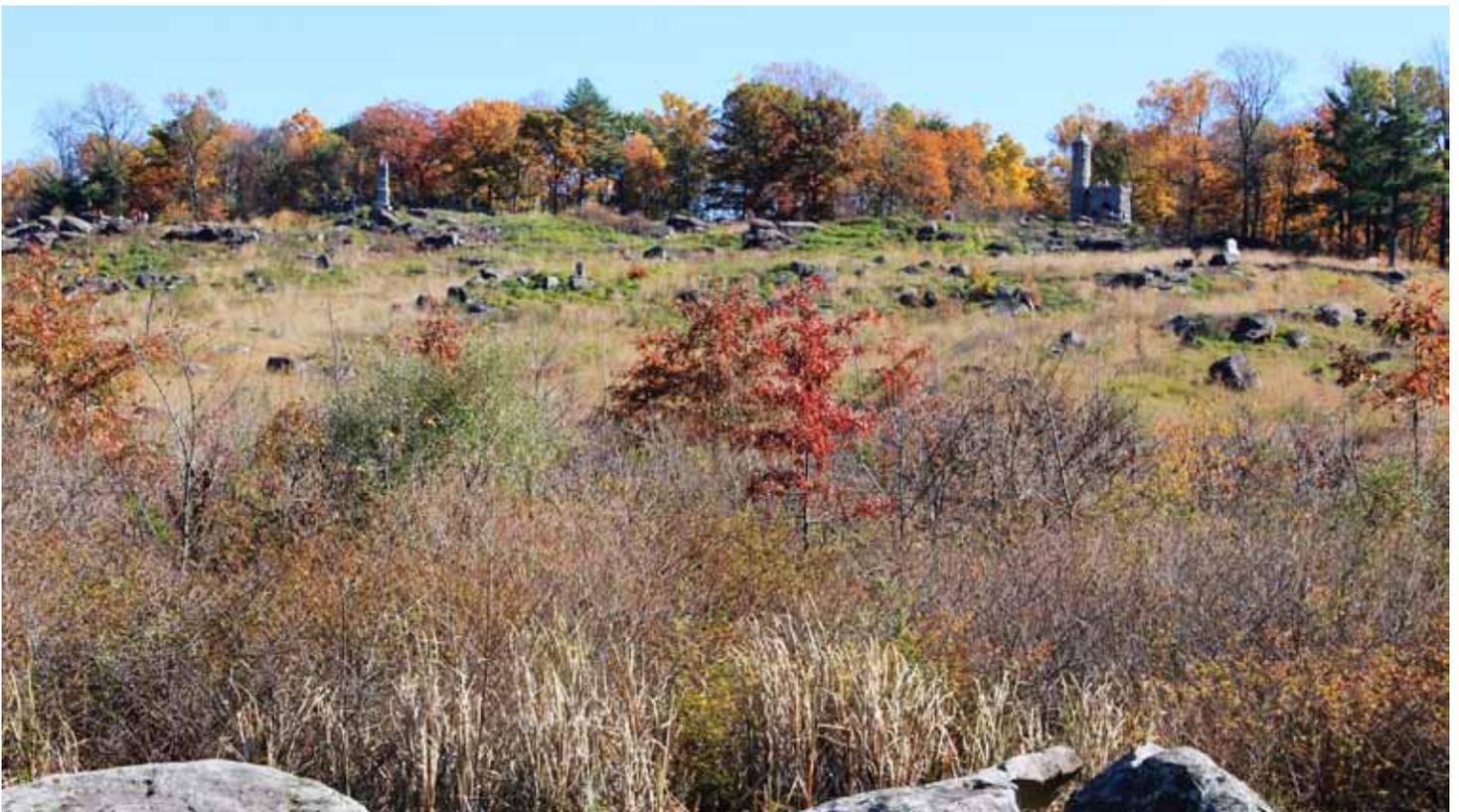
staffed the family activity tent that featured hands-on history stations, hourly special guest appearances and “Join the Army” programs.

**Gettysburg Seminar** - On September 12-14, GETT held its biannual academic seminar, *The Unfinished Work: Abraham Lincoln, David Wills and the Soldiers’ National Cemetery*, with the Gettysburg Foundation and Harrisburg Area Community College.

**EISE World War II Weekend** – In September more than 500 living historians volunteered for this event—the highest number of participants ever. Over 350 people, including re-enactors and local community members, attended the USO Dance held in the Refreshment Saloon at the Museum and Visitor Center.

***Ticket to Ride* Education program** – EISE received a 2015 National Park Foundation grant, matching funds and in-kind services from the Gettysburg Foundation, Eisenhower Society and the local community to provide transportation and funding for York students with limited financial means to visit EISE.

**Nativity Scene Restoration project** – With funding from the Gettysburg Foundation, made possible by a grant from the Glencairn Foundation, three



Little Round Top

nativity scenes that were on display in the Eisenhower White House have been conserved and are now on display in the Museum and Visitor Center lobby for the holidays. This is part of a month-long display of Eisenhower family holiday decorations at Eisenhower National Historic Site throughout December.

## Resource Management

**Gilder-Lehrman Special Exhibits Gallery** - NPS and Gettysburg Foundation staff are working to design a new exhibit for the museum's Gilder-Lehrman Special Exhibits Gallery. Currently housing the well-received Treasures of the Civil War exhibit, the gallery will next host an exhibit on the life and times of General Dwight D. Eisenhower at Gettysburg.

**Little Round Top** - The park continues to make progress toward developing alternatives for the rehabilitation of Little Round Top. A public scoping meeting on December 4, 2014 will provide the community an opportunity to review alternatives that will ultimately provide solutions for overuse, overcrowding and landscape degradation and identify appropriate locations for visitor conveniences.

**Comprehensive Community Trails Plan** - In October the park initiated a Comprehensive Community Trails planning effort. The purposes of the project are to improve multi-modal connections between trails and transportation opportunities within the two park sites and to identify links and newly established trailheads to provide pedestrian and bicycle access. The planning effort is expected to take one year - concluding with alternatives.



Guided bike tour at Devil's Den

**Fire Management** - In GETT's continued efforts to reduce woody vegetation and non-native invasive weedy species in historically open fields, the park conducted another prescribed fire just south of the Pennsylvania Memorial on 31 acres. The park's recently approved Fire Management Plan provides



Prescribed fire along Cemetery Ridge at the Wiekert farm.

the park opportunities to manage various landscape features using prescribed fire across the both parks.

**Record of Treatment/Preservation Maintenance Plan** - Staff from the Olmsted Center for Landscape Design was in the park September 23-26, 2014 to provide project updates to park management and to continue photographing the landscape. This is a multi-year project that will provide the park with a Record of Treatment of over a decade of landscape rehabilitation work. A Preservation Maintenance Plan is also being prepared as part of this project. This document will provide guidance to the park for how to maintain the landscape to an acceptable level for interpretive purposes.

**Deer Management** - The park is continuing deer management at GETT and EISE from October through March. U.S.D.A. Wildlife Services are reducing the number of deer directly by shooting. All venison from deer that test negative for CWD will once again be donated to Gettysburg area food banks.

## Maintenance

**Eternal Light Peace Memorial Repairs** - On October 7 park staff completed safety upgrades and repairs to the Eternal Light Peace Memorial and re-ignited the gas-fueled eternal flame after a six week outage. The igniter failed on August 20 which caused to flame to go out. Park staff presented a special interpretive program to coincide with the re-lighting.



Lincoln Speech Memorial

**Monument Preservation** – Preservation maintenance has been completed on the Lincoln Speech Memorial and the monument and artillery pieces that mark Martin’s battery have been placed in their original location on Cemetery Ridge – a site that had been covered for nearly 50 years by the Cyclorama building.

**Cannon Shop Operations** – We continue to work on cannon carriages throughout the year focusing on major rehabilitation efforts to return carriages to the field. We will continue this operation until we close the shop and move to a new cannon shop located at the Armory in January.

**Rehabilitate West End Guide Station** – We will close this site in November to begin a major renovation. The rehabilitated guide station will have new restrooms and a new orientation area inside the building. The final appearance will be similar to the south end guide station.

**Repair/Replace Lightning protection systems in both parks** – We will be repairing and replacing lightning protection systems in the park starting in November. The project is being done to make repairs to damaged existing systems as well as to bring the systems into current code compliance.

**Maintenance Complex Masonry Repairs** – We are in the process of removing, cleaning and resetting the 200 pound blue stone caps that surround the maintenance complex to repair a water infiltration issue. We are also in the process of making various repairs to damaged brick throughout the building as well as replacing window lintels that are rusting

and have caused an enormous amount of damage to the surrounding brick.

**Field Mowing** – Park staff is working on annual field mowing at GETT. Currently we have met over 80% of our goal due to the favorable field conditions. It is very likely we will make 100% of the goal this year which has not occurred in the last five years.



Michael Wright in the Cannon Shop

**Gutters** – We are installing new gutters and downspouts on the Snyder Blacksmith Shop, the Weikert summer kitchen and the courtyard area of the maintenance complex.

**Paint Interior of Eisenhower Home** – We will repaint interior rooms of the Eisenhower main home in January of 2015 due to wear and damage from moisture over the years.

**EISE Farm 2 Headquarters Repairing/Rebuilding Window Sashes** – The work will include scraping, sanding, re-glazing and painting as well as repairs to rotted components. We are also removing and rehabbing/rebuilding the exterior raised panel shutters as needed.

**Dry Pipe Valve Replacement at EISE** – We will begin a dry pipe valve replacement project in November at five buildings at the Eisenhower site. These valve replacements are part of normal maintenance.

**Resurfacing of the pedestrian trail from EISE Farm 1 to Farm 2** – A new rubberized mulch trail was installed between Farm 1 and Farm to improve accessible access between the two farms.