

Ten Things You Don't Know About Gettysburg

You might have visited the park or studied the battle, but we bet you still don't know these fascinating stories. You'll find the rest of the details and more in *So You Think You Know Gettysburg?*

Why do two monuments at different locations mark the first shot fired at the Battle of Gettysburg?

General John Buford's monument displays the gun that supposedly fired the opening artillery round that may have started the battle. But another marker, known as the "First Shot Monument," shows where Lieutenant Marcellus E. Jones fired his first shot earlier that morning. It is not an official monument—Jones purchased the land and erected the marker himself. Which marker is correct? Find out on pages 3–4.

Who is Penelope, and why was she buried in a sidewalk in the town?

Penelope, a cannon, was a relic from the War 1812. The publisher of the local newspaper fired her after every Democratic election victory. But in 1855, her overloaded barrel exploded after a night of heavy celebration, and she was buried in front of the newspaper office. Find out more on page 34.

Why does the nose on the 140th New York monument look polished?

Legend says Colonel Patrick O'Rorke, featured on the monument, lost his luck of the Irish when he was killed, but it transfers to anyone who rubs his nose. Thousands of visitors do just that each year, maintaining its polished appearance. Read Colonel O'Rorke's story on page 159.

Why is Amos Humiston the only enlisted man to have his own monument?

When doctors found the body of Humiston, he carried no identification, only a photo of his three children. Dr. John Bourns told the *Philadelphia Inquirer* about the photo, and it ran the story. A reader, Phylinda Humiston, recognized the children as her own Frank, Alice, and Freddie. After Phylinda identified her husband, Dr. Bourns raised funds to build an orphanage for children of deceased soldiers. Phylinda ran the facility. Find out what happened to Frank, Alice, and Freddie on page 30.

Why is there a dog on the 11th Pennsylvania Monument?

Sallie was the regiment's mascot and followed the men into each battle, barking at the enemy. Two days after the battle, she was found watching over the regiment's dead. She remained with the regiment until she was killed in battle in February 1865. Read more about her on pages 17–18.

Who is depicted in the Civil War Women's Memorial?

That woman is Elizabeth Thorn, who, despite being six months pregnant, buried nearly 100 men in the July heat after the battle. She and her husband ran Evergreen Cemetery until 1874. Hear more of her story on pages 58–59.

How did soldiers qualify for the First U.S. Sharpshooters regiment?

Candidates had to hit a bull's-eye on 10 consecutive shots from 200 yards to become a sharpshooter. Men who succeeded were known as "Berdan's Sharpshooters." Learn more about Colonel Hiram Berdan on page 83.

After the Reverend Joseph Sherfy's home and peach orchard were badly damaged during the battle, how did he recoup some of his losses?

Sherfy salvaged as many peaches as he could from his orchard and advertised them as fruit from the original trees on the Gettysburg battlefield. See page 125 to find out more.

Why is there a bird's nest on the 90th Pennsylvania Infantry Monument?

As the story goes, an artillery shell knocked a robin's nest filled with baby birds out of a tree near the regiment. A soldier from the 90th replaced it while under heavy fire. Learn more on page 13.

Why was the bust of Brigadier General David Sickles never placed on the Excelsior Brigade Monument as originally planned?

Sickles, who would later be a New York congressman, raised the five regiments of this brigade. However, he absconded with the \$30,000 raised to pay for his own bust. See page 126 for more on the scandal.