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## From the Editor

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The Saber and Scroll Historical Society has been conducting field trips to various historical sites over the past few years, including trips to national battlefields. These trips have included visits to the Civil War battlefields of Gettysburg, Antietam, and Kernstown and to the Revolutionary War battle sites of Cowpens, Kings Mountain, and Ninety Six. Members have also met at historical society conferences. In each case, the members who attended the events found great value in sharing historical research interests and camaraderie.

In May 2012, several Saber and Scroll members, including instructor Bill Speer, as well as Mike Gottert, Kay O’Pry-Reynolds, and Leigh-Anne Yacovelli attended the Society of Military History Annual Conference in Washington, DC. One of the largest Saber and Scroll group trips in our society’s history occurred over Veterans Day weekend in 2013. It was master-minded by past President Lew Taylor and led by member Phillip Muskett, who is a licensed Gettysburg Battlefield guide. Society members attending the event included Chris Cox, Lisa Bjerneby, Katie Ebner, Katie Mitchell Reitmayer, Susan Schenk Watts, Mike Gottert, Chris Watt, Scott Manning, and Guy Williams. The group visited both



Figure 1. Gettysburg Battlefield tour. This photo captures Phillip Muskett discussing the 20th Maine on Little Roundtop. Photo by Scott Manning.

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Gettysburg and Antietam.

Past President Guy Williams led a Wine and War tour through the

Shenandoah Valley over the weekend of 25-26 September 2015. The group started at the Kernstown Battlefield and concluded the first day at the Naked Mountain Winery. The following day, Lew Taylor led the group to the



Figure 2. Wine and War participants. Back row: Sean Watts, Guy Williams, Lew Taylor. Front row: Susanne Schenk Watts, Elizabeth D. Young, Melissa Weger.

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Harrisonburg, Virginia area for the electric map of Stonewall Jackson's Shenandoah Valley campaign.

The Wine and War tour is commemorated in the following parody of the Guy Fawkes poem:

Remember, remember the twenty-fifth of September!  
The Wine and War tour of the fall season held in the VA valley spot.  
I know of no reason why the tour ever should be forgot.  
Guy Williams and his companions  
Did the scheme contrive  
To keep history alive!  
Several battlefields and wineries did they show  
To prove Stonewall Jackson as the ultimate foe.  
But with many miles driven and a great docent did they catch  
to prove Stonewall as the strategic victor in the valley match.

A bottle, a picture, for camaraderie's sake  
Let our wine and war tour a happy time make.  
If you cannot come and have some fun  
I will drink for two and have pity upon you.  
A pose, a pose to display our mascot Jake  
Five dollars on a snack platter to feed him  
and a glass of wine to wash it down  
and many good stories to cheer him.  
Holla boys! holla boys, make the bells ring!  
Holla boys! holla boys, let the voice of historic truth sing!  
Yeeehaaa many more trips to come and deeds of gallant figures to  
remember  
as we plan for our next trip in September!

Sadly, one of the Wine and War participants, Saber and Scroll member Melissa Weger, passed away on May 6, 2016.



Figure 3. Photo of Melissa Weger from APUS Commencement weekend, June 16, 2015, with her sidekick, Thomas Jefferson. Photo by Lew Taylor.

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A student at Oakton High School wrote a beautiful tribute to her, stating:

Ms. Weger's enthusiasm and passion for learning and teaching were infectious. She truly brought out the best in her fellow teachers and in students at Oakton. Her students report that she consistently gave lessons that were engaging, relevant, and above all, fun and interesting.<sup>1</sup>

This year, Saber and Scroll members re-visited the Cowpens National Battlefield and Kings Mountain National Battlefield on October 8, during the South Carolina Revolutionary War week. In the planning phase to prepare for the trip, the project team realized that many people who were interested in the event would not be able to attend in person due to time, distance, or money constraints. We structured components of the event so that members could participate long-distance. We created a special Saber and Scroll Cowpens Facebook site and shared numerous documents and ideas among the project team. We also gained approval from the Saber and Scroll leadership team and the journal team to create a special issue of the *Saber and Scroll Journal* devoted to the Revolutionary War Southern Campaign and the Battle of Cowpens.

In this singular issue, you will find articles that describe the British strategy for the Southern Campaign, as well as articles about key leaders—their challenges, strengths, weaknesses, and tactics. Readers will learn about the deceptions employed by Brigadier General Daniel Morgan that led to the American victory and made Cowpens the battle known as the American Cannae. Readers will also find articles describing medical challenges faced during the war, women's roles during the war, African Americans participation in the war, and an article devoted to this unique battle, the only case of double envelopment in the American Revolutionary War.

I would like to thank the members of the Cowpens project team, including Dr. Robert Smith, Frank Hoeflinger, William Lawson, Mat Hudson, Noah Hutto, Jona Lunde, Bill Speer, Jessica Larry Lathrop, Elizabeth D. Young, Bruce Sarte, and Kim Trenner. I would especially like to thank Dr. Smith (Smitty) and his wife, Katie and Elizabeth and her mother, Angie for joining my husband Bill and me on the latest Saber and Scroll adventure.

If you would like to sponsor a future Saber and Scroll event, please let us know by contacting any Saber and Scroll officer. We hope you enjoy this special issue of *the Saber and Scroll Journal!*



Figure 4. 2016 Cowpens National Battlefield trip participants. Left to right: Angie Young, Elizabeth D. Young, Anne Midgley, Dr. Robert Smith, Katie Smith, and in the rear, Bill Midgley.

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<sup>1</sup> Andrew Lokay, "Remembering Ms. Weger," *Oakton Outlook*, accessed October 19, 2016, <http://oaktonoutlook.com/4007/feature/remembering-ms-weger/>.