



# 47th Annual POCI Convention - July 16-21, 2019 Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

previews by Gary Schuck

**A**lthough Gettysburg has tripled in size from the tiny crossroads town of 1863, it retains much of its charm from an earlier age with a population today of just 7,700 residents. While the Civil War battlefield remains its central focus for visitors and history buffs, Gettysburg has developed into a tourist destination with a variety of options to please the entire family.

## Beyond the Battlefield

Gettysburg began hosting travelers at a variety of inns and taverns long before the Civil War left its mark on the area. Visitors today can choose from a variety of pubs and restaurants with dining from casual to elegant, including ethnic food and “farm-to-table” products from the surrounding Adams County countryside. Local craft beverages are available from a number of wineries, distillers, and breweries.

Visitors will also find art galleries and

boutique shops with handmade items, many housed in restored buildings that date to the Civil War era. Admission is free to the Gettysburg Museum of History which was recently featured on History Channel’s popular *American Pickers* series.

The Shriver House tells the story of the battle from the perspective of local citizens who lived through the fighting. Self-guided tours are available at the railroad station where President Lincoln arrived to deliver his famous “Gettysburg Address” in 1863.

## The POCI Road Warrior Tour

POCI’s “Road Warriors” will have a great opportunity to enjoy the scenic Adams County countryside during their leisurely 25-mile driving tour scheduled for Thursday. Leaving from Gateway Get-





tysburg in small groups with detailed instructions, the Warriors will travel through town and then westward on the historic Lincoln Highway past some of the major battlefield sites. The first stop will be at Hickory Bridge Farm in nearby Orrtanna for a family-style meal in a beautifully restored 165-year-old barn. Owned and operated by three generations of the Martin family, this quaint bed and breakfast has provided a peaceful country retreat for travelers and locals since 1977.

With appetites sated, the Warriors will then continue through apple orchard country to visit Frank Buck's museum, open and free of charge for our group. Frank's collection includes a variety of items from World War II ranging from vehicles to uniforms, representing nearly every U.S. Army unit in the conflict. For any closeted Corvette enthusiasts in the group, Frank has a rare 1957 fuel-injected race car with the "airbox" intake and big brakes.



All tour participants will receive a souvenir Road Warrior window sticker and a certificate with their name and car information.

## Eisenhower Farm

Robert E. Lee and George Meade are not the only well-known generals with a connection to Gettysburg. In 1918, three years after graduating from West Point, Captain Dwight D. "Ike" Eisenhower was in command of Camp Colt, located on the Gettysburg battlefield where the famous "Pickett's Charge" took place. His assignment was to train soldiers in the use of armored tanks which were in the early stages of development. Curiously, the Army neglected to give him any actual tanks to work with!

In 1919, Ike accompanied a convoy of about 80 military vehicles that spent two months traveling from Washington to San Francisco. They followed the Lincoln Highway transcontinental route (dedicated in 1913, and which coincides with today's Route 30) for much of its length and would have taken him right past our convention site. Ike's daily journal reports a stop in Gettysburg for lunch on the second day of his trip. The official report for the convoy

mentions that Packard, White, and GMC Trucks generally performed well while others required more frequent repair.

Twenty-five years later, General Eisenhower was the overall commander of the Allied Forces in Europe fighting Nazi Germany. Although he never saw actual combat, Ike used his planning and organizational skills to coordinate complex operations like the D-Day landings in 1944.

Capitalizing on his reputation as a war hero, Ike ran for president as a Republican in 1952. He won the election in a landslide and served two terms as our 34th U.S. President, from 1953 through 1961. Perhaps influenced by his earlier transcontinental adventures in 1919, Ike was a strong proponent of modern, interstate highways — a longtime project which when completed was officially named the "Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways."

In 1950, Ike and his wife "Mamie" (Marie) purchased a 189-acre farm near Gettysburg and frequently used the property as a retreat from Washington and as a meeting place for world leaders during their years in the White House. The Eisenhowers retired to the farm in 1961 and donated the property to the National Park Service in 1967, with lifetime living rights for each of them.

The Eisenhower National Historic Site, which includes the home, barns and grounds, are open daily for public tours. The farm can be reached only by shuttle



bus from the National Military Park Visitor Center. Although this park is not a scheduled destination during any of our planned convention tours, it is well worth a visit on your own time.

The Eisenhowers made Gettysburg their address in 1961, and we that hope you, too, will make it yours in July of 2019!<sup>IN</sup>