

# Civil War monument turns 100

Event honors anniversary of Pennsylvania State Memorial

By ALISON MILLER The Evening Sun

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A couple visits the Pennsylvania State Memorial on the battlefield Friday evening. The Gettysburg National Military Park will be celebrating the monument's 100th anniversary Sunday. (Evening Sun Photo by Brett Berwager)

Located along Hancock Avenue in Gettysburg stands one of the largest -- and perhaps the most photographed -- monument of the Gettysburg National Park: the Pennsylvania State Memorial. And on Monday, it will celebrate 100 years.

On Sept. 27, 1910, the Pennsylvania State Memorial was dedicated to honor all Pennsylvanians who fought in the Battle of Gettysburg. The "Goddess of Victory and Peace" statue sits on top of the monument's massive dome, while 9-foot portrait statues of prominent people of the battle, including President Abraham Lincoln and Pennsylvania's war-governor Andrew Curtin, encircle the archways.

The Pennsylvania State Memorial also contains the names of more than 34,000 people who were part of the Union Army during



Marge and Tom Healy, from Centennial, Colo., read some of the more than 34,000 names of those who fought in the Union Army at the Pennsylvania State Memorial Monument Friday. (Evening Sun by Brett Berwager)  
the battle. Those that were killed are honored with a star by their name.

In commemoration of the monument's 100th anniversary, the Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides will host a free open house program on Sunday afternoon. It will include brief presentations by licensed battlefield guides as well as a resource desk for individuals interested in researching their Civil War ancestry.

Bruce Rice, a licensed battlefield guide, said the event is specifically geared toward Pennsylvanians.

"We hope to raise the general awareness of this thing that is right in the back door of so many Pennsylvanians," Rice said.

Starting at 1:15 p.m., battlefield guides will present 15-minute presentations about select Pennsylvania regiments.

The presentations will be ongoing every 20 minutes. The guides will also provide a brief history of the monument, discussing how it was constructed and the various repairs that have been made over the years.

Throughout the afternoon, visitors can visit the resource desk to try to find their ancestors from the Civil War, which Rice said he felt is the most important part of the open house.

"In this part of the state, there's a lot of people that are multi-generational here," Rice said. "As



Licensed tour guides will give presentations Sunday about the Pennsylvania State Memorial, which celebrates its 100th anniversary Monday. (Evening Sun Photo by Brett Berwager)  
guides we have so many people that we talk to that know a little piece of information, but they don't know enough to go any further with it."

The Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides will bring a comprehensive four-volume resource book that has the name of every Pennsylvania soldier that fought in the battle. Rice said people should bring the name of the relative to the open house, and then the association hopes to help people find the regiment that the soldier belonged to.

"It's like a phonebook," Rice said. "But instead of the person's home address and phone number, it has the regiment and the company that they belonged to."

If the deceased relative did fight in the Battle of Gettysburg, individuals will be able to find the soldier's name on the Pennsylvania State Memorial. It also provides an opportunity for people to start doing more in-depth research on their own, Rice said.

The Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides' open house will be going on at the same time of Gettysburg's Living History Weekend, where volunteers representing Union and Confederate troops will have camps and programs set up throughout Gettysburg National Park. For more information visit [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett).

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