

just in case. We soon are caught up in the bidding and, in the end, spend about \$400 for a quilt, a quilt rack, shelves, an old bench and a Granny Smith apple tree.

As we prepare to leave with our purchases, we reassure ourselves that we weren't simply swept away by the excitement of the auction. After all, not only are we going home with some unique items, but after living in northeastern Pennsylvania for the past 11 years, we spent a day rubbing shoulders with some of our neighbors and their Amish culture. ▼

Delbert Earisman lives in Nescopeck in Luzerne County and now regularly attends the Amish auction in Washingtonville.

VISITORS INFORMATION

The Beaver Creek School Consignment Auction is held in Washingtonville, Montour County, the third Saturday of April and the first Saturday of September.

To go to the auction, take the Danville exit off I-80 and turn left on to Rt. 54 west. Travel the five miles to Washingtonville and take the first right in the borough. Then take the first left toward the PPL coal-fired generating plant. The auction is about a mile past the plant.



Andy Waskie has portrayed Gen. George Gordon Meade at Civil War reenactments, schools, colleges, the National Archives, the Air Force Academy, and the Smithsonian Institution.

At Gettysburg, Meade won amid a horrific “frenzy of smoke, yells and exploding shell.”

He is also the president and driving force behind the General Meade Society of Philadelphia, whose members often gather to remember the life and military career of this forgotten Civil War hero.

“Time has neglected him,” Waskie told the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. “When Americans think of the Civil War, they don’t think of General Meade.” Yet it was Meade who commanded the Union Army of the Potomac and defeated Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia at Gettysburg in July 1863 (see accompanying article).

“It [Gettysburg] was the most critical battle of the war,” says Waskie. “If the Confederacy had won, it would have led to the creation of two nations.”

To give recognition to this unsung American hero, Meade enthusiasts began gathering at the general’s gravesite in Laurel Hill Cemetery on December 31 to celebrate the anniversary of his birthday. At the 1996 gathering, they decided to incorporate and officially become the General Meade Society.

Members of the nonprofit preservation organization conduct tours of Meade-related

General Portrayal A Philadelphia man emphasizes General Meade’s actions at Gettysburg and elsewhere

Text and photograph by Joan Wenner

ANDY WASKIE OF PHILADELPHIA portrays Gen. George Gordon Meade, the no-nonsense commander of the Union Army of the Potomac and the “hero of Gettysburg,” at a dizzying number of living-history venues each year.

A professor of Slavic languages and Civil War history at Temple University and a member of Philadelphia’s G.A.R. Civil War Museum and Library board, Waskie is a respected historian and sought-after Civil War speaker.

Round Up

people, places & events

sites, sponsor seminars, perform memorial ceremonies and maintain Meade's Gettysburg monument and headquarters. And every New Year's Eve, they continue to gather at the general's gravesite to toast the forgotten hero with champagne. ▼

For more information about the society, including a calendar of upcoming events, contact the General Meade Society at P.O. Box 45556, Philadelphia 19149; www.generalmeadesociety.org Joan Wenner, who enjoys following the work of Civil War reenactors, lives in White Stone, Va.

How Meade Made a Name for Himself

In the spring of 1862, Gen. U. S. Grant told George Gordon Meade that "wherever Lee went Meade would go also."

When the Army of Northern Virginia invaded Pennsylvania in June 1863, Robert E. Lee wrote that Meade "will commit no blunder on my front, and if I make any he will make haste to take advantage of it." Less than a month later, the two men would clash at Gettysburg. Meade, with 92,000 troops at his command, would win amid a horrific "frenzy of smoke, yells and exploding shell."

Though Meade, like many leaders during the national conflict, was at times maligned, his ability to accomplish results when it mattered the most is what George Gordon Meade leaves as his legacy. ■



Allegheny County

No Mystery About This Bookshop

Oakmont store is well known by mystery enthusiasts and authors

by Bette McDevitt

LIKE A DETECTIVE IN ONE OF HER FAVORITE MYSTERY BOOKS, Mary Alice Gorman and her husband, Richard Goldman, practiced the art of sleuthing before they opened a bookstore aimed at fellow mystery enthusiasts 15 years ago.

The facts were clear: Mary Alice knew that she wanted to run a bookshop and that the store had to be located within 10 miles of her home. Armed with this bit of information, the couple hit the streets for a year, looking at every available

piece of real estate in the area and talking to the owners of more than 50 bookstores to find out what makes a successful operation.

"They told us that location was most important," says Mary Alice. "People had to be able to walk to their car with a bag full of books."

The pair found an ideal location in Oakmont, a pleasant town along the Allegheny River near Pittsburgh, that had free on-street parking and was close to the Allegheny Valley exit

(exit 48) of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Nearly 15 years later, their store, the Mystery Lovers Bookshop, is the third largest mystery bookstore in the country, the result of smart sleuthing, but something else, too.

"It's called customer service," Mary Alice says. Not only are she and her husband and their six part-time employees avid readers who can make trusted recommendations to customers, but they also support mystery writers and readers in a variety of ways throughout the year. In addition to sponsoring eight book clubs and two writers' groups, the shop owners welcome about 60 writers a year to their store to talk about how and why they write mysteries.

"Mystery reading might be called an addiction," explains Mary Alice. "What we readers seek in a mystery is to find comfort. In mys-