

Camp Letterman Gettysburg Sign

An early post Civil War handmade commemorative sign honoring Doctor Jonathan Letterman. After the Battle of Gettysburg July 1863, Doctor Letterman was the "Director in Charge" of treating 1,400 Union soldiers and 6,000 Confederate wounded soldiers. The campsite consisted of 500 medical treatment tents.

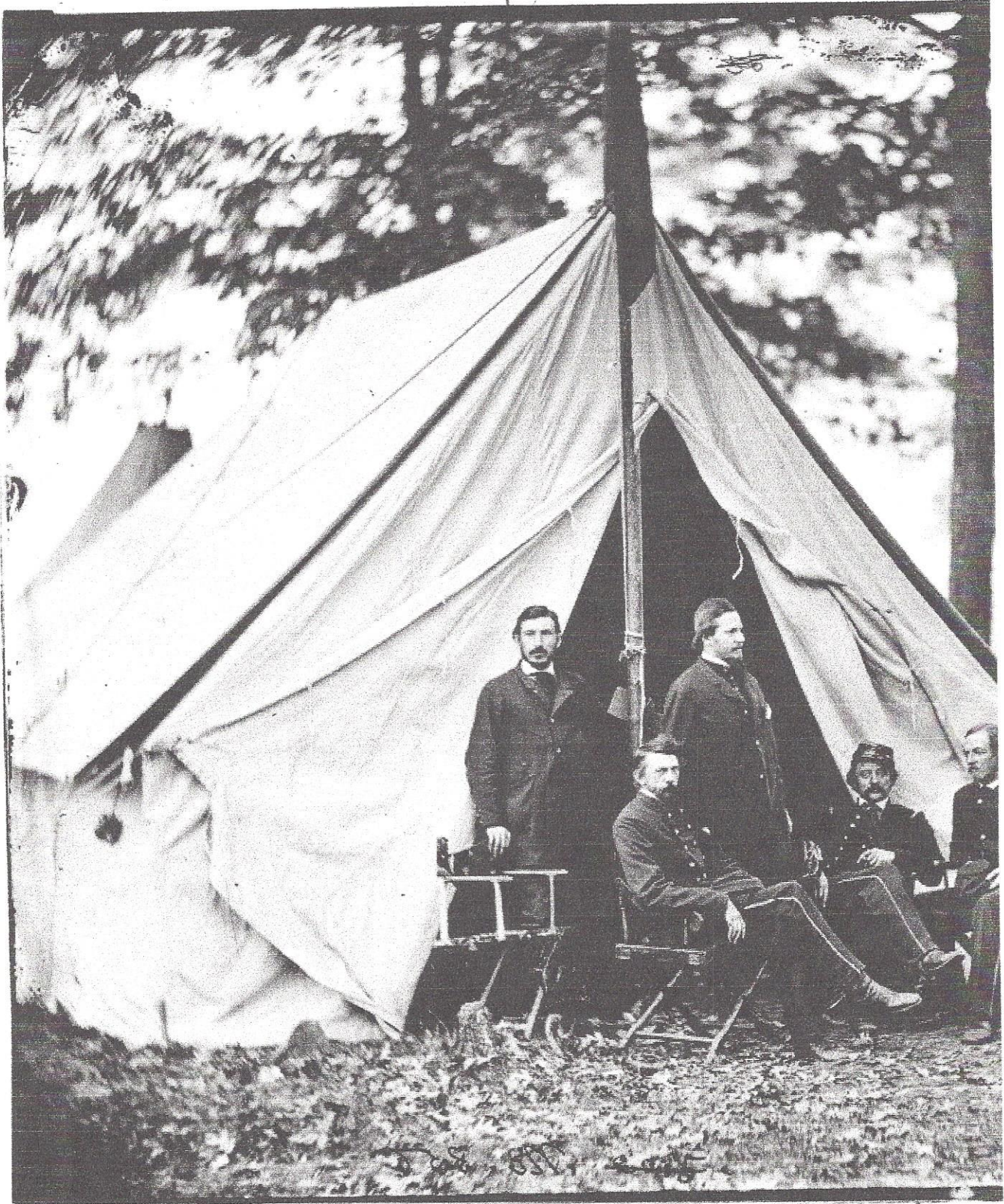
The large Gettysburg Letterman Sign was hand fashioned of leather and embossed metal over a heavy wooden frame. The sign measures 20 inches high by 30 inches wide with embossed letters reading "CAMP LETTERMAN H * Q 1863". The Sign was made in circa 1870's for a Civil War Museum located in London England.

Arriving in the United States 100 years later. A rare and Fascinating 1863 Gettysburg Commemorative Device.

Reverend Erasmus Jones C.W. Biography

This post Civil War Commemorative Field Hospital sign was commissioned by Reverend Erasmus Jones, a Welshman, who during the Civil War was Chaplain to the 21st Colored Volunteer 3rd and 4th infantry regiments. At the end of the Civil War Reverend Erasmus Jones returned to Wales and in the following 15-20 years had various Flags, Banners and other C.W. Commemorative devices constructed, including this " Gettysburg 1863 Field Hospital "Sign." The Jones collection was on display in a Civil War Museum in London, Which later was sold to a Bank; and finally dispersed. This sign came to America 100 years later purchased by an American collector.

Camp Letterman - Gettysburg 1863



Dr. Jonathan Letterman, Medical Director of the
Army of the Potomac and Staff November 1862





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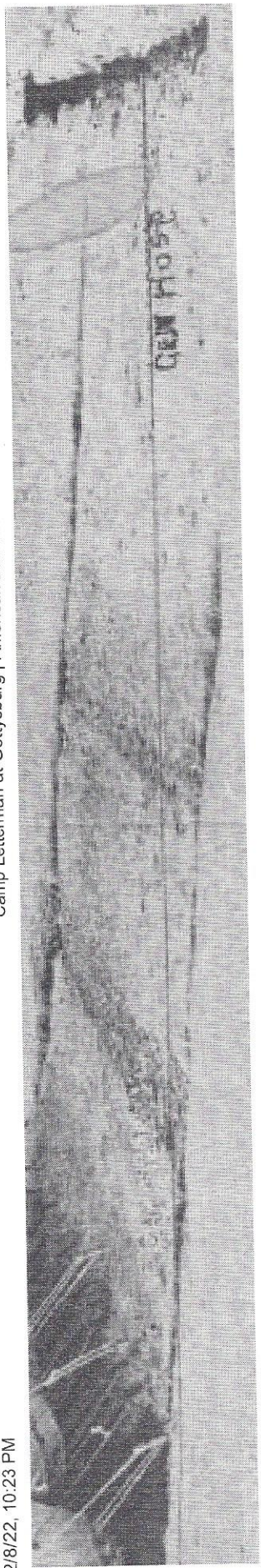
Jonathan Letterman [Wikipedia](#)

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Photograph of Camp Letterman at Gettysburg, taken August 1863.

Wikipedia



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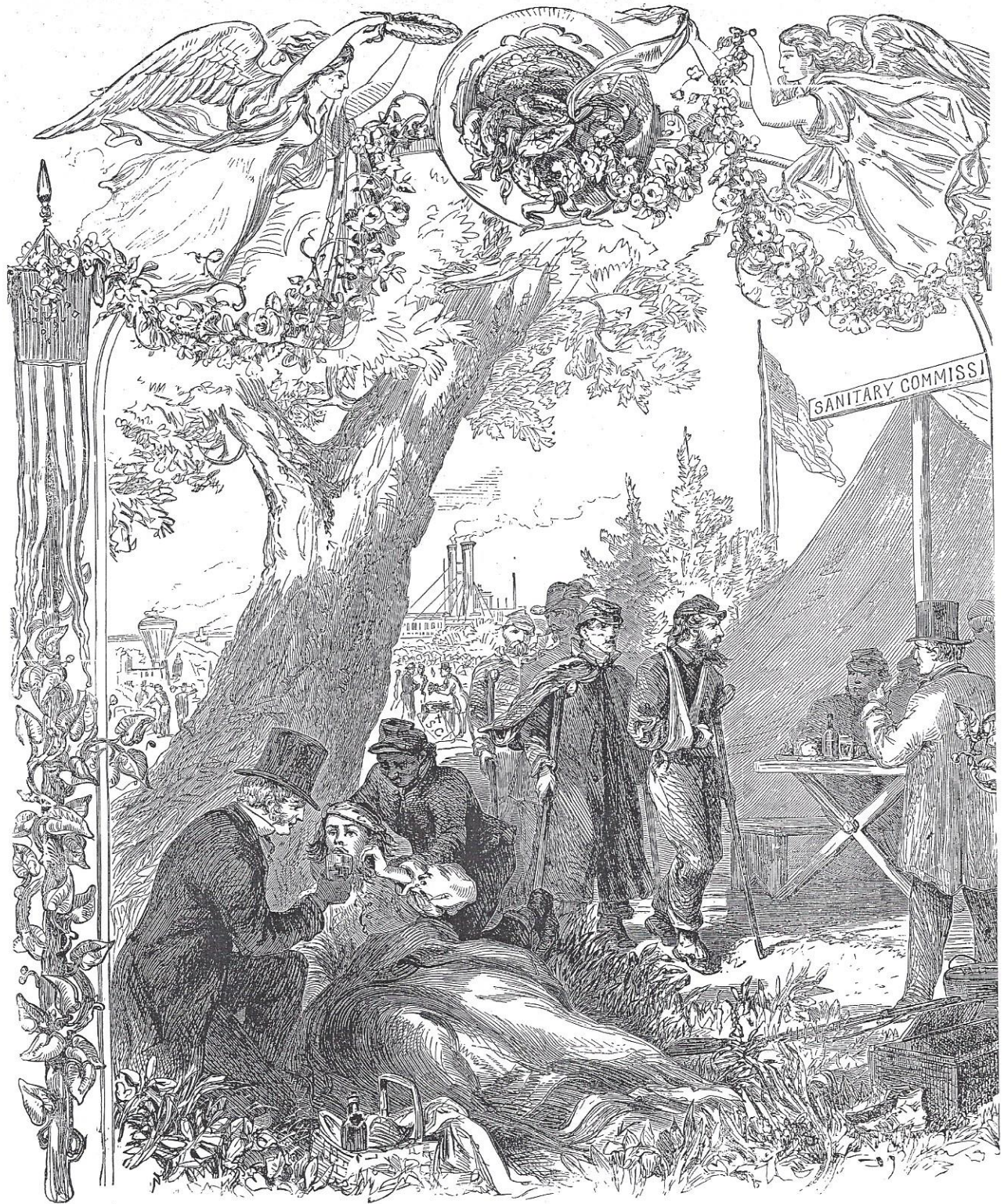
The Battle of Gettysburg was the bloodiest battle of the Civil War. The result was a total of more than 51,000 combined casualties. About 14,000 wounded Union and 6,000 wounded Confederate soldiers were left in Gettysburg after the armies withdrew back into Virginia. To facilitate the wounded, more than sixty field hospital sites were established and spread throughout the borough and surrounding countryside. In the days following the battle, both private and public buildings, farms, and tent sites were converted into field hospitals with surgeons, nurses, and civilian volunteers trying to treat patients to the best of their ability with the limited supplies they had. However, while the aftermath of the battle was long-lasting, by July 6, the Union army was on the move again, leaving some 100 military surgeons and civilian contractors with orders to remain behind to treat the wounded soldiers who were deemed unfit to travel. In the weeks following the battle, field hospitals emptied as soldiers were either transferred to general hospitals located in cities such as Baltimore or Philadelphia. Others were transferred to a large, tented

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Named after the Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac, Dr. Jonathan Letterman, Camp Letterman was built on 80 acres of George Wolf's farm, also known as "Wolf's Woods," located 1 mile northeast of Gettysburg on the York Pike near the Gettysburg Railroad. It was a pristine location due to its high ground, an orchard on the property that provided shade, as well as plenty of fresh spring water available. As one of the first and largest general hospitals built from the ground up, within a few months, Camp Letterman became an enormous establishment with more than 400 tents. Spread ten feet apart, each tent could house 12 patients, and each medical officer in charge of 47 patients. The hospital had the appearance of a small city with a cookhouse, officer's row, an administrative building, and separate quarters set aside for nurses, orderlies, attendants, and more. Volunteers from the U.S. Christian Commission erected a store and lodge tents near the site where they assisted around the hospital, prepared meals, and aided with supplies. Camp Letterman also contained a dead house, an embalming pavilion, and a cemetery with sections dedicated to Union and Confederate soldiers.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION MINISTERING TO THE WOUNDED AND DYING AFTER THE BATTLE.