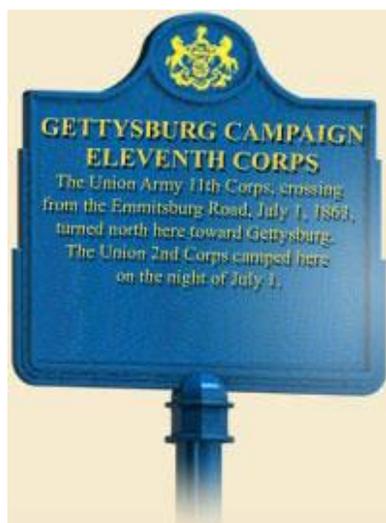# The 11th Corps at Gettysburg
Evan Portman

Saturday, June 9, 2018 1:00 – 2:00 PM

By June of 1863, the Eleventh Corps of the Union Army of the Potomac was considered an inept fighting force by many in the army. Commanded by Oliver Otis Howard and largely comprised of German and European immigrants, the corps was victim to Stonewall Jackson's devastating flank attack in the Battle of Chancellorsville. This humiliation, as well as contempt between the men and some of their commanders, induced conflict and distrust within the ranks. However, the men of the Eleventh Corps, called the "flying Dutchmen" by fellow Union soldiers, marched into Pennsylvania in the Gettysburg Campaign with an eagerness to prove themselves in the coming battle.

By an ironic twist of fate, they again found themselves on the flank of the Union army, exposed to and outnumbered by an advancing Confederate force. Howard, too, would be tested by the death of his immediate superior, Gen. John F. Reynolds, forcing him to take temporary command of all the Federal troops on the field, as well as his task to command one of the key pieces of terrain on the battlefield: Cemetery Hill. The Corps' controversial performance on the field of Gettysburg is oftentimes overlooked by visitors and students of history alike. Yet, their story is one of both failure and ultimate triumph over the course of the three days of bloody fighting.

Mr. Portman is a fledgling historian and continuing education instructor with the Penn-Trafford Area Recreation Commission, giving frequent lectures on their behalf. His interest and enthusiasm for Civil War history began with a trip to Gettysburg when he was seven years old. He is currently a senior at Penn-Trafford High School and plans to attend college in the Fall.

Light refreshments served. 2nd Saturday Lecture Series made possible by the Massey Charitable Trust.

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Registration not required.   Free and open to the public.