

# Murder at Gettysburg - Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Mystery Author Finds Murder on the Modern-Day Gettysburg Battlefield**

In *MURDER AT GETTYSBURG* (Five Star, May, 2005), the second book in Leslie Wheeler's "living history" mystery series, main character Miranda Lewis journeys to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania for the annual reenactment of the crucial Civil War battle over the Fourth of July weekend. But when a reenactor takes a hit and can't be "resurrected" because he's truly dead, Miranda soon finds herself on the track of a clever killer.

Wheeler was inspired to write this book by a program about Civil War reenactors she saw on PBS several years ago. In it, a hardcore reenactor complained that despite his best efforts to be as authentic as possible, one experience was missing: death on the battlefield. "So if a reenactor did die on the field, would it be an accident, the fulfillment of a bizarre death wish, suicide – or murder?" wondered Wheeler.

To gather local color for the mystery, Wheeler attended the 137<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gettysburg Battle, along with her husband and son. "Watching men shoot at each other under a blazing sun wasn't their idea of a fun weekend," said Wheeler. "But while they hung out at the hotel pool, I had a ball at the reenactment. Many of the scenes in the book are based on things I observed while there, including the destruction of the National Observation Tower, which was blown up shortly after the reenactment of Pickett's Charge on the third day of the battle."

A descendant of the Union General George B. McClellan and a self-confessed Civil War buff, Wheeler is the author of a previous mystery, *MURDER AT PLIMOTH PLANTATION* (first published in 2001 by Larcom Press and now available in paperback from Worldwide Mystery), which was an Editor's Choice selection in the *Boston Herald*. Her other publications include *LOVING WARRIORS*, a biography of Lucy Stone and Henry Blackwell, which won the English-Speaking Union's Ambassador of Honor Award and biographies of former President Jimmy Carter, Jane Addams, and Rachel Carson. Wheeler is also a co-author of a widely used American history textbook, *AMERICA: THE PEOPLE AND THE DREAM*. A member of Sisters in Crime and Mystery Writers of America, she lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts with her family.

Here's some advance praise for *MURDER AT GETTYSBURG*:

"History and homicide combine to create an explosive– and thoroughly entertaining – tale of murder and mayhem on the modern-day Gettysburg battlefield." – Joanne Dobson, author of *THE MALTESE MANUSCRIPT*

“Leslie Wheeler sucks you right into the fascinating world of Civil War buffs and battle recreations—in MURDER AT GETTYSBURG, she puts her own spin on ‘reenacting the crime.’”  
–Toni L.P. Kelner, author of WED AND BURIED

“The twists and turns in the book keep us guessing until the end . . . a good read that kept my interest all the way through.” – Sara Berger, *Mysterious Women*