

The Civilian Symposium is taking a Break!

Genteel Arts has been pleased and proud to host the Civilian Symposium at Harrisburg, formerly known as the Ladies & Gentlemen of the 1860s Conference, for the past sixteen years. In its 22-year history, the Symposium has grown and expanded from a weekend retreat for women to a premier opportunity for like-minded men and women to learn more about the citizens of the mid-nineteenth century, their clothing, and their social and material culture.

Our lives have also changed in those sixteen years. Don and I are now retired from our 21st century careers, and will be moving this fall into a new home near Gettysburg. Unfortunately, the logistics of moving - deaccessioning 30 years of stuff that we've accumulated in our current home, preparing our house for sale, packing, unpacking, and settling into our new home - will occur during peak preparation time for a 2017 Symposium. We've pondered and considered and looked at calendars, but we simply can't do both at the same time.

We're sad to announce there will not be a 2017 Civilian Symposium at Harrisburg. If all goes well, we hope to return in 2018, in a new location, and with some changes to the format.

Genteel Arts is not closing. Carolann will be teaching a reduced schedule of classes in Gettysburg and in other areas of the country this year, and plans to resume a regular schedule of classes in 2018 and beyond.

We truly appreciate the support you've given the Symposium, and we're going to miss seeing each of you next March. You've become friends and unofficial members of our family. We'd love to hear from you during our hiatus, and hope to see you in 2018.