



George Alfred Townsend and Gathland: A Journalist and His Western Maryland Estate

Dianne Wiebe

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The youngest correspondent to cover the Civil War and a pioneer in newspaper syndication, George Alfred Townsend came from modest circumstances. Using the pen name of GATH, he rose to fame and fortune after the war, and his career brought him into contact with sitting presidents and luminaries such as Mark Twain. Though almost forgotten today in the canon of Maryland authors, GATH left a lasting legacy of literature and a most unique monument. He created a lavish summer estate near Boonsboro, Maryland, named Gapland--now called Gathland. He also famously erected the War Correspondents Memorial Arch, a monument to fellow wartime journalists. Today, GATH's estate is preserved and interpreted by a state park and its museums. His commanding arch remains a bold reminder of the creative genius of George Alfred Townsend.

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