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### Laurel Hill Mansion Hosts Edward G. Pettit



On Sunday, July 19, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.  
at Laurel Hill Mansion, Randolph Drive, East Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, PA 19121  
Lecturer Edward G. Pettit will present GEORGE AND EDGAR



George Lippard



Edgar Allan Poe

The public is invited to hear a talk by literary critic Edward G. Pettit about George Lippard and Edgar Allan Poe who as friends and colleagues toiled in the trenches of Philadelphia newspaper and magazine journalism in the early 1840s. One writer achieved enormous success, while the other struggled bitterly, only to have his star rise to the highest heights after his death, says literary critic Edward G. Pettit. Attendees will hear tales and more about these two writers in this special program.

In the 19th century, far more people read Lippard than Poe, Pettit explains. Although Poe was a tenacious critic, leading literary wars against the more popular authors of his day, he never attacked Lippard, and on his last fateful trip through Philadelphia, Poe desperately begged Lippard's help. After Poe's death, when some authors castigated Poe as degenerate and friendless, Lippard leapt into the fray and published glowing accounts of Poe and his works, claiming prophetically that long after other authors were forgotten, Poe's reputation would continue.

Edward G Pettit is a Philadelphia writer, professor, book reviewer, film presenter, public lecturer and all around literary provocateur. He served as the Charles Dickens Ambassador for the Free Library of Philadelphia's year-long Bicentenary celebration of the author's birth in 2012 and wrote the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion's 2013 murder mystery play, *Twisted*, where he played Dickens. Pettit has written about George Lippard and gives lectures on Lippard, Poe and Philadelphia Gothic authors. Light refreshments are served. Program fees are tax-deductible and go toward hosting future educational programs at the Fairmount Park mansions.

This program is the second in a series of 2015 lectures hosted by the City's Parks & Recreation Department (PP&R) and the Women for Greater Philadelphia. The cost of the program is \$15.00, free for students with accompanying adult. There will be a \$5:00 discount for members of Women for Greater Philadelphia. Tickets are available at [www.laurelhillmansion.org](http://www.laurelhillmansion.org). Tickets may also be purchased at the door with an advance reservation. Please e-mail [events@laurelhillmansion.com](mailto:events@laurelhillmansion.com) to reserve. Free parking is available and the mansion is easily reached via public transit.