

2011  
Volume Twenty-eight

# CUMBERLAND County History *Special Civil War Edition*



**Drum Corps, 30th PA Infantry (1st Reserves)**

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The editor invites articles, notes, or documents on the history of Cumberland County and its people. Such articles may deal with new areas of research or may review what has been written and published in the past.

Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced. Citations should also be double-spaced; they should be placed at the end of the text. Electronic submissions should be in Word format with any suggested graphics digitized as separate files. Authors should follow the rules set out in the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

Queries concerning the content and form of contributions may be sent to the Editor at the Society.

## Membership and Subscription

The basic annual membership fee of the Cumberland County Historical Society is \$40. All members receive Cumberland County History as part of their membership. Individual issues may be purchased for \$7 each.

Correspondence concerning membership and subscriptions should be addressed to the Executive Director at the Society.

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# CUMBERLAND COUNTY HISTORY

*Cumberland County Historical  
Society and Hamilton Library  
Association: Carlisle*



2011

Volume Twenty-eight

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RICHARD TRITT has been Photo Curator at CCHS since 1990. He has contributed to this Journal in previous issues and has written extensively about his family history and about Boiling Springs and First Presbyterian Church in Carlisle.

## Introduction and Call for Papers

This Special Civil War Edition of *Cumberland County History* is being underwritten by M&T Bank. The Society wishes to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the bank's support of the work of the Cumberland County Historical Society.

The 2011 issue of *Cumberland County History* is focused on the Civil War as this country begins the observation of the 150th anniversary of that period of United States history. The articles in this issue provide insight into how the war impacted the people of Cumberland County. Charlie Benders' article about Captain William Miller provides details about the life of one of two Medal of Honor winners from the county. Miller is also significant because he was one of the early leaders of the organization that would become the Cumberland County Historical Society.

Stephanie Girard provides insight into the participation of African American citizens of Cumberland County in the conflict. She shares some of what she is learning as this neglected part of our history is being uncovered.

Katie Kitner provides information about how the war impacted life on the home front as men were called to service in other parts of the country. It also provides another example of how the Archives of Cumberland County can help the modern day researcher learn about a specific period of our history.

Randy Watts, a frequent contributor to the Journal, has provided a detailed analysis of the soldiers from the county who participated in the war. In addition, a second article provides a more focused view of how the Union Fire Company's men were involved in the war.

This issue introduces Focus on the Collections, a new regular feature of the Journal that will give the readership an opportunity to learn more about the extensive collections of the Society.

The book review prepared by Daniel J. Heisey provides our readers with a scholarly examination of a recent Civil War publication.

Looking forward to 2012, it should be noted that the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 will begin to be observed as we continue to observe the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. Essays on how that period of United States history was realized in Cumberland County would be of interest.

David L. Smith  
Editor

### Corrections

The reference to George Washington on p.66 should have the date 1794, not 1894. The photos on pages 77 and 78 are incorrectly captioned. The photo on page 77 is Albert Mershon, the photo on the left on page 78 is Howard Harbert and the photo on the right is William F. Noble.

## “Captain William E. Miller: A Worthy Citizen and a Gallant Soldier.”

Charlie Bender

The final line of the entry about Captain William E. Miller, in the 1905 *Biographical Annals of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania*, ends with “Such is the record of Capt. William E. Miller, a worthy citizen and a gallant soldier.”<sup>1</sup> The biographer begins by telling us Captain Miller is “one of the best known and most highly esteemed citizens of Carlisle.”<sup>2</sup> Today, nearly one hundred-fifty years after the war ended, many do not know the story of William E. Miller; Civil War Hero, State Senator and one who was deeply involved in the life of Carlisle in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Miller’s story was, and remains a fascinating account of a man who lived a life engaged in service to others, and is well worth remembering and retelling.

What do you think of when you hear the term “public servant?” A soldier? An elected official? Perhaps a person who volunteers his or her time in some community service? Well, William E. Miller was all of these. A life long resident of Cumberland County, Miller chose to make Carlisle his home. Despite outliving two wives and one of his children, Miller did not retreat from life. He lived his life as an example of service. Miller served his country during the Civil War, his state as a Senator, and his community, holding various local public positions. Miller also served as a leader of the Hamilton Library and Historical Association, forerunner of the Cumberland County Historical Society, during its formative years. A review of his life and accomplishments demonstrates that William E. Miller exemplifies the meaning of a “public servant.”

### Early Life

Verses from a poem by Dr. S. Ritter Ickes are used in the following section of this paper. Ritter was a fellow soldier at Gettysburg in 1863 and wrote the poem, “Bill Miller” after learning of Miller being awarded the Medal of Honor.

*In Cumberland County, whar he war born,  
A sawin' wood an' hoein' corn,  
An' doin' of chores about the farm,  
Feedin' the stock in his daddy's barn,<sup>3</sup>*

Like many Pennsylvanians, William E. Miller's ancestors were German immigrants on both sides of his family. His paternal great-great-grandfather and mother came into Philadelphia in 1730, and settled in what is now Lebanon County (then part of Lancaster County).<sup>4</sup> His great-great-grandfather, Abraham Miller, laid out the plan for the town of Annville.<sup>5</sup> Abraham Miller's son Abraham moved his family to Cumberland County. His son, Andrew G. Miller remained in Cumberland County, and that is where their son, William was born and raised.<sup>6</sup>

*'Tendin' school when Fall set in,  
Grabin' learnin' jest like sin,*

William Edward Miller was born in West Hill on Feb. 5, 1836 and lived and worked on the family farm. Until the outbreak of the Civil War, William was running the farm for his father, who had lost a leg due to an infection.<sup>7</sup> Like many young men in the Shippensburg and Newville areas, he joined the 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry as a Private. At the formation of Company H, known as the "Big Spring Adamantine Guard," or simply the "Adamantine Guard," Miller was soon made a Second Lieutenant.<sup>8</sup> Armed with only a general education, William Miller had already shown his potential.

*An' when it came to 'pint the man  
To take the front an' leed the van,  
Than quicker for not I can tell  
They boys they voted with a yel,  
An' passed the hat an' back it came,  
An' William Miller was the name.*

Other than his time on the family farm, where he developed the management skills and discipline that would prepare him for future contributions, little is written about Miller's early life.<sup>9</sup> It is likely he enjoyed many of the same pleasures other boys did growing up in a rural community. We know from a letter to him by a friend, E. M. Baldwin, that he liked to fish.<sup>10</sup>

*Wall, time went on and Bill did mate  
With the sweetest gal in the hull durn state*

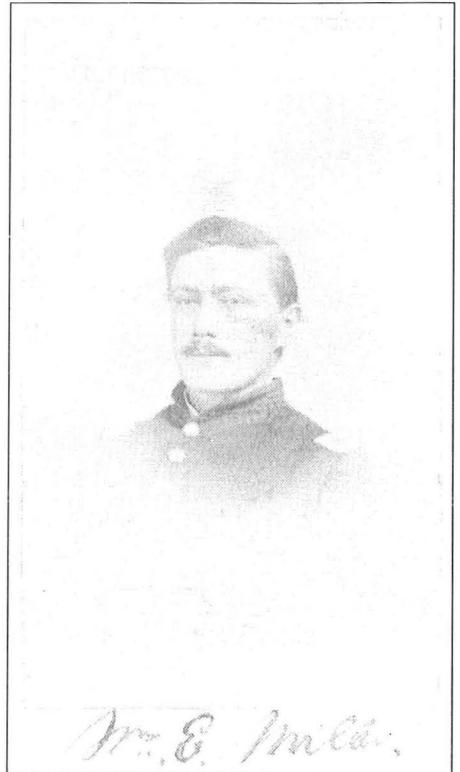
Miller was married in 1856 to his first wife, Elizabeth Ann Hocker, who

tragically died in 1859 of typhoid fever, at the age of only 23.<sup>11</sup> They had two daughters, Carrie and Elizabeth. During his time away at war, Miller's daughter Carrie lived with his parents in Cumberland County.<sup>12</sup> Elizabeth lived with her maternal grandparents in Dauphin county,<sup>13</sup> where she also died in April, 1862, at only three years of age.<sup>14</sup> From this rural beginning, William Miller embarked on a lifetime of service.

### Service to Country

Second Lieutenant Miller was involved in several campaigns during the Civil War from Virginia to Pennsylvania. His cavalry company was involved in the Peninsular Campaign in Virginia. The company's engagements included the battle between Yorktown and Williamsburg. In 1862, the company was part of the battle at Antietam Creek, near Sharpsburg, Maryland. Here his demonstrated bravery allowed him to leap-frog over the First Lieutenants in the company, and he was promoted to Captain, a title he used for the rest of his life.<sup>15</sup>

During his time at Williamsburg, Captain Miller picked up a treasured prize, but, more about that later. The battle itself took place between Yorktown and Williamsburg. In May of 1862, Union infantry and cavalry forced the Confederates to pull back from the Yorktown-Williamsburg line, beyond the Chickahominy River.<sup>16</sup> The Confederates planned to occupy the line of fourteen redoubts known as the Williamsburg Line that formed a defensive position outside the town of Williamsburg. However, Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston chose to abandon the line and retreat to the capital of Richmond.<sup>17</sup> The largest of these redoubts, central Redoubt 6, was known as "Fort Magruder," after Confederate General John Magruder who oversaw the construction of these defensive earthworks.<sup>18</sup> When the Pennsylvania Cavalry reached Redoubt 1, they found it empty.<sup>19</sup> Today, only Redoubts 1 and 2 remain and are located in Redoubt Park. The others have been completely



Capt. William E. Miller  
Civil War Photo  
*CCHS Photo Archives*



Modern day photo of Redoubt 1 at Williamsburg, Virginia

*Photo by author*

or partially lost due to farming and the construction of housing developments. Federal troops captured Williamsburg, and occupied it for the remainder of the Civil War.<sup>20</sup> While in Williamsburg, the Pennsylvania 3rd Cavalry used one of the advance buildings on the “Governor’s Palace” grounds as a hospital.

The main building at the Governor’s Palace had been destroyed by fire in 1781. Before leaving Williamsburg, Federal troops pulled down the advance buildings, and destroyed the Wren building on the campus of the College of William and Mary.<sup>21</sup> The current reconstructed Governor’s Palace was built in 1930 and the reconstructed Wren Building in 1928-31 and are now part of Colonial Williamsburg, a popular tourist destination.<sup>22</sup>

*When Hampton’s legions, with a cheer,  
Drove straight and hard on Hancock’s rear.*

Captain Miller’s military career had not yet reached its zenith. After the Confederate shelling of his home town of Carlisle, Company H of the 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry found themselves called to Gettysburg; practically the

backyard of his troops.

*But seein' the awful peril nigh,  
He raised him in his stirrups high —  
"Attention!" loud the order rang.  
"Draw sabre! Charge!" from his lips sprang.*

On the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, July 3, 1863, the 3rd Cavalry was positioned near Lot's Woods, along Low Dutch Road in what is often referred to as the "Cavalry Battlefield." Although ordered to hold his position, Miller saw an opportunity to surprise the Confederate cavalry of Major Generals Wade Hampton and Fitzhugh Lee. Miller's attack so disrupted the Confederate column that they were ineffective at supporting the infantry and artillery's activities at the main battle site. This action on Miller's part, in direct opposition to his orders, was considered by the officers at the battle to have been a significant factor in the union victory.

In a letter to his brother, Miller explained his actions.

I was without orders, but at Brooke's<sup>23</sup> suggestion, and in accordance with what I thought my Duty, I ordered him, with Sergeant Gregg and Corporal Weekly to close up the squadron, whilst I looked out a point to strike...General McIntosh complimented me on the field, and I feel that I did what was required of me.<sup>24</sup>

Miller was also quoted as saying to Lieutenant Rawle that "I have been ordered to hold this position, but, if you will back me in case I am court-martialed for disobedience, I will order a charge" to which Rawle gave his support.<sup>25</sup> Miller made this attack while suffering cramps and took a small bullet wound to his arm, but to his surprise, court martial was never mentioned.<sup>26</sup> Brigadier General George Custer was quoted as stating "I challenge the annals of warfare to produce a more brilliant or successful charge of cavalry."<sup>27</sup>

*While settin' there the other night,  
The good old wife turned up the light,  
An' sed: "Yer'd like ter read, perhaps,  
The doin's of them Congress chaps.  
They've voted Bill a medal, bright.  
(Here's the news in black and white),  
For leadin' ov that charge so grand,  
The day you busted Hampton's band."*

Not only was Miller praised for his actions, he was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1897. He was recommended for the award by his former Command-

ing Officer, General D. McM. Gregg. The request was sent to Secretary of War Russell A. Alger, himself a veteran of the cavalry battle as Colonel of the 5th Michigan Cavalry, and supported by affidavits from many of Miller's fellow soldiers. Captain Gilmore's affidavit described the activities in this way:

Miller swept in like a thunderbolt from the right and struck the column about the middle and cut his way clear through, cutting out a portion and driving it back as far as Rummel's barn, although himself wounded.<sup>28</sup>

The medal was awarded in July of 1897. In his letter announcing the award to Miller, Secretary of War Alger wrote:

At Gettysburg, July 3, 1863, this officer, then Captain, 3d Pennsylvania Cavalry, and commanding a squadron of four troops of his regiment, seeing an opportunity to strike in flank an attacking column of the enemy's cavalry that was then being charged in front, exceeded his own instructions and without orders led a charge of his squadron upon the flank of the enemy, checked his attack and cut off and dispersed the rear of his column.<sup>29</sup>

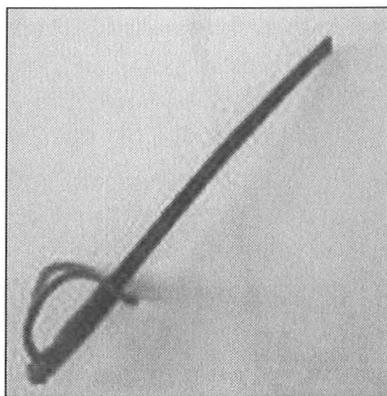
Miller retained the medal for the remainder of his life. What happened to it after his death is a story in itself.

The present location of Captain Miller's Medal of Honor is not known. Around 1941, Hugh M. Kreps of Chambersburg, bought a box of odds and ends at a local auction for one dime.<sup>30</sup> In the box was Miller's Medal of Honor. Kreps claimed to have sought relatives of Miller to no avail. At this point, the trail of the Medal became obscured. For many years various groups have sought the medal. These groups include the Failor-Wagner Post of the American Legion in Newville, PA, (who are now custodians of the old G.A.R. Post 201 flag and records and of which Miller was the first Commander), and the Cumberland County Historical Society.<sup>31</sup> Miller's family has been granted a replacement Medal by the government and it is now in the possession of one of the descendants of his sister Eleanor.

Captain William E. Miller had other trophies of war that he brought back home. At the Battle of Gettysburg, Miller's saber was broken. Discarding it, he picked up a confederate saber, and used it as his own for the remainder of his military career. The original saber was found on the battlefield and returned to Miller on July 26, 1881. Miller donated the saber along with other items to the Hamilton Library, now the Cumberland County Historical Society. The other objects included his G.A.R. hat and a horse hoof ring box. This may seem like

an odd object, but apparently it represented a prized war trophy to Miller.

The history of the ring box begins with the previously mentioned Peninsular Campaign at the Battle of Yorktown and Williamsburg. Captain Miller was responsible for scouting out new routes during the campaign. In town, he found a horse named “Old Bill.” Bill had belonged to a Confederate surgeon and Miller rode him throughout the war and afterward, keeping him as a personal pet.<sup>32</sup> Bill was a great jumper, having once been a hurdle racer who, according to one obituary “was never known to refuse a leap.”<sup>33</sup> When old Bill passed on in 1882 at the age of 25 years, Miller chose to have his right hind hoof made into a ring box. The box is now part of the collection of the Cumberland County



Historical Society.

Horse hoof ring box made from  
one of Old Bill's hoofs.

William E. Miller's Civil War saber.

*CCHS Museum Collections*

*Photos by Mary March*

## Service to State

After his military career ended, William Miller married for a second time to Miss Anna Depui Bush of Tioga County, on June 25, 1868.<sup>34</sup> William and Anna did not have any children. That same year, Miller bought property from the Isaac Brown Parker estate and opened a hardware store at 26 N. Hanover Street, Carlisle, with an attached home at 28 N. Hanover.<sup>35</sup> This building still stands today and is currently used as a restaurant.<sup>36</sup>

Miller's life of service, however, was far from over. He became active in local Democratic politics, serving as the Chair of the Democratic committee in both 1877 and 1888.<sup>37</sup> In 1898, Miller ran for, and won a seat in the Pennsylvania State Senate.<sup>38</sup> He closed his hardware business and served one term from 1899 to 1902.<sup>39</sup>

Before his election to the Senate, William Miller was widowed for a second time. His wife Anna died on August 4, 1894 of dysentery at the age of 47.<sup>40</sup> Miller did not marry again, but chose to take in boarders rather than live alone. City directories indicate other individuals living at 28 N. Hanover Street, presumably boarders.<sup>41</sup> After closing the hardware store, Miller rented the retail space at 26 N. Hanover to a series of grocers.<sup>42</sup>

Miller won the 1898 Senatorial race, defeating Republican Edward B. Watts, 5283 votes to 4430.<sup>43</sup> The local newspapers at the time included the *Carlisle Daily Herald*, a Republican backed publication, and *The American Volunteer*, a Democratic paper. Most coverage of the election focused on the national and gubernatorial races, but did include these revealing comments. The *Volunteer* reported that “Cumberland County has done well in 1898. It should do equally well in 1899, and will if the party managers are true to the people. Make no mistake boys!”<sup>44</sup> The position of these papers was clearly obvious. The *Herald* told the other side of the story. “Cumberland County went Democratic this year, but Republicans will be ready for the battle in 1899.”<sup>45</sup>

During his term in the state Senate, Miller was involved in many important decisions. One senatorial action, in which Miller played a major part, was the establishment of the memorial for former governor Joseph Ritner.<sup>46</sup> Senator Miller was present at the dedication of this memorial on October 15, 1902. The memorial is located along PA route 11, the “Ritner Highway.”<sup>47</sup> The end of his Senate term was once again not the end of William E. Miller’s public service.

## Service to Community

When William E. Miller left the Pennsylvania State Senate, he did not reopen his hardware store. Instead, he continued to rent the retail space, and started a Fire Insurance Business.<sup>48</sup> It was apparently successful, as his biographer wrote: “Since relinquishing the hardware business he has turned his attention to writing fire insurance, in which he has succeeded in building up a very satisfactory line.”<sup>49</sup>

Miller had served his country and state. He now turned his attention to community service which included two terms as Chief Burgess of Carlisle during 1882 and 1883. He was a long time member of the Carlisle Board of Health, and served as the board president in 1894.<sup>50</sup>

Perhaps to historians Miller’s greatest community contribution was his work for the Hamilton Library Association. As one of the early members of the library, forerunner and core of the Cumberland County Historical Society, Miller contributed artifacts, some of which were previously mentioned. During this time he also donated a U.S. Army blue wool blanket that was stitched

to a deerskin backing and beaded by the Oglala Sioux. It had been presented to Richard Henry Pratt, founder of the Carlisle Indian School. Miller was a frequent writer and speaker on historical topics. Two examples of his work were "Operations of the Union Cavalry on the Peninsula 1862 in Which a Number of Soldiers from Cumberland County Took Part," delivered Friday, October 23, 1908. The second was "Local History: Troops Occupying Carlisle, July 1863," read on November 27, 1902.<sup>51</sup>

Miller served as Secretary of the Library, often staffed the reading room, and ensured that the furnace was working and sufficient heat was available.<sup>52</sup> The Captain also chaired the Historical Committee for several years, accepting a number of accessions including a "Spinning apparatus" in 1905 and an "embroidered silk coat and vest" from 1776.<sup>53</sup> Under his leadership, the Historical Committee increased the collection of historical documents and artifacts.



William E. Miller in the Hamilton Library in 1901

*Photo Archives Collection*

Preservation of our history became very popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Miller's brother, John R. Miller, was also a member of the Hamilton Library. His papers included "The Old Taverns," delivered Friday, December 20, 1907 and "Odds and Ends of Cumberland County History."<sup>54</sup> Even Miller's old Lieutenant, William Brooke Rawle (who retired from the Army a Colonel) was an avid historian. In a letter to Miller, Rawle complimented him on his work at the Hamilton Library, and wrote about his own work as Vice President and Chair of the Committee on Library and Collections at The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.<sup>55</sup> In 1914, Miller received a letter from Yale University thanking him for his contribution of Hamilton Library literature to their library and asking him for a missing issue of the Library journal.<sup>56</sup> William Miller continued to be active in his community through his work at the Hamilton Library serving on the Executive Committee until at least 1918.<sup>57</sup>

## Conclusion

William E. Miller, a member of Second Presbyterian Church, remained a citizen of Carlisle for the remainder of his life.<sup>58</sup> Despite suffering a stroke, and being in failing health, he made a trip to his birth place in West Hill in October, 1919 where he posed for photographs at his childhood home.<sup>59</sup> Miller died quietly on December 10, 1919 at his home at 28 N. Hanover Street, Carlisle. He was buried, at his request, in the National Cemetery at Gettysburg in the Officers section, along with the other brave men who died at the battle. His grave marker bears the distinctive gold lettering that is traditional for those who have earned the Medal of Honor.

Typical obituary headlines, such as "Captain Miller Dies; Disobeyed Orders, Saved Gettysburg," highlighted Miller's military career and, in particular, mention of his Medal of Honor award.<sup>60</sup> Miller, however, served in so many different ways. His term in the State Senate, service in various Carlisle organizations, and certainly his work with the Hamilton Library bear witness to a life full of service.



Capt. William E. Miller gravestone at Gettysburg National Cemetery.

*Photo by author*

William E. Miller was a war hero, a state senator, a local civic leader and an avid historian. His life was one of service to country, state and community. It is certainly true that Captain Miller was “A Worthy Citizen and a Gallant Soldier.

### Time line of the life of William E. Miller

- 1836 February 5, William Edward Miller is born in West Hill, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania
- 1836 September 20, Elizabeth Ann Hocker is born in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania
- 1847 Anna Depue Bush is born in Tioga County, Pennsylvania
- 1856 October 2, William Miller and Elizabeth Hocker are married in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania
- 1857 April 26, Daughter Caroline Olivia Rankin “Carrie” Miller is born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania
- 1858 October 8, George King McCormick is born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania
- 1859 August, Daughter Elizabeth Ellen Miller is born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania
- 1859 September 8, Elizabeth (Hocker) Miller dies of Typhoid fever, after three weeks of illness, and is buried in the Dickinson Presbyterian Church cemetery
- 1861 August 17, William E. Miller enlists in the army as a part of the 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry, Company H, and is made a 2nd Lieutenant
- 1862 May, Miller leads Company H in the battles of Yorktown and Williamsburg, part of the Peninsular Campaign. There he finds and adopts his prized hurdle jumper, “Old Bill,” whom he rides throughout the remainder of the war, and for many years after
- 1862 September, William Miller is promoted to Captain after his actions in the battle of Antietam
- 1863 July 3, Miller leads a cavalry charge, against orders, to break up a Confederate line, possibly turning the tide at Gettysburg. This action ultimately earned Miller the Medal of Honor
- 1864 August 24, Captain William E. Miller is mustered out of the U.S. Army
- 1868 June 25, William Miller and Anna Bush are married in Cumberland County, Pa
- 1882 December 19, Carrie Miller and George McCormick are married in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania
- 1882 August, Miller’s horse, “Old Bill” dies. Obituaries are run in several newspapers about the loss of another “veteran” of the Civil War

- 1886 June, Grandson William Edward Shields McCormick is born in Tennessee
- 1890 March, Granddaughter Anna Elizabeth McCormick is born in Virginia
- 1894 August 4, Anna (Bush) Miller dies of dysentery, in Carlisle Pa, and is buried in Tioga County
- 1897 July 21, Captain William E. Miller is awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at the Battle of Gettysburg
- 1898 November, William E. Miller is elected state senator, and serves one term, from 1899 to 1902
- 1899 February, Grandson George K. McCormick is born in Tennessee
- 1919 December 10, William E. Miller dies at his home at 28 N. Hanover St. Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and is buried in the National Cemetery, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
- 1928 November 5, Carrie (Miller) McCormick dies in Bell, Kentucky
- 1929 July 18, George McCormick dies in Bell, Kentucky

## End Notes

- 1 “Captain William E. Miller, Cumberland County, PA”, *Biographical Annals of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania*, Chicago: The Genealogical Publishing Co., 1905, pages 82-86.
- 2 *Ibid*, 86.
- 3 Dr. S. Ritter Ickes, “Bill Miller”, poem written by one of Miller’s soldiers, who by his own account “rode along with Miller” at the battle of Gettysburg. Written after hearing word that Miller had been awarded the Medal of Honor. *Carlisle Gazette*, August 19, 1897.
- 4 *Ibid*, 82.
- 5 *Ibid*.
- 6 *Ibid*.
- 7 *Ibid*, 84.
- 8 *Ibid*.
- 9 *Ibid*.
- 10 E. M. Baldwin, “Letter to William Miller”, July 29, 1904, Williamsport PA.
- 11 Obituary of “Elizabeth Miller”, *The Shippensburg News*, September 24, 1859, 3.
- 12 According to the 1860 Federal Census.
- 13 Obituary of Elizabeth Ellen Miller, *The Shippensburg News*, May 31, 1862, 3.
- 14 *Ibid*, 86.
- 15 *Ibid*.
- 16 “Captain William E. Miller, Democratic Candidate for State Senate”, *The Gettysburg Compiler*, Tuesday, September 27, 1898.
- 17 “Quarterpath Road: Historic Avenue”, Historic Marker in Redoubt Park, Williamsburg, VA.
- 18 “Redoubt 1: Engineers Debate the Williamsburg Line”, Historic Marker in Redoubt Park, Williamsburg, VA.
- 19 “Battle of Williamsburg: Emory’s Failed Advance”, Historic Marker in Redoubt Park, Williamsburg, VA.
- 20 “Williamsburg in the Civil War: Gateway to Richmond”, Historic Marker in Redoubt Park, Williamsburg, VA.
- 21 Carson O. Hudson, Jr., *Civil War Williamsburg*, Williamsburg VA: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, in association with Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg PA, 1997, 59.
- 22 George Humphrey Yetter, *Williamsburg Before and After: the Rebirth of Virginia’s Colonial Capital*, Williamsburg VA: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1988, 1996, 154 & 147.
- 23 William Brooke Rawle, Miller’s Lieutenant. Sometimes erroneously listed as William Rawle Brooke, probably due to his muster entry, which Rawle himself noted was incorrect in his affidavit for Miller’s Medal of Honor. Miller’s use of his middle name, Brooke, may have added to this confusion.

- 24 William E. Miller, "Letter to his brother", July 7, 1863, Waynesboro, PA. Although simply addressed to "My Dear Bro:", it is likely this is John R. Miller his older brother; attorney, fellow soldier and also a member of the Hamilton Library Association.
- 25 "Captain William E. Miller" biography, 85.
- 26 William E. Miller, "Letter to his Brother".
- 27 From an article of unknown date and newspaper found in Miller's personal scrapbook. This book, made from an old bronze hardware catalog, contained many articles on Pennsylvania politics and war memorabilia.
- 28 Captain Gilmore, affidavit attached to the application for Miller's Medal of Honor.
- 29 Russell A. Alger, Secretary of War, "Letter to William E. Miller", July 22, 1897.
- 30 Pete Ritter, "Medal Congress Gave Hero in the Battle of Gettysburg Sold For Dime With Junk", *The Sunday Patriot News*, December 2, 1956.
- 31 David Hawkins, "Society Seeks Medal", *The Carlisle Sentinel*, July 18, 1988.
- 32 "A Veteran Gone", *The Daily Sentinel*, August 10, 1882.
- 33 Obituary of "Old Bill", *Philadelphia Sunday Press*, August 20, 1882.
- 34 "Captain William E. Miller," biography, 86. Mrs. Miller's name in this account is listed as Anna DePui Bush, which matches several other sources. Other accounts, however, spell it Depue. I have chosen to use DePui in this article.
- 35 According to deed records of Carlisle, Vol. 2, Book X, Page 364, William E. Miller bought property from the executors of Isaac B. Parker, a well-known Carlisle attorney, in February, 1868. This is also confirmed by studying various maps of Carlisle from 1858, 1872, etc.
- 36 *Sanborn Map of Carlisle Pennsylvania, 1890*, New York: Sanborn-Paris Map Company, 1890. The map shows one building on the lot, with two addresses, 26 and 28, N. Hanover St. Also, *Boyd's General Directory of Chambersburg, Carlisle, Hagerstown, Mechanicsburg and Waynesboro 1887*, page 261, shows a typical entry for this type of city directory, and has an add for Miller's store at the bottom of the page.
- 37 "Captain William E. Miller," biography, 85.
- 38 *Ibid*, 85-86.
- 39 *Smull's Legislative Handbook and Manual of the State of Pennsylvania 1905*. Harrisburg PA: William Stanley Ray, State Printer of Pennsylvania, 698.
- 40 Burial records of the Second Presbyterian Church, Carlisle, 8.
- 41 *Johnson and Lynch's Directory of Carlisle PA for 1896-97*, (56, 99) shows, in addition to William E. Miller, and H. Miller, a Charles Meck and a Miss Hattie R. Fickes living at 28 N. Hanover Street. Mr. Meck was listed as a Confectioner (in 1904-05 as a Painter) and Miss Fickes had a millinery shop at 20 N. Hanover Street.
- 42 Various city directories and photographs in the possession of CCHS show that at least four different Grocers operated stores at 26 N. Hanover. Jacob M. Sheaffer (1904-05), Byron R. Foreman (1906-12), J. L. Weibley (1913-17) and W. A. Kreamer (1922).
- 43 *American Volunteer*, Saturday, November 12, 1898, 2.

- 44 *Ibid.*
- 45 *Carlisle Daily Herald*, Wednesday, November 9, 1898, 2.
- 46 *Agreement between the Honorable E. W. Biddle and the Honorable William E. Miller, Commissioners and John W. Eby, Contractor*, May 28, 1902. E. W. Biddle was also involved in the early years of the Hamilton Library.
- 47 Photograph of memorial showing Miller, October 15, 1902.
- 48 *Residences and Businesses of Carlisle, Cumberland County PA and Nearby Communities 1913-1914*, Carlisle PA: The Lettershop, 1913. The 1913-14 directory indicates both Miller's home and insurance business as 28 N. Hanover St., The 1917 directory indicates Miller's address as 29 N. Hanover St., however, this is an apparent error as it is stated in many obituaries that he remained in the same home until his death in 1919.
- 49 "Captain William E. Miller," biography, 86.
- 50 Obituary of William E. Miller, *The Philadelphia Public Ledger*, December 12, 1919.
- 51 *Hamilton Library Association, Historical Papers, Annual Reports*, Carlisle PA: The Hamilton Library Association. "Annual Report 1903," 3, "Annual Report 1905," 5, and "Annual Report 1908," 5.
- 52 *Ibid*, "Annual Report 1903," 3.
- 53 *Hamilton Library Association, Historical Papers, Annual Reports*, Carlisle PA: The Hamilton Library Association. "Annual Report 1905," 5. "Annual Report 1907," 5.
- 54 *Hamilton Library Association, Historical Papers, Annual Reports*, Carlisle PA: The Hamilton Library Association. "Annual Report 1907," 5. "Annual Report 1911".
- 55 William Brooke Rawle, "Letter to William E. Miller", May 2, 1908. Although no postmark is indicated it is likely Rawle was living in Philadelphia at the time of this letter.
- 56 J. C. Schwab, Librarian, Yale University, "Letter to William E. Miller", July 30, 1914.
- 57 *Hamilton Library Association, Historical Papers, Annual Reports*, "Annual Report 1918".
- 58 Obituary of William E. Miller, *The Carlisle Daily Sentinel*, June 6, 1912.
- 59 Obituary of William E. Miller, *The Gettysburg Compiler*, Saturday, December 13, 1919.
- 60 Obituary of William E. Miller, *The Philadelphia Public Ledger*, December 11, 1919.

# Cumberland County Troops in the American Civil War

*Randy Watts*

An estimated 3,200 citizens of Cumberland County served in the military in the course of the Civil War.<sup>1</sup> With the 150th anniversary of the Civil War upon us there is renewed interest in the war and the role Cumberland County citizens played during this crucial era of our nation's history. This article is intended to provide an overview of how the war effort was organized in terms of troop call-ups and how they were organized at the state level, while also providing information on troops from Cumberland County. This is an overview intended to lead the reader into more research on specific units and their war experiences

There were a number of companies that were "Cumberland County" units, such as the 30th Regiment, Co. H, the 158th Co. A, etc. These units, and others like them, were recruited largely in one community or one area of the county and were bound by community, and in many cases, family ties, to the company. In other cases county residents were cycled into units as "replacements" at various times during the war, and while it may appear the county was well represented in the unit it is unlikely it had an identity as being from Cumberland County. This article is divided into three parts to help explain when and where troops served.

Part 1 gives an overview of how troops were called into service in Pennsylvania and how the companies were organized. Part 2 is an overview of each company with a significant number of troops (10 or more) from the county. Part 3 provides a list of all the Pennsylvania and Regular Army companies in which residents from Cumberland County are known to have served along with the number of dead from Cumberland County in that unit.

The American Civil War was an epic struggle that resulted in almost 600,000 deaths between 1861 and 1865.<sup>2</sup> The war was fought in major battles such as Gettysburg, Fredericksburg and Chickamauga and in hundreds of smaller engagements and skirmishes in dozens of states. Soldiers from Cumberland County were at many of those battles.

## Provost Marshal's Office,

15<sup>th</sup> District, State of Pennsylvania,Carlisle Aug 21<sup>st</sup> 1863.

J. Jesse Ohard  
West Pennsylvania Sup

SIR:

You are hereby notified that you were, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1863, legally drafted in the service of the United States for the period of Three years, in accordance with the provisions of the act of Congress, "for enrolling and calling out the national forces, and for other purposes," approved March 3, 1863. You will accordingly report, on or before the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 1863, at the place of rendezvous, in Carlisle Penn<sup>a</sup>, or be deemed a deserter, and be subject to the penalty prescribed therefor by the Rules and Articles of War.

Transportation will be furnished you on presenting this notification at Altoon Penn<sup>a</sup>, on the Cumberland & Valley R. Road, or at the station nearest your place of residence.

R. M. Henderson  
Capt. & Provost Marshal,  
15<sup>th</sup> Dist. of Penn<sup>a</sup>  
J. W. Patton Deputy

Draft notice, Jesse Ohard, 1863.

CCHS Archives

At the start of the Civil War the standing Army consisted of 16,000 men widely dispersed across the continent.<sup>3</sup> By the end of the war over 2.5 million men would be enlisted in the Union Army.<sup>4</sup> Beginning with the first call for volunteers in April 1861 until the end of the war four years later, Pennsylvania supplied over 360,000 troops.<sup>5</sup>

## Part 1 – Troop Call-Ups In Pennsylvania 1861 to 1865

During the course of the war Pennsylvania would authorize 215 regiments, of which 205 would actually be activated.<sup>6</sup> Referred to as the “Pennsylvania Volunteers,” a regiment nominally consisted of 1,000 men in 10 companies of 100 each, although these numbers were not always achieved. Men were entered into service under 11 “calls” for enlistments of varying length depending on the status of the conflict. Some of these regiments would be for infantry service and others for cavalry companies. In many cases county troops made up the entire company but in others, companies included members from multiple counties. No artillery companies were organized in Cumberland County.

The seminal source of information on Pennsylvania troops in the Civil War is S. P. Bates’ *History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers*.<sup>7</sup> His research was augmented and refined by Richard A. Sauers in his books *Advance the Colors*, Volumes I and II.<sup>8</sup> At the county level the pre-eminent work of cataloging the troops of the county and their companies is John D. Hemminger’s book *Cumberland County Pennsylvania in the Civil War*, which he self published in 1926. These three sources, along with newspaper articles, provide the bulk of the basic information for this summary.<sup>9</sup>

The process of organizing a Regiment included legislative authorization to create the unit and provide for its funding. The Federal government requested troops from the states who in turn authorized the formation of units in the state. Prominent individuals were often used to recruit regiments and companies. This practice was a continuation of recruiting practices going back to colonial America. The major calls for troops are listed below. After organizing at the state level they were taken into Federal service.

Infantry regiments were typically referred to by their original unit designations. For example, the 209th Pennsylvania Volunteers was known as the 209th Infantry. The exceptions to this were the regiments that served in the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps as discussed below. These companies were referred to as the 1st through 15th Pennsylvania Reserves. Cavalry companies were referred to differently; for example the 60th Pennsylvania Volunteers were known as the 3rd Cavalry as they were part of the third regiment of cavalry troops formed in Pennsylvania.

The major calls for troops were as follows:

APRIL 15, 1861 – *3 months service*. At the beginning of the war it was believed that the conflict would be short and resolved without major combat. Troops were quickly organized and sent to Washington to protect the capital. Pennsylvania sent Regiments 1 through 25 under this call. Cumberland County troops included the 9th Infantry Company C and the 16th Infantry Company C.



Robert Henderson, Brevet Brigadier General

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JULY 22, 1861 – *3 years service.* After a major defeat at Manassas and other Confederate successes it was realized that the war would not end quickly and that additional troops would be needed for a longer period of service. Pennsylvania organized the 11th, 23rd and the 45th through 115th regiments under this call. Cumberland County troops included the 11th Infantry Company A, 60th Cavalry Company H, 77th Infantry Company D, 78th Infantry Company D, 80th Cavalry Company K, 87th Infantry Company E, 92nd Cavalry Companies H and I, 100th Infantry Company L, 101st Infantry Company F, 107th Infantry Companies A and B.

JULY 22, 1861 – *3 years service.* An additional call up resulted in the formation of the 26th to 29th regiments in Pennsylvania. There were no Cumberland County companies in this call up.

JULY 22, 1861 – *The Pennsylvania Reserve Corps enters Federal Service – 3 years service.* The Pennsylvania Reserve Corps was a creation of Governor Curtin who feared an enemy invasion of the Commonwealth and convinced the legislature to authorize and fund 15 regiments until they were finally called into Federal service. These were organized as the 30th through the 44th regiments. They entered federal service on July 22, 1861. Cumberland County troops included the 30th Infantry Companies H and I, the 36th Infantry Company A and the 44th Cavalry Company G. In Federal service they were referred to as the 1st Pennsylvania Reserves, 2nd Pennsylvania Reserves, etc. After the war the 30th was most commonly referred to locally as the First Reserves and the 36th as the 7th Reserves.

JULY 7, 1862 – *9 months service.* As the war continued more men were requested from Pennsylvania. In response regiments 116 to 157 and 159 to 164 were authorized. Cumberland County troops in this call up included the 117th Cavalry Company F, 130th Infantry Company A, 160th Cavalry Companies C and K and the 162nd Cavalry Company F.

AUGUST 4, 1862 – *9 months service, drafted.* When not enough men volunteered to fill the call of July 7, 1862, a draft was implemented. Pennsylvania regiments formed in response to this call included the 158th and the 165th through 179th. Cumberland County troops in this call included the 158th Infantry Companies A, F, L and K and the 165th Infantry Company B.

1863 – *3 years service.* Pennsylvania authorized the 180th in response to this call. No Cumberland County companies were formed.

1864 – *3 years service.* During this darkest portion of the war additional troops were needed. Pennsylvania replied by forming the 181st through 191st regiments. No new Cumberland County infantry companies were formed; however



Augustus Kyle of Newville  
*CCHS Photo Archives Collection*

the 181st Cavalry Companies A, B and D and the 185th Cavalry Companies B, K, L and M were formed.

JULY 6, 1864 – *100 days service*. By this point in the war the enlistments of the three year units formed in 1861 were expiring and high casualty rates were occurring in nearly continuous fighting. Pennsylvania organized the 192nd through 197th regiments. Cumberland County troops included the 195th Infantry Company I.

JULY 27, 1864 – *1 year service*. In response to this call Pennsylvania organized the 198th to 212th regiments. Cumberland County troops included the 200th Infantry Companies E and I, 201st Infantry Companies A, B, D and K, 202nd Infantry Companies G and H, 207th Infantry Company F and the 209th Infantry Companies A and F.

DECEMBER 19, 1864 – *1 year service*. The last 3 Pennsylvania regiments, the 213th through 215th were formed in response to this call. Cumberland County companies that entered the service very late in the war were replacement companies including the 78th Infantry Company D, 101st Infantry Company F, 187th Infantry Company D and the 192nd Infantry Companies C and K. These companies all entered service in March 1865.<sup>10</sup>

## Part 1 – Companies with 10 or more members from Cumberland County

### Cumberland County Infantry Companies

9TH PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY CO. C Mustered into service April 22, 1861. They were assigned to the Shenandoah Valley in the area of Winchester. Their last day in the field was July 24th and they were mustered out at Harrisburg on July 29, 1861.<sup>11</sup>

11TH PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY CO. A Muster date for this unit is April 26, 1861 as a 90 day unit. At that time there were no Cumberland County companies formed. The unit was mustered in as a 3 year unit on July 25, 1861, the only 90 day company to keep its designation when doing so.

Company A was mustered in as a 3 year unit on December 11, 1861 and was known as the Sumner Rifles. This company saw extensive service in the Virginia theatre of the war and re-organized in January 1864 as “Veteran Volunteers”.<sup>12</sup> This was a designation given to early war units that re-enlisted for the duration of the war. Troops were given a furlough after which they returned as “veteran volunteers”. Of all the companies formed in Cumberland County this unit probably saw the most combat. They had a total of nine county residents who died during the war.

They fought at Cedar Mountain, Rappahannock Station, Thoroughfare Gap (50 casualties) and Second Manassas (heavy casualties) as part of Rickett's Division in the Third Corp. At South Mountain and Antietam (50% casualties) as part of Hooker's 1st Corp. At Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg (140 of 212 casualties) as part of the 2nd Division. They then fought at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Courthouse, North Anna River, Bethesda Church, Cold Harbor, Globe Tavern, Petersburg, Hatcher's Run (89 casualties), Five Forks and Appomattox.<sup>13</sup>



Left: Reynolds Baughman (1833-1896)

Right: John Winebrenner Watson (1843-1918)

John was the nephew of Reynolds, both served in Co F, 207th PA Volunteer Infantry

*CCHS Photo Archives Collection*

16TH PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY C Known as the Slemmer Phalanx this 90 day company saw little or no action. Mustered in on May 3, 1861 and mustered out July 30th.<sup>14</sup> The unit was recruited at Mechanicsburg and was assigned to the Shenandoah Valley.<sup>15</sup>

30TH PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY H (First Pennsylvania Reserves) Recruited from Carlisle and referred to as the Carlisle Light Infantry which formed in 1784. They mustered in June 9, 1861 and mustered out June 13, 1864. Company H lost 15 members from the county during the war.

This unit saw significant action and fought in the following battles: Mechanicsville, Gaines Mills, New Market, Second Manassas, South Mountain and Antietam (Cornfield). They then fought at Fredericksburg and were engaged at Gettysburg on July 2nd and July 3rd. They went on to fight at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania and Bethesda Church.<sup>16</sup>

30TH PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY I (First Pennsylvania Reserves) Referred to as the Carlisle Guard, the record for Co. I is the same as Company H. They lost 11 members from Cumberland County. In addition two regimental officers from the county died.

36TH PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY A (Seventh Pennsylvania Reserves) Mustered June 26, 1861 and mustered out June 16, 1864. This company was known as the Carlisle Fencibles.<sup>17</sup>

They fought at Mechanicsville, Gaines Mills and New Market during the Peninsula Campaign. They fought at Second Manassas (heavy casualties), South Mountain, Antietam and Fredericksburg (86 casualties). During the battle of the Wilderness most were captured and 67 members would die at Andersonville. A portion fought to the end of the war.<sup>18</sup> Company A lost 33 men from the county during the war.

Jacob Cart of Carlisle won the Medal of Honor for his efforts to capture a Confederate flag at the Battle of Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862.<sup>19</sup>

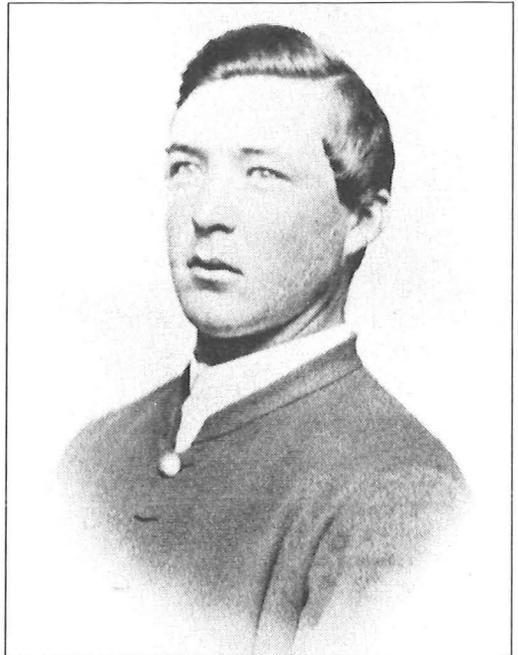
36TH PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY H (Seventh Pennsylvania Reserves) Known as the Cumberland Guard and recruited in Mechanicsburg, their service was similar to Company A. Company H had 22 dead, in addition 1 member of Co. D and 2 regimental officers died.

78TH PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY D This was a late war replacement unit formed in 1865. The members of this company saw no action.<sup>20</sup> Two members from the county died.

84TH PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY G Mustered in October 1861 and consolidated into the 57th Pennsylvania in January 1865. This unit saw action at Winchester in 1862, Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and the Wilderness. Nine members died during the war.

87TH PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY E Mustered in September 1861, re-enlisted in 1864 and mustered out June 29, 1865. Only part of the company was from Cumberland County. Early in the war they were assigned to the Shenandoah Valley and were engaged at Stephenson's Depot during the Gettysburg Campaign. During this engagement the regiment suffered 112 casualties after which it retreated to Bloody Run (Everett PA). In late 1863 they saw service at Bristoe Station and Mine Run. During 1864 they fought at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna River, Cold Harbor, Weldon Railroad, Monocacy Station, Winchester, Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek.<sup>21</sup> They continued to Petersburg and fought until the end of the war. There were 10 men from Cumberland County in Company E and six additional members in other units.<sup>22</sup> The monument in Carlisle indicates six members died during the war.

101ST PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY A There is some confusion as to the status of this company. A Sentinel article of 1928 lists Co. A as a Cumberland County unit. Bates also lists Co. A as an early war (1861) unit partially recruited in Cumberland County. Hemminger lists only four members in Co. A, one from 1861 and three from 1864. Saurers makes no mention of Cumberland County as a source of recruits. From what can be determined there were a number of county residents who entered the company as late war replacements in 1864, however it was not truly a Cumberland County company.



Jacob Cart, one of two Medal of Honor winners from Cumberland County. Citation awarded for service at the Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia.  
*United State Army Military History Institute*  
PG 985 195.28

*G Scott: Hartzell Collection*

101ST PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY F This was a late war unit formed on March 9, 1865, part of eight replacement companies. The unit saw little or no action.<sup>23</sup> Mustered out June 25, 1865.<sup>24</sup> Company F had no deaths; two county members died in other companies, one at Andersonville prison.<sup>25</sup>

130TH PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY A, D, E, F, G and H These companies were all mustered in August 17, 1862 and mustered out May 21, 1863. Some sources identify them as 90 day troops, others as six month units. They actually served nine months. The details on each company are as follows:

- Company A recruited at Carlisle; Captain William R. Porter. 5 dead.
- Company D recruited at Shippensburg, known as the Shippensburg Guards; Captain James Kelso, seven dead.
- Company E recruited at Newville, known as the Newville Infantry; Captain William Laughlin, nine dead.
- Company F recruited at Mechanicsburg, known as Pope's Fencibles; Captain Henry Zinn, eight dead.
- Company G recruited at Carlisle, known as the Carlisle Infantry; Captain John Lee, three dead.
- Company H recruited at New Cumberland and West Fairview, known as James's Guard; Captain John Hoffaker, two dead.

Fought at South Mountain and then at Antietam where they were involved in the attack on Bloody Lane experiencing 200 casualties. They also attacked Mayre's Heights at Fredericksburg where the flag was hit by 32 bullets. Their last engagement was Chancellorsville.<sup>26</sup>

1ST REGIMENT, MILITIA OF 1862 COMPANY A, D, F, G, H and I Called into duty by the Governor in response to the pending invasion of the Rebels into the state as part of the Antietam campaign, these units formed between the 11th and 13th of September and were discharged by the 25th.

Company D was largely organized by members of the Union Fire Company of Carlisle. Its Captain was Ephraim Cornman, a noted citizen and later President of the fire company. Company I was organized by C. P. Humrich, an attorney and active volunteer in the Good Will Fire Company.

158TH PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY A, C, F and K This regiment was a drafted 9 month unit mustered in November 1862 and mustered out September 12, 1863. The details on each company are as follows:

- Company A – Silver Spring Guards, Capt. H. A. Longsdorf, five dead.
- Company C – Cumberland Guards, Capt. Wm. R. Linn, three dead.
- Company F – Oakville Guards, Capt. Martin F. Hale, seven dead.
- Company K – Mifflin Guards, Capt. Jacob W. Wheeler.

Originally stationed on garrison duty in North Carolina they were moved to Harper's Ferry during the Gettysburg campaign. The regiment suffered nine combat deaths with over 300 deaths from disease.<sup>27</sup>

165TH PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY B Drafted 9 month unit recruited in the eastern part of the county; mustered in November 4, 1862 and mustered out July 28, 1863. The unit was known as the Union Guard, Captain Abraham J. Rupp. They were stationed in the area of Suffolk Virginia and later moved to Weldon Railroad.<sup>28</sup>

187TH PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY D This company mustered in during March 1864 and mustered out August 3, 1865. Company D had originally enlisted for six months in the 1st Battalion, organized prior to the invasion of the State in July 1863. Upon the expiration of its term the company was recruited as part of the Co. D in the 187th.<sup>29</sup>

The regiment fought at Petersburg on June 18, 1864 and suffered 189 casualties. They also fought at Weldon Railroad. They spent the rest of the war on various special details including guarding Lincoln's remains in Philadelphia.<sup>30</sup> Company D had eight county members die. Company B had one member from the county and he died as a result of wounds.

195TH PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY I Mustered in July 1864 and mustered out November 4, 1864, this 100 day unit performed railroad guard duty in the area of Monocacy Junction and was later transferred to Beckley West Virginia.<sup>31</sup>

200TH PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY E and I This late war one year regiment mustered in September 3, 1864 and mustered out May 30, 1865. They fought at Fort Stedman and Petersburg and were one of the first units to enter Petersburg after its fall.<sup>32</sup> Company E lost seven members and Company I lost one.

201ST PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY K This one year regiment mustered in August 29, 1864 and mustered out June 21, 1865. The unit, known as the Verbeke Guards, performed guard duty at various locations within Pennsylvania and on the Manassas Gap Railroad.



Private Edgar A Walters, Co C, 195th Regiment, PA Volunteers

*CCHS Photo Archives Collections*

202ND PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY G and H This was another late war one year regiment mustered in September 3, 1864 and mustered out August 3, 1865. The unit performed guard duty in Virginia.<sup>33</sup> Company G had seven deaths and Company H had six deaths.

207TH PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY F Late war unit mustered in September 8, 1864 and mustered out May 1865. They saw combat at Bermuda Hundred, Fort Stedman and Fort Sedgewick.<sup>34</sup>

209TH PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY COMPANY A and F The last companies formed from Cumberland County mustered in September 1864 and mustered out May 31, 1865. These companies saw action at Fort Stedman on March 25, 1865, suffering 55 casualties, and fought again at Petersburg on April 2nd, suffering 62 casualties. Several members were captured at Fort Harrison.<sup>35</sup> Each company had two deaths.

## Cumberland County Cavalry Companies

3RD CAVALRY COMPANY H (60th Pennsylvania)<sup>36</sup> This unit mustered in July 1861 and many re-enlisted to muster out May 9, 1865. This company was known as the Big Spring Adamantine Guard. One of its Captains, William E. Miller, was one of only two men from Cumberland County to receive the Medal of Honor during the Civil War for his actions during the cavalry battle on the third day at Gettysburg.

The unit saw extensive service during the war including the Peninsula campaign, Fredericksburg, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor and Petersburg.<sup>37</sup> Fifteen Cumberland County members died during the war.

7TH CAVALRY COMPANY K (80th Pennsylvania) Noted by some as “one of the Commonwealth’s best units” this company mustered in during 1861, re-enlisted in 1864 and mustered out August 23, 1865.

They were initially assigned to Louisville, then Nashville after which they saw combat in Kentucky and Tennessee before participating in the Atlanta campaign.<sup>38</sup> Only eight county residents were listed in Hemminger as being in this unit; five of them died.

9TH CAVALRY COMPANY H and I (92nd Pennsylvania) Known as the Lochiel Cavalry this regiment mustered in November 1, 1862, re-enlisted in 1864 and mustered out July 18, 1865. They saw combat in Tennessee and Kentucky in the early part of the war, took part in a 470 mile raid through Tennessee and

Virginia in late 1862 and early 1863 and after more combat in the south took part in the Atlanta campaign and Sherman's "March to the Sea".<sup>39</sup> Company H lost three members and Company I, fifteen members dead.

13TH CAVALRY COMPANY F (117th Pennsylvania) Referred to as the Irish Dragoons, this unit mustered in December 1861 and served until mustered out on July 27, 1865.

They were attacked by Lee's troops advancing toward Gettysburg in June of 1863 and nearly 200 were captured. Later in the war they fought at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania and numerous cavalry engagements through early 1865 when they moved to Wilmington, North Carolina to meet Sherman's "March to the Sea".<sup>40</sup> Of the men from Cumberland County fifteen died in Company F and one each in Co. H and Co. L.

17TH CAVALRY COMPANY F (162nd Pennsylvania) Mustered in 1862 and mustered out June 16, 1865. They saw combat at Chancellorsville, Brandy Station, Upperville, Gettysburg, Wilderness; then to the Shenandoah Valley where they fought at Newtown, Front Royal, Kearneysville and Winchester before moving east to the Petersburg area for the conclusion of the war; twenty-two members died.<sup>41</sup>

20TH CAVALRY COMPANY A (181st Pennsylvania) Mustered in January 1864; mustered out July 1865.<sup>42</sup> They saw service in the southern states.<sup>43</sup>

20TH CAVALRY COMPANY D (181st Pennsylvania) This company was a late war replacement unit mustered in June 1863 and mustered out January 1864.<sup>44</sup> They saw service in the Shenandoah Valley.<sup>45</sup>

## Cumberland County Artillery Company

3RD ARTILLERY BATTERY C (152nd Pennsylvania) This unit meets the 10 or more criteria, however, six entered in 1862 and four did not enter until 1864. Five men from the county died while serving with this company.

## Part 3 - Companies with Cumberland County troops (1 or more members)

The following is a listing of companies in which one or more county residents are known to have served. When the date is noted as 'varied' it is an indication that county residents went to the unit at different times, most likely as replacement troops. This information is compiled from Hemminger; however, the number

of dead (all from Cumberland County) comes from the information on the monument on the Square in Carlisle and from an 1895 newspaper article. If Hemminger could identify one person from the county in the unit it is listed.

## Infantry Companies

- 2nd Regiment (April 1861 to July 1861)
- 9th Regiment (April 1861 to July 1861)
- 11th Regiment (September 1861 to July 1865) (9 dead)
- 16th Regiment (April 1861 to July 1861)
- 28th Regiment (varied, mainly a late war unit)
- 30th Regiment – 1st Reserve's (varied, mainly 1861 to June 1864) (28 dead)
- 34th Regiment - 5th Reserve's (1 dead)
- 35th Regiment – 6th Reserves (April 1861 to January 1863)
- 36th Regiment – 7th Reserves (April 1861 to June 1864) (57 dead)
- 37th Regiment – 8th Reserve (September 1861)
- 41st Regiment – 12th Reserves (June 1861 to June 1864)
- 45th Regiment – (no dates given)
- 46th Regiment – (September 1861) (2 dead)
- 49th Regiment – (varied, late war replacements) (6 dead)
- 55th Regiment – (varied, late war replacements) (6 dead)
- 57th Regiment – (varied dates)
- 67th Regiment – (April 1865 to July 1865)
- 76th Regiment – (varied dates)
- 77th Regiment – (October 1861 to October 1864)
- 78th Regiment – (February 1865 to September 1865) (2 dead)
- 79th Regiment – (varied dates)
- 84th Regiment – (varied dates) (9 dead)
- 87th Regiment – (September 1861 to October 1864) (8 dead)
- 99th Regiment – (information from monument) (1 dead)
- 101st Regiment – (varied dates) (2 dead)
- 102nd Regiment – (varied dates) (1 dead)
- 107th Regiment – (varied dates) (1 dead)
- 110th Regiment – (July 1862 to May 1865)
- 115th Regiment – (no dates) (1 dead)
- 126th Regiment – (August 1862 to May 1863)
- 127th Regiment – (varied dates) (2 dead)
- 130th Regiment – (August 1862 to May 1863) (30 dead)
- 138th Regiment – (no dates)
- 139th Regiment – (no dates)
- 143rd Regiment – (information from monument) (1 dead)

148th Regiment – (no dates) (1 dead)  
149th Regiment – (varied dates) (2 dead)  
158th Regiment – (November 1862 to August 1863) (15 dead)  
165th Regiment – (November 1862 to July 1863)  
166th Regiment – (October 1862 to July 1863)  
167th Regiment – (November 1862 to August 1863)  
179th Regiment – (October 1862 to June 1863)  
184th Regiment – (May 1864 to December 1864) (1 dead)  
187th Regiment – (varied dates) (9 dead)  
188th Regiment – (varied dates) (2 dead)  
189th Regiment – (February 1865 to August 1865)  
194th Regiment – (July 1864 to November 1864) (2 dead)  
195th Regiment – (July 1864 to November 1864) (1 dead)  
199th Regiment – (September 1864 to June 1865)  
200th Regiment – (August 1864 to May 1865) (8 dead)  
201st Regiment – (August 1864 to June 1865) (1 dead)  
202nd Regiment – (August 1864 to August 1865) (13 dead)  
207th Regiment – (September 1864 to May 1865)  
208th Regiment – (September 1864 to June 1865)  
209th Regiment – (September 1864 to May 1865) (4 dead)  
210th Regiment – (September 1864) (1 dead)  
214th Regiment – (March 1865 – March 1866)  
1st Regiment, Militia of 1862 – (September 11, 1862 – September 25, 1862)

## Cavalry Companies

1st Cavalry – (August 1861 to September 1864)  
3rd Cavalry – (August 1861 to August 1864) (17 dead)  
7th Cavalry – (varied dates) (5 dead)  
9th Cavalry – (varied dates) (21 dead)  
11th Cavalry – (varied dates) (1 dead)  
12th Cavalry – (varied dates)  
13th Cavalry – (varied dates) (17 dead)  
15th Cavalry – (varied dates) (1 dead)  
17th Cavalry – (varied dates) (23 dead)  
19th Cavalry – (varied dates) (2 dead)  
20th Cavalry – (varied dates) (8 dead)  
21st Cavalry – (varied dates)  
22nd Cavalry – (varied dates) (2 dead)

## Artillery Companies

- 1st Artillery Battery A (43rd Pennsylvania) (3 dead)
- 2nd Artillery Battery B (112th Pennsylvania) (1 dead)
- Independent Artillery, Company H

## Regular Army

- 5th U.S. Cavalry
- 6th U.S. Cavalry
- 10th U.S. Cavalry
- 10th U.S. Infantry (1 dead)
- 18th U.S. Infantry
- 3rd U.S. Artillery
- 5th U.S. Artillery (1 dead)<sup>46</sup>

## Endnotes

- 1 *The Evening Sentinel* May 26, 1928 “Cumberland County Companies in the Civil War.”
- 2 Ward, Geoffrey C., etc. al, *The Civil War: an illustrated history*, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1990), xix.
- 3 Ward, 4864.
- 4 Ward, xix.
- 5 Sauers, Richard A., *Advance the Colors*, (Capitol Preservation Committee, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg PA, 1997), 247.
- 6 Sauers, xii.
- 7 Bates, Samuel P., *History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers 1861-1865*, (Harrisburg: State of Pennsylvania, 1868-1871), various pages.
- 8 Sauers, various pages.
- 9 This work contains no original research and is only intended to provide a summary of these works.
- 10 Sauers, 247.
- 11 Wing, Rev. Conway P., *History of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: James D. Scott, 1879), 132, also Sauers, 250.
- 12 Bates (<http://www.pa-roots.com/pacw/infantry/11th/11thorg3yr.html>).
- 13 Wing, 138. Sauers, 61-64.
- 14 Wing, 133. Sauers, 251.
- 15 Bates, (<http://www.pa-roots.com/pacw/infantry/16th/16thorg3yr.html>).
- 16 Sauers, 254, 85-86.
- 17 Wing, 134.
- 18 Wing, 133, Sauers, 255, 99-101.

- 19 Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Civil War website: <http://www.pacivilwar.com/medalof-honor/cumberland.html>.
- 20 Sauers, 264.
- 21 Sauers, 266, 235-236.
- 22 Hemminger, 27.
- 23 Wing, 132, Sauers, 269, 340-341.
- 24 Bates, (<http://www.pa-roots.com/pacw/infantry/101st/101thorg3yr.html>).
- 25 Hemminger, 27-28.
- 26 Wing, 137, Sauers, 275, 408-409.
- 27 Wing, 139, Sauers, 280, 473-478.
- 28 Wing, 139, Sauers, 281, 473-477.
- 29 Bates, (<http://www.pa-roots.com/pacw/infantry/187th/187thorg3yr.html>).
- 30 Sauers, 287, 488.
- 31 Sauers, 288, 495.
- 32 Sauers, 289, 501.
- 33 Sauers, 290, 503-504.
- 34 Sauers, 292, 510.
- 35 Sauers, 292, 513-514.
- 36 Wing, 136, Sauers, 260, 66-168.
- 37 Bates, (<http://www.pa-roots.com/pacw/cavalry/3rd/3rdcav.html>).
- 38 Wing, 136, Sauers, 265, 217-219.
- 39 Wing, 136, Sauers, 267, 316-317.
- 40 Sauers, 273, 384-385.
- 41 Wing, 139, Sauers, 281, 469-470.
- 42 Hemminger, 99.
- 43 Sauers, 284, 479-480.
- 44 Hemminger, 101.
- 45 Bates, (<http://www.pa-roots.com/pacwcavalry/20th/20horg.htm>).
- 46 The death statistics are from the *Carlisle Daily Herald* dated May 30, 1895.

# U.S. Colored Troops from Cumberland County Buried in Union Cemetery, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

*Stephanie A. Jirard*

## Preface

A 30-foot stone sculpture of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is now open to the public on the Mall in Washington, D.C., to commemorate the sacrifice for freedom that defined Dr. King's life. The monument showing Dr. King emerging from stone is surrounded by walls with inspirational quotations from his speeches and writings. The erection of this monument to an African American in our nation's capital is a significant event demonstrating this country's emerging acceptance and recognition of the contributions of people of African descent to our nation's history.

Another monument dedicated to freedom can be found in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, with the inspirational inscription: "This Monument is erected by those who revere the patriotism, and wish to perpetuate the memory, of the Brave men, who aided in saving the nation and securing the Blessings of Liberty to all." The Soldier's Monument in Carlisle's Courthouse Square lists the names of 17 local officers and 327 enlisted men who died as a direct result of their service "during the Great Rebellion."<sup>1</sup> It can be noted that no name listed is of a man who served with the United States Colored Troops (USCT).<sup>2</sup> As this country commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, it is time that the participation of African Americans in this conflict be recognized.

The United States Colored Troops (USCT) Project is a group effort started by Cumberland County Historical Society (CCHS). As part of this effort, while serving as an intern at CCHS, the author asked volunteers Janet Bell, Ruth Hodge, Lisa Brousse and Larry Moser to participate with the project. The group has conducted research to locate any information on USCT who were born, lived, or died in Cumberland County using a variety of local sources as well as the National Archives in Washington, D.C. The effort continues and anyone with information about Cumberland County USCT veterans is encouraged to

share that information with CCHS. Shippensburg University History Professor Steven Burg has researched the USCT buried in Shippensburg's cemeteries. This paper presents the results of research about Civil War veterans buried in Union Cemetery, Carlisle.

Dr. King's body only partially emerges from his stone sculpture to denote a life cut short and a life's work not yet finished; in somewhat the same way our knowledge about the USCT is emerging as we honor Cumberland County's USCT Troops during the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. What follows is a brief synopsis of what has been learned about the lives of the men from the USCT that are buried in Carlisle's Union Cemetery. It is hoped that this information and subsequent information that is learned about other African American soldiers from the county will provide a complement to the Soldier's Monument. Maybe at some time in the future it will be appropriate to erect a monument recognizing the contributions of these men.

A brief summary of the information learned about the men buried at Union Cemetery reveals: they lived in the same neighborhoods overlapping the First and Fourth Wards; they used each other as affiants in support of pension and disability claims; more than five were born in Virginia and at least one was born a slave; many were members of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church on Pomfret Street in Carlisle; many lived well into their 70s and 80s; they were laborers, janitors and store owners who enjoyed excellent reputations in the community; virtually all were married and had many children who, at the time of their fathers' deaths, lived in other places including New York, Africa, California, Rhode Island, and Pittsburgh. All USCT Regiments contributed to Union success and all USCT of Cumberland County contributed to the region's rich legacy.

## The War

When discussions occur regarding the causes of the American Civil War, slavery is a common theme. A more focused inquiry includes states' rights, a power imbalance between the North and South, and regional economic determinism. For the African American, the Civil War represented an opportunity to live not as chattel, but as free men and women. Fighting in the War was the quickest route for a black man to achieve human dignity. The laws enacted to allow African American men to serve were inconsistent and varied depending on when they were enacted. The federal government creatively termed slaves war "contraband" allowing them to be seized. The Second Confiscation Act and the Militia Act of 1862 were the first legal endorsements to use former slaves in the Union's war effort.<sup>3</sup> Had you met an African American man enlisted in the Union Army early in the War, you would have met him building entrenchments

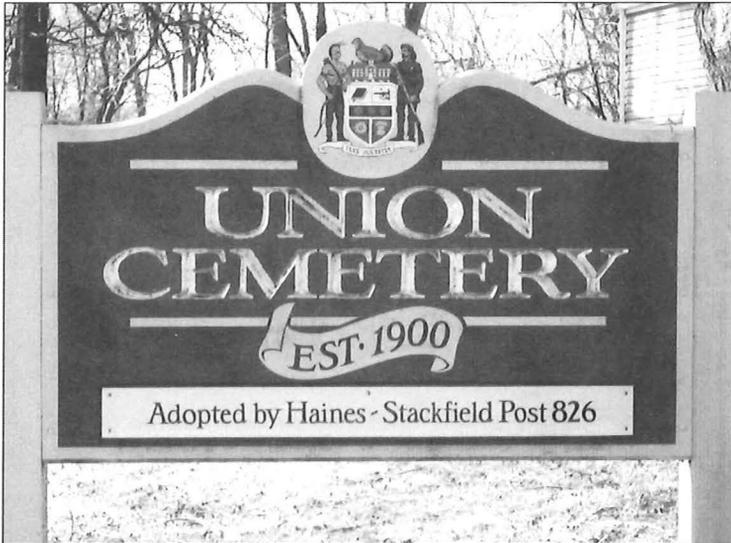
and performing lowly camp duty and basic manual labor that differed little from the work he had performed his entire life. President Abraham Lincoln's signature on the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, included the authorization to receive slaves freed by the Proclamation – those residing in Confederate states – “into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.”<sup>4</sup> On May 22, 1863, the War Department established the Bureau of Colored Troops to recruit, train and follow the service of black soldiers who would be led by white officers. Approximately 200,000 black men fought in the Civil War and, at first, were mustered into state militias but were eventually assigned to the USCT's 14 numbered artillery, 144 numbered infantry, and seven numbered cavalry regiments. A primary training ground for men assigned to USCT Regiments was at Camp William Penn located in an abolitionist-friendly area just outside of Philadelphia in present day Montgomery County.<sup>5</sup>

The USCT Regiments were involved in battles considered significant and vital to Union victory. The names of Hatcher's Run/Expedition, Honey Hill, Boykin's Mill, and Devaux's Neck represent battles fought, entrenchments made and defensive positions held in Virginia and South Carolina where USCT disrupted Confederate supply lines, supported the siege of Petersburg, and participated in General William T. Sherman's March to the Sea. Even when the USCT were defeated at Olustee in the largest battle in Florida, where three USCT units fought – the 54th Massachusetts, the 35th and the 8th USCT – they contributed to the failure of the Confederate attempt to achieve ultimate victory.

Historians generally acknowledge that African American men fought valiantly throughout the War, but by April 1865, neither equality nor peace came with General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox. The Confederacy's physical defeat appeared to herald a new day for African American men, yet smoldering racism remained a bitter fact of black/white relations in all facets of social life and government relations. Pennsylvania had a proud tradition of support for abolition since the 1700s including the legislative “Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery” (1780), the many stops on the Underground Railroad to freedom, and the unsuccessful legal challenge in *Prigg v. Pennsylvania* (1842)<sup>6</sup> to keep African Americans in the Commonwealth from being removed with the intent to make them slaves elsewhere. However, the Commonwealth still had by the 1800s a culture and tradition of segregation in her local cemeteries and elsewhere. In Carlisle, African Americans were buried primarily in two tracts of land, the “Lincoln Cemetery” located at North Pitt and West Penn Streets and, when Lincoln was full, at Union Cemetery located at the end of Franklin Street near D Street. According to a historical marker at Union Cemetery, the land was

purchased by prominent African American businessman Robert Thompson, Sr., and named in honor of the Union veterans buried there.<sup>7</sup> Searching today in 2011 for USCT buried in Carlisle, you would not find headstones at Lincoln Cemetery for all but one were removed and discarded with the development of the present-day Hope Station (but the bodies remain underfoot). At Union Cemetery, there are 27 identifiable headstones of black men who fought for the Union and what follows is a glimpse of their lives.<sup>8</sup>

## Union Cemetery, Carlisle

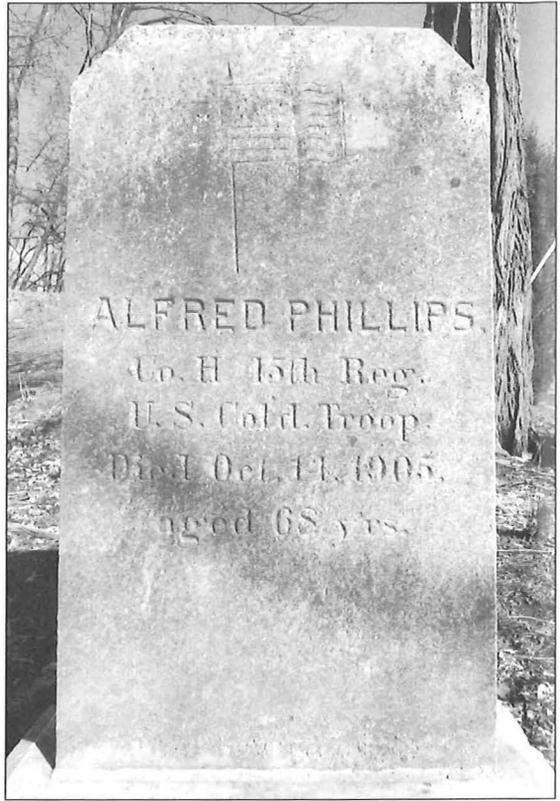


Sign at Union Cemetery, Carlisle, Pa.

*Photo by author*

Union Cemetery is “U” shaped and divided into three sections, far left, middle, and far right. Two roads separate both the far left and far right from the middle. As you enter the Cemetery from Franklin Street, most of the USCT are buried in the far right section from front to back and in the middle section from approximately the middle location to the back. Upon entering immediately to the far left are two headstones located so close to one another they almost touch, Alfred Phillips and William Fisher. To date, research has revealed little about Fisher other than he served in Company G of the 43rd Regiment from April 1864 to October 1865. We do know that Alfred Phillips, born a slave in 1846 on the Virginia plantation of Henry Watkins, at age 20 enlisted as a Private in Carlisle under Captain Henderson and enrolled on August 12, 1864, in Company H of the 45th Regiment of the USCT. The 45th was organized at Camp William Penn

between June and August 1864 and moved first to Washington, D.C., and then south where they fought at Hatcher's Run in March 1865, the fall of Petersburg on April 2, the pursuit of General Lee on April 3-9, and were present at the surrender at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. The 45th were mustered out in Brownsville, Texas in November, 1865.<sup>9</sup> At the time he enlisted, Phillips worked as a servant, stood 5 feet, 2 inches tall and his eyes, hair and complexion were all listed as "black."<sup>10</sup> Phillips suffered a gunshot wound to the left shoulder in the battle of Petersburg and never regained use of that arm. He was discharged in New Orleans in August 1865 and returned to Carlisle and married Fanny Phillips.



Gravestone of Alfred Phillips at Union Cemetery

*Photo by author*

Fanny declared that she was born a slave on the Virginia plantation of Mr. Albert Green and after the fall of Richmond, she was brought to Pennsylvania to serve different families; it was here that she met Alfred Phillips. Fanny and Alfred moved to Newport in Perry County to live as man and wife until they formally married in Harrisburg on December 22, 1881.<sup>11</sup> The 1890 Census lists Alfred and Fanny as living in Harrisburg with their two teenage sons, John, age 17 and William, age 14. After Phillips died on October 14, 1905, of apoplexy and dysentery at the age of 65, Fanny who had moved to 50 Church Avenue in Carlisle, appeared in person at the United States Pension Office to make claim to Alfred's pension. With Fanny to support her application was fellow USCT veteran Isaiah Harrison, who is also buried at Union Cemetery.

One unit that maintained its original state designation even when the USCT federalized such troops was the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment. Isaiah Harrison mustered in with the 54th at Camp Meigs in Readville, Massachu-

settles on May 13, 1863. Harrison was born in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania and at age 19 enlisted for a period of three years on April 22, 1863. At the time of his enlistment, Harrison was 5 feet, 10 inches with brown eyes, black hair and a light brown complexion.



Isiah Harrison gravestone at Union Cemetery

*Photo by author*

Harrison's enlistment papers note that he was "free on or before April 19, 1861." By September and October 1864 on his muster rolls was the notation "Amount of bounty due on original enlistment under act of Congress June 21, 1863, G.O. (General Order) No. 74 War Dep't \$25.00." The reference to "bounty due" reflects the \$25.00 payment the federal government awarded black men who were free before April 1861 and enlisted even though Colored Troops received lower pay for the same service as their white counterparts. For one month of service, a USCT soldier received \$10 with three dollars deducted for clothing. A white soldier received \$13 a month plus an additional \$3.50 clothing allowance. On June 15, 1864, Congress passed into law an equal pay provision for black troops made retroactive to the start of the War in April 1861, but the law for retroactive pay only applied to men who were free before the War began. The Massachusetts 54th Regiment is known historically not only for its valor in battle, but also in popular culture as the basis for the movie *Glory*. The 54th engaged Confederates at the battles of Fort Wagner and Fort Gregg, in Charleston, South Carolina and Olustee, Florida, and participated in some of the fiercest fighting of the War until they mustered out in Boston in September 1865 having lost a total of 270 men.<sup>12</sup>

Harrison was at the hospital for injuries sustained in Charleston, South Carolina from June 1865 until he mustered out at the General Hospital at David's Island in New York Harbor on October 19, 1865. He is listed in the 1870 Census living in Shippensburg and working as a day laborer with his 20-year old wife Caroline, two-year-old daughter Mary and nine-month-old son Edward. Harrison returned to Carlisle where for many years he ran a restaurant and store at the intersection of Pitt and Penn Streets. When he died at age 81 on April 18, 1928, at his home at 263 North Pitt Street, he was survived by two sons and two daughters.<sup>13</sup> Other men buried at Union Cemetery who served with Harrison in the 54th are David Butler, Henry (Clay) Hunter, and John Green.<sup>14</sup>

When he enlisted in Company I of the Massachusetts 54th, David Butler was 29-years-old, 5 feet, 10 inches tall with brown eyes, black hair, and dark complexion. Born in Pennsylvania, he listed his occupation as a farmer. Butler was detailed to the Ordinance Department at Morris Island, South Carolina from May 2 to November 14, 1864. According to his military record Butler was "careless" about his equipment and clothing and his pay was consistently docked for said charges.<sup>15</sup> He mustered out in Boston, Massachusetts on August 20, 1865, and returned to Carlisle where he was a member of the A.M.E. Church on Pomfret Street. Butler died at age 80 on March 16, 1914, at his home on Locust Avenue with his wife surviving.<sup>16</sup>

Another member of the 54th and A.M.E. Church was Henry C. Hunter who is buried on the far right section of the Cemetery. Hunter served from June 1864 until November 1865 and died on May 24, 1913, of apoplexy at home on West Locust Avenue, survived by a wife and daughter.<sup>17</sup>

The last member of the 54th buried at Union Cemetery is John Green. Green was born in Carlisle in 1832 and mustered into the 54th with Isaiah Harrison on May 13 1863. When he entered the service Green was a 31-year-old laborer who stood 5 feet, 5 and one half inch tall, his eyes were brown, his hair black, and his complexion dark. Green fought alongside Harrison in the prominent battles of the 54th and was shot in his left elbow and suffered injury to his right arm on April 18, 1865, at Boydkins (or Boykins) Mill, South Carolina in one of the last skirmishes after Lee's surrender on April 9, 1865.<sup>18</sup> Green was sent to Charleston Hospital on May 9, 1865, and eventually discharged on a disability certificate as unfit for duty from the Hospital in New York City Harbor on September 12, 1865. According to the 1880 Census in Carlisle, Green was married to Sarah, a woman 27 years his junior. They had two children, George, who was eight-years-old and Rachael, who was one-year-old. By the time Green died on March 21, 1911, he was alone and an "inmate" at the Cumberland County Almshouse.

Before he died, John Green swore an affidavit in support of a disability finding for his good friend William A. Jordan, who enlisted on February 17, 1864, in Company A of the 32nd Regiment of the USCT that was organized at Camp William Penn in February and March of 1864 and were dispatched to South Carolina from April to June 1864. The 32nd battled at Devaux's Neck in December before occupying Charleston in February 1865, fighting at Boydkin's Mills that April and mustering out in South Carolina in August 1865.<sup>19</sup> John Green stated on March 13, 1890, as proof of William Jordan's disability, that since the battle at Devaux's Neck, William Jordan was deaf "to such an extent that he was unable to hear any ordinary conversations" and for John Green to talk to William Jordan required "quite an effort on my part to get him to hear me talk at all." Before the war John Green knew William Jordan "to be sound in every respect, being raised [as] boys together."<sup>20</sup> William Jordan had married Harriet (Keath) on January 20, 1857 in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania and in 1866 they had one son, Samuel. When William returned to Carlisle, he worked at Henderson's Mill until he died at his home on Fairground Avenue at the age of 71 on January 19, 1907, the first of the three Jordan brothers to die who had served during the War. William Jordan is buried in the middle section at Union Cemetery toward the back along with his two brothers and fellow USCT veterans, Joseph N. Jordan and John A. Jordan. The Jordan brothers are unique among the USCT in that all three enlisted at ranks above Private according to the available records.

Joseph N. Jordan was born in Carlisle and, at age 17 on August 24, 1864, enlisted in Company B of the 127th Regiment of the USCT which was organized at Camp William Penn from August to September 1864; and, alongside the 8th Regiment USCT, was involved in "siege operations" at Petersburg and Richmond, Virginia, where they also saw battle at Hatcher's Run, the Fall of Petersburg, and were at Appomattox Court House for General Lee's surrender on April 9, 1865.<sup>21</sup> Joseph lived at 125 Dickinson Street in Carlisle when he applied for a pension on June 14, 1899. He had married Margaret (Fisher) on January 22, 1866, in Carlisle and they had four children; Robert a player for the Negro League Cuban Giants baseball club, John William, Richard Augustus, and Naomi Jordan. In his affidavit for disability, Joseph Jordan declared that until 1881 he was in perfect health until the summer of 1881 "at which time my ice team became frighten [*sic*] by a train of cars and run off the wagon passing over my spine" which laid Joseph up for seven weeks and from which, he never fully recovered.<sup>22</sup> One of his supporting affiants was George W. Foulk. George Foulk's son, Rueben Washington Foulk, is buried in the back section, far right corner of Union Cemetery. Reuben "traveled to Iowa in order to join Company

E, 60th Regular U. S. Line, which was formed from the First Iowa Colored Infantry and saw action in Arkansas.”<sup>23</sup> Reuben died in 1917.

According to his obituary, Joseph Jordan was an industrious worker and “a good type of the better class of colored citizens.” After the War, Joseph had kept the grounds at the Carlisle Indian School for 10 years, had guarded jail prisoners as they worked making roads, and had been on the Carlisle Police Force for many years, but died at a relatively young age of 59 on December 16, 1907, after an operation at Harrisburg Hospital.<sup>24</sup> A fellow member of the 127th Regiment who served in F Company, also buried in the middle portion of Union Cemetery is William Jackson. Jackson was born in Virginia and in Carlisle enlisted in the 127th as a Private on August 30, 1864, at age 25 and served until September 8, 1865. Jackson was also at the battles of Hatches Run, Petersburg and was at Appomattox when General Lee surrendered. He died from pneumonia contracted after shoveling snow at Dickinson College where he had been a janitor for 23 years. His obituary states that “[t]here was not a more popular or better janitor at the college.” He was survived by a son and two step-daughters.<sup>25</sup>

Another USCT veteran, William Jackson, is buried in the middle portion of the Cemetery. William H. Jackson also born in Virginia, enlisted as a Private who served with Company C of the 8th Regiment USCT from August 23, 1863, to November 10, 1865. The USCT 8th Regiment is known for the heavy losses suffered in the February 1864 battle of Olustee in Florida. The 8th Regiment under the direction of General Truman Seymour was advancing south when they met intense fire from enemy lines and held their own until General Seymour ordered retreat, but the Regiment suffered the loss of two officers and 49 men.<sup>26</sup> After the War, William H. Jackson worked at the F. E. Thompson Coal Yards for many years and when he died on December 26, 1914, at age 71 at his home on Penn Street in Carlisle, he was “one of the town’s oldest and best known colored residents.”<sup>27</sup>

The last Jordan brother buried at the Cemetery is John A. Jordan. Born in Carlisle on February 28, 1838, at age 25 John enlisted on August 23, 1864, in Company A of the 127th Regiment of the USCT. He stood 5 feet, 4 inches tall, had black eyes, straight hair and was “mulatto” complexion. It is highly likely, as a native of Carlisle, that John Jordan would have lived through the “Confederate Invasion.” In the last week of July 1863, Rebels and Union militia skirmished in Carlisle with canon fire damaging the Old Courthouse and other buildings in the town. The newspaper account reeks of indignation and surely may have propelled Carlisle men to enlist.<sup>28</sup> Before he enlisted, John Jordan had married Sarah Jordan in November 1863 and by the time John had applied for a pension

in January 1915, he and Sarah were the parents of seven children, five who had survived to adulthood. When he applied for a pension on December 23, 1891, John was living in York Springs and stated that he had “contracted rheumatism about five years ago and has been growing gradually worse ever since . . . [and] I have not drank strong drink of any kind for 15 years.” He died at age 80 on March 23, 1918, having operated a barber shop for many years at North and West Streets in Carlisle.

A cursory scan of applications for pensions from USCT veterans reveals the general disclaimer that their ailments were “not due to any vicious habits.” Failing to justify the virtue of a person applying for a pension could mean permanent denial of benefits. Mrs. Charles H. Simms’ application for benefits as the wife of a USCT veteran (also buried in Union Cemetery), reveals the level of scrutiny some scholars note was a matter of routine in the racism involved in processing pension applications.<sup>29</sup>

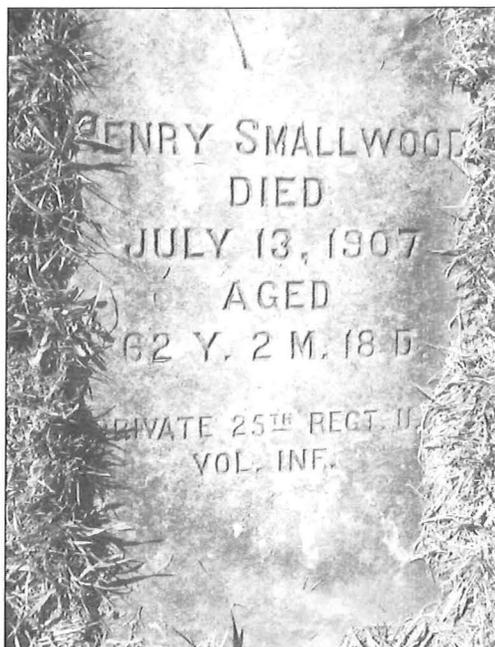
Charles H. Simms was born in Loudon County, Virginia and enlisted at age 26 as a Private in Company G of the 6th Regiment of the USCT. He was 5 feet, 6 inches tall and had dark skin, eyes and hair. The 6th Regiment mustered at Camp William Penn between July and September 1863 and saw duty continuously until they mustered out in North Carolina in September 1865, with participation in the notable fortification in the trenches before and during the battle of Petersburg from June to December 1864; and also occupied Raleigh, North Carolina, and were present for the surrender of General Johnston and his troops in April 1865.<sup>30</sup> Although Simms served from August 29, 1863 to September 20, 1865, he deserted from Camp William Penn on October 6, 1863, but came back from desertion on September 20, 1864. There was no record of disciplinary action. When Charles Simms applied for a pension in September 1899, he responded to a series of questions about his marital status that “my first wifes [*sic*] Sarah Dotson dide [*sic*] . . . in harrisburg [*sic*] married my second wife in Carlisle.”<sup>31</sup> Simms died on July 13, 1909. By the time his second wife, Elizabeth, filed for benefits as Charles’ widow, her claim was sent to the Special Examination Division to determine the legitimacy of their marriage. The Inspector’s Report lists 12 witnesses who testified on behalf of Elizabeth Simms and her relationship with Charles, but under the notation for “reputation” for the witnesses 11 were listed as “fair” and only one listed as “good.” Reporting his thoughts about Elizabeth’s reputation, the Examiner noted in a report dated December 17, 1926, “Claimant impressed me unfavorably. She seemed to be withholding something. Witnesses, all colored [except two] were not entirely frank, but seemed to be biased in favor of claimant.” The problem, it appears from the file, is that both Charles and Elizabeth Simms had been married before

and Elizabeth worked in Harrisburg and sometimes did not come home because “the soldier drank a good deal” which caused the Examiner to think their marriage was a sham. Elizabeth Simms’ claim was denied.<sup>32</sup>

Also from the USCT 6th Regiment and buried close to Isaiah Harrison is Edward Brown, born in Edington, North Carolina, and who enlisted in Company H at age 21 as a Private on August 21, 1863. Brown was discharged on a Surgeon’s Certificate in December 15, 1864.<sup>33</sup> Brown died of complications from diseases at age 76 on February 8, 1915, at the home of his son John “the well-known cabman” and was also survived by two daughters. Buried on the far left in the middle of the Cemetery is James Williams who enlisted as a Private in Company C of the 5th Regiment of the USCT. A surviving piece of William’s service record shows him listed on the Hospital Muster Roll in Portsmouth Grove, Rhode Island, in November and December of 1864, where he was eventually returned to duty on December 28, 1864 and then was sent to an island in Boston Harbor. Williams died at his home on West Locust Street in Carlisle on March 29, 1915, at age 73 leaving no known relatives.<sup>34</sup>

Also on the far left of the Cemetery close to the entrance, is the grave of Joseph Wilkinson. Wilkinson was born in Philadelphia and enlisted as a Private on September 21, 1864, into Company D of the 41st Regiment of the USCT where he was a 23-year-old laborer who stood 5 feet, 6 inches tall, had brown eyes, black hair, and a brown complexion. Wilkinson’s term of service was from September 21, 1864 until September 30, 1865, when he mustered out in Edinburg, Texas.

In the middle section of the Cemetery, William H. (Henry) Smallwood’s grave is hard to find because his headstone is buried in the ground and partially covered in grass. Enlisted on January 29, 1864, from Chambersburg, he was 18-years-old and a laborer by trade. He was in Company H of the 25th Regiment of the USCT, and was described as having a yellow complexion, brown eyes and black hair. The 25th Regi-



William H. Smallwood gravestone  
at Union Cemetery

*Photo by author*

ment was organized at Camp William Penn in January and February 1864 and saw significant duty in defending New Orleans that July and in Florida at the Post of Barrancas and Fort Pickens until they mustered out in December 1865.<sup>35</sup> In March 1864 he was reduced in rank for “neglect of duty” before he was mustered out in Philadelphia on December 6, 1865. After the War, Smallwood moved to Carlisle where he was a stone mason until he died at age 62 on July 13, 1907, survived by his wife, four daughters, and a son.<sup>36</sup>

Equally difficult to find buried in the middle portion at the Cemetery because his headstone is also buried in the ground, is USCT veteran from the 5th Regiment Charles Slaughter. Slaughter enlisted in February 1865 and was discharged four months later in June 1865, mustering out in Portsmouth Virginia.



Charles Slaughter gravestone at Union Cemetery.

*Photo by author*

In his application for a pension in June 1898, Slaughter stated that he had been married but once and had eight children, but his claim for compensation was denied by the Examiner E. G. Richardson who concluded, “after eliminating disabilities that are attributable to syphilis, the certificate of examination does not show claimant disabled in a pensionable degree” under the applicable law. Slaughter died on October 1, 1926.

Little is known of George Frazer, buried on the far left and to the middle of the Cemetery. Frazer enlisted in Company E of the 1st Regiment USCT and, according to his obituary, was a member of the A.M.E. Zion Church and was “an industrious man and had many friends” when on October 22, 1907, he died at his house on Fair Ground Avenue at age 70 of “dropsy and asthma.”<sup>37</sup>

Near the very back of the far right section of the Cemetery is buried John Lane, of the 8th Regiment who, after the War, was employed by “G. W. Rinesmith & Company, and later by Morris & Riley.” He died “a respected and industrious colored citizen” of pneumonia at his home on North West Street in Carlisle, was a member of the A.M.E. church and was survived at his death on April 4, 1909, by two brothers.<sup>38</sup>

Buried near Frazer is William Stoner who enlisted at age 24 on June 10, 1864, as a Private in Company H of the 55th Massachusetts Infantry. Stoner is described in his service records as having been born in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, standing 5 feet, 6 and one half inches tall with brown eyes, black hair and dark complexion. Although his records indicate that he was “free on or before April 19, 1861,” he was docked \$6.00 pay for gun and equipment loss.<sup>39</sup> The men of the 55th were mustered out at Readville, Massachusetts in June 1863 and saw heavy “fatigue duty” relieving other troops throughout the battles of South Carolina during the War. The Regiment was with other USCT Regiments in South Carolina at Hatch’s Expedition and Honey Hill in November 1864 and Devaux’s Neck in December 1864. The 55th was mustered out in Boston in September 1865.<sup>40</sup> Stoner mustered out in Charleston, South Carolina on August 29, 1865 and returned to Carlisle where he died on January 5, 1916.

The remaining headstones for which the search continues are for John Belt of the Army Cavalry, Robert Stephenson of Company H of the 20th Regiment USCT, John Carter of the 127th New York Infantry and Arthur Price.

### Endnotes

- 1 Tritt, Richard L., “The Soldiers Monument,” *The Bitter Fruits, The Civil War Comes to a Small Town in Pennsylvania* by David G. Colwell, Cumberland County Historical Society, 1998, 186-189.
- 2 The reasons for the omission of the names of USCT soldiers on the monument in Carlisle are not known. Several possibilities exist. The commission that erected the monument used a list provided by the Commonwealth of soldiers who died from wounds or illness during the war. Did the state not include black soldiers in this list? To date, none of the troops who served with the USCT from Cumberland County that we have researched are known to have died during the War. Therefore, if our research fails to find any such deaths, there would be no African American soldiers who would qualify to have their names on

the monument. Another possibility is that this is a reflection of the 19th century prejudice toward African Americans.

- 3 Lardas, Mark. *African American Soldier in the Civil War: USCT 1862-66*. New York: Osprey Publishing, 2006.
- 4 Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863. Washington, D.C.
- 5 Blair, William and William Pencak. *Pennsylvania's Civil War*. University Park, Pennsylvania State University Press, 2001.
- 6 *Prigg v. Pennsylvania* (41 U.S. 539, 1842).
- 7 The government purchased stick markers to identify the location of veterans' graves. At Union Cemetery, the stick markers in front of USCT graves include designations not for the Civil War, but from the Revolutionary War, World War I, and World War II. Very few USCT graves actually have "G.A.R." (Grand Army of the Republic) markers symbolizing Civil War service.
- 8 According to town legend, the Lincoln Cemetery headstones were discarded in the Carlisle town landfill. Local stories allege that the Lincoln Cemetery headstones had been moved to Union Cemetery, but no headstone of a USCT veteran listed in the Veteran's Administration Register (1934) as buried at Lincoln has been located at Union.
- 9 National Park Service Soldier & Sailor System, History of the USCT 45th, [www.itd.nps.gov/cwss](http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss).
- 10 Muster and Descriptive Roll of a Detachment of United States Colored Recruits for the 45th Regiment of U.S. Colored Troops, Pennsylvania State Archives.
- 11 Civil War and Later Pension Files. Record of Alfred Phillips. Washington, D.C.: National Archives Records Administration.
- 12 National Park Service Soldier & Sailor System, History of the USCT 54th, [www.itd.nps.gov/cwss](http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss).
- 13 *The Evening Sentinel*, 1928. Obituary of Isaiah Harrison. April 19.
- 14 The Veteran's Administration Register that lists the location of veterans' graves as of 1934 lists Allen Powell of Company I of the Massachusetts 54th Regiment buried at Union Cemetery, but no headstone could be located.
- 15 Muster and Descriptive Roll of a Detachment of United States Colored Recruits for the 54th Regiment of U.S. Colored Troops, Microfilm U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.
- 16 *The Evening Sentinel*, 1914. Obituary of David Butler. March 17.
- 17 *The Evening Sentinel*, 1913. Obituary of Henry C. Hunter. May 26.
- 18 Company Descriptive Book. 54th Regiment Mass. Infantry (Colored). Service Records of John Green, National Archives Records Administration, Microfilm, Army Heritage and Education Center, E513.5, 54th C66, 1996, RL 6, C.1, Roll 6.
- 19 National Park Service Soldier & Sailor System, History of the USCT 32nd, [www.itd.nps.gov/cwss](http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss).

- 20 Civil War and Later Pension Files. Record of William A. Jordan. Washington, D.C.: National Archives Records Administration.
- 21 National Park Service Soldier & Sailor System, History of the USCT 127th, accessed.
- 22 Civil War and Later Pension Files. Record of Joseph N. Jordan. Washington, D.C.: National Archives Records Administration.
- 23 Garrett, Peggy. "Forty-three Baltimore Street." *Cumberland County History*, Vol. 13, No. 2. 1996.
- 24 *The Evening Sentinel*, 1907. Obituary of Joseph N. Jordan. December 17.
- 25 *The Evening Sentinel*, 1910. Obituary of William Jackson. February 25.
- 26 National Park Service Soldier & Sailor System, History of the USCT 8th, [www.itd.nps.gov/cwss](http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss).
- 27 *The Evening Sentinel*, 1914. Obituary of William H. Jackson. December 28.
- 28 Carlisle Herald, "Rebel Occupancy of Carlisle, July 31, 1863" in *Carlisle in the Civil War; Vol. I*, Hamilton Library and Historical Association of Cumberland County.
- 29 Shaffer, Donald R. *After the Glory: The Struggles of Black Civil War Veterans*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2004.
- 30 National Park Service Soldier & Sailor System, History of the USCT 6th, [www.itd.gov/cwss](http://www.itd.gov/cwss).
- 31 Civil War and Later Pension Files. Record of Chalres H. Simms. Washington, D.C.: National Archives Records Administration.
- 32 *Ibid.*
- 33 Bates, Samuel P. *History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-1865*, Vol. V. Harrisburg, PA., 960.
- 34 *The Evening Sentinel*, 1915. Obituary of James Williams. March 27.
- 35 National Park Service Soldier & Sailor System, History of the USCT 25th, [www.itd.nps.gov/cwss](http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss).
- 36 *The Evening Sentinel*, 1907. Obituary of Wm. Henry Smallwood. July 13.
- 37 *The Evening Sentinel*, 1907. Obituary of George Frazer. October 22.
- 38 *The Evening Sentinel*, 1909. Obituary of John Lane. April 5.
- 39 Muster and Descriptive Roll of a Detachment of United States Colored Recruits for the 55th Massachusetts Infantry.
- 40 National Park Service Soldier & Sailor System, History of the 55th Massachusetts, [www.itd.nps.gov/cwss](http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss).

## The Civil War Board of Relief of Cumberland County

*Katie Kitner*

Among the historical records that are included in the archives of Cumberland County, are those of the Civil War Board of Relief. These records provide an opportunity to learn how the war affected the day to day lives of military families in Cumberland County during this tumultuous period of our history.

In a law enacted May 15, 1861, by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, it states that "...the county commissioners of the several counties of this commonwealth shall constitute *a board of relief*, to meet monthly, or as often as they find necessary...for the support of the families of the volunteers mustered into service...."<sup>1</sup> Although this law was for the state of Pennsylvania, there is evidence that there were other Civil War relief boards around the country, including the states of Georgia, Illinois, and Iowa.<sup>2</sup> The Cumberland County Board of Relief records are organized by the dates the board met and list the names of the soldiers' families receiving aid for that particular month. They are further organized by the name of the local representative and the municipality they represented. These papers help researchers understand how families were impacted by the Civil War and sheds light on the experiences of those living in Cumberland County. We are now marking the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, and these documents provide us an opportunity to reflect on this time in our history.

### Who could receive aid?

Although there are no records found to date giving the exact criteria used for determining which families received aid, certain commonalities are present in the surviving records. Family members that could be supported under the Board of Relief included wives, parents, siblings, children, and in some cases, grandparents. To receive aid, children had to be under the age of twelve to receive the two dollars per month stipend. Wives could receive up to six dollars, although that amount decreased significantly during the war, as available

funds dwindled. Officers, such as Lieutenant H. J. Zinn, were ineligible to receive aid because they were already given salaries, but some could get temporary aid for one or two months. In some cases, families continued to receive aid even after a soldier died. The Haverstick family of Carlisle is one example of this situation. D. Haverstick died in 1863 according to Veterans' Cemetery Records yet the family received aid until 1865.

### How did the families apply for aid?

A representative from each municipality or township was appointed to handle all applications for relief. Only one actual application survives in the county records, that of Mrs. Mary Shingler. It is unclear if this official form was available to all applicants in Cumberland County. It provides a lot of information about the applicant including his or her residence, occupation, date of the soldier's muster into service, his company, and the number of family members. The law required a written request for relief from every applicant. If other applications like this one had survived, they would provide a wonderful source of additional information about local families impacted by the war.



A Civil War Family  
*CCHS Photo Archives*

### Who advocated for the relief of families?

The township representatives played a major role in the relief process by helping the families apply for aid, physically withdrawing the funds from the bank, personally handling any problems, and serving as intermediaries between applicants and the county government. Correspondence between municipal and township representatives and the Board of Relief, illustrates the personal relationship many representatives had with the families they served. In a letter to the board dated February 28, 1862, Mr. John Clendenin, the representative for Silver Spring Township, lamented the situation of Mrs. Ludich. He writes, "She said that she could not get any work and that her father was not able to buy her shoes...I told her to get shoes, and I thought the board would allow it. If you can – please do so..." In another letter, Newville representative John McClandish intervened on behalf of the Myers family, which had not received the proper amount of funds: "Would they not be entitled to eight dollars per month? My opinion is that they would." These are two examples of the efforts that these men took to assist the families receiving aid and their involvement in the relief process.

John Morrison for Dickinson W <sup>m</sup> Jewell Parents & Sisters	\$10.00
John Chudwin for Silver Spring Josiah Wilson Wife & 6 children	\$15.00
John Linniger	6.00
Wm. Adams to M <sup>rs</sup> Wilson	5.25
	\$32.25
Oliver James for New Camb <sup>d</sup>	
Alfred Eschenlot Mother	\$6.00
John Wesley Waggoner temporary	
Jacob Snyder " " "	24.00
	\$30.00
David Shumaker for Newswell W <sup>m</sup> Crawford & Children	4.00
James M. Candler for Newville John L. Puller wife & 4 children	\$8.00
J. H. Smith " " "	8.00
	\$16.00
W. M. Henderson for Newville Sam <sup>l</sup> C. M <sup>rs</sup> Beth Mother of 3 children	\$12.00
W. B. Bidler wife & 2 " "	10.00
	22.00
A. H. Smith for Newville	

An excerpt from one of the board of relief proceeding drafts.

Cumberland County Archives

Soldiers also played a role in advocating for the relief of their wives in different ways. Each soldier had to provide proof that he was an enlisted member of the army in order for his family to receive aid, and this proof was to be provided by his ranking commander. Only a few of these proofs of enlistment are found in the records. Hopefully, if any additional documents are found in the county records, they can be restored to their original order. One commander wrote on behalf of his company, "There are many and loud complaints among my men that their families are not provided for...they are daily [sending] letters complaining of this neglect, and in presenting themselves to be in a destitute condition, and calling upon their husbands to come home, and provide for them." (Brackets in this quotation and in other quotations throughout the text were added by the author.) Soldier Isaac Bates, of Company A., 11th Regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteers, wrote a personal note appealing to the board to "...take the care of

my wife into favorable consideration as our Regiment has as yet drawn no pay and she is dependent entirely upon me for support." At a time when the welfare of soldiers was on the forefront in the public's mind, it is refreshing to see that their families' well-being was also being taken into account.

Some families were denied relief on the basis of not residing within the county at the time of enlistment, for being an officer who was paid, or for not being able to provide proof of a soldier's enlistment. One family in particular, the Waggoners of Carlisle, expressed anger after having been removed from the list of families receiving relief. Mr. Waggoner writes, "I wish to know why my family is selected out by you and other men's families get their share. That [they] are worth dollars where I am not worth cents." Waggoner also went so far as to threaten political repercussions: "But I suppose they are Political Friends of yours. I hope we will have the Reason of getting a vote at this Fall Election and there we will vote for men that will treat our families high while we are away."<sup>3</sup> The fervor shown by Mr. Waggoner demonstrates the degree to which these families depended on the aid, and the measures they were willing to take to get it.

In a subsequent letter from the Naval School at Annapolis, a Mr. James Stuart had this to say:

We all feel this Kind of treatment very sorely. The men has [*sic*] left their homes to meet Tribulations & Hardships to Sustain the laws that you own your Situation to and you to make them more Miserable. To hear that their wives are not allowed a small Pittance to Keep them from starving it looks like if you wished to Contend against the wishes of a large Portion of the taxpayers of our Country. Such treatment as that will Ruin our Cause Politcaly [*sic*]. If this treatment Persisted in [*sic*] we will have to Correct it at the Ballot Box this fall for we have the Privilege of Voting for the County ticket & Rest assured that it will tell against the Commissioners.<sup>4</sup>

These letters are illuminating examples of how passionate the citizens of Cumberland County could be about both the war effort and events going on at home.

Several soldiers' wives also took matters into their own hands. In one document, over twenty wives wrote to the board of relief asking for help, "[We] are in distress and in great want. [We] know of no other way of obtaining immediate relief, except by the action of your Board [and] therefore pray that you will take action and thus prevent us from becoming paupers and charges..."<sup>5</sup> The following wives signed their names to the letter: Mrs. Martha Donley, Mrs. Smyth, Mrs. Susan Vansant, Mrs. Louisa McKinney, Mrs. Mary Mulgrew (also McGrew), Mrs. Sarah Stringfellow, Mrs. Hannah Askew, Mrs. C. Dickson, Mrs.

L. Thompson, Mrs. Catherine Stringfellow, Mrs. Bigler, Mrs. Mary A. Gorgas, Mrs. Inn Lime, Mrs. Catherine Williams, Mrs. Rebecca Reighter, Mrs. Anna B. Snodgrass, Mrs. Noble, Mrs. Worden, Mrs. Fair, Mrs. Elizabeth Askew, and Mrs. Miriam Linekuhl. Although three of these women did not ultimately receive relief, this unique document offers insight into the roles wives took in their own affairs, and illustrates the importance of the Board of Relief to their existence.

### Where did the relief money come from?

Answering this question was a difficult challenge. The law was extremely vague regarding the source of relief money. The law states that the county "... [is] hereby authorized and empowered to make a temporary loan, or loans..." and goes on to state that "...it shall be lawful for the proper authorities...to assess and levy a tax for the payment of such appropriations...."<sup>6</sup> These statements never explicitly reveal the source of the funds. One document in the Commissioners' Papers Resolutions states that "Resolved, That the [board of relief] expenses referred to ought to be met out of the county treasury unless legal obstacles prevent such action by the commissioners." Therefore, one can assume that at least some of the money came out of the county treasury. Some parts of the relief effort were covered by Militia fines.<sup>7</sup>

### How long did the Board of Relief last?

The last time the Board of Relief is mentioned in the Minutes of the Board of the County Commissioners is January 11, 1864. Payments continued after this point, but meetings were no longer held on a regular basis. Expenditures recorded in the Commissioner's Ledgers show that payments still continued sporadically up until 1866.<sup>8</sup>

Some form of assistance to soldiers and their families did not stop with the end of the Civil War. Other relief organizations and efforts based on governmental legislation were enacted throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. Some of the private relief funds include the Armed Forces Relief Trust, Children of Fallen Soldier's Relief Fund, and Army Emergency Relief, which continue to provide assistance to soldiers and their dependents. The federal government also passed a bill known as the Soldier's and Sailor's Civil Relief Act of 1918, updated in 1940 and revamped in 2003 under the new name of the Service Members Civil Relief Act.<sup>9</sup>

Although the Board of Relief records no longer are used for the purpose originally intended, the surviving records provide important insights into the Civil War era, especially regarding the social history of the time. Through these records the women and children, who so often are overlooked as we focus on

the military and political leaders and events of the time, are revealed as they encounter the struggles of daily life during this time of conflict.

A review of these records from the 1860s allows these families the opportunity to share their unique experiences. These were neighbors, friends, and sometimes strangers, but most important of all they were families, affected by the war. The constant struggles they faced, including the fear of starvation, poverty, and death still ring as true today as they did then. Now that we again find ourselves in the midst of military and economic conflict, we can better understand the hardships faced in the daily lives of families in the 1860s. While these families had to face prospects of life without their husbands, sons, brothers, or fathers, it is clear that the Board of Relief offered some ray of hope during a difficult time.



Civil War era children  
*CCHS Photo Archives*

The process of cataloging, arranging, describing, and making these records available online enhances their significance to history. This project was completed in the hopes that people would realize their unique importance to our understanding of the Civil War.

The following soldiers and their families received aid from the Board of Relief. The index in its entirety, as well as the individual document scans can be found by going to the Cumberland County Archives website at <http://ccweb.ccpa.net/archives/listings.aspx> > Commissioners > Papers: Board of Relief, Civil War > Inventory. Symbols used in table: \* township representative, # spouse of soldier, [?] first name not given, †commander of company/regiment. For more information about the index go to <http://ccweb.ccpa.net/archives/Inventory.aspx?PSID=1775>.

Adair, John  
 Agle, Jacob  
 Anderson, R.  
 Arbegast, J. W.  
 Askew, D.  
 Askew, I.  
 Askew, J.  
 Attick, John  
 Bailey, I. J.

Baird, David  
 Baker, David  
 Baker, Jacob  
 Baker, James  
 Baker, Samuel  
 Barklow, John  
 Barnhill, Daniel  
 Barnhill, Jacob  
 Bates, Isaac J.

Baughman, Reynolds  
 Beaty, William  
 Behney, O. H.  
 Beidleman, John  
 Beidler, H. B.  
 Bell, I. J.  
 Bennett, Abraham  
 Bennett, John  
 Beverson, Charles

Beverson, E.	Daugherty, John	Fosnaught, William
Billow, [?]	Daugherty, S. D.	Freese, Oliver
Bishop, W.	Deemer, A. J.	Fritt, Samuel *
Bixler, C.	Deitz, David *	Fry, George
Black, John	Devincy, [?]	Fry, J. & J.
Bobb, Charles A.	Dewese, A. B.	Fullaway, J.
Boose, D. M.	Diven, Thomas	Gamble, Josiah H.
Bowman, G. B.	Dixon, W. B.	Gamble, Samuel
Bricker, Moses*	Dock, Clinton	Gardner, Jacob A.
Brindle, George *	Donley, E.	Gibler, J. L.
Brisbane, J. F.	Donley, John	Gilmore, Peter
Broderick, James	Donley, W.	Givlen, John L.
Brown, Philip	Dornbaugh, H.	Goddard, C. A.
Bryson, Robert *	Dornbaugh, William	Golden, Samuel
Butts, John F.	Dorsheimer, Capt. †	Gorgas, H. R. *
Cargee, M.	Doyle, Martin	Gorgas, Isaac
Carns, Peter	Doyle, P.	Gorgas, J.
Cauffman, Christian	Dravenstot, Alfred	Gorgas, William R. *
Chenoworth, R.	Dubesy, J.	Gouse, John
Clark, E. M.	Duese, A.	Goush, John
Clark, Lafayette	Dull, [?]	Green, Samuel
Clark, William *	Duncan, C.	Green, William
Clendenin, John *	Duncan, M.	Greenfield, John
Cocklin, M. *	Dunkle, Daniel	Grier, Samuel
Comfort, George A.	Dunkle, Jacob	Guthrie, William
Cook, John W.	Durnbaugh, William	Guyer, William
Coover, Cyrus	Dween, J. P.	Halbert, J. I.
Coover, John W.	Eckard, Elias	Hanis, J. I.
Coover, Samuel	Eckles, William *	Harder, Samuel
Corbit, William A.	Ege, Samuel	Harman, M.
Cramer, George	Egolf, Lemuel	Harris, J. J.
Crawford, William	Engle, Mrs.#	Hartline, William
Cresswell, George W. *	Evilhawk, Alex	Haun, Samuel
Crop, Capt.	Ewing, John	Haverstick, D.
Crouse, A.	Fair, M.	Hawn, S.
Crowel, A.	Fallaway, Jacob	Hefflefinger, David
Crowl, J. A.	Fesler, W.	Henderson, William M. *
Daugherty, Andrew	Fosnaught, Edward	Henthorn, George
Daugherty, George	Fosnaught, John	Herman, E.

Herman, Martin E.	Kerns, [?]	Lisman, Henry
Hicks, P.	Kerns, Frederick	Lizman, Casper
High, Henry	Kerns, Mrs. #	Lobach, [?]
Hipple, Benjamin	Kerns, S.	Logan, John
Hipple, J.	Keyser, George	Looper, [?]
Hockley, David	Kimmel, A. J.	Lotsabaugh, George
Hockley, L.	Kimmel, John	Lotten, Capt. †
Holtz, J.	Kimmel, Lieut.	Low, Sergt. John †
Hooper, Charles	King, [?]	Ludick, Jacob
Hooper, James	King, Levi	Lynch, Charles
Hood, John	King, P. B.	Lyne, John S. Sergt. †
Hooper, L.	King, S. B. Lieut.	Martin, [?]
Hoover, Charles	Kingsbury, Samuel	Martin, A.
Hoover, Hiram	Kinsley, John	Martin, George
Hoover, James	Kisler, Mrs. #	Martin, Henry
Houarten, George	Kisler, William	Martin, I.
Houser, William	Koontz, J.G. & C.	Martin, Mrs. #
Huber, Charles	Koontz, Jacob	Martin, Samuel
Humbaugh, [?]	Koser, John	Matthew, L. H.
Humberger, Joseph	Kramer, George	McBeth, Samuel
Humer, Jesse B.	Kuhn, Capt. †	McCalister, William
Hurley, A.	Lahney, J. M.	McCartney, R.
Hurley, George	Lamason, Jacob	McClandish, James *
Hymmer, Capt.	Lamberton, Abraham *	McClure, George
Ickes, C.	Landis, Alexander C.	McClure, R. P. *
James, Owen *	Latshaw, [?]	McCormick, C.
Karger, Max	Lauck, F.	McGlaughlin, Henry
Karns, F.	Lautsbaugh, Sarah #	McGonigal, A.
Karns, Jacob	Lay, Miller	McGowan, William
Karns, Peter	Leckley, James B. *	McGrew, William
Karns, Samuel	Leigher, S.	McKinney, E.
Kaser, John	Lenney, John M.	McMaster, J.
Kauffman, Christian	Lighter, S.	Means, Joseph M. *
Kaufman, J. B. Lieut.	Lime, L.	Mell, Dr. R. K.
Keeny, Jacob	Limmons, David	Meyers, John
Keeny, Sergt.	Linekuhl, H.	Middleton, Robert *
Keisler, William	Liningier, John	Miller, John
Keller, George A.	Linthurst, Charles	Miller, Joseph
Kennedy, Levi	Linthurst, James	Miller, Samuel

Minich, Jacob	Reynolds, George W.	Smith, J. H.
Minich, M.	Riehwine, D.	Smith, J.B.
Mooney, Joseph	Rinehart, William	Smith, M.
Mooney, M.	Risler, W.	Smith, William M.
Moore, James *	Ritner, Peter *	Snavelly, D.
Moorehead, John	Roach, Mary #	Snodgrass, William
Moose, Joseph *	Ruby, Henry R.	Snow, John
Morrett, E.	Rupley, Abraham	Snyder, H.
Morrison, E.	Sadler, John *	Snyder, William
Morrison, John *	Sailhamer, Jacob	Spahr, D.
Moses, John	Sanders, W. H.	Sparks, David
Mountz, Adam	Saxton, Henry *	Speese, George W.
Mulgrew, W.	Schrifer, Benjamin	Speese, Jeremiah
Mullen, A.	Seavers, Francis	Spicer, Charles
Mullen, W. B. *	Senate, Henry	Spottswood, R.
Murphey, John *	Sennett, William	Stevenson, James
Myers, [?]	Shapley, John	Stringfellow, I.
Myers, H.	Sharp, S. W. *	Stringfellow, John
Myers, John	Sheafer, Benjamin	Strohm, George
Myers, William	Sheafer, John	Stuart, Joseph *
Myers, William	Sheafer, M.	Stuart, Lieut.
Myers, William	Sheafer, W.	Sugars, [?]
Nave, George	Shepley, John	Swartz, Andrew
Nave, William	Shingler, George F.	Swartz, Henry
Nevill, W.	Shingler, Henry C.	Thomas, J. R.
Noble, James H.	Shriver, Benjamin	Thompson, J. B.
Nonemaker, William	Shugart Jr., Samuel	Thrush, R.
Palmer, H.	Shugart, David	Tomilson, F.
Palmer, J.	Shugart, George	Trone, Abdel
Palmer, Jacob	Shumaker, David *	Underwood, George
Parsons, George W.	Sites, Samuel	Vansant, John
Quickel, John	Sites, W. B.	Waggoner, Erastus
Quigley, W. H.	Slyder, N.	McKinney
Rahl, W.	Slyder, Peter	Waggoner, J. A.
Ramsey, S.	Slyder, William	Waggoner, Jacob
Rawl, W.	Smiley, R. B.	Snyder
Redsecker, Jacob *	Smith, B. & J.	Waggoner, James
Reighter, A. J.	Smith, George	Waggoner, John
Reighter, George L.	Smith, Howard	Worley

Waggoner, Joseph Green	Wesley, Samuel	Witherow, D.
Waggoner, Mrs. #	Whaler, D.	Witherow, W.
Walker, G.	Whitman, Jacob A.	Woodburn, Skiles *
Walker, H.	Whitman, Joseph	Woods, N.
Walker, William	Whitmore, J. A.	Woolridge, John
Walter, W.	Whitnite, Daniel	Wyer, William
Waltman, W.	Wilders, Edward	Yets, Joseph
Walton, W.	Williams, John	Yocum, H.
Wardecker, F.	Williams, Joseph	Zeamer, John *
Warden, J.	Willis, Samuel	Zell, Peter H.
Warder, James	Wilson, F.	Zell, Samuel
Weaver, F.	Wilson, H.	Zerbe, L.
Welch, Henry	Wilson, J.	Zimmons, D.
Welsh, George	Wilson, Jacob	Zinn, E. P. Lieut.
Welsh, Henry	Wilson, Josiah	Zinn, H. J. Lieut.
Wengand, K.	Windomaker, Jacob	
	Wingard, J. L.	

## ENDNOTES

- 1 "No. 680: An Act to create a Loan and to Provide for Arming the State," *Laws of the General Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania passed at the Session of 1861* (Harrisburg: A. Boyd Hamilton, 1861), 754.
- 2 "County Board of Supervisors/Board of County Commissioners: Record Descriptions," *Illinois State Archives*, [http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/irad/rd\\_countyboard.html](http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/irad/rd_countyboard.html) (accessed February 16, 2010). "Keokuk County Civil War Soldiers," *Keokuk County, Iowa Military Center: IAGenWeb Project*, <http://iagenweb.org/keokuk/military/civilwar.html>. (accessed February 16, 2010). "Desertion in Georgia," <http://etymonline.com/cw/desert1.htm>. (accessed February 16, 2010).
- 3 Board of Relief, Civil War, document 1861.09.2.
- 4 *Ibid.*, document 1861.11.2.
- 5 *Ibid.*, document 1861.07.3.
- 6 P.A. Law, No. 680, "An Act to Create a Loan and to Provide for Arming the State", 749.
- 7 For more information concerning the Militia fines, see P.A. Law, No. 680.
- 8 Commissioner's Ledger, Vol. 3, 1849-1864. *Cumberland County Archives*.
- 9 For more information consult the following web pages: <http://www.afrtrust.org/>, <http://www.cfsrf.org/>, <http://www.aerhq.org/>, and [www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov).

## The Union Fire Company and Its Members During the Civil War

*Randy Watts*

The following article is adapted from a speech given as part of the commemoration of the role of the Union Fire Company of Carlisle, Pennsylvania in the American Civil War, read before the Union Fire Company on April 21, 2011. Much of the material is derived from research for an upcoming book, "The Union Legacy," that will be published for the 225th anniversary of the company.

The Union Fire Company, originally formed in 1789, emerged as one of Carlisle's leading organizations after the company's rebirth in 1821. By 1859 the company had matured to the point that it built a new two story fire house at 34 West Louthier Street, to replace a wooden shed on land it had leased since the Town Hall fire in 1845. Several leading attorneys and politicians were active in the affairs of the company from the early 1840s up to the start of the war, including Lemuel Todd, Theo Cornman, John Hays, Ephraim Cornman and Robert Henderson. These men, and others, led members of the Union Fire Company (hereafter referred to as the Union), and other young men from Carlisle to war. In so doing they would link the Union Fire Company to many major battles in the eastern theatre and bring the brutal reality of the war home to Carlisle.

The war began with the shelling of Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, and three days later President Lincoln issued a call for troops to defend the country. Lincoln initially called for 75,000 troops, thinking the war would be short and easily won.

April 1861 was a very anxious and active time in the history of Carlisle and the Union Fire Company. The Civil War had started, shots had been fired, rumors of a pending rebel invasion were rampant and the town was energized to respond. Several members had already enlisted and departed for war and others were busy organizing additional companies of volunteers.

On April 21st, three companies of 90 day militia were mustered in at Carlisle. A day later members of the Union met in the fire house across the street from the Union's present station, to organize the "Union Guard", a local militia company pledged to defend the town.

What follows is a brief history of the units in which Union Fire Company members enlisted.

### 9th Pennsylvania

The first company raised in Cumberland County was Company C of the 9th Pennsylvania. Seven members of the Union joined and were mustered into service by April 23, 1861. They did not see combat but did march extensively along the Potomac during their 90 days of service. The majority re-enlisted in three year units after they were discharged in July.<sup>1</sup>

### 11th Pennsylvania

Another early unit from Cumberland County was the 11th Pennsylvania and three members of the Union enlisted in Company A in September 1861 when it was re-organized as a three year regiment. Known as the "Bloody 11th", this unit saw extensive combat until the end of the war, including Falling Water, Cedar Mountain, 1st Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, The Wilderness, Spotsylvania, The Salient, Cold Harbor, Weldon Railroad, Five Forks and were present at Appomattox for Lee's surrender. Nearly all re-enlisted as Veteran Volunteers in 1864.<sup>2</sup>

The 11th fought at Gettysburg and played an important role in the fighting on the first day. It was part of the repulse of Iverson's Brigade on Oak Ridge and their monument is located there. An interesting and romantic part of this brigade's history is Sally, the dog that traveled with the unit throughout much of the war and died in combat. Sally is featured on the monument at Gettysburg.

### The Union Guard in 1861

While the other companies from Carlisle were being organized in early April, the members of the Union Fire Company met on April 22nd to organize the "Union Guard" to protect the home front. A minute book from this group survives and includes their "mission statement" as it were:<sup>3</sup>

Whereas a prompt response to the call of the Executive by our patriotic volunteers will render our town defenseless, and our homes in danger, also believing that the position of our borough is dangerously near the traitorous states, we deem it necessary to form an organization for the purpose of more efficiently repelling any foe, therefore it is resolved that we unite ourselves under the title "Union Guard", having for our object the protection of our town and country.

After some initial drilling in 1861 the organization became inactive until September of 1862.

## Carlisle Companies 1861

In mid April three companies of troops were organized in Carlisle. These were to be 90 day 'militia' companies. There was a long tradition of militia companies in Carlisle going back to the Revolution. These companies met at the Armory, the building now known as Stock Hall at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on North West Street.

Because the response to Lincoln's call had been so extensive, the federal government could not accept all the troops who enlisted. In response, Pennsylvania Governor Curtin created the 'Pennsylvania Reserves' which consisted of 15 regiments of troops that were to be paid for and maintained by the state for the protection of the Commonwealth, and which would be available for federal service should the need arise. Three companies that became part of the "Reserves" were mustered in Carlisle.<sup>4</sup>

The first company was Company H of the 30th Pennsylvania, later referred to as the First Reserves. This company included four members from the Union and was led by Robert Mc Cartney. Mc Cartney was the local militia commander prior to the war.

Shortly thereafter Company I of the 30th Pennsylvania was formed with Lemuel Todd as its Captain. This company included four Union members. Unofficially the company was called the "Carlisle Guards" in deference to an earlier militia company in the borough.<sup>5</sup>

At the same time Robert M. Henderson organized Company A of the 36th Pennsylvania, later referred to as the 7th Reserves. This company, again honoring a past militia company, referred to themselves as the "Carlisle Fencibles". Seventy-nine men would leave Carlisle as members of this unit; twenty of them from the Union; only nine would come home three years later.<sup>6</sup>

All three companies left town for camp in June of 1861 and were mustered into Federal service in July. The various companies formed on High Street and boarded special trains. As part of the send off, the ladies and women of town presented the group of companies with a flag. The presentation was done by a granddaughter of Ephraim Blaine, noted quartermaster of the Revolution, host of George Washington while he was in Carlisle in 1894, and an early Union member.<sup>7</sup>

The paths of the 1st and 7th diverged as the war progressed so they will be discussed separately.

The 1st Reserves saw their first real combat as part of the Seven Days Battles on the Peninsula near Richmond, Virginia. They fought at Mechanicsville, Gaines

Mill, Glendale and Malvern Hill over the next several days, and took significant casualties. They then fought at 2nd Manassas (Virginia) and South Mountain in Maryland. Lemuel Todd, who had been promoted to Major, resigned due to illness on September 15, 1862.

The 1st Reserves were also engaged at Antietam; they fought at Fredericksburg and at Gettysburg. At Gettysburg they fought late in the afternoon of the second day near Little Round Top and took part in the charge later on the third day of the battle after Pickett's Charge had been repulsed. Later in the war they fought at The Wilderness, Spotsylvania Courthouse, and several other smaller battles, also in northern Virginia, before being mustered out in June 1864.

The 7th Reserves also saw their first combat as part of the Peninsula Campaign beginning with Mechanicsville. At Gaines Mill they lost nearly half their strength covering the retreat of the army's reserve artillery. Captain Robert Henderson was injured at the battle of Glendale. The regiment fought next at 2nd Bull Run where Henderson was seriously wounded when a bullet passed through his body. He did not return to combat.

The 7th fought at South Mountain and was one of the first units on the field at Antietam late in the day on the 16th of September. On the 17th they were part of the opening assault on The Cornfield and five Carlisle men, including two Union members, were killed by the same cannon shell.<sup>8</sup>

They were engaged at the Battle of Fredericksburg and then fought at the Wilderness. At the Wilderness nearly all the members of the regiment were captured, effectively ending the role of the 7th Reserves in the rest of the war. Those captured were sent to southern prison camps and at least one Union member died while imprisoned.

## 130th Pennsylvania

As the war continued more calls for troops were issued. When the 130th regiment was formed in August of 1862 Union members enlisted in Company A and Company G. A month after enrolling, and with little training, they found themselves on the battlefield at Antietam and took part in attacks on Bloody Lane.

The 130th went on to fight at Fredericksburg where they were part of the attack on Marye's Heights and Chancellorsville (Virginia) before being mustered out in 1863.<sup>9</sup>

## The Union Guard in 1862

The Militia Company, known as the Union Guard, originally formed in 1861, was activated in early September 1862 as a response to part of the rebel invasion that led to the battle of Antietam. They were given weapons and marched to

within a few miles of the battle and did duty escorting prisoners. Not long after the battle they turned in their guns but continued to drill for several weeks.

Frederick Harris, who was a member of the Militia, wrote of their service in 1888:<sup>10</sup>

“Just before the battle of Antietam word came that the rebels were about to invade Pennsylvania and Gov. Curtin called on the Home Guards throughout the state to come to the relief. The Union Co. was one of the first to offer their services, and they received orders to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moments notice. After a delay of two days they received orders to go to Chambersburg, and I don't believe a braver set of men ever marched to the front, than when they took up their line of march from in front of the engine house and proceeded to the railroad station to the train on the 13th day of September 1862.”

The company drilled for a short time after Antietam but then seems to have disbanded.

### Militia in the Gettysburg Campaign

The Confederates marched north again in 1863 and militia companies were again quickly formed to protect the town. Leading citizens of the town met on June 19, 1863 to discuss measures to assist in preventing the invasion of the Cumberland Valley. Robert M. Henderson chaired the meeting. The committee included Union members Lemuel Todd, John Hays, J. F. Lee, and Ephraim Cornman.

There are no entries in the minutes of the Union Guard for the 1863 campaign. However, another company of militia was formed and was led by John S. Low, a Union member who had recently fought with the 130th. Other companies were headed by Robert B. Smiley and David Black, also members of the Union. The Rebel invasion and occupation of Carlisle are well documented so these facts will not be repeated here. Frederick Harris, again writing in 1888, provides some insight into the activities of the Union members in the militia:

Not until the following year was the services of this company called into requisition again. Then word came that Johnnies were again going to invade the soil of Pennsylvania. General Joe Knipe, with two New York regiments of militia and a battery appeared in Carlisle. He made a speech in front of the court house saying that he was here to defend the Cumberland Valley. The home guards again marched out from their pleasant homes to aid him in his struggle and the Union boys weren't the last to get into line.

Off to the southwest of Carlisle the battle line was formed and everything apparently put in order to give the rebels a hearty reception. We again slept on our arms that night, and the next morning when the citizen soldiery awakened from their troubled dreams they were surprised to find that General Joe Knipe, with his command, had slipped away in the silent watches of the night.

It wasn't long before Captain Boyd with his company of scouts appeared and told the boys to dust for home, and they didn't need a second telling, or any coaxing. They got up and dusted with alacrity and in an hour from that time it would have been difficult matter to have found a musket within the borough limits.

Harris' record is the last found that tells of the Union's military activity in the Civil War. There are substantiated accounts that indicate that the militia companies fired some shots when the town was approached by Rebel cavalry two days after the main army left.

### On the Home Front

The fire company received its new hand engine in June 1861. Merkel Landis described the arrival of the engine in a paper read before the Historical Society in 1931:<sup>11</sup>

“On June 14th the Union Fire Company ran up a handsome flag, with the Carlisle Band and Glee Club enlivening the occasion with National airs. Short addresses were made by the Reverends Phillips and Ross. At this time the Union Fire Company received a new engine which upon a test threw a stream of water 40 feet higher than the Court House belfry.”

According to the Minute Books of the Union Fire Company, it does not appear that much business was transacted while its members were away at war, until 1865, with few meetings in the interim but none in 1863 or 1864.<sup>12</sup> During the war “the fire companies called for help to drag their engines to fires as all their members had gone to war.”<sup>13</sup>

During the shelling of Carlisle in June 1863 Harris states:

One (shell) entered one side of the Union Fire Company's hall and went out the other, tearing a considerable hole in both sides of the building.

After the war the company did make a claim against the government for damages during the ‘great invasion’ but it does not appear they received any money.<sup>14</sup>

At the April 1865 meeting of the Union, the company resolved to “turn out to assist in celebrating the surrender of the Rebel Army of Northern Virginia.” The “Hose Class” was to turn out in the uniform of the company, those of the “Engine Class” in black suits. While the south had not formally surrendered the war was essentially over.<sup>15</sup>

They held a festival in early 1865 to raise funds to support the company. By this time it was known the war would soon end. As the troops returned home and the war ended they resumed business and elected 75 new members later in 1865.

## After the War

Seven members of the Union were killed. Many others were injured and others suffered in southern prisons. Both Robert Henderson and Lemuel Todd would assume administrative posts in the Army until the end of the war and Henderson was given the rank of Brevet Brigadier General after the war in honor of his gallant behavior at Bull Run.

William E. Miller joined the company immediately after the war when he moved to Carlisle. Miller, Captain of the 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry, was later awarded the Medal of Honor, one of only two awarded to soldiers from Cumberland County, for his actions in the cavalry battle on the third day at Gettysburg.

After the war Union members and other soldiers from Carlisle came home and lived out their lives. Lemuel Todd served in the United States Congress;<sup>16</sup> Robert Henderson became a Federal judge and later returned to Carlisle where he was prominent in veteran’s affairs. John Hays was a successful lawyer in Henderson’s firm and was a co-founder of the Carlisle Manufacturing Company – today’s Frog Switch and Manufacturing.<sup>17</sup> Miller was also elected to the state legislature as were others in the company. Several served as Burgess (Mayor) and many others served on the Carlisle Borough Council. They continued to serve the Union Fire Company well for decades.

The war impacted the Union Fire Company in many ways. Seven members had been lost, many others injured. All those who came home had been affected by the horrors of the war; yet the war seems to have instilled a sense in them that ultimately helped the fire company. The company was infused with a sense of pride, a sense of identity and the veterans gave it an air of importance.

The veterans of the Civil War led the company through its “Glory Years” with a grand celebration of the company’s Centennial in 1889. That year the company hosted the State Fireman’s Convention and the largest parade ever held in Carlisle to that time. The company had a highly successful band during

this era, one of the finest parade carriages in the state, and some of its members held influential posts in the fire department, the town government, and state and national office.

When Post 201 of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was organized, Union members, including William Miller and Robert Henderson, filled leadership positions. For many years the GAR met in the hall of the former Union Fire Company across the street from the current station on West Louthier Street. Robert Henderson and Lemuel Todd led the committee that erected the Veteran's Memorial on the square.

The Civil War changed the United States of America, our state, our town and all the men and families who fought and sacrificed. The Union Fire Company honors our members who fought in the Civil War with our service as we carry on their tradition of dedication to a cause they believed in.

The following members of the Union Fire Company died in the Civil War:

John Black	Died from wounds received at Gettysburg, PA July 2, 1863.
John Callio	Killed at Antietam, September 17, 1862.
Jacob Landis	Captured at the Wilderness, died in prison.
William Nevel	Died at Annapolis, MD, May 22, 1862.
William Quigley	Died, from wounds at Mechanicsville, VA, date unknown.
David Spahr	Killed at Antietam, September 17, 1862.
Joseph W. Steel	Killed at South Mountain, MD., September 14, 1862.

## Endnotes

- 1 <http://www.pa-roots.com/pacw/infantry/9th/9thorg.html>.
- 2 <http://www.pacivilwar.com/regiment/11th.html>.
- 3 From an untitled record book containing minutes of the group and lists of signatories in the collection of the Union Fire Company Museum.
- 4 Tritt, Richard L., *Here Lies the Body*, various pages but especially pp. 133-139, written by Richard J. Sommers.
- 5 <http://www.pacivilwar.com/regiment/30th.html>.
- 6 <http://www.pacivilwar.com/regiment/36th.html>.
- 7 *The Carlisle Herald*, Carlisle PA June 7, 1861.
- 8 Colwell, David G., *The Bitter Fruits*, published by the Cumberland County Historical Society, Carlisle PA 1998.
- 9 [http://cpc.state.pa.us/cpcweb/flags\\_story130ththvol.jsp](http://cpc.state.pa.us/cpcweb/flags_story130ththvol.jsp).
- 10 Harris, Frederick A., "A History of the Union Fire Company," *Daily Evening Sentinel*, Carlisle PA October 17, 1888.
- 11 Landis, Merkel, "Civil War Times in Carlisle," address read before the Hamilton Library Association, Carlisle, PA, February 14, 1931.
- 12 Union Fire Company Minute Books, Volume 2, various pages, in the collection of the Cumberland County Historical Society.
- 13 Landis, cited earlier.
- 14 Minute books, Vol. 2, 1874.
- 15 Minute books, Vol. 2, April 11, 1865.
- 16 <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page+gr&GSvcid+30226&GRid=6860903&> bio by Tom Todd, also [http://chronicles.dickinson.edu/encyclol/t/ed\\_todd.html](http://chronicles.dickinson.edu/encyclol/t/ed_todd.html).
- 17 Hays, Raphael S, *John Hays*, self published in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, 2000.

## Focus on the Collections

With the 2011 issue of Cumberland County History, a new feature will appear in the Journal. The new feature will be an opportunity for our readers to learn more about the extensive and varied collections housed at the Cumberland County Historical Society in its library, museum, and photo archives. Staff in each of these areas of the Society will select an item or group of items to highlight in each issue. Since this issue is focused on the Civil War, the items selected by the staff will be Civil War related. In subsequent issues, the library, museum or the photo archives staff will select items based on their uniqueness or may focus on a recent addition to the collection.

### MUSEUM

Joshua E. Van Camp – Civil War Relic Hunter – Collection  
*by Mary March*

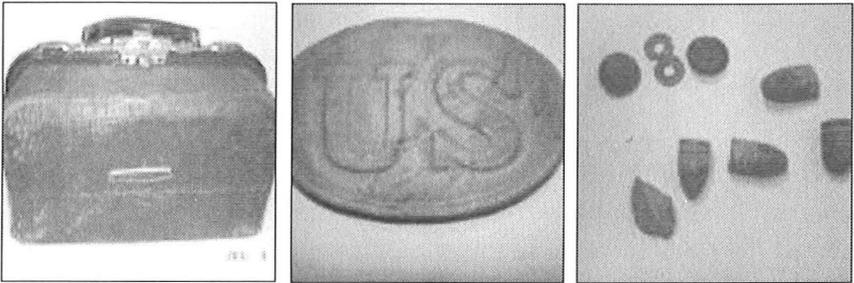
Joshua E. Van Camp was a well known physician in Cumberland County in the 19th century. He was born in Perry County on February 21, 1844 and later settled in Carlisle. On August 8, 1862 while in his late teens he enlisted in Company H, 133rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Later in the war he reenlisted as a Private in Company E, 208th Penna. Volunteer Regiment on September 2, 1864. Van Camp was soon promoted to Sergeant in that same regiment and was discharged at the age of 20 on June 11, 1865, shortly after the War ended. His unit participated in battles at Fredericksburg, Chancellorville, Hatcher's Run, Fort Steadman, and Petersburg. After the war he taught school at Markelsville\* and Greason. He then studied at Pennsylvania College in Gettysburg and read medicine with Dr. Bluger in Newport. He then attended medical lectures at Ann Arbor University in Michigan from where he graduated in 1870. Upon his return to Pennsylvania he married Rachel M. Kaiser of Middlesex, Cumberland County. Together they had three children. Dr. Van Camp practiced medicine for more than 27 years in Markelsville, Plainfield, and Carlisle. He was a member of the Cumberland County Medical Society, the Carlisle Board of Health, and the G.A.R.

\*Markelsville is a small community near Newport, Perry County.

Years after the war, like many Union and Confederate soldiers, Van Camp went on a journey to visit many of the battlefields where he had fought. During his 1887 trip he presumably visited Fredericksburg, the Crater at Petersburg, and Chancellorsville, all located in Virginia, as well as other historical sites including the Washington Monument and the Soldiers Home in Washington, D.C., and George Washington's home at Mount Vernon, where he also visited Washington's Tomb. He collected small mementos such as many of his fellow soldiers did, including buttons, rocks, pieces of artillery shells, and bullets. It is unknown whether or not he also collected relics while he was a soldier.

Dr. Van Camp died suddenly of apoplexy in his buggy on the road on February 10, 1904 while passing the Kiehl Farm about four miles outside Carlisle. He was buried in Ashland Cemetery, widowing his wife Rachel who received an \$8.00 per month pension until her death in 1921.

The following are transcriptions of notes (located in the CCHS Library Archives) that were taken directly from Van Camp's own written record about his relics which he stored in one of his old medical bags. It is interesting to note that the relics and paper records were kept together in Dr. Van Camp's medical bag until they were accessioned at the Society in 1996.



Joshua E. Van Camp medical bag and contents from Civil War Battlefields.

*CCHS Museum Collections*

*Photos by Mary March*

Gifts of Raymond and Joan Bobb. (Dr. Van Camp was Mr. Bobb's great grandfather.)

1996.038.001

1. *Made from mud taken from the crater opposite Fort Morton, Petersburg, Va. – 9th Corp. Badge – the Ninth Corps having charged the crater July 1864*

*J.E. Van Camp*

2. *Pebble from edge of town of Fredericksburg near little house into which I jumped to get away from Rebel bullets on Sunday Dec. 14, 1862*

*J.E. Van Camp*

3. *Bullets & buttons from Fort Steadman.*
4. *Pieces of stone from Washington Monument, Washington, DC. Two stones are marked "From the Soldiers Home at Washington, May 20th 87".*
5. *Pebbles from Mt. Vernon.*
6. *A part of the stone wall at Fredericksburg behind which 4 lines of Confederate troop lay and beat back Humphrys Charge on Saturday Dec. 13, 1862, losing 1760 men and officers out of a total of 4000 – The 133d Regt.\. led this charge and lost heavily in killed and wounded.*
7. *Pebbles from Washington Tomb, Mt. Vernon.*
8. *Bullets from the Crater, Petersburg, VA.  
Button from near Crater.  
Peach seeds from Crater, Peaches from which (grown or grove)? by Confederate (got drink?).*
9. *Piece of percussion shell from Chancellorsville.  
Breast Plate & Waist Plate of Union soldier from Chancellorsville, Va.  
Button from a Virginia soldier of the Confederate Army.  
May 1, 2, or 3 probably the 3rd of May 1863.  
These relics found in May 1887.*

## LIBRARY

Soldier's Monument Association Papers  
by Cara Custer

On the grounds of the 1845 Cumberland County Court House, the [Civil War] Soldiers' Monument in downtown Carlisle has a prominent position and is an important part of our local cityscape. The monument was originally known as the Soldier's Monument but is now commonly referred to as the Civil War Monument. While downtown Carlisle continues to evolve, the respect the county citizens hold for those in military service continues to grow. The area surrounding the Civil War monument now has memorials for many other military conflicts. The Soldier's Monument is particularly interesting because of the attempts by local citizen to erect the monument over a five year period beginning two years after the war ended.

The organization of citizens that worked to erect the memorial structure was the Soldiers' Monument Association. The Hamilton Library has several items in its archival collections relating to the work of the association including: Minutes of the Soldiers' Monument Association of Cumberland County, 1867; Account of A. L. Sponsler, Esq. Treasurer 1867–1871; and a collection of receipts for funds donated to the Association. The minute book unfortunately does not document

the efforts of the association through to the completion of the construction effort, but it provides a detailed history of the beginning of the organization's work. Since the monument is on county land, there was a certain level of involvement of the county government as well. In the Cumberland County Commissioners Minute Book Vol. 5, also available at the Historical Society, there is a diagram of the proposed location of the monument.

J. Webster Henderson donated the minute book and the account book to the Hamilton Library Association in 1902. His father, General Robert Miller Henderson, was president of the Association. Robert Henderson and two of his brothers served during the Civil War. William M. Henderson died of an illness during the war and his name can be seen on the monument.

In the January 4, 1867 edition of the *Carlisle Herald*, an announcement was published inviting interested persons to a public meeting regarding "...the erection of a suitable monument to the memory of those deceased soldiers of this county will be held in the Court House, on Monday evening the 14th instant. Our citizens from every section of our county are urged to attend." The organization had to postpone the first meeting until January 21st due to inclement weather. The association eventually raised sufficient funds and Richard Owens, Esq. of Carlisle created the monument for approximately \$5,000. The dedication and unveiling of the monument occurred on August 19, 1871. Governor John W. Geary was supposed to deliver an address at the dedication but was unable to attend for unknown reasons. The oration was delivered by Rev. Dr. Robert Davidson, the son of a former Dickinson College president.

It is clear from looking at these historical records that numerous people living across Cumberland County were involved with the memorial project. During the March 8th, [1867] meeting, they called on the women and youth of the county to help stating, "We especially invoke the aid of the ladies. We gladly remember the increasing efforts of the women in alleviating the suffering and ministering to the comforts of our soldiers during the war. We desire also to engage the active interest of the young, the 'little helpers' of the war." The women and children responded to the call by assisting with fundraising and attending events in support of the association. The ladies held a July 4th, festival in 1867 to assist with the Association's fund raising activities. The "little helpers" raised \$39 at a strawberry festival in that same year. The March 8th [1867] minutes also reference, "...the whole people of Cumberland County... We ask and confidently expect the hearty co-operation of all, without regard to party, sect, class, condition or age."

## PHOTO ARCHIVES

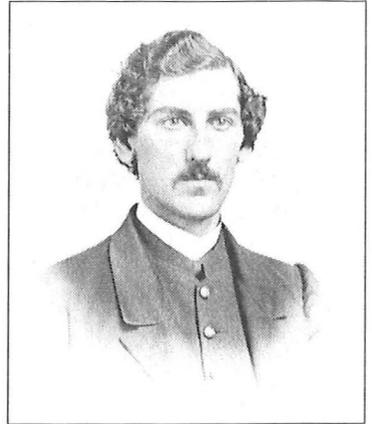
William Noble's "Camp Alabama" Presentation Album  
*by Richard L. Tritt*

The Todd Photo Archives houses an important carte-de-visite (CDV) album that belonged to William F. Noble of Carlisle. Mr. Noble (1833-1898) was a fourth generation member of the Noble family, established in America by the 1795 Irish immigrant, John Noble. The family had extensive land holdings in the Carlisle area and was very prominent in the life of the town. William lived in the Noble family home located at 28 South Pitt Street.

The Fifteenth Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, also known as the Anderson Cavalry or Anderson Guard, was conceived shortly after the Battle of Shiloh (April, 1862). A company had been previously recruited by Captain William J. Palmer to serve as bodyguard to General Robert Anderson. The new regiment that Palmer was authorized to recruit was to be employed on similar duty. A battalion of 1200 select men was recruited within a short period of time from some of the wealthiest and most influential families in Pennsylvania.

In August the recruits assembled at Carlisle Barracks for organization and muster. Officers of the original Anderson Troop were placed in charge of the new companies, and with the aid of officers from the Regular Cavalry stationed at Carlisle, the regiment was vigorously drilled. Their camp was located in a field adjacent to the Carlisle Barracks and was named "Camp Alabama." Although the squadron was called the Anderson Guard, it acted as the bodyguard of General Don Carlos Buell, whose command included the State of Alabama, an area where they expected to see service. This explains why the camp was named "Camp Alabama."

The regiment was mustered into service for three years on Aug. 22, 1862. On September 9 they were pressed into service, moving south to Chambersburg and Hagerstown. They scouted in the area during the Battle of Antietam on September 16 and 17. On September 23 they returned to Carlisle where they remained until November 7 when they left for Louisville, Kentucky, and became part of the Army of the Cumberland. They were under the command of

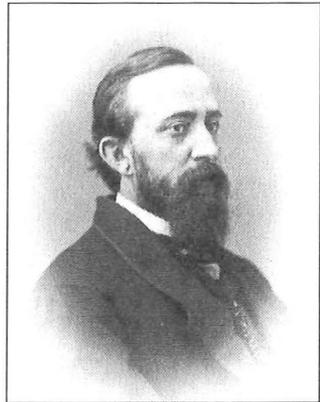


William F. Noble, photo by J.  
McMillen, Carlisle, 1865

*CCHS Photo Archives Collection*

Lieutenant Colonel William Spencer (His cavalry hat is in the CCHS Museum Collection.)

Apparently, William Noble and his brother John Noble were of service to the camp. They were both wealthy farmers and landowners. In late October 1862, when the camp outgrew its location near the barracks, it was moved to Noble land about one half mile from town on the Baltimore Pike (Route 34). As a token of appreciation for his help, William was presented a brass-bound CDV album by two members of the regiment before they left Carlisle. The first two photos in the album are of Sergeant Albert H. Mershon and Private Howard Harbert. It appears that they were the only two photos in the album when it was presented. Mr. Noble filled the remainder of the album with a variety of photo cards of his choice.



Left: Albert H. Mershon, photo by F. S. Keeler, Philadelphia, c. 1862

Right: Howard Harbert, photo by Broadbent & Co. Philadelphia, March 24, 1862

*CCHS Photo Archives*

The presentation in the front of the album reads:

Camp Alabama Oct 9th 1862

Our dear Friend

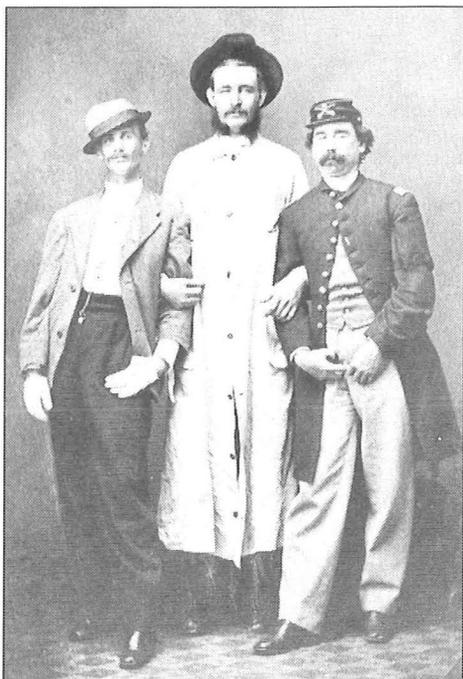
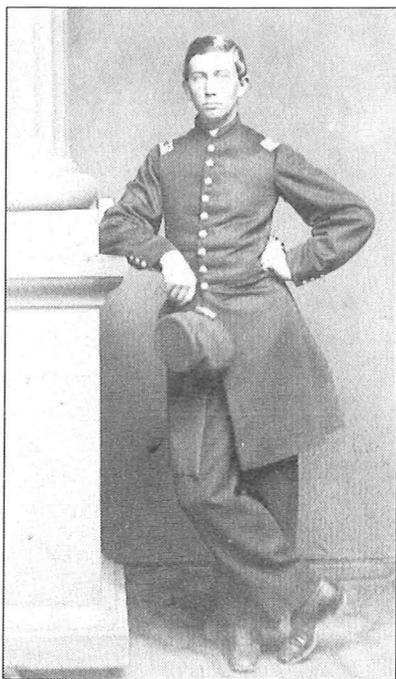
Expecting soon to march to meet the enemies of our country, we cannot leave Carlisle without in some way testifying to you our heartfelt appreciation of the warm friendship manifested by you to us. From the time of our first arrival here, you have opened to us not only your home, but your heart, and words fail indeed to tell how dear to us has been your friendship.

Accept this album as a slight souvenir of our regard that may serve occasionally to recall us to your memory when we are far away.

With sincere wishes for your future happiness we are  
Your warm friends  
A. H. Mershon  
Howard Harbert

To Mr. Wm. F Noble  
Carlisle  
Penna

The first part of the album contains six identified photos of members of the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry including the previously mentioned Mershon and Harbert. Other photos include: Captain Norman M. Smith of Company A, Captain James A. Lashell of Company B, and two privates, Edwin H. Spang of Company B and Oscar B. Morris of Company C. Additional photos include four unidentified soldiers; three photos of William F. Noble; three portraits of men dressed in comical outfits taken by Carlisle photographer Charles L. Lochman; two group photos of young men and women; and twelve photos of what are believed to be friends, acquaintances and family members, only three of which are identified.



Left: Captain Norman M. Smith, c. 1862

Right: Comical trio, photo by C. L. Lochman, Carlisle, June 1866

*CCHS Photo Archives*

William Noble never married and his estate was left to his nephew Joseph W. Noble. Joseph Noble also inherited the Noble mansion on South Pitt Street, the Noble farm bordering on Willow Street and much of the land in the Mooreland section of Carlisle. When Joseph died on July 2, 1949, he was buried in the family plot in the Old Graveyard, Carlisle. In his will he left approximately three and one-half million dollars to the Carlisle Hospital. The CDV album was purchased by CCHS from the Ritter Estate in 1994. (George Ritter was a nephew of Joseph Noble.)

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT RECORD SERIES HOUSED AT CCHS

*Compiled by Barbara Bartos, Cumberland County Archivist*

This article continues the practice begun several years ago of providing an update to our readers regarding County historical records, particularly those that are housed at the Cumberland County Historical Society. This issue provides a listing of records regarding the Cumberland County Poorhouse.

### POORHOUSE PAPER SERIES

(as of 30 June 2011)

An \* indicates individual document images that are available on line. Go to [www.ccpa.net](http://www.ccpa.net)> Archives>Archival Holdings>Poor House. Scroll to the Paper Series section at the bottom of the page. To view an image, click "Inventory" and then click the camera icon next to the image to be viewed. If there is not a camera icon, either the document is missing as of June 2011 or it is a restricted document. Restricted records are indicated by "R". These records can be accessed by special request with a valid reason (such as need for family medical history, etc.). The request would have to be processed through the Solicitor's Office. The "... " between years in the Date Span column mean every year is not represented. A brief Historical Sketch of the Cumberland County Poorhouse follows the list below.

Series Title	Date Span	Quantity (# docs)*
ADMISSIONS AND COMMITMENTS (R)	1859...1915	420 (R)
ANATOMICAL BOARD		
Unclaimed Bodies	1921...1934	8*
Unfit Bodies	1930...1937	27*
BURIAL PERMITS	1902...1953	25*
CORRESPONDENCE Miscellaneous	ca. 1886...1919	15*

DIRECTORS' STATEMENTS Work Papers	1823-1823	3*
HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE		
Admission and Patient Reports (R)	1879...1915	258 (R)
Discharge and Death Notices (R)	1899...1915	34 (R)
Paroles (R)	1870...1912	11 (R)
INDENTURES & APPRENTICESHIPS		
Children	1870...1912	7*
INSTITUTIONAL DISTRICT	ca. 1937-1938	16*
MISCELLANEOUS	1880...1924	8
ORDERS	1812...1948	495*
OUT-DOOR RELIEF		
Applications (R)	1889...1919	13 (R)
Reports	1880...1889	11*
VOUCHERS	1868-1868	181*

## Brief Historical Sketch

### Cumberland County Poor House

Prior to 1808, the care of the poor of Cumberland County was the responsibility of the Overseers of the Poor of each township and borough. The Pennsylvania Legislature passed Pennsylvania Law 92 in March of 1808 authorizing Cumberland County to establish a Poorhouse and House of Employment. In April of 1810, the 112 acre Adam Bernheisel farm in Tyrone Township (now part of present-day Perry County) was purchased and contracts for construction of a poorhouse entered into in October 1810. George Leiby was contracted for construction (Wing's History). After Perry County was established in 1820, the Pennsylvania Legislature in February of 1829 passed Law 32 for Cumberland County to again establish a Poorhouse and House of Employment to be located within Cumberland County's new boundaries. Directors of the Poor purchased the Edward Stiles farm, known as Claremont Farms, just east of Carlisle in 1829 for the erection of a poorhouse. It was known by various names (Almshouse, House of Employment, etc.). In 1878, The Hospital for the Insane was erected on the property and served the mentally ill until 1922, when mentally ill patients were transferred to the State Hospital in Harrisburg.

Originally a corporation unto itself, the Poorhouse and House of Employment was reorganized in 1937 under a Pennsylvania Law affecting the poorhouses of all counties. The County Commissioners eventually became the Board of Directors and the Poorhouse and House of Employment became known as the

Institution District from 1937 to 1968. From 1968 to 1997 it was officially called the Cumberland County Nursing Home. It was designated the Claremont Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center in 1997 and remains on the property purchased in 1829 although additional land has been purchased to increase the size of the property.

A general history of Poorhouses and Institution Districts in Pennsylvania can be found in *County Government Archives in Pennsylvania* (1947) and includes a bibliography.

## Book Review

*Daniel J. Heisey, Saint Vincent Seminary*

John Keegan, *The American Civil War: A Military History* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2009), 416 pp.; index, photographs, maps. Hardcover, \$35.00; ISBN: 978-0-307-26343-8; Paperback, \$16.95; ISBN: 978-0-307-27493-9

British historians have long been fascinated by the American Civil War. To give but two examples: In 1926, the first book by David Knowles, a Benedictine monk best known now for his volumes on medieval monasticism, was *The American Civil War*; the middle third of the fourth and final volume of Winston Churchill's *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples* (1958) recounts the American Civil War. Now John Keegan, for forty years a formidable name among military historians, contributes his own book on the subject, one he has been studying for much of his career. From his days as an undergraduate at Oxford until now, he has returned again and again to the battlefields, letters, and memoirs of the American Civil War. In 1987 his *The Mask of Command* featured, alongside Alexander the Great, the Duke of Wellington, and Adolf Hitler, Ulysses S. Grant; in 1995 his *Fields of Battle* (published in the U. K. as *Warpaths*) discussed several battles waged on United States soil, including the Peninsula Campaign. In this fine book he sums up the Civil War as "an entirely new way of warfare, a struggle between beliefs fought by populations quite untrained to fight."

As were Knowles and Churchill, Keegan was trained in the classical school of writing history: judicious assessments conveyed by fluent narrative prose, summoning vivid scenes and informed by contemporary documents. The standard was set in the second half of the eighteenth century by Edward Gibbon and has its practitioners still. In the United States, the style has also been much admired, from the days of William H. Prescott and Francis Parkman to such recent masters as Paul Horgan and David McCullough. Keegan, on the Civil War, does not disappoint aficionados of the genre. As he has done in most of his books, here Keegan reveals the eye of an essayist, excelling at the selected vignette and character sketch. It should be noted that parts of this book appeared as articles in *Civil War Times and Military History Quarterly*. The essayist's approach serves also to reinforce certain points by means of repetition.

Standing in a long line of historians beginning with Herodotus and passing through Gibbon and Churchill, Keegan believes that human nature never changes and that history is made by a few great individuals, with countless lesser ones joining in. Were human nature to be variable, whether from education or eugenics, studying the past would be both impossible and illusory. Were history the product of impersonal economic or ideological forces, humans would be irrelevant subjects for study, whether for praise or blame. That school of history writing, which we can take as beginning in earnest in English with Gibbon, offers to the student of history, incidents for entertainment and instruction, and in Keegan's *The American Civil War* there is much to savor and learn from. A few examples must suffice.

In the first chapter, when describing the differences and similarities between antebellum North and South, Keegan discusses the South's slave economy and plantations, "with a colony of slave cabins near the big house, usually built in neoclassical style with a pillared portico, stables, and nearby accommodation for a slave overseer." Keegan then evokes the vision conjured by such popular fiction as *Gone with the Wind* (1936): "[A] vision of untitled aristocracy, leisured living, peremptory squires, high-spirited, commanding women, waited upon by privileged house slaves, with the liberty conferred by long association with the family to speak their minds to their grown-up former infant charges, living conducted in the context of ample meals, frequent social entertainments, and unworried prosperity." Later, Keegan describes the social phenomenon of the mammy as "the senior house slave, usually a former nurse to the mistress, who traditionally enjoyed the status of a constitutional monarch, to be consulted in all matters of family importance, to advise and to warn." Still, despite the romantic ideal of an idyllic agrarian, Christian republic pervading the mythology about the Old South, Keegan succinctly, yet with brilliant British understatement, reminds the reader, "The plantation was an intrinsically repressive society."

In Chapter 7, Keegan discusses Abraham Lincoln's lack of training for or experience in conducting a war. For twenty-six years Keegan taught at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, often called Britain's West Point, so he knows the shortcomings of texts in his field. Keegan dryly notes of Lincoln, past master of self-education, "At the outset he set himself to reading books of military science, in which predictably he found little help." In Chapter 8, Keegan reviews George B. McClellan's plan for battle and makes clear why it was a bad plan. "Nevertheless," Keegan concedes, unexpectedly invoking another nineteenth-century figure, "as Sherlock Holmes might have said, it had points of interest."

In Chapter 11, Keegan gives a masterful account of the Battle of Gettysburg. First, though, he sets the scene. "The town," he explains, "standing at the north

of a tract of open, rolling countryside, only sparsely wooded, was a comfortable, prosperous place, containing a number of brick houses as well as the large, solid buildings of Gettysburg College and a Lutheran seminary, both with cupolas which officers of the North and South were to use as points of observation in succession.” After describing the troops arrayed around the town and the carnage that filled the humid summer air and soaked the farmers’ fields with blood, the chapter concludes with an overview of the dedication ceremonies for the national cemetery commemorating the battle. As the occasion requires, Keegan contrasts Edward Everett with Abraham Lincoln, the former’s florid attempt to deliver a Periclean funeral oration with the latter’s concise remarks suffused with phrases alluding to the King James Version of the Bible. “Perhaps the genius of Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address,” Keegan muses, “lies less in his magnificent words than in his refusing to differentiate between the sacrifice of the North and the South.”

While Keegan relates the roles of great men, he is also aware of the part played by the ordinary foot soldier. Keegan’s first major book, *The Face of Battle* (1976), explored the experiences of soldiers in three battles, Agincourt, Waterloo, and the Somme, confrontations occurring roughly in the same geographical area and involving basically the same nationalities. Keegan’s desire was to see how close a thorough civilian such as himself could get to recreating the sense of looking battle in the face. Keegan himself, born in 1934, was rendered ineligible for military service by a childhood illness that left him lame for life. In his studies of the American Civil War, not least in this excellent book, he tries again to get himself and the reader as close as possible to an impression of real combat. Throughout *The American Civil War* there are glimpses into the tents and trenches, but Chapter 6 in particular describes the soldier’s daily life, from his food rations to his religious services, for, as Keegan reminds us, “Nineteenth-century America was a deeply religious nation.”

Probably few people today read Churchill’s grand epic about the English-speaking peoples, and Knowles’ book is long lost save to a few libraries and antiquarian booksellers. Nevertheless, Keegan’s comparatively slim volume will please readers interested in the Civil War and partial to the stout, multi-volume narratives of Bruce Catton and Shelby Foote. For those of us more interested in Keegan’s style and skill as an historian, his appraisal of the Civil War will expand our appreciation of his prodigious knowledge and refined judgment. Something clearly conveyed in this book as in previous ones, Keegan loves and understands America, especially the America of small towns and rugged individuals, and Americans of similar sentiments will find themselves edified and affirmed. Whether for Civil War buffs or fans of Keegan, this book is worth careful reading and thoughtful reflection.

## Notable Accessions

### January-August 2011

*Compiled by Cara Curtis*

Bob Highlands provided an updated version of both the Church and Cemetery database and Church and Cemetery Index on CD.

Tom Coolidge donated three books on GIS technology. One is an A-Z reference book. The other two are focused on using GIS technology for history related projects.

John Fralish donated the missing issues of the "Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography" so that we have a complete run of the series.

James Gerencser and Kate Theimer donated *Understanding Archives & Manuscripts* and *Archival Internships: A guide for faculty, supervisors, and students*.

Charles Stone donated materials from the estate of Clarence and Esther Hempt. These materials include information on: the Civic Club of New Cumberland, American Legion Auxiliary, and the family's dress shop.

Frank Masland donated materials relating to Masland's that were found in a nook at the IAC building. These papers are typically from the early 20th century.

The Society purchased several items from the William Thomas estate auction. This includes: *Stories of Indian Children* (a book stamped as part of the Indian Industrial School), Business ledger for a carriage maker most likely Schroeder & Sons in Mechanicsburg, and Bound Newspapers of the Saturday Journal from 1883-1884.

Carlisle Tire and Wheel donated photograph, newsletters, annual reports, some correspondence, and scrapbooks.

Dorothy Webb donated a composition book of CIIS student Hugh Sousea.

Ronald Neidigh donated a copy of his work "Abraham Neidigh II, founder of West Fairview (Neidigh's Town).

CCHS purchased *Paint, Pattern & People: Furniture of Southeastern Pennsylvania, 1725-1850*.

Paul Barner finished Vol. XXV Fannettsburg and Vol. XXVI Burnt Cabins of the First Families Series.

Jerry Clouse donated a copy of *Architecture and Landscape of the Pennsylvania Germans, 1720-1920*.

The book *World War II Veterans of Cumberland County: an oral history archive*, created by Patricia Ferris, and funded by George Gardner can be found in the library. The CDs of the interviews are still being produced.

John Fralish donated a program from the Jaenke Hall and Fralish Hall, Navy Medicine Training Center (NMTC) Barracks Dedication Ceremony, Fort Same Houston, Texas.

Dr. David Masland donated several books written by F. E. Masland, Jr.

Ken Treaster donated materials relating to the Carlisle Hospital Building and Development Fund Campaign, 1958-1959.

Gary Yannone donated copies of his books *Vallis Ante Artis: Archeological Site Hypothesis* and *The Coming of Religion*.

Carlisle Area Newcomers Club added more materials to their Manuscript Group.

Annette Sites and Mt. Holly Springs United Methodist Church donated the book *Poems from my first 100 years* by George Ditzel.

William Betts, Jr. donated a copy of his book *Rank and Gravity: the Life of General John Armstrong*.

Joanne P. Alexis donated an oral history CD "Memories of my Pacific tour of duty, Colonel Robert Spieth."

Fred Noye donated a collection of political memorabilia relating to various 20th/21st century Cumberland County elected officials. The collection includes many items relating to Senator George N. Wade.

Nead Miller donated Messiah College Yearbooks 2006-2010.

Carlisle Travelers Club added materials to their manuscript group dated 2008-2011.

The Cumberland County Medical Society Alliance (CCMSA) donated a collection that includes scrapbooks, minutes, reports, and correspondence.

Judy Zolensky donated a collection of materials on the Cumberland County Medical Society.

Trio Chapter #544, Order of the Eastern Star donated a collection of their minute books.

Elizabeth Richwine donated Horse Racing programs from the Carlisle Fair from 1972-1981.







## CUMBERLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

### THE COUNTY HERITAGE SERIES

- The Bitter Fruits: The Civil War Comes to a Small Town in Pennsylvania*, by David G. Colwell (1998). Hardcover, \$20.00.
- In Pursuit of Pleasure: Leisure in Nineteenth Century Cumberland County*, by Clarke Garrett (1997). Hardcover, \$10.00.
- Past Receipts, Present Recipes*, by CCHS Cookbook Committee (1996). \$15.00.
- The Indian Industrial School, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 1879–1918*, by Linda F. Witmer (2000). Paperback, \$24.95.
- Cloth and Costume*, by Tandy and Charles Hersh. Softcover, \$25.00.
- Twentieth Century Thoughts. Carlisle: The Past Hundred Years*, by Ann Kramer Hoffer (2001). Paperback, \$29.95.

### Recent Publications

- Camp Michaux Self-Guided Walking Tour* by David L. Smith (2011). Paperback, \$10.00
- Plank Bottom Chairs and Chairmakers South Central Pennsylvania 1800-1880* by Merri Lou Schaumann (2009), Hardcover, \$29.95.
- The Carlisle Hospital: The Most Important Building in Town*, by Susan E. Meehan for the Carlisle Area Health and Wellness Foundation (2008). Paperback, \$15.00.
- Changing Images: The Art & Artists of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School*, by Linda F. Witmer (2008) \$30.00.
- Secret War at Home, the Pine Grove Furnace Prisoner of War Interrogation Camp*, by John P. Bland (2006). Softcover, \$22.00.
- First Families of (Old) Cumberland County* by Hayes Eschenmann and Paul Barner. (Maps and surname indexes of 18th century land owners) Twenty-six volumes. \$18.00 – Recent volumes include:
- The West Shore (Harrisburg West, Lemoyne, Steelton)*  
*Saint Thomas (Franklin County)*  
*Mercersburg & Kaiesville (Clear Spring), (Franklin County)*  
*Little Cove & Big Tannery (Franklin and Fulton Counties)*  
*Fort Loudon & McConnellsburg (Franklin and Fulton Counties)*  
*Fannettsburg, (Franklin and Huntingdon Counties)*  
*Burnt Cabins (Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon Counties)*

A complete list of publications available at CCHS, as well as information concerning ordering, sales tax, and postage and handling fees, is available at [www.historicalsociety.com](http://www.historicalsociety.com).