THE CIVIL WAR IN PENNSYLVANIA

A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY

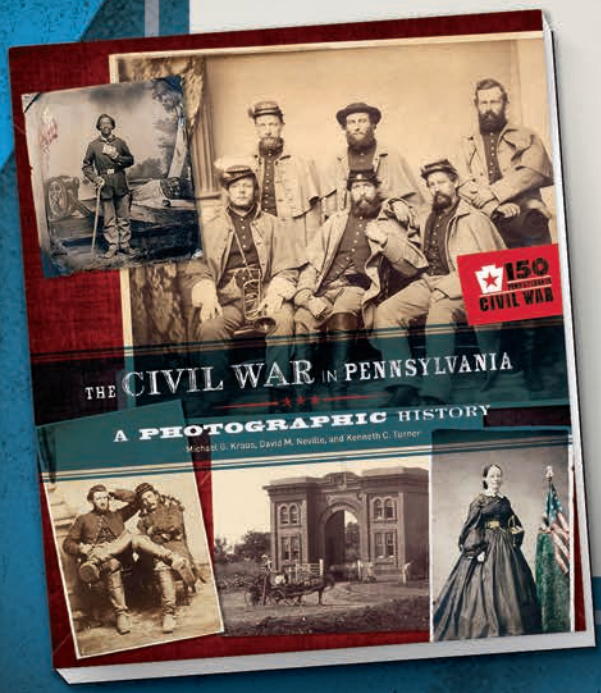
PART 1 OF 2

By Michael G. Kraus, David M. Neville, and Kenneth C. Turner

INTRODUCTION

By this autumn, historians and Civil War buffs in particular will have a new and exciting book to pore over. *The Civil War in Pennsylvania: A Photographic History* is one of the major efforts undertaken by Pennsylvania Civil War 150, a statewide coalition of historical organizations commemorating the conflict's sesquicentennial. The Heinz History Center is managing and publishing the book for PA CW150.

Not only will this be the first photo history of the war in the Keystone State, but most of the photos have never been published. They are drawn largely from private collections, most notably that of co-author Ken Turner, who has amassed thousands of rare images during the past 30 years. "This is important," says Turner, "because these Civil War people are real to me. I want to bring them back to life. I want to help tell their stories so they're not forgotten."



This article, and its continuation next issue, features just a few of the hundreds of images and engaging stories unearthed by Turner, Michael Kraus, and David Neville. The story here begins with Pennsylvania's heritage and takes readers through the buildup of troops and then to the eve of Gettysburg. Next issue, we'll see Pennsylvania's biggest battle unfold and follow the aftermath through 1865.

~ Brian Butko, project director and editor

As war loomed, Keystone-state businessmen with ties to cotton, raw materials, and transportation hesitated to break commercial relations with the South. However, with the Confederate firing on Fort Sumter in April 1861, sympathies for the South largely evaporated. Pennsylvanians from all walks of life rushed to join the mighty army that would punish the South for dissolving the Union (though some citizens remained lukewarm to enlistment). Under the umbrella of military service, men from Ireland served next to men from Germany, commanded by men whose ancestors came to Massachusetts on the Mayflower. Most would see, for the first time, black men in blue uniforms.

Pennsylvania sent some 430,000 men to preserve the Union—33,183 of whom would perish. Afterwards, the ravages of war continued to be felt; of course there was death and destruction, but perhaps most importantly, the war brought a more worldly view. Veterans came home to business, politics, industry, and agriculture armed with a much broader understanding of the events and places they had passed through. Those who contributed from the home front, too, were more aware of the wider world's impact on their lives long after the guns had fallen silent.

"got my likeness taken"

Between fall 1861 and spring 1862, after the first three-month volunteer regiments returned from their short term of service, tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians volunteered to fight for the Union army. The overwhelming majority were untrained in the technique of warfare, nor were they prepared for the grinding routine of army life and the grim reality of war. All, however, believed that the fight to preserve the Union was their just calling.

A visit to a photographer's studio was a significant event for most soldiers. Private Joseph Slemmons' diary entry dated March 25, 1862, reads, "I got a pass this forenoon and went down in town and got my likeness taken." Slemmons, a member of Company G, 100th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, was serving in Beaufort, South Carolina, when he had his picture taken.

Kraus/Messick Collection.

Militia Uniform

The majority of Pennsylvania's scattered local militias—on call in the event of a state emergency and available for federal service—were not trained or equipped to answer a national call to arms. Indeed, many militiamen had never seen battle, and uniforms were as individual as the soldier groups wearing them. Militias such as the Pumpkintown White Coats, Mercer Blues, and Gray Reserves often wore uniforms to match their colorful names. The swallow-tail *coatee* worn by this Westmoreland County militiaman dates from before 1858, when infantry trim was white.

Richard Moore Collection.

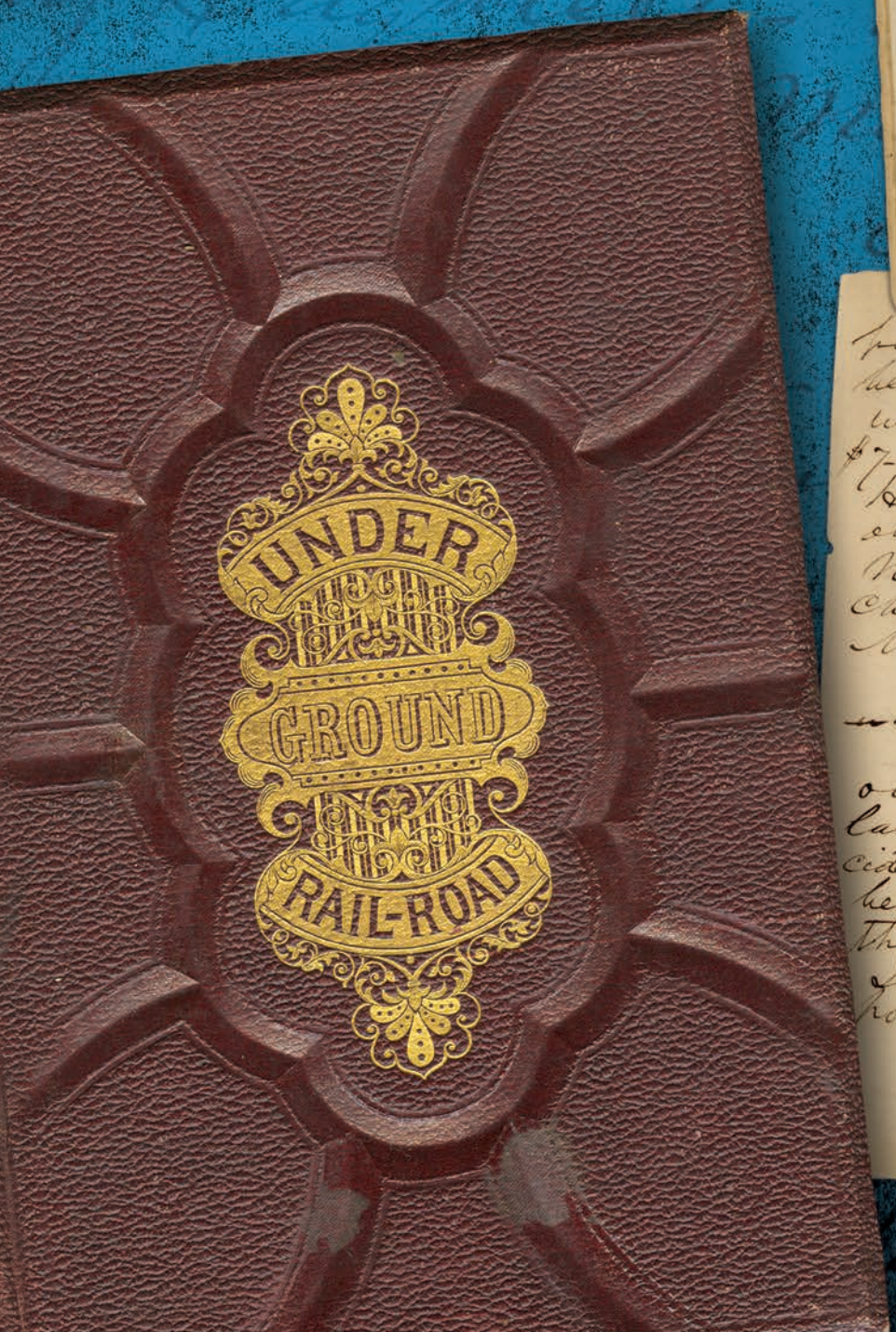
Many MILITIAMEN had never seen battle, and uniforms were as INDIVIDUAL as the soldier groups wearing them.

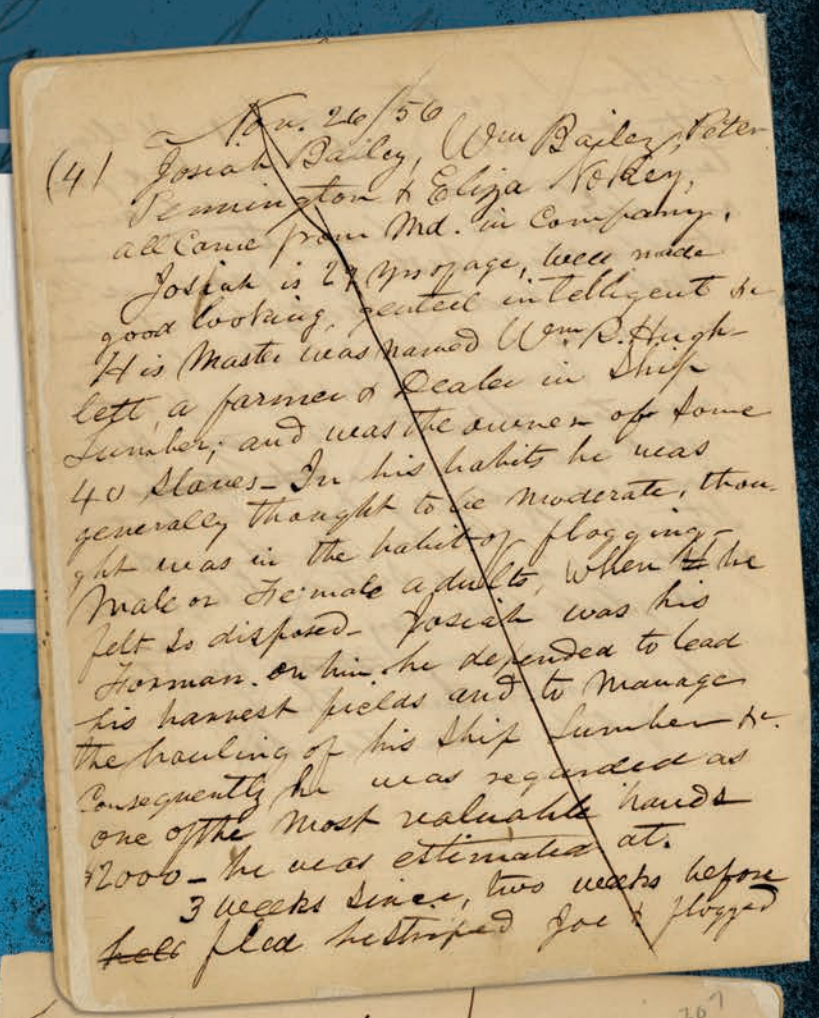
Of the fugitives he aided, one revealed himself to be Still's LONG LOST BROTHER, Peter, who had escaped from Alabama.

William Still Notebooks

William Still, considered to be the Father of the Underground Railroad, worked as a clerk for the Philadelphia Anti-Slavery Society. Still kept extensive hand-written notes on each escaped slave that he personally aided. A decade after the war, the notes became the basis for his book *The Underground Railroad*. Of the fugitives he aided, one revealed himself to be Still's long lost brother, Peter, who had escaped from Alabama.

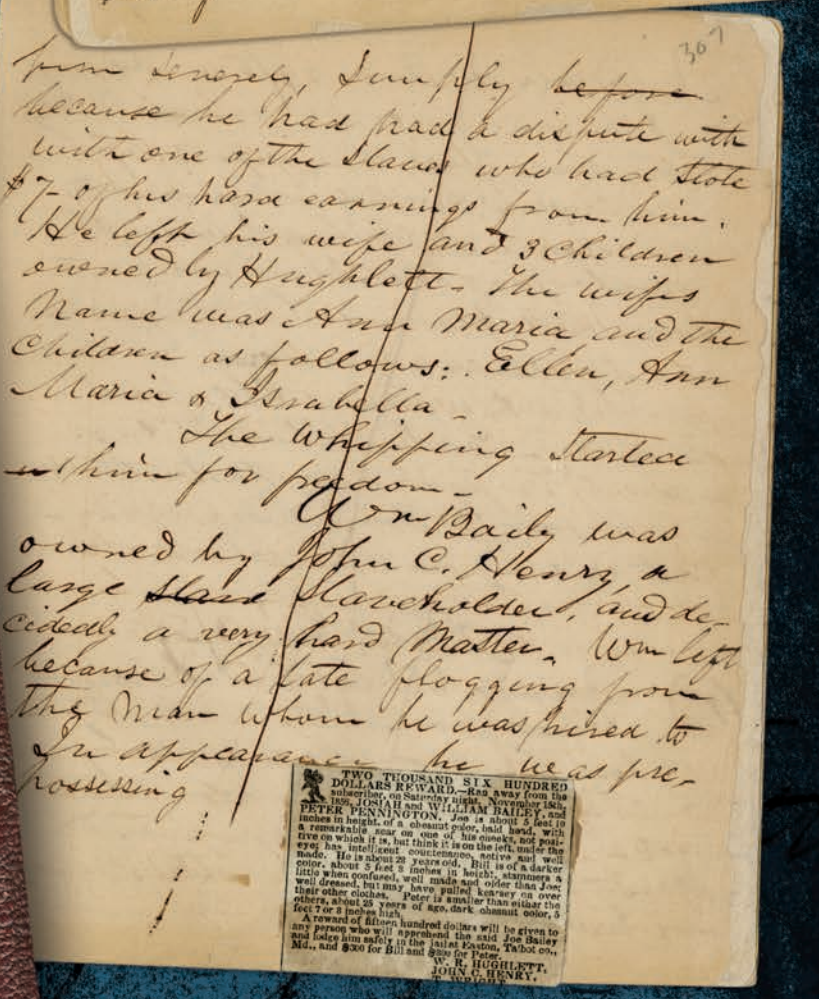
Opposite page: John L. Ford collection. This page: Historical Society of Pennsylvania, DAMS 2030, file # 0060_0001_162 and 163.





(4) Nov. 26/56 Josiah Bailey, Wm Bailey, Peter Pennington & Eliza Notley, all came from Md. in Company. Josiah is 27 years of age, well made good looking, genteel intelligent &c. His Master was named Wm B. Hughlett, a farmer & Dealer in Ship Lumber, and was the owner of some 40 Slaves. In his habits he was generally thought to be moderate, though he was in the habit of flogging Male or Female adults, when the humor felt so disposed. Josiah was his Foreman. On him he depended to lead his harvest fields and to manage the hauling of his Ship Lumber &c. Consequently he was regarded as one of the most valuable hands worth $2000. He was estimated at.

3 weeks since, two weeks before ~~he left~~ fled he stripped Joe & flogged



307

from himself, simply ~~before~~ because he had had a dispute with with one of the Slaves who had stole $7 of his hard earnings from him. He left his wife and 3 Children owned by Hughlett. The wifes Name was Ann Maria and the Children as follows: Ellen, Ann Maria & Arabella.

The Whipping started him for freedom.

Wm Baily was owned by John C. Henry, a large ~~Slave~~ Slaveholder, and decidedly a very hard Master. Wm left because of a late flogging from the Man whom he was hired to. In appearance he was prepossessing

TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD.—Ran away from the subscriber, on Saturday night, November 1st, JOSIAH and WILLIAM BAILEY, and PETER PENNINGTON. Joe is about 5 feet 10 inches in height, of a chesnut color, said head, with a remarkable scar on one of his cheeks, not positive on which it is, but think it is on the left, under the eye; has intelligent countenance, native and well made. He is about 28 years old. Bill is of a darker color, about 5 feet 8 inches in height, stammers a little when confused, well made and older than Joe; well dressed, but may have pulled kersey on over their other clothes. Peter is smaller than either the others, about 25 years of age, dark chesnut color, 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high.

A reward of fifteen hundred dollars will be given to any person who will apprehend the said Joe Bailey and lodge him safely in the jailes Easton, Talbot co., Md., and $300 for Bill and $200 for Peter.

W. R. HUGHLETT,
JOHN C. HENRY.

Henry

Americans associate ownership of slaves with the South, and opposition to human bondage with the North. In truth, slaves were owned in every colony and state, including Pennsylvania, where slave labor was used not only for construction, field work, and domestic service, as in the South, but also for assistance in the skilled trades of its rapidly growing economy.

A timely irony exists in this 1862 photo of Henry, a janitor at Dickinson College in Carlisle. Henry poses beside a globe and a flame-illuminated projector known as a "Magic Lantern," but his work tools (a coal bucket, broom, and key ring) remind us that Henry's entrance into classrooms was for maintenance.

Library of Congress, 2s01462.

Flag of the Logan Guards

Three days after the Confederates fired on Fort Sumter, President Lincoln issued a proclamation calling state militia into federal service. Pennsylvania stepped forward to protect the Union when approximately 500 men left Harrisburg for Washington on April 18. The "First Defenders" included the National Light Infantry and Washington Artillery (both from Pottsville), the Ringgold Light Artillery (Reading), the Logan Guards (Lewistown), and the Allen Rifles (Allentown).

"Presented by the Ladies of Lewistown to the Logan Guards" is emblazoned on this painted silk flag, which was carried by the Logan Guards as they entered Washington, D.C., on April 18, 1861. A placard, added later, identifies the flag as the first to arrive in the nation's capitol in defense of the Union.

Ken Turner Collection.

Quaker Girl

A royal charter in 1681 granted land in British America to William Penn as settlement for a loan his father had made to King Charles II. As a member of the Religious Society of Friends, or Quakers, Penn encouraged fellow believers to settle the colony, which promised religious freedom. This Frankford girl's distinctive shawl and bonnet identify her as a Quaker.

Carte-de-visite, Kraus/Messick Collection.

Duquesne Grays

William Beal, Jr., was a charter member of the Duquesne Grays, formed in 1831 as part of the Pennsylvania Militia. The Grays fought in the War with Mexico in 1848; at the start of the Civil War, they were assigned to Company B of the 12th Pennsylvania Infantry. The Grays produced 69 officers during the war.

Ken Turner Collection.

Colonel Richard Rush broadside

The Union Army was made up of three different military structures: the regular army, a force of approximately 16,000 that would expand to nearly 23,000 during the war; the militia, an instrument of state law subject to nationalization; and volunteers. The overwhelming majority of the 2.2 million men who served in Union armies served in the Volunteer Army, comprising regiments raised by individual states. At the end of 1861, regiments from the Commonwealth numbered 115 and totaled nearly 110,000 men in service or preparing for it.

A prominent Philadelphian and 1846 West Point graduate, Richard Rush capitalized on his social status to raise and outfit the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry. Rush drew many of his men from the Philadelphia Horse Troop, a militia company tracing its roots to the Revolutionary War. *Rush's Lancers* were armed with 10-foot-long cavalry lances, useful only in close combat; by 1863, lances were abandoned in favor of the breech-loading cavalry carbine.

Ken Turner Collection.

The overwhelming MAJORITY of the 2.2 million men who served in Union armies served in the VOLUNTEER Army.

MOUNTED SERVICE.

ACTIVE YOUNG MEN WANTED

FOR

COL. RUSH'S REGIMENT

PHILADELPHIA

LIGHT CAVALRY.

THE LIEUT. COL. IS CAPT. J. H. McARTHUR,

Fifth Regiment United States Cavalry.

THE REGIMENTAL QUARTER MASTER IS LIEUT. T. E. MALEY,

Who has served for Ten Years in the United States Cavalry.

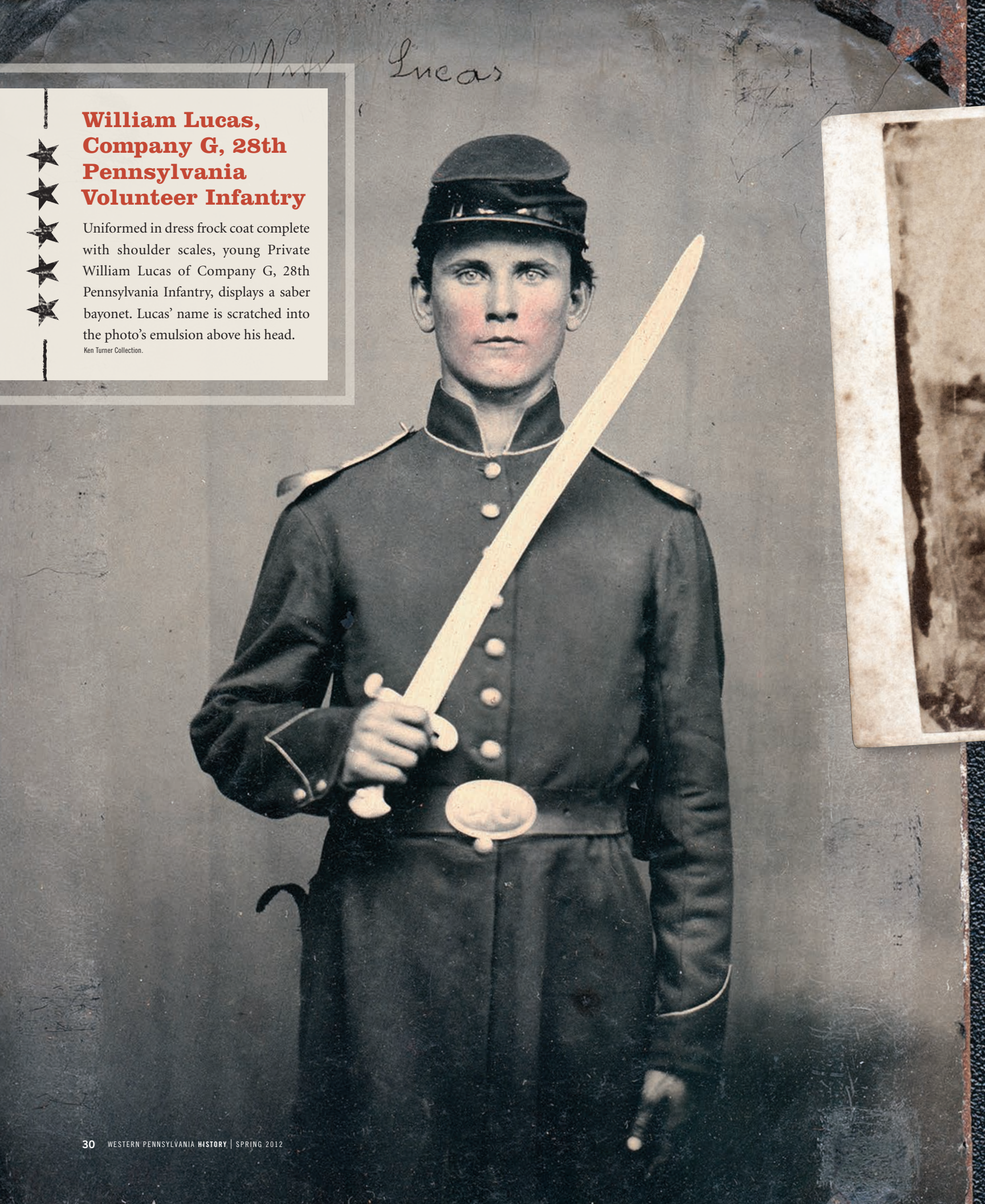
SIX FULL COMPANIES HAVE BEEN MUSTERED INTO SERVICE.

HEAD QUARTERS, 833 MARKET ST.

ROLL OPEN AT

CAMP MEIGS, on 2d St. Road ab. Nicetown Lane.

KING & BAIRD, Printers, 607 Sansom Street, Philadelphia.



William Lucas, Company G, 28th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry

Uniformed in dress frock coat complete with shoulder scales, young Private William Lucas of Company G, 28th Pennsylvania Infantry, displays a saber bayonet. Lucas' name is scratched into the photo's emulsion above his head.

Ken Turner Collection.

Chaplain Alexander Stewart

Army chaplains entered the military from various denominations, as did the men they served. Chaplains provided a source of faith, bringing soldiers much needed comfort. In addition to their spiritual duties, chaplains wrote letters home for illiterate soldiers and were entrusted with mailing army pay to families. Although considered non-combatant members of the armed forces, these men of the cloth faced death every day.

Chaplain Alexander Stewart of the 102nd Pennsylvania strikes a stalwart pose upon his mare "Jessie." Stewart chronicled his war experience *Camp, March and Battlefield*, in which he defined a chaplain's duty: "to make those under your command better men, and hence better soldiers; to comfort the sick and wounded, and console the dying."

Ken Turner Collection.

Although considered NON-COMBATANT members of the armed forces, these MEN OF THE CLOTH FACED DEATH every day.

The stirring call of BUGLES, FIFES, and DRUMS... signaled reveille, duty calls, and MARCHING CADENCES.

Bucktail Drummer

In the 19th century, the lively sound of music accompanied soldiers marching into war. The stirring call of bugles, fifes, and drums—known as "field music"—signaled reveille, duty calls, and marching cadences with an established musical or percussive phrase. This teenage drummer boy wears a deer tail on the back of his cap (barely visable), the trademark of a Pennsylvania "Bucktail" regiment.

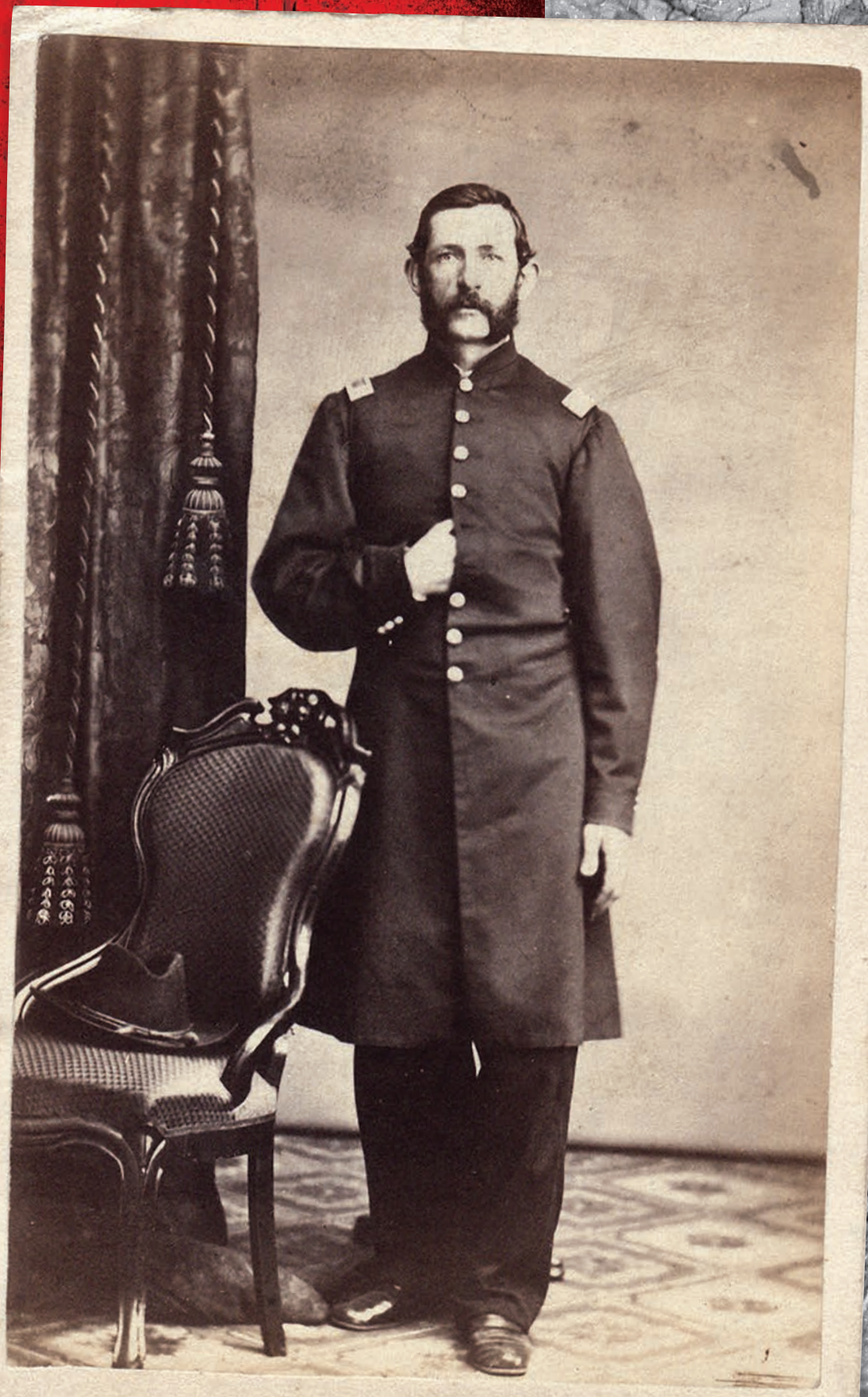
Tom Molocea Collection.

Rodman Gun

Ordnance officer Major Thomas Jackson Rodman devised a process to ensure the even cooling of molten iron during the casting of cannon barrels. His innovation enabled Fort Pitt Foundry to produce the largest cannons yet cast; each Rodman weighed an astounding (and cumbersome) 117,000 pounds. This photograph of a "Rodman Gun," taken in 1864, displays the cannon's 20-inch bore. Also see page 17 for a model of the casting apparatus.

Ken Turner Collection.

By the end of 1862, it was apparent that the Civil War had NO FORESEEABLE END.

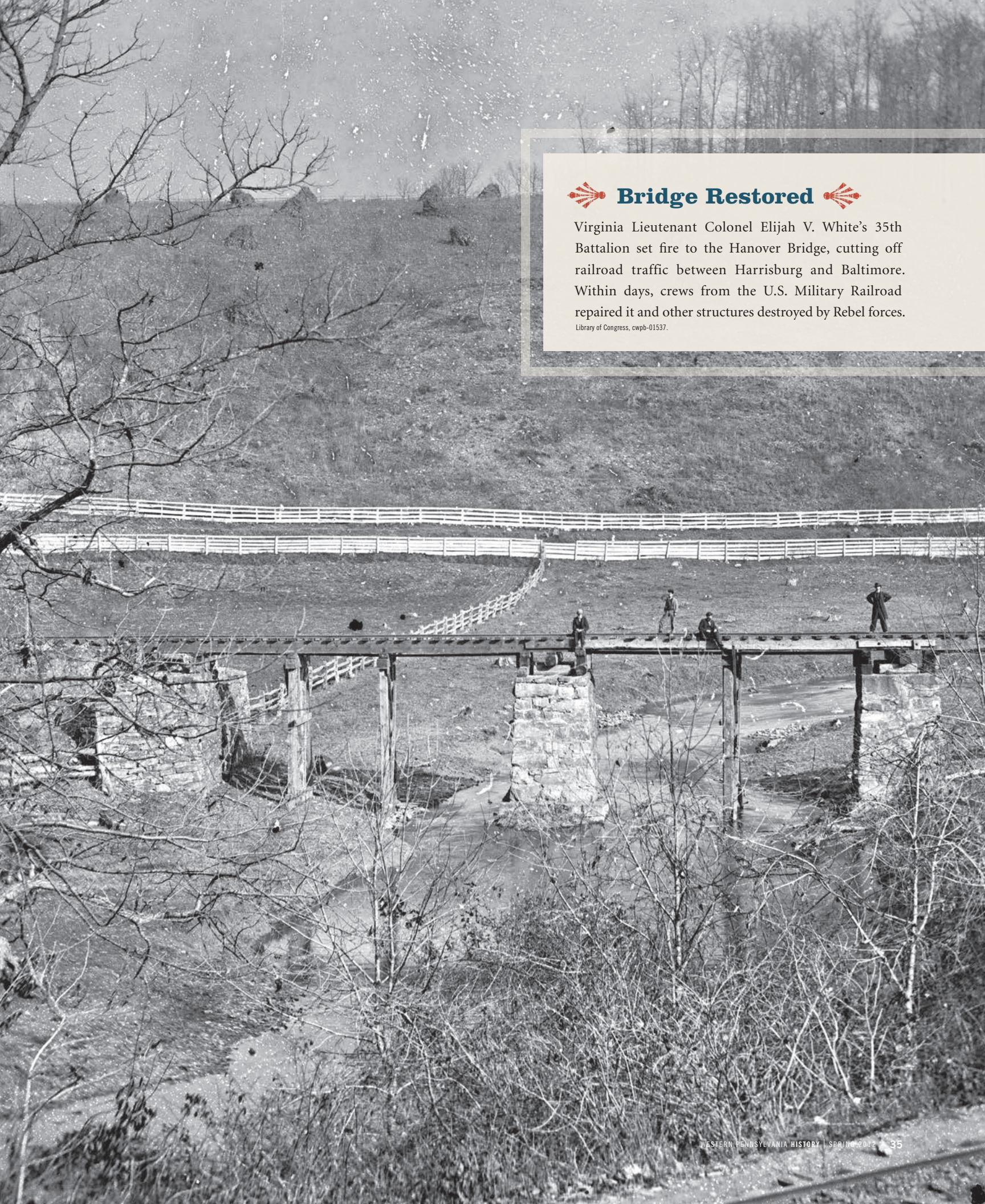


Pittsburgh Entrepreneur, Politician, and Captain

By the end of 1862, it was apparent that the Civil War had no foreseeable end. Spring 1863 brought a siege at Vicksburg, Mississippi, and a second battle at Chancellorsville, Virginia, but neither was a clear victory for the North.

At age 47, Captain Robert Hampton, commander of the Independent Light Artillery Battery that bore his name, was considered a father figure to his men. Hampton bravely commanded the battery until he was killed on May 3 at the battle of Chancellorsville.

Ken Turner Collection.



Bridge Restored

Virginia Lieutenant Colonel Elijah V. White's 35th Battalion set fire to the Hanover Bridge, cutting off railroad traffic between Harrisburg and Baltimore. Within days, crews from the U.S. Military Railroad repaired it and other structures destroyed by Rebel forces.

Library of Congress, cwpb-01537.

Outspoken Lady of York

"We would rather give the rascals twice over what we did than have them back!"

Cassandra Small was indignant the day Confederate General Jubal Early secured the surrender of York, the largest Northern town to fall into Rebel hands. Cassie was especially appalled by Early's threat to burn the town if a ransom of shoes, clothing, rations, and money was not handed over. Two days later, the general rode away with $28,000 of the citizens' cash. "Oh, I could fill sheet after sheet with all their audacious villanies [sic]…. It is a matter never to be forgotten."

York County Heritage Trust.

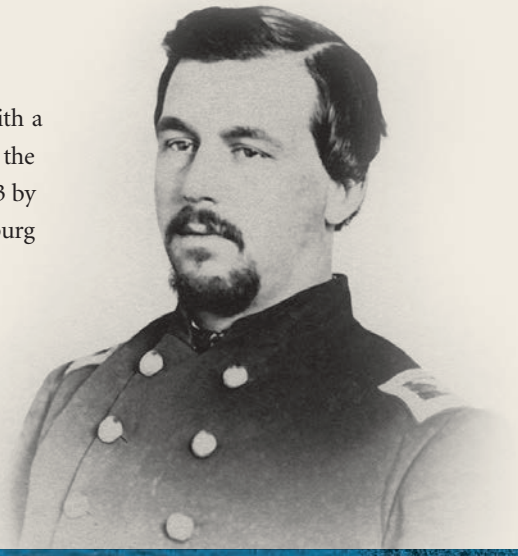
The NOVICE SOLDIERS of the 26th Pennsylvania, commanded by Colonel William W. W. Jennings, received LESS THAN A WEEK of training.

Tenderfoot Defenders

In June 1863, Confederate General Robert E. Lee set out to cap a two-year string of successes with a decisive victory in a northern state. With most of Pennsylvania's troops on southern battlefields, the early burden to defend the state's borders rested with the Emergency Troops, created earlier in 1863 by Governor Curtin. The novice soldiers of the 26th Pennsylvania, commanded by 22-year-old Harrisburg industrialist Colonel William W. W. Jennings, received less than a week of training.

By early summer, Confederates had marched into Pennsylvania. Jennings and his men made their way to Gettysburg where, on June 26, they encountered Maj. Gen. Richard Ewell's seasoned corps of Confederates. Outnumbered, Jennings' regiment was pushed back and took up position north of town near Bailey's Hill. Remarkably, none of Jennings' men were killed in the skirmish, though he lost 120 to injury or capture.

Ken Turner Collection.



Shelling of Carlisle

Fears of a Confederate attack on Carlisle—some 15 miles west of Harrisburg and 25 miles north of Gettysburg—were realized on July 1 when General J.E.B. Stuart's horse artillery bombarded the town and set fire to the Carlisle Barracks. The Battle of Carlisle was short but significant in that it delayed Stuart, whose late arrival in Gettysburg deprived General Lee of valuable reconnaissance. This Thomas Nast illustration depicts the shelling of the New York militia defending the town.

House Divided Project, Dickinson College, Carlisle.

In Part 2, we'll learn about Gettysburg, U.S. Colored Troops, Sanitary Fairs, the Grand Army of the Republic, and battlefield monuments.

Visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org/civilwar for more information.

Michael G. Kraus is Curator of Collections at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum in Pittsburgh. He was co-writer, with David Neville, of the dvd documentary series Civil War Minutes. Michael's life-size cast bronze statuary and public monuments can be seen in museums, at battlefield sites, and in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol.

David M. Neville is a military historian specializing in the Civil War and the publisher of *Military Images* magazine. He is married and resides near Pittsburgh.

Ken Turner graduated from West Virginia University with degrees in history and political science. He has been a writer and researcher for many Civil War projects and magazine articles. He was a contributor to the Time-Life Civil War series, and now National Geographic. Married with one son and a grief therapy dog, Ken lives in Ellwood City where he is a long-time funeral director.