

THE CIVIL WAR

✦ IN ✦
PENNSYLVANIA

★★★★★

A PHOTOGRAPHIC
HISTORY

★★★★★

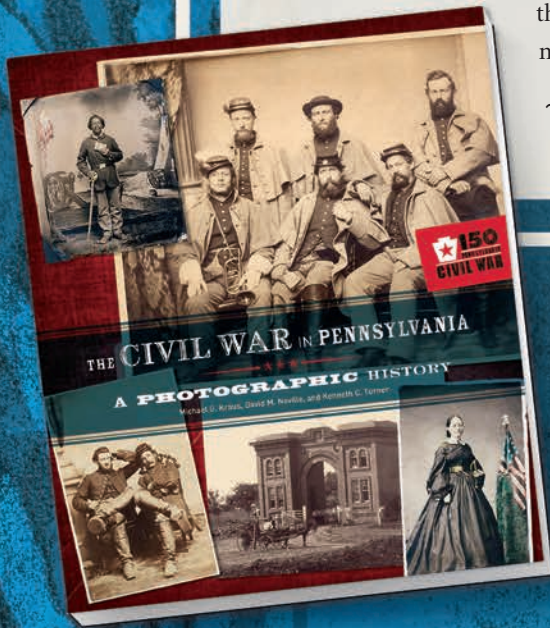
PART 2

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

❖ INTRODUCTION ❖

In this second excerpt from *The Civil War in Pennsylvania: A Photographic History*, we'll see Pennsylvania's biggest battle unfold and follow the aftermath through 1865. The book, to be published this fall, 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.

~ Brian Butko, project director and editor



Prelude to Gettysburg

In June 1863, Confederate General Robert E. Lee aimed to move fighting out of the South to take advantage of Northern resources and, he hoped, to claim a decisive victory to the war. Pennsylvania braced for an attack, but with the majority of its men fighting (in Union armies positioned nearby in Maryland), the Keystone state was ill-prepared for a Confederate advance.

The rebels' occupation began when General Albert Jenkins arrived in Chambersburg on June 15. A week later, Confederate General Ewell triumphed in a skirmish outside Greencastle, producing the first two casualties of the campaign—one was Pennsylvanian Corporal William Rihl. Shippensburg and Carlisle fell to the rebels on June 25, followed by Mechanicsburg on the 28th.

Pennsylvania's inexperienced Emergency Militia was no match for the zealous invaders. By the end of June, Harrisburg was in range of capture and the Army of the Potomac's General Joe Hooker, whose desire to take Richmond rather than intercept Lee was at odds with that of President Lincoln, the Commander-in-Chief. With little time to delay, Lincoln replaced Hooker with General George Meade, who moved his 95,000 troops north toward rebel encampments. On June 30, the Union's cavalry encountered J.E.B. Stuart's Confederate cavalry, touching off a fierce fight at Hanover. The Union army gathered its troops, concentrating at Gettysburg, where both armies would find themselves fighting fiercely for three bloody, desperate days.

Eccentric Citizen Soldier

John Burns—remembered both as a “true patriot” and “complete humbug”—donned his swallow-tail coat and beaver felt top hat, grabbed his flintlock musket, and joined the 150th Pennsylvania fighting west of Gettysburg. Though wounded three times, the 70-year-old man pushed on and killed three rebels by his own count, then cleverly evaded capture and passed through Confederate lines. Mathew Brady’s photos of the citizen soldier, reproduced as woodcut engravings in *Harper’s Weekly*, turned Burns into a folk hero.

Ken Turner Collection.



**The 140th,
comprised
of men from
BEAVER, GREEN,
MERCER, and
WASHINGTON
counties, LOST
241 SOLDIERS
that day.**

Fortunate Survivor

Thursday, July 2, 1863, witnessed some of the bloodiest fighting of the Civil War. In locations on the vast Gettysburg battlefield—the Wheatfield, Little Round Top, and Culp’s Hill, just to name a few—Pennsylvania troops fought with valor, turning back Confederate attacks. Approximately 15,000 Pennsylvanians participated in the fighting on July 2, serving in all seven of the army’s infantry corps.

The 140th Pennsylvania advanced through the Wheatfield to Stony Hill before its lines on the left and right were broken and the regiment was forced to retreat. The 140th, comprised of men from Beaver, Green, Mercer, and Washington counties, lost 241 soldiers that day. Private James Dickey, back row, left, was wounded in the shoulder in the brutal fight. The letter alerts his mother of his wound.

Ken Turner Collection.

Capt Deheson is killed



Devastating Injury

Early on the morning of July 1, 1863, Union cavalry videttes (sentries on horseback) and advance elements of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia clashed west of Gettysburg along Chambersburg Pike, precipitating a rush to what became the battlefield. An estimated 5,857 Pennsylvanians in 19 units participated that day, many paying the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their native soil.

Langhorne Wister was 27 when promoted to colonel of the 150th Pennsylvania "Bucktails." His regiment was posted near the Chambersburg Pike when, in some of the most intense fighting of the war, they were forced to retreat. Wister was struck in the face by a Minié ball, shattering his jaw.

Ken Turner Collection.



Gettysburg: Prisoners

On July 3, Confederate infantry surged forward from Seminary Ridge, intent on piercing the Union army's center on Cemetery Ridge. At the center of the storm fought the Philadelphia Brigade (69th, 71st, 72nd and 106th Pennsylvania regiments), and Pennsylvania generals Winfield Scott Hancock, John Gibbon, and Alexander Hays. The battle ended here, the Army of Northern Virginia stymied in its effort to defeat the Army of the Potomac on Northern soil.

One of the most studied Mathew Brady photographs is this image of three Confederate prisoners on Chambersburg Pike, across from Lee's headquarters, taken after the battle. This unique untrimmed print shows more image than later cropped versions.

Ken Turner Collection.





Surgeon James Penrose Burchfield, 83rd Pennsylvania

James Penrose Burchfield and his bride, Eva Marie Nourse, pose for their portrait as newlyweds. Burchfield, a surgeon of the 83rd Pennsylvania, managed a field hospital at a Gettysburg farmhouse; he attended the mortally wounded Strong Vincent. Personal tragedy struck Burchfield himself the next year when Eva died after giving birth to a son.

Kraus/Messick Collection.

Colonel Strong Vincent, Hero from Erie

Colonel Strong Vincent took initiative and directed his brigade up the slope of Little Round Top to defend the hill against the onslaught of Law's Brigade. As the colonel climbed a promontory and cried out to his men "Don't give an inch!" a bullet struck Vincent in his right thigh bone. As reinforcements arrived, the colonel was carried from the field and Little Round Top was saved; however, Vincent fell in and out of consciousness over the next five days before succumbing to his wound.

Ken Turner Collection.



❖ Camp William Penn ❖

In addition to proclaiming freedom for slaves in the Confederacy, President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation decreed that African American men "of suitable condition, will be received into the armed services of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels in said service."

By June 1863, the imminent Confederate invasion spurred the opening of Camp William Penn, the first training camp for black soldiers in Pennsylvania. Located outside of Philadelphia, the camp was home to 11 U.S. Colored Troop regiments for the enduring commitment of a three-year enlistment.

Below: Historical Society of Pennsylvania, DAMS 1426, file# 1426_v63_ba54p544_2.
Right: Historical Society of Pennsylvania, DAMS 242, call# Bb 54 P544.



COME
PUBLISHED BY T



P. S. Duval & Son, Lith. Cor. 5th & Minor St. Phila.

AND JOIN US BROTHERS.

THE SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE FOR RECRUITING COLORED REGIMENTS

1210 CHESTNUT ST. PHILADELPHIA.

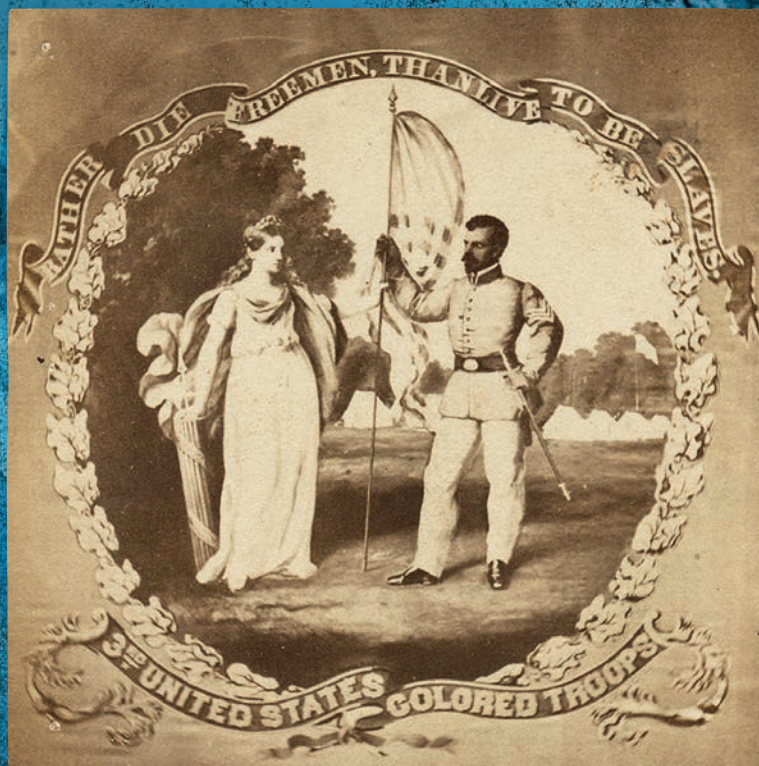


Of those who were
HASTILY BURIED on the
battlefield, most remained
buried in **SHALLOW
GRAVES** where they fell.

Free from Odor and Infection

As embalmers followed armies into war, temporary embalming stations such as this one were set up to preserve and ship home deceased soldiers whose families could afford the fee. Of those who were hastily buried on the battlefield, some were reinterred in proper graves; most, however, without any form of identification, remained buried in shallow graves where they fell.

Ken Turner Collection.



Rather Die Freeman . . .

African American artist David Bowser of Philadelphia painted powerful images on the front and back of each of 11 Pennsylvania Colored Troops' flags. The flag of the 3rd Regiment—the first of the black units to be trained at Camp Penn—features Bowser's depiction of the Goddess of Liberty handing the Union's flag to an African American soldier.

Ken Turner Collection.



Sanitary Fair Matron

As the war dragged on, two prominent Chicago women answered the need for continued supplies by organizing a large fair, raising crucial financial support. In 1864, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia joined in the fund-raising by hosting their own Sanitary Fairs.

Logan Square was the site of the Great Central Fair in Philadelphia, which raised more than \$1 million. Appearing from the outside like a walled city, the fair featured a huge central building where merchants and manufacturers displayed and sold products alongside patriotic exhibits and works of art. Ribbons pinned to this woman's jacket indicate she was associated with the Floral Committee, Historical Autographs (display), and "Our Daily Fare" refreshment area.

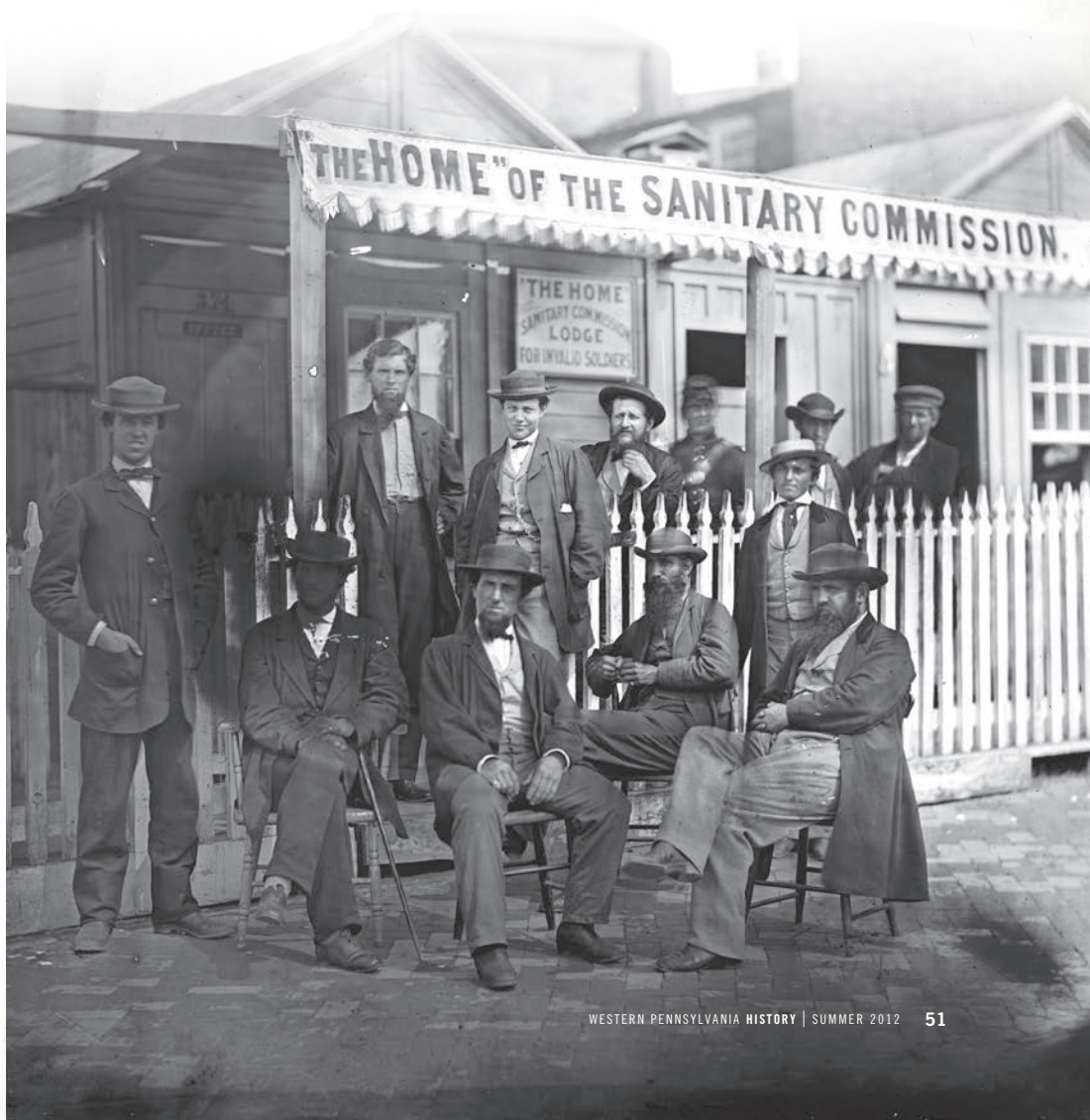
Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Horace Howard Furness collection on the Great Cent [0224], Box/Folder 5.3 (Dams 5098).

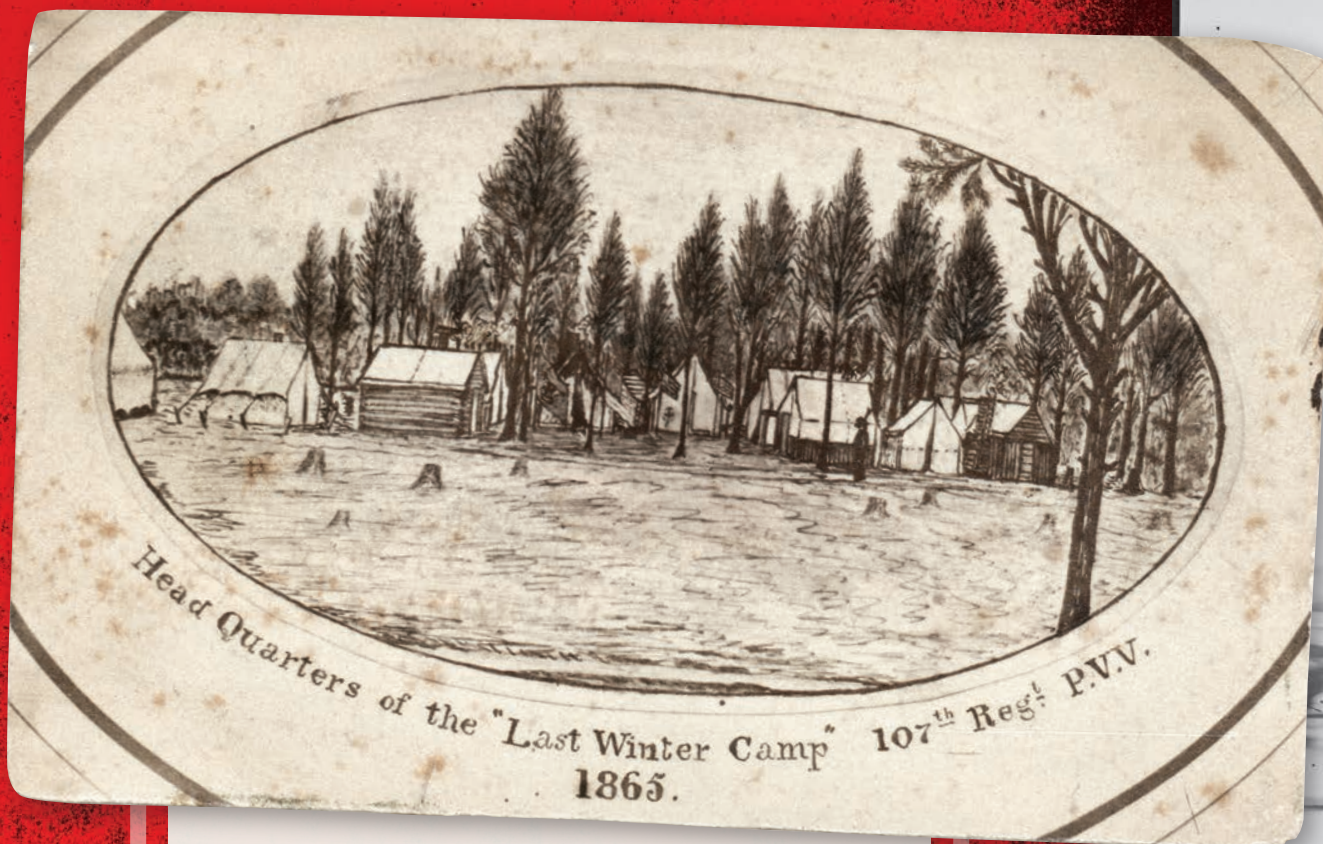
United States Sanitary Commission

The United States Sanitary Commission, a civilian organization, worked to improve the quality of life for bivouacked soldiers. The Philadelphia branch of the USCC distributed volunteers' handmade shirts, socks, and handkerchiefs to soldiers passing through city. After the Battle at Gettysburg, the Philadelphia USCC provided additional aid to the hospitalized.

Here, Sanitary Commission workers relax in front of the Home Lodge for wounded soldiers in Washington, D.C., June 1863. In the field, most work was done by men; however in Pennsylvania's wards, boroughs, and townships, Ladies Aid branches of the Commission worked tirelessly to make articles for soldiers far from home.

Library of Congress, cwpb-04155.





Winter Camp of the 107th Pennsylvania



The battlefield successes of the fall of 1864 helped ensure Abraham Lincoln's re-election to a second term and raised the spirits of Pennsylvanians depleted by three and a half years of war. But there was one more harsh winter to endure. This drawing portrays a romanticized view of the canvas-roofed log huts of a winter encampment in Virginia.

Ken Turner Collection.

**The BATTLEFIELD
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Pennsylvania Locomotive



Locomotives were just one of countless war contributions furnished by the industries of Pennsylvania. Here, the Governor Nye—manufactured in 1862 by Norris and Sons of Philadelphia—takes on supplies at the wharf in City Point, Virginia, for distribution to Union troops in the South.

Library of Congress, cwpb 01853.



Sergeant James McCarty, 97th Pennsylvania Infantry

In January 1865, Admiral David Porter of Pennsylvania led a Union armada bombarding Fort Fisher in North Carolina, in combination with army, navy, and marine ground assaults. Sergeant James McCarty was carrying the state colors of the 97th Pennsylvania Infantry when he was stuck by enemy fire and wounded. The colors were picked up by Galusha Pennypacker, colonel of the 97th, until he too was disabled.

Ken Turner Collection.

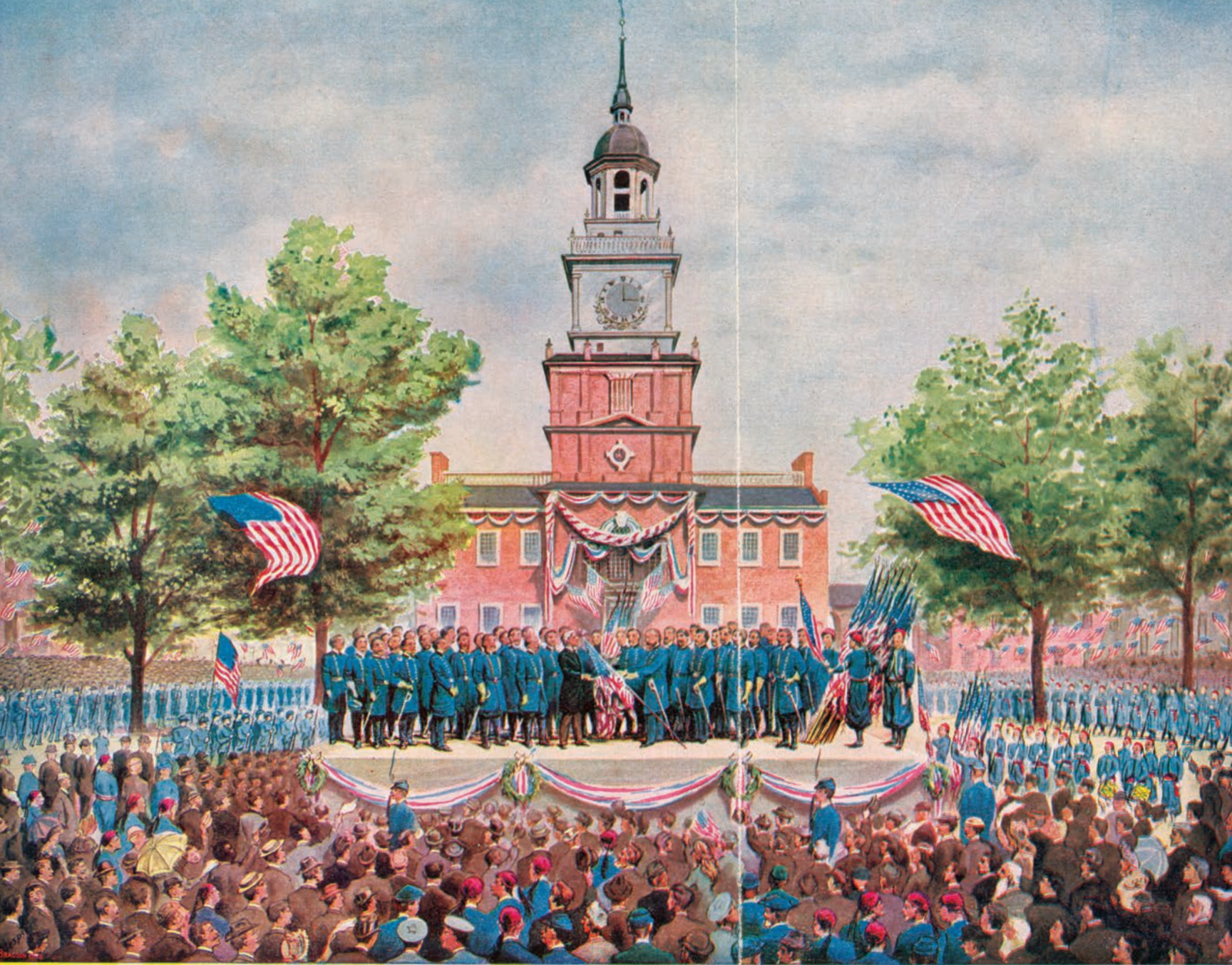


Cooper's Battery, Siege of Petersburg

This well-known photo of Cooper's Battery (B) 1st Pennsylvania Light Artillery, taken at Petersburg, Virginia, has been published many times but few know that it was taken on June 21, 1864, in front of the Avery house. The unit fired 11,200 rounds during 24 engagements between 1861 and 1865. Standing center frame in straw hat is photographer Mathew Brady.

National Archives, T252, Mathew B. Brady Collection of Civil War Photographs, RG 111, B-86.





RETURN OF REGIMENTAL FLAG TO STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,
Independence Hall, Philadelphia, July 4, 1866.

Return of the Flags

Philadelphia observed the ceremonial return of Pennsylvania's battle flags on July 4, 1866, with a grand parade through the city. Pennsylvania generals, including George Meade and Winfield Hancock, stood alongside Governor Curtin at Independence Hall to receive the battle-torn colors. War widows and orphans were recognized with special seating near the stage.

Kraus/Messick Collection.

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MEDALS OF HONOR

Congressional Medals of Honor were authorized at the start of the war for acts of valor. Of the 1,522 awarded, Pennsylvania soldiers and sailors received 211. An additional 44 went to Pennsylvania-born heroes who fought under the banners of other northern states. Here are two Pennsylvania recipients; quotes are from their Medal of Honor citation.

Colonel James M. Schoonmaker, **14th Pennsylvania Cavalry**

At Winchester, Virginia, September 19, 1864

“At a critical period, gallantly led a cavalry charge against the left of the enemy’s line of battle, drove the enemy out of his works, and capture many prisoners.”

Ken Turner Collection.

**Pennsylvania
SOLDIERS and
SAILORS received
211 Congressional
MEDALS OF HONOR.**





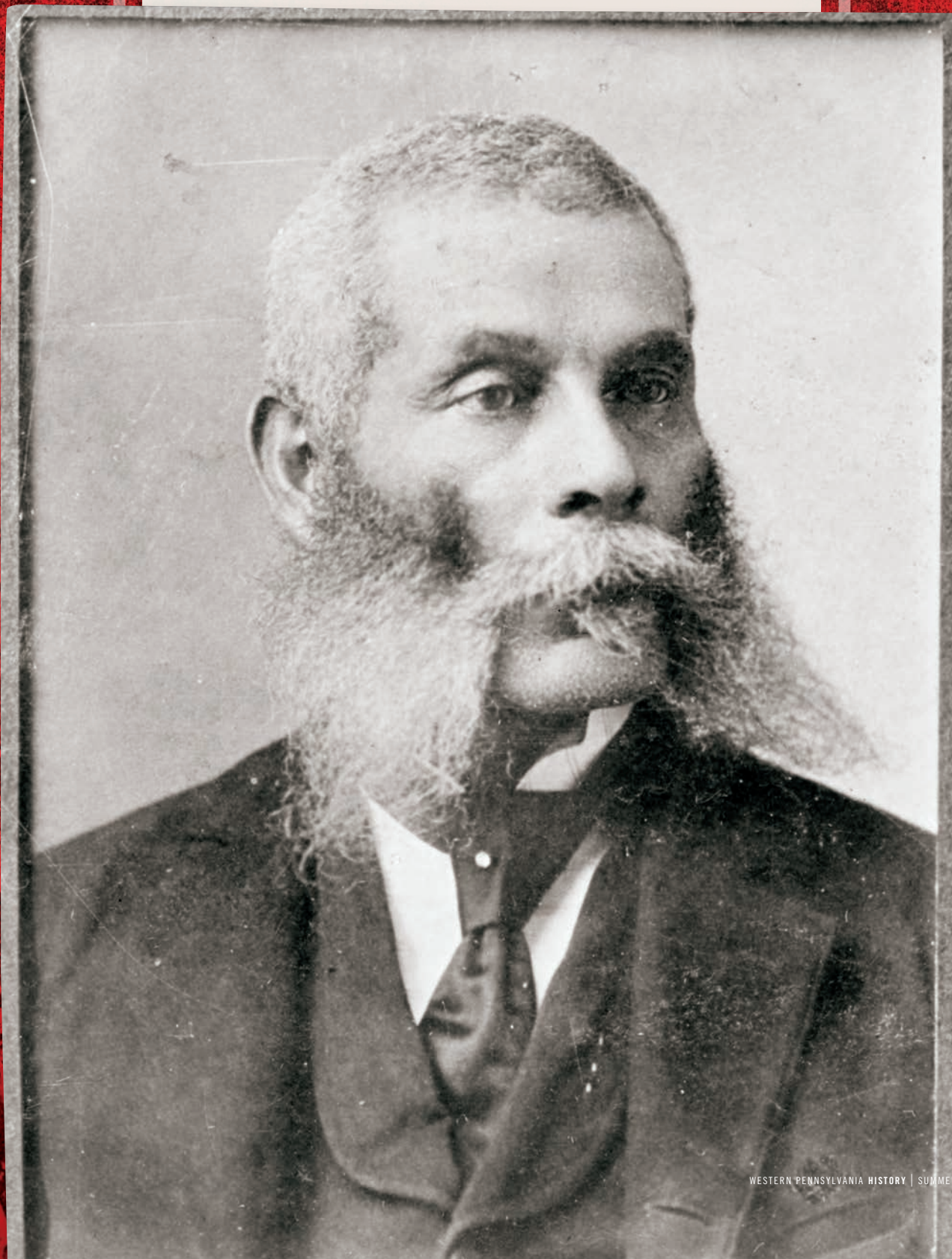
First Sergeant Alexander Kelly, 6th United States Colored Troops



At Chapin's Farm, Virginia, September 29, 1864

"Gallantly seized the colors, which had fallen near the enemy's lines, raised them
and rallied the men at a time of confusion and in a place of the greatest danger."

Library of Congress, 118563.



Marie Tepe “French Mary,” 114th Pennsylvania Infantry

Along with the federal government’s creation of an official medal for valor, several army organizations (at the division and corps level) authorized their own awards for gallantry.

Marie Tepe of the 114th Pennsylvania Infantry was one of two women to receive the Kearny Cross, seen here pinned to her shell jacket. In her role as vivandiere, Tepe provided refreshments on the battlefield and cared for the ill and wounded in camp. She served in 13 battles, most notably as the only woman at Gettysburg.

Ken Turner Collection.



GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Of the 315,017 Pennsylvanians sent to war, roughly 10 percent (33,183) perished.

Those who returned were gratified to be far from the horrors of the battlefield, but many missed the bond formed among soldiers. Several fraternal organizations emerged; the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) established posts in nearly every community, named in honor of national heroes or fallen local commanders. By the turn of the century, the commonwealth counted 619 posts with more than 43,000 members.

African American Veterans Co. F 32nd USCT

Even though its national platform claimed the GAR to be color-blind, black veterans were more likely to join “colored” posts; by 1886, Pennsylvania hosted 15.

This 1927 view from an unknown location in the Mon Valley celebrates the 63rd anniversary of Company F, 32nd United States Colored Troops with an elaborate diorama, including land and sea battles. The evocative verse is from Ralph Waldo Emerson’s *A Nation’s Strength*:

Not gold but only men can make
A people great and strong;
Men who for truth and honor’s sake
Stand fast and suffer long.

Brave men who work while others sleep,
Who dare while others fly...
They build a nation’s pillars deep
And lift them to the sky.

Ken Turner Collection.



Orphans

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan."

These words, taken from Lincoln's second inaugural address, helped awaken the social conscience of the nation and became the mission of the GAR.

Kraus/Messick Collection.

GAR National Commander

In 1936, William Ruhe, National Commander of GAR (center, wearing the GAR badge), visited Carlisle, Pa. Ruhe had served with the 4th Pennsylvania Cavalry for five months in 1865. By this time—71 years after the war ended—he presided over a quickly shrinking organization.

Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum Trust.

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.

