

# Lancaster In The Gettysburg Campaign

By M. LUTHER HEISEY

## THE ALARM

At no time in the long history of Lancaster County did consternation and excitement reign among its citizens as in the closing days of June, 1863, when the gray ranks of the Confederacy approached to its very gateways. For days, before the enemy appeared at the Wrightsville end of the Columbia bridge, refugees from parts of Maryland and the lower counties of Pennsylvania poured through this county, driving before them their cattle, and having their valuable possessions loaded upon their wagons, whereon the very young and aged were permitted to ride. The black smoke, rising from the burning embers of the long bridge at Columbia, hung like a pall over the county, increasing the anxiety and perplexity of the people. And then in a few days followed the thunderous roar of distant cannonading, distinctly heard throughout the county.

## THE RESPONSE

Tremulous but undaunted, the man power of the county assembled at the urgent call of the governor, to drive the invader from their doors. School boys, farmers, artisans, tradesmen, all gathered at enlistment centers eager to be enrolled.

### "TO THE SUSQUEHANNA, BOYS!"

Having been called upon by the governor, to Colonel Emlen Franklin, who with his officers and men had just returned from service in the 122nd Regiment, went the task of organizing a force to meet the invaders. The rallying slogan was "To the Susquehanna, Boys!" He at once issued the following orders:

Headquarters of Defenses of Lancaster County,  
June 16, 1863.

#### General Orders No. 1.

The citizens of the townships of Fulton, Little Britain, Colerain, Bart, Sadsbury, Eden, Paradise, Salisbury, Drumore, Providence, Strasburg, Leacock, Earl, Earl East and Earl West shall rendezvous at Peach Bottom Ferry.

The citizens of the townships of Martic, Pequea, East and West Lampeter shall rendezvous at McCall's Ferry.

The citizens of Conestoga and Lancaster townships shall rendezvous at Shenk's Ferry.

The citizens of Manor and Millersville shall rendezvous at Safe Harbor.

The citizens of Columbia Borough, East and West Hempfield, Manheim, Manheim Borough, Mount Joy Township and Borough, Warwick, Elizabeth and Rapho shall rendezvous at Columbia.

The citizens of Marietta, East and West Donegal, and Conoy shall rendezvous at Marietta.

The citizens of Caernarvon, Brecknock, East Cocalico, West Cocalico, Clay, Ephrata, and Lancaster City shall rendezvous in Lancaster City.

Each citizen shall provide his own arms and ammunition until a sufficient supply of arms reaches this department, also his own rations for three days to be carried with him. Also intrenching tools, either an axe, shovel or pick.

Officers will be assigned to the command of the several points, and will give the necessary directions.

The line of the river from the Chester County line to York Furnace Bridge is placed under the command of Major Thaddeus Stevens, Jr., 122nd Penna. Volunteers.

The line of the river from York Furnace Bridge to the line of Columbia Borough is placed under the command of Major R. W. Shenk, 135th Penna. Volunteers, headquarters at Safe Harbor.

Columbia Borough and the line of the river to Marietta is placed under the command of Major Haldeman; headquarters, Columbia.

The line of the river from Marietta to the Dauphin County line is placed under the command of Lieutenant Johnson, Co. H, 135th Penna. Volunteers.

Citizens equipped and ordered as above are designed for the defense of the county, and may arrive at the places of rendezvous singly, in squads or companies, and report to the commanding officer of the line, who will report the same direct to the officer commanding defenses.

*As the honor and safety of Lancaster County depends upon a prompt obedience to this order, the commanding officer trusts that it may be forthwith respected.*

By command of

EMLLEN FRANKLIN,

Colonel Commanding Defenses of Lancaster County.

Pursuant to these orders, Camp Boyd, named for and located upon the land of Sheriff S. W. P. Boyd, was established at Peach Bottom. A company from Peach Bottom under Captain Boyd, a brother of the sheriff, was mustered in at this camp; on Friday, July 3, the companies of Captains David Bair, Jr., and Edward F. Hager, were placed in the service, followed on July 6 by companies from Strasburg and Christiana; Captain Phillips recruited from among the country boys of the southern end a splendid troop of cavalry, which was mounted on their own sturdy horses brought from the fields. The full muster rolls of the companies of Captains David Bair, Jr., Edward F. Hager, William A. Atlee and James F. Ricksecker can be found in the "Daily Evening Express" of July 6, 1863. A second company reported from Strasburg; Captains Brenneman and Mulliken had charge of the men from this borough.

The men from Conestoga Township responded under the leadership of Capt. Calvin B. Kendig, First Lieut. Casper Hiller and Second Lieut. Ephraim Potts. The full list of recruits appears in Ellis and Evans' History of Lancaster County, p. 747.

Camp Miller was established at Safe Harbor. When a report reached the good citizens of Millersville and Manor Township, that the troops stationed there were short of rations, they lavishly responded to their needs.

A company of seventy men, under Captain Gallagher, recruited at Mount Joy, was placed at Bainbridge. There they did service in picketing and throwing up fortifications along the Susquehanna. Among the "high privates" was the Rev. Nehemiah Dodge, of the Cedar Hill Seminary.

James S. Reynolds, Esq., private in one of the companies defending the Susquehanna line, was recalled to his home July 2, following the announcement of the death of his brother, General John F. Reynolds.

#### HAD LEE SUCCEEDED

The price Lancaster would have had to pay, had Lee succeeded, is well shown in General Jubal Early's own report to his superior officer: ". . . . I had determined, if I could get possession of the Columbia bridge, to cross my division over the Susquehanna, and capture the Pennsylvania Railroad, *march upon Lancaster, lay that town under contribution* and then attack Harrisburg in the rear, while it should be attacked in front by the rest of the corps, relying, in the worst contingency that might happen, upon being able to mount my division from the immense number of horses that had been run across the river, and then move to the west, destroying the railroads and the canals, and returning back again to a place of safety."

#### THE ROLL OF REGIMENTS

Lancaster County men served in the following regiments, which participated in the Gettysburg Campaign:

23rd Regiment.

30th Regiment (1st Reserves); making a spirited charge in the battle of the second day. Sergeant George T. Lockwood, of Paradise, Pa., serving in Co. E, recorded the action of the battle in his well-kept diary, which is now in possession of his son, John, of Gordonville, Pa. After the battle, while helping to bury the dead, Sergeant Lockwood was bitten by a snake.

31st Regiment (2d Reserves). Wounded in the battle: William D. Reitzel, Jacob Carter, Adam Erline, John Hart, Park J. Stackhouse.

34th Regiment (5th Reserves).

59th Regiment (2d Cavalry); it was engaged in checking the tide of stragglers, conducting prisoners, doing provost duty on the field and in the town, and pursuing and harrassing the retreating army of Lee.

99th Penna. Volunteers.

107th Regiment. Col. E. D. Roath, of Marietta, related his experiences in a diary, which was presented several years ago to the Lancaster County Historical Society.

113th Regiment (12th Cavalry).

162nd Regiment (17th Cavalry).

178th Regiment. Under General Dix made a demonstration toward Richmond to divert the enemy in favor of the Union Army at Gettysburg.

47th Regiment Militia of 1863. The alarm of the invasion reached the halls of the Millersville State Normal School, where James P. Wickersham was principal. Finding that the students were unable to study with war so imminent, he armed a hundred of the young men, and acting as captain, marched at their head to Wrightsville, to assist in guarding the bridge. After performing guard duty for a week, the company was relieved by the 77th Emergency Regiment, under the command of Col. Jacob G. Frick, and marched back to Millersville.

But the boys had returned to the school too soon. Two days later smoke from the burning bridge at Columbia warned them that all danger was not past, and Governor Curtin's call for sixty thousand men rang in their ears. Principal Wickersham again decided to become a soldier, and started the formation of the "People's Regiment." As rapidly as companies were organized, they were sent to Camp Curtin at Harrisburg. While the cannons' roar at Gettysburg could be heard, Principal Wickersham reached Harrisburg on July 2; on the 4th he was sworn in as a captain. These new companies joined in the chase for Lee, and arrived at Hagerstown and the Potomac as the last of the straggling Southerners crossed the river. A few laggards were captured.

Among the officers in the 47th Regiment were Surgeon William H. Egle, and Hospital Steward John F. Heinitsh. Many familiar Lancaster names are found in the rolls of this regiment.

The complete roster is found in the Lancaster newspaper of July 11, 1863.

At Franklin and Marshall College the wave of patriotism equalled that of the Millersville institution. On June 26, studies were suspended "owing to the excitement then prevailing on account of the rebel invasion, and a large number of the students having volunteered in the defense of the line of the Susquehanna."

An example of patriotic ardor was shown by Peter Reist, a Warwick Township farmer, who gave to each of his farm hands ten dollars, and sent them to Lancaster to enlist. This inspired others, and by the end of the day fifty farmers from that section traveled to Lancaster and enrolled in the army for defense.

50th Regiment Emergency Troops of 1863. The troops, which Col. Emlen Franklin had deployed along the Susquehanna, were, after the battle at Gettysburg, organized into the 50th Regiment. The captains in this regiment were Edward F. Hager, Henry N. Breneman, Moses Whitson, Hiram Stamm, David Bair, Jr., William A. Atlee, Isaac S. Mulliken, Franklin Sourbeer, James E. Crawford and John H. Druckemiller, in whose company the Chinese soldier, Neok Ung Hong (or Hong Neok Woo) was enrolled.

## THE PATRIOT DAUGHTERS OF LANCASTER

The details of the horror and sacrifice upon the battlefield need not be retold. Little should be said of the morbidly curious who rushed to the fields after the battle simply to view the scenes of carnage. By military orders, these people, afflicted with what is known locally as "wunnerfitsich," were forced to dig graves for the dead bodies of both man and beast. While the volunteers guarded the line of the Susquehanna, while other Lancaster boys participated actively in the battle, the women of the county were not idle.

To the battlefield another group hastened, with motives entirely different from that of the group just described. They were on a mission of loving and tender relief and comfort; they were the "Patriot Daughters of Lancaster." They served not only after Gettysburg, but from the very beginning of the terrible civil struggle. "We cannot," their statement reads, "wield the sword or the musket, if we would, but we can by our labors assist the fallen, and bind up the bleeding wounds and aching limbs, and by acts of substantial sympathy mitigate the sufferings of our soldiers. We appeal, therefore, once more to our generous, noble-hearted citizens to aid us in our efforts. Half-worn clothing, muslin, hospital delicacies, and money will be acceptable." The list of articles, given in response to the appeal, filled columns in the local newspaper of that time.

Throughout the county, similar aid societies were formed. The Patriot Daughters of Strasburg had a repository in Massasoit Hall. Octoraro had a relief society. The Quarryville Soldiers Aid Society "collected a large quantity of supplies for the wounded at Gettysburg, and today [July 10] Messrs. G. W. Hensel and D. Lefevre started with a full wagon load for the hospitals at that point. In addition to articles of comfort contributed, \$167.40 in cash was collected, which will be properly disbursed."

The Rev. Dr. C. A. Hay, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, in an "Historical Discourse," said, "A few days after the battle a number of ladies, representatives of the 'Patriot Daughters of Lancaster,' arrived at Gettysburg with hospital supplies, took rooms just opposite the church, and devoted themselves to the nursing and care of the men lying in this building."

Not alone the church, but the college and seminary buildings at Gettysburg were damaged in the battle and served as hospitals in the days following. Another local contact with Gettysburg is shown by the following lines from the minutes of the church council of Trinity Lutheran Church of Lancaster:

"September 7, 1863.

"Resolved, That a committee of two for each of the four wards of the city be appointed to solicit contributions to aid in repairing the College and Seminary buildings at Gettysburg, which were seriously injured by shot and otherwise during the recent great battle fought there between the U. States forces and the rebels.

"The following are the committee appointed under the resolution:

North West Ward, John W. Hubley	Dr. J. F. Huber
South West Ward, John B. Kevinski	R. L. Eicholtz
North East Ward, Geo. D. Sprecher	Wm. G. Baker
South East Ward, C. A. Heinitch	Jacob Rothermel

"John F. Sehner, Secretary."

In response to this, the sum of \$300.25 was collected and forwarded to A. D. Buehler, treasurer.

### THE PATHS OF GLORY—AND PATRIOTISM

Lancaster County's loss in the battle was heavy. In the first day's battle, the gallant General John Fulton Reynolds fell. The grief in his home was felt in the humble homes of many who served in the rank and file. A few incidents will convey to you the cost of the warfare.

Capt. Abraham Setley of Co. A, 99th Penna. Volunteers, known as the "Mechanicsburg Boys," had a brother, George, who was color guard at Devil's Den, in the battle of Gettysburg, July 2, 1863. He was the last of eight color guards to be wounded, and when he tried to escape was shot and killed by a rebel guard.

Among the many men enrolled from New Holland and vicinity was William Heller, who gave his life in the battle.

The full list of casualties suffered by the Lancaster companies, A to G inclusive, of the 99th Penna. Volunteers, appeared in the "Daily Evening Express," Thursday, July 9, 1863.

The life of Col. Charles Frederick Taylor was snuffed out at Gettysburg. Though born in Chester County, Lancaster County has a claim to him through his grandparents, Caleb and Annie Bucher Way, of Maytown. Col. Taylor was the youngest commissioned officer in the Army of the Potomac, serving in the Bucktail Regiment. On hearing of his death, the talented Bayard Taylor, a brother, wrote a beautiful tribute in a letter to his mother. From it we quote a portion: "A purer, braver, and more beautiful soul never visited the earth. Let us be thankful, even in our sorrow, that we ever possessed him—that the glory of his life and death has become a treasure that cannot be taken away from us. If we must lose him, we could not lose him at a better time, or in a more glorious way. Thank God that his precious blood was not shed in vain, but helped to buy the victory which saved our country. Thank God that he fell in the front rank. . . ."

In Christ Episcopal Churchyard, on the Old Philadelphia Pike, east of Intercourse, stands a gravestone with this inscription: Samuel S. / son of Samuel and Mary / O'Dare / was wounded at the battle / of Gettysburg, Pa., July 3rd / Died July 5th, 1863 / Aged 24 years, 5 months, 27 days.

Many mute stones, in graveyards scattered throughout the county, were they as fully inscribed, could carry a somewhat similar message.

*Requiescat in pace.*