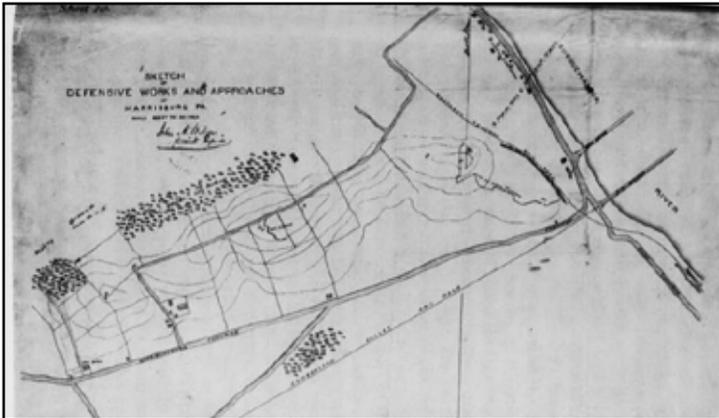




## Harrisburg Targeted By Confederate Troops



1863 Sketch, Defensive Works and Approaches, Harrisburg, PA. Engineer, Department of the Susquehanna. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

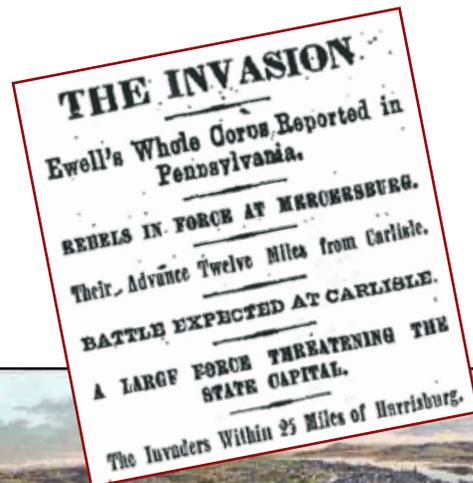
**JUNE 1863:** As the nation commemorates the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, Pennsylvania pays homage to the pivotal role of the Battle of Gettysburg and the events of the summer of 1863. As Lee's Confederate troops progressed toward the state capital that June, they approached a concerned legislature and frightened citizens inside a weakly defended city.

In mid-June of 1863, newspapers across Pennsylvania were reporting the northward movement of Confederate troops. The safety of the state capital was of particular concern, creating "a scene of excitement and bustle" in Harrisburg. On the eve of what was to be the bloodiest battle of the American Civil War, the city narrowly escaped a Confederate invasion. For most of June of 1863, there was a state of agitation with rumors circulating that rebel troops were on the move, projected to march through the Cumberland Valley. As the capital of the Commonwealth and a major railroad hub, Harrisburg was a prime target for the advancing units of Richard S. Ewell and Jubal Early under the instruction of Confederate General Robert E. Lee. On June 16, the rumors were substantiated when President Lincoln called on Pennsylvania men to organize in preparation for an attack.

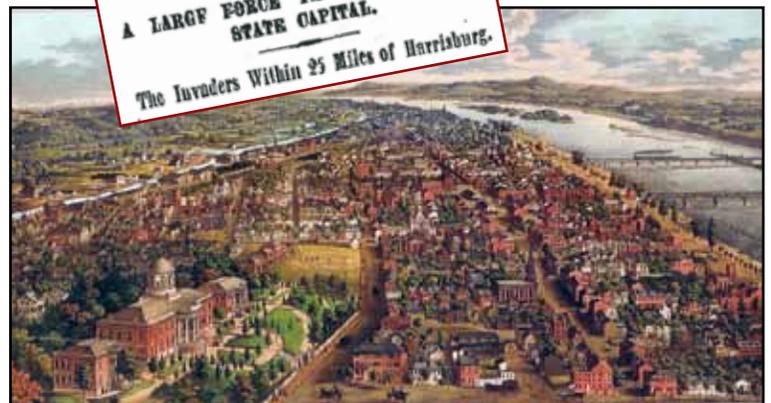
In preparation for a potential battle in the city, the Capitol Building was stripped of all valuables. The contents of the library, the Governor's portraits, and the entire state archives were removed from Harrisburg and transported to safety, primarily to Philadelphia. According to one newspaper account, by June 24<sup>th</sup>, "the clerks and other attachés of the State Capitol [had] organized themselves into a company for the defence of the city." Many of Harrisburg's inhabitants fled after hearing the news of a potential rebel invasion, while others from Philadelphia, New York, and New Jersey flocked to the state capital to have a firsthand look at the action. Out-of-state troops and volunteers filtered in through the Harrisburg train station and across the bridges that led to the city. The payment of bridge tolls by "each civilian who crossed to the east to save his life, [and] each soldier who

went west to offer his" raked in over \$3,000 for the Harrisburg Bridge Company. Some local merchants pitched for profits among those stocking up on supplies for the upcoming incursion, raising prices on necessities and comfort items.

Under the direction of Union Maj. Gen. Darius N. Couch, fortification of the outskirts of the city began, erecting earthworks and constructing entrenchments along the western border known as Bridgeport Heights (present day Lemoyne), "with great rapidity" by "a force of some two thousand men being engaged in the work night and day." The laborers were comprised primarily of "contrabands...who had fled the advancing Confederates," digging "for \$1.25 per ten-hour day." The two primary defenses, just outside Camp Hill, were christened Fort Washington and Fort Couch. A dispatch from Harrisburg to the Philadelphia Press reported that "the good people of Harrisburg [were] preparing for the worst that could possibly be expected." Many admonished the local people to come to the aid of their "beloved state," and "obey the call of patriotism, and hasten to Harrisburg to drive back the foe." On June 29, the two Confederate units reached Oyster Point in Camp Hill, where a small exchange occurred, followed by what many consider to be the northernmost battle of the Civil War, the skirmish at Sporting Hill. But the buildup for the valiant defense of the state capital was not realized. Most of the city of Harrisburg's preparations went untested, soon to be overshadowed by what has since been acknowledged as the central turning point of the Civil War at Gettysburg just days later.



Philadelphia Press, June 25, 1863 (Pennsylvania State Library)



Birdseye view of Harrisburg, 1855. Drawn on stone by J.T. Williams, Lith. & Printed in color by E. Sachse & Co. Library of Congress, Geography & Map Division, Washington, D.C.

# House Member Civil War Veteran Roll Call

The Smull's Handbooks for the years immediately following the American Civil War are filled with descriptions of Representatives' service in the Union Army. Many noted the companies with which they served; others paid homage to a lost limb, time served in a Confederate prison, or significant battles they survived. The Members listed below are just a selection of Representatives who were also Civil War veterans.

- William Hasson, captain, Company I, 142nd PA; severely wounded at Gettysburg, (Member, 1875-1876, 1883-1884, 1889-1900)
- John McGaughey, color sergeant, Company K, 105th PA; wounded at Fair Oaks, Gettysburg, and Wilderness (Member, 1895-1898)
- Frank J. Grover, 153rd Regiment, 11th Corps; enlisted underage and served at Gettysburg where he was promoted to sergeant for discovering a rebel sharpshooter in a home near the battlefield (Member, 1895-1896)
- David B. Douthett, Co. H, 102nd PA; wounded at Battle of the Wilderness, Williamsburg, and Fredericksburg (Member, 1893-1896)
- David Miller Anderson, assistant surgeon, 12th Regiment Colored Troops; served at Gettysburg (Member, 1893-1896, 1901-1903)

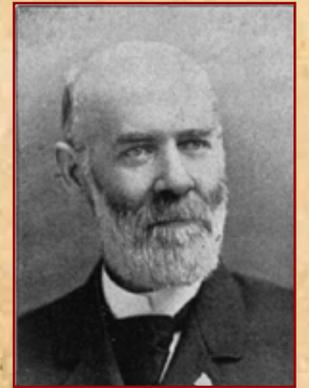
- George Griffiths, enlisted at age 14 but discharged after three months for being "too young to undergo the hardships incident to a soldier's life," reenlisted in 1864 (Member, 1895-1896)
- Joseph E. McCabe, scout, 17th Cavalry (Member, 1883-1884)
- Henry Meyer, Company A, 148th PA; lost a hand at Po River (Member, 1883-1884)
- Enoch J. Ayers, Lt. col., 25th New Jersey (Member, 1883-1884)
- Thomas W. Myton, private, Company H, 148th PA; lost left arm in service (Member, 1883-1884)
- Jacob J. Bierer, captain, Company C, 11th PA; wounded at second battle of Bull Run (Member, 1883-1884, 1891-1892)
- Isaac Brownell Brown, private; enlisted at age 16 in 1865 (Member, 1881-1886)
- John McCabe Boyce; sergeant, 1st Cavalry, Company K, PA (Member, 1881-1882)
- Anson B. Campbell, Company M, 100th PA (Member, 1879-1880)
- William Campbell, emergency volunteers of June 1863, 209th PA (Member, 1879-1882)
- David V. Derickson, 150th PA (Member, 1881-1882)

*This Confederate bullet, now the property of the Carnegie Museum, was saved by John McCabe Boyce, who served in the Pennsylvania House in the Session of 1881, after it wounded him at the Battle of New Hope Church, Virginia. Boyce is supposed to have spent time in five different Confederate prisons, managing to escape from Andersonville by assuming the identity of a recently deceased prisoner.*

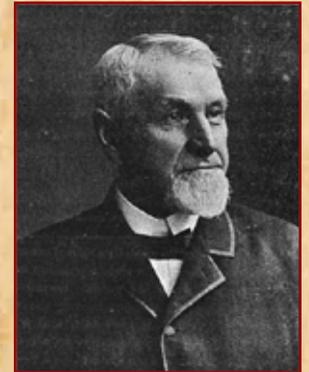
*Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall, Espy Post Artifact Collection, Item 161.*



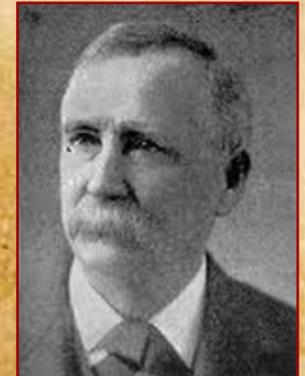
Captain Anson B. Campbell  
Company M, 100th  
Pennsylvania Volunteers



David B. Douthett  
Company H, 102nd Regiment  
Pennsylvania Volunteers



Captain William Hasson  
Company I, 142nd Pennsylvania



Lt. Col. Enoch J. Ayers  
25th Regiment,  
New Jersey Volunteers



# New Research Resources & Personal Papers Collections Acquired

The House Archives recently received papers from many former Members. These collections have been cataloged and their finding aids are available on the Archives' website, [www.house.state.pa.us](http://www.house.state.pa.us). To view the inventories, visitors to this website are asked to click on House of Representatives Archives, followed by the 'Collections' tab, where they will be directed to ARCHON, the Archives' online finding aid database.

Although the House Archives Library primarily contains books specific to the House of Representatives, it also contains books on general state government topics. One of our main missions is to collect works by and/or about current and former Members. Some of the titles recently acquired by the Library are listed below. For a complete list of titles in the library, contact us as detailed below.

• **The Peter Wambach, Sr. Library Collection:** includes over 200 volumes (Pete Wambach, Jr. (D-Dauphin) 1981-1992) Complete listing is available.

- **Jimmy, The Biography of A Brother: The Life of Alexander Royal Wheeler** (1937) by W. Reginald Wheeler (Alexander Wheeler (R-Forest) 1923-1935)
- **Along the Schuylkill River** (2009) by Laura Catalano and Kurt D. Zwikl (Kurt Zwikl (D-Lehigh) 1973-1984)
- **Backwards in High Heels: Faith Whittlesey, Reagan's Madam Ambassador in Switzerland and the West Wing** (2012) by Thomas J. Carty (Faith Whittlesey (R-Delaware) 1973-1976)
- **They've Crossed the Line: A Patriot's Guide to Religious Freedom** (2013) by Stephen Bloom and Kerriel Bailey (Stephen Bloom (R-Cumberland) 2011-present)
- **Even the Barn Blew Down** (1986) by Harris G. Breth (Harris Breth (D-Clearfield) 1941-1962)
- **The Unseen War in Iraq: Insurgents in the Shadow** by Richard Saccone (Richard Saccone (R-Allegheny) 2011-present)

## Some Of The New Personal Papers Collections Include:

Keith McCall, D, 1982-2010	Jane Clare Orie, R, 1997-2004	Ken Smith, D, 2007-2012
Lynn Herman, R, 1983-2006	John Lawless, R, 1991-2002	H. Sheldon Parker, Jr., R, 1967-1978
Alice Langtry, R, 1984-1992	Joseph Preston, Jr., D, 1983-2012	Richard Geist, R, 1979-2012
David Levdansky, D, 1985-2010	Scott Perry, R, 2007-2012	Curt Schroder, R, 1995-2012
James Knepper, Jr., R, 1965-1987	Scott Hutchinson, R, 1993-2012	Lea Barbush, staff, 1970-2006
Al Lorence, staff, 1972-2006	John Evans, R, 2001-2012	Reno Thomas, R, 1969-1980
Frank Oliver, D, 1988-2008	David Sweet, D, 1977-1988	

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All inquiries should be directed to:

Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
House Archives  
469 Forum Building, P.O. Box 202220  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2220  
(717)-783-3866  
[records@pabmc.net](mailto:records@pabmc.net)

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