

The importance of Pennsylvania's role in the Civil War cannot be denied. Over 360,000 soldiers, including 8,600 African Americans, fought for the preservation of the Union while valuable resources such as iron, steel, and agricultural products helped to sustain the effort. Those along the southernmost part of the Commonwealth had a direct view of war through battles, the destruction of property, and Confederate occupation.

While Centre Countians did not experience the Civil War in the same direct fashion, their lives were affected on every level.

A mix of opposing political viewpoints became one of the characteristics of life during the War. The town of Bellefonte was the home of Governor Andrew Gregg Curtin, a Republican and dedicated supporter of Abraham Lincoln. It was also the location of large iron furnace operations and a community of free African Americans people that comprised 9% of the population, several of whom joined the U.S. Colored Troops when they were formed in 1863. Outspoken voices about the war and related issues emerged in

Centre County AND THE CIVIL WAR

publications such as the *Democratic Watchman* as editor and part owner Peter Gray Meek expressed his deep opposition for the Republicans, the President, and for the continuation of the War. His position was shared by those living in the "German

Townships" of southern Centre County where their feelings of alienation echoed the national issues that led to the Civil War.

The soldiers and their families felt the greatest

effect as sons, fathers, brothers and husbands faced the perils of war first hand and related it to their loved one's back home. Their absence resulted in shifting responsibilities and economic difficulties as those left behind struggled to work the farms, maintain the businesses, and continue with a life that was uncertain, all for reasons that were not always clear to them.

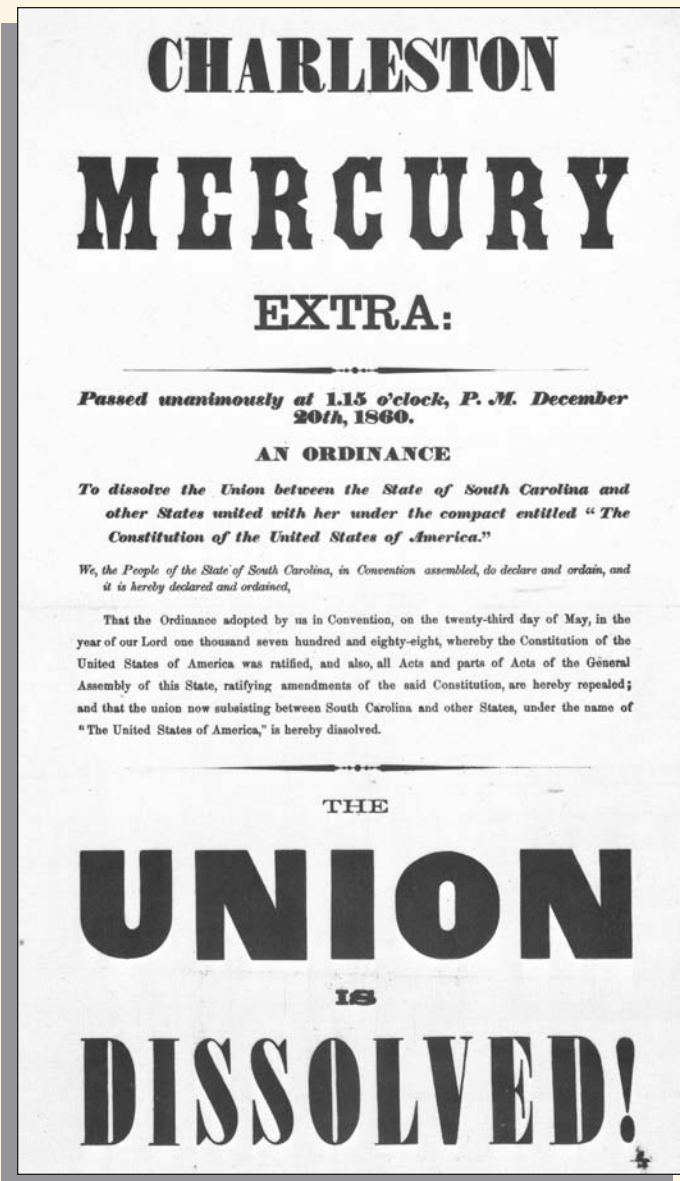
While much has been written about Centre County's Civil War military history, it is a part of a larger story, which the Centre County Historical Society explores in this special exhibit, Centre County and the Civil War.

Please note that some of the language and content of the time may be offensive to some visitors.

The Centre County Historical Society has tried to remain faithful to the period so that we may convey the issues with accuracy.

NATIONAL

By the time this announcement appeared in a special edition of the *Charleston Mercury* on December 20, 1860, tensions between the North and South had been building for decades. The issue of slavery, and its future in the westward expansion of the United States, deeply divided the two very different halves of the nation. In their Declaration of Secession of 1860, white Southerners



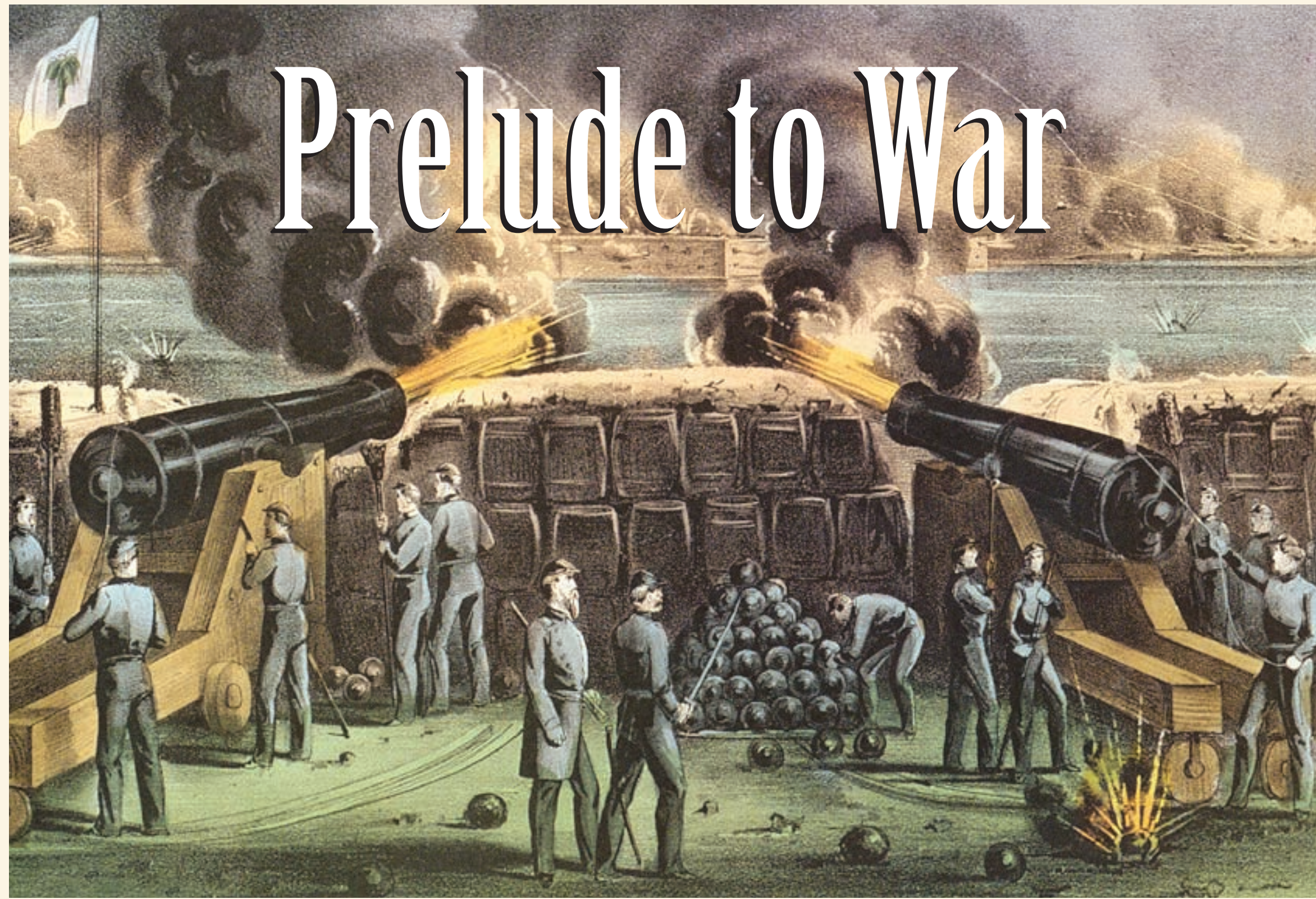
cited the Constitution which recognized slaves as a form of property, and denounced the power of a common government to elevate the citizenship of "persons who by the

supreme law of the land are incapable of becoming citizens." By April of 1861 South Carolina was followed by Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas to form the Confederate States of America, with its own elected and independent government.

If the South were allowed to secede, the Union could not prevent future dissidents from

doing the same, jeopardizing democracy in America. In his emergency address to Congress on July 4th 1861, Abraham Lincoln asked, "must a government of necessity, be too strong for the liberties of its own people, or too weak to maintain its own existence?"

Calvert Lithograph and Engraving Co. "The Sunny South, 1883" (Library of Congress)



On Friday April 12, 1861 the opening shot of the Civil War was fired from Fort Johnson to Fort Sumter, South Carolina.

Prelude to War

LOCAL

In Centre County, Democrats supported the property rights of the Southern slave-owner fearing that any change in the Constitution would weaken it; while the Whig/Know-Nothing/Republicans of the County viewed the actions of the Confederate states as illegal. The preservation of the Union became their motivation for going to war, and they would embrace the opportunity to enforce their beliefs. Ethnic and economic differences helped to further divide the County

into pro-war/antiwar factions which created a highly charged atmosphere.

Regardless of political affiliation, few considered abolition a legitimate cause for war. This attitude was reaffirmed when it was relegated to a "question of minor importance and a side-issue" in an 1862 War Meeting that sought to inspire Centre Countians to enlist in the Army.

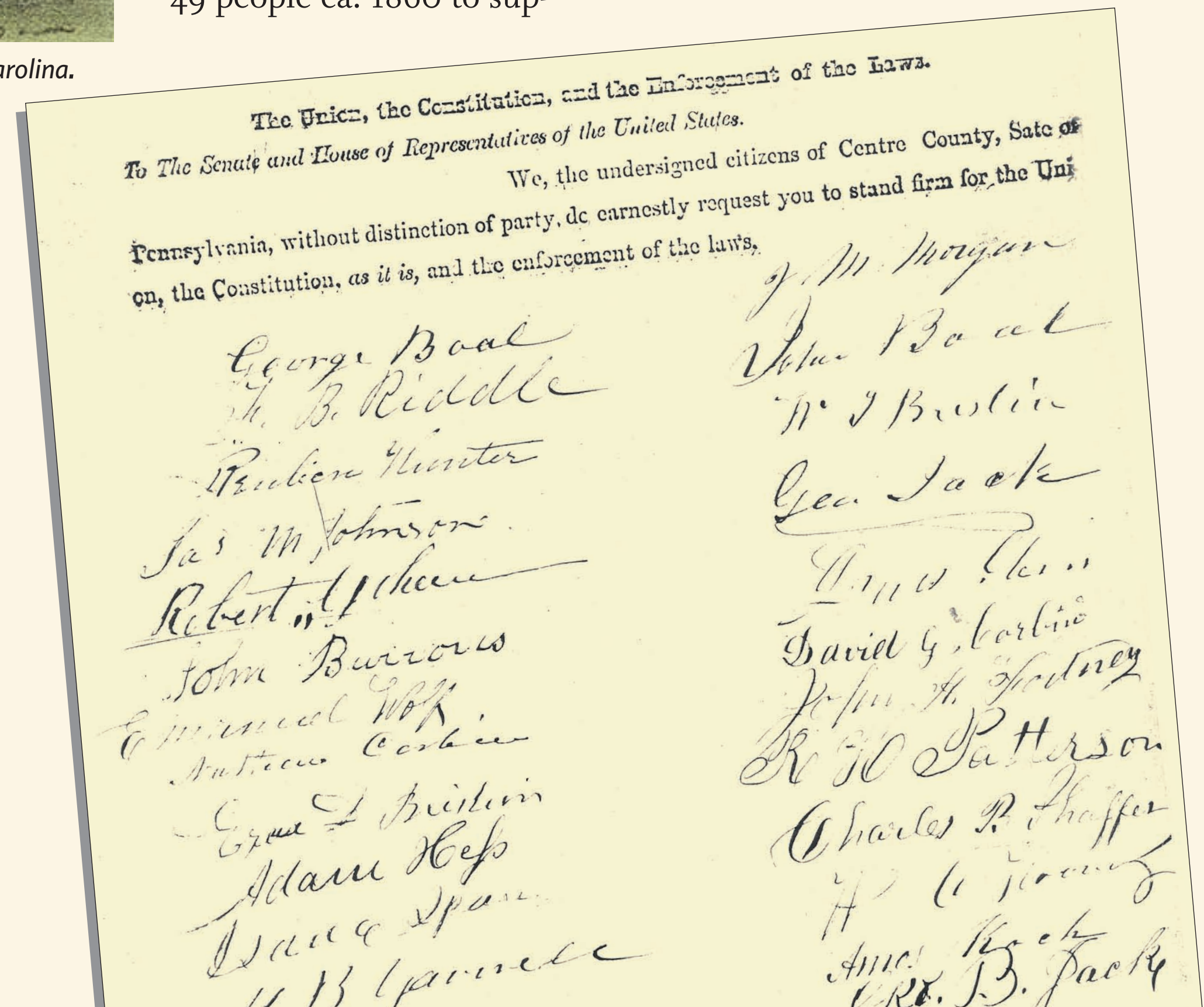
Headed by George Boal, this petition was signed by 49 people ca. 1860 to sup-

That the preservation of the Government of the United States and the restoration of authority throughout the length and breadth of the land is the grand and only legitimate object of the war....

— First Resolution of the Centre County War Meeting, August 2, 1862

port the continuation of one sovereign nation. Many in Centre County were ready to take any step necessary to insure preservation of the Union.

Copy of a Centre County Petition, c. 1860
(Special Collections Library at Pattee and Paterno Library)



A geographical line has been drawn across the Union, and all the States north of that line have united in the election of a man to the high office of President of the United States, whose opinions and purposes are hostile to slavery. He is to be entrusted with the administration of the common Government, because he has declared that that "Government cannot endure permanently half slave, half free," and that the public mind must rest in the belief that slavery is in the course of ultimate extinction.

— Excerpt from the Declaration of Secession, South Carolina, 1860

Centre County Responds

On Saturday evening last, a telegraph dispatch was received which threw Bellefonte into a fever. It stated that Fort Sumter had been fired into and was replying with two guns. The excitement became intense, and from about 7:00 on Saturday evening, the telegraph office was crowded with persons waiting to hear the news from the scene of the conflict. As dispatch succeeded dispatch, the excitement subsided and was followed by a deep feeling of patriotic indignation at the conduct of the Southern rebels....

— The Central Press, April 19, 1862

Farmers High School (later to become Penn State) and recounted his experience during an address for the semi-centennial of the school in 1905.

Previous to that moment, political feelings ran high and the students had been sharply divided into two parties, but the fearful tidings that the flag has been fired upon, brought by swift

messenger from Bellefonte obliterated party lines, and cemented them into one compact band. They were no longer democrats, they were no longer republicans,

In the week after the fall of Fort Sumter, a meeting was called at the Centre County Courthouse. More than 480 volunteers (with overflow beyond the quota) enlisted for three months of service while the citizens of Bellefonte raised over \$6,900 to support the families of the soldiers. By the end of the summer each of the ninety-day men were mustered out of service with many immediately re-enlisting for three years.

John Irvin Thompson was the son of Moses and Mary Thompson and was born here at the Centre Furnace Mansion. When the War erupted, he was enrolled at the

they were loyal Americans.

When three days later President Lincoln's call for 75,000 troops was received, the excitement was indescribable. It seemed that nothing could hold the boys to their school duties, and that the Farmer's High School was for the time, doomed.

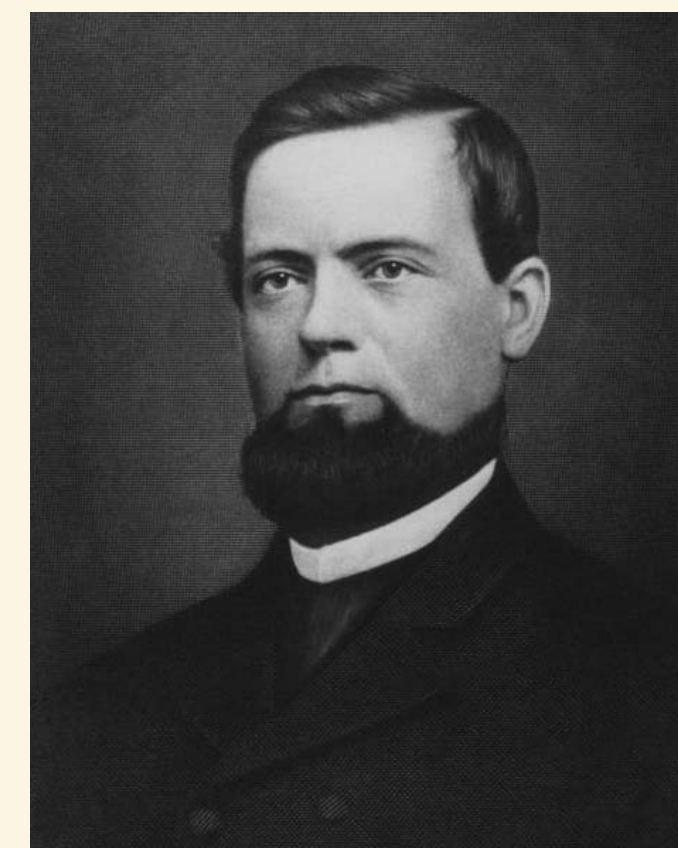
John Irvin Thompson (1843-1916)
Collections of the Centre County Historical Society



The Farmers' High School, Old Main, 1863



Evan Pugh, the first President of the Farmers High School, assembled his students in the chapel to address their heightened emotions. While many felt that the conflict could not last long, Thompson recalled that Pugh predicted "the war would not be fought out by the 75,000 men just called, that it would not be ended



Evan Pugh (1828-1864)
First President of the Farmers' High School, 1859-1864

in 90 days, that it would be a struggle for years, and that all who were assembled there could remain and continue their education....and still have time to do their duty to their county in the mighty conflict just commencing."

Pugh's words seem especially poignant when reading the letter of 28 year old Joseph H. Poorman of Milesburg who wrote to his parents from Virginia on October 13, 1861

"...there is no danger here yet and I think the war will be settled before — General Hancock says that all of the men will be home by Christmas and I think that it will."

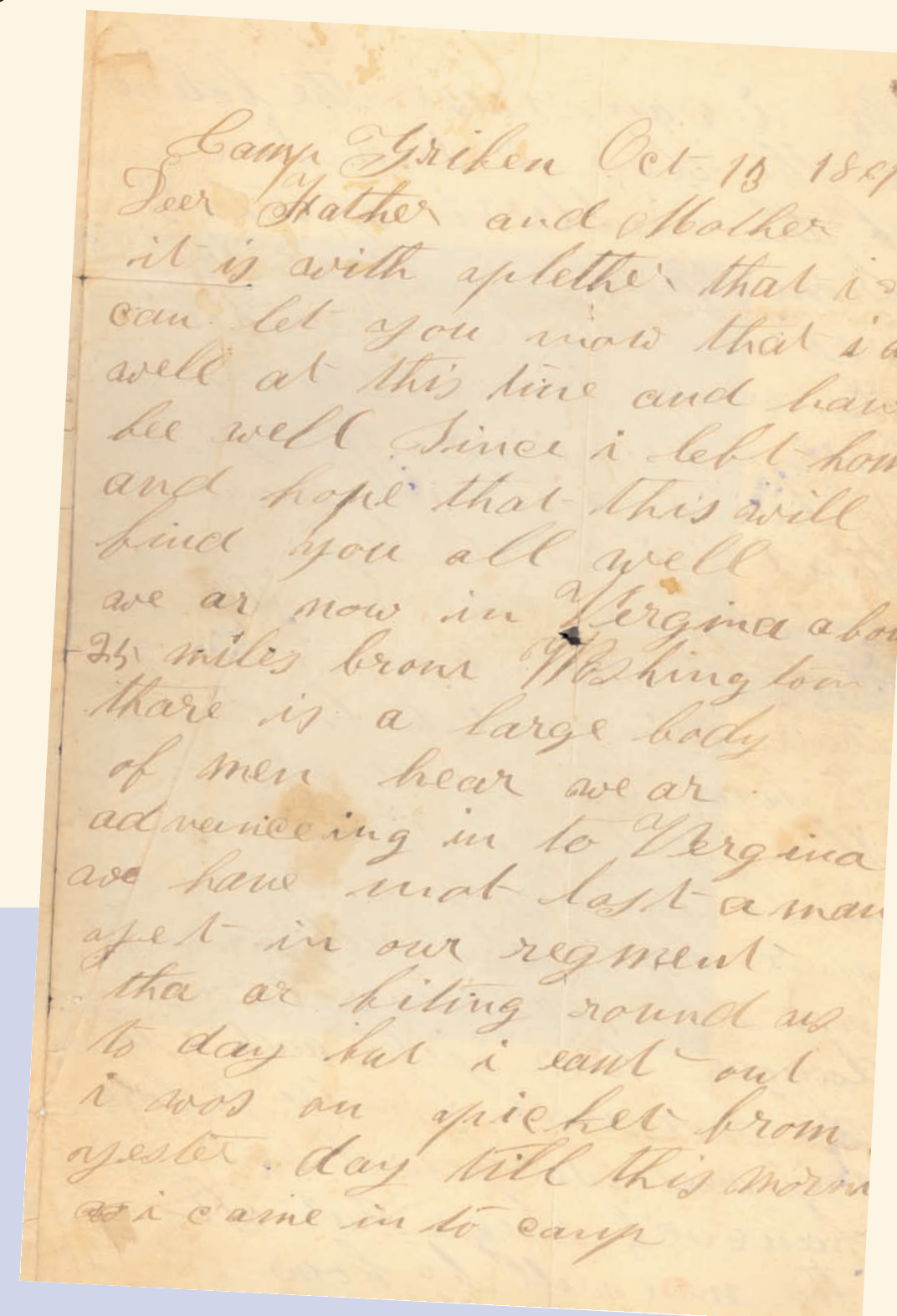
Poorman's Regiment, the 49th would not be mustered out of service until July 15, 1865 and would lose 361 men during the War.

The enthusiasm that gripped the predominately industrial, Republican areas of the County was not shared by the Democratic farmers of Penn, Gregg, Potter, Miles and Haines

townships. In stark contrast, a Military Meeting in Rebersburg was quiet and yielded few volunteers. John George Kurtz of the Bellefonte Central Press recounted the event:

As but two able-bodied men signified their willingness to serve the country, the liberties and blessings of which they have so long enjoyed, the President of the meeting, a hard-working old gentleman, arose and expressed his views as a Democrat and citizen, declaring that he was, if it were necessary for men of his age to go into service, ready to do all he could to defend the Government and his country, or contribute to the maintenance of the families of those who did go to fight for their country's liberties. But no response was

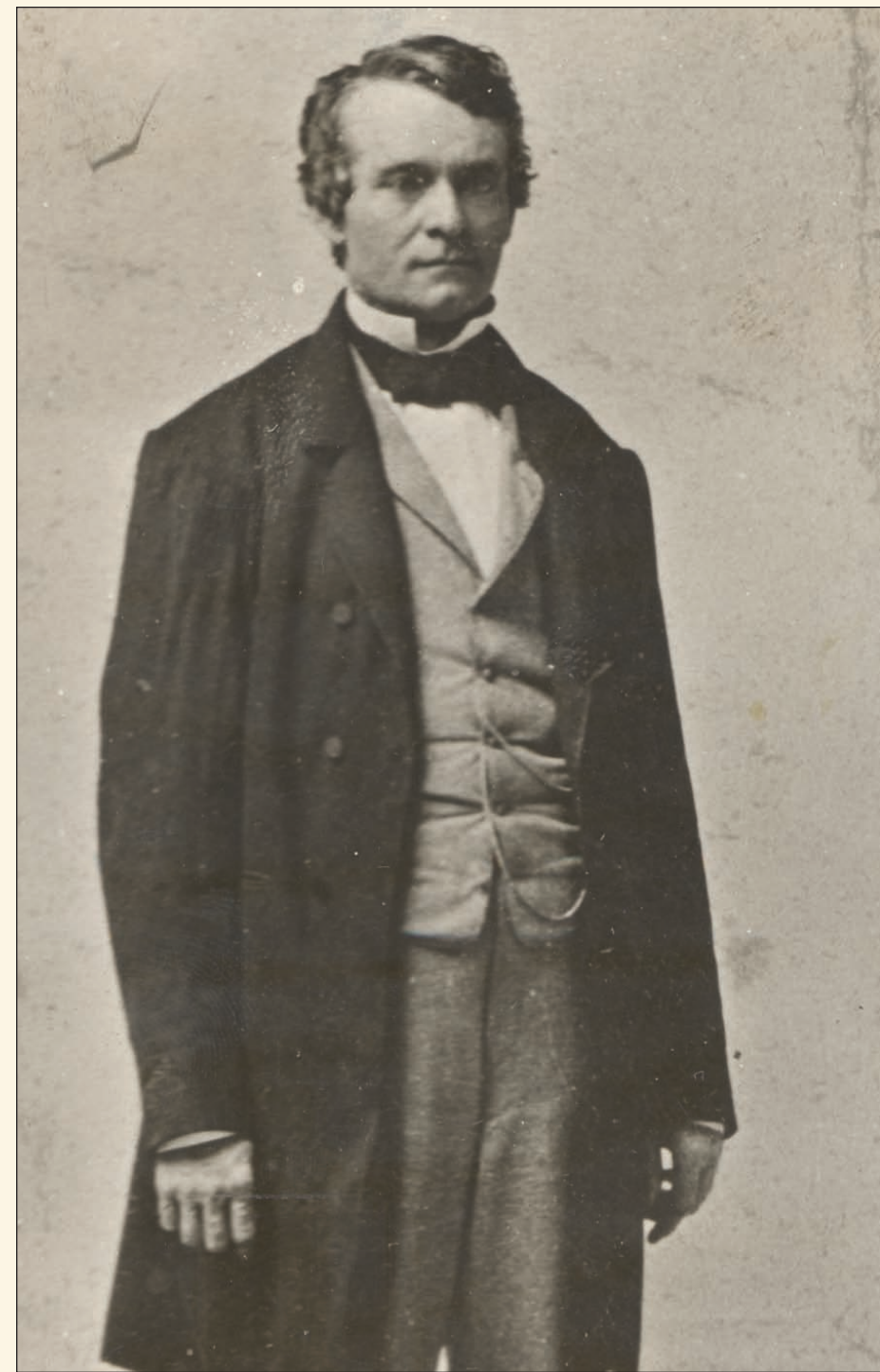
Letter written by Joseph H. Poorman
Collections of the Centre County Historical Society



made, with the exception of the two already named. We cannot, therefore, give our readers the same gratifying report from this section of the county that we must praise the other portions of the county for.

By the end of 1861, over 1000 Centre County men enlisted in the Union Army. Predictably, a small percentage of the volunteers were from the southernmost area of the County. In 1862 this would change, and the situation would become far more complex.

Andrew Gregg Curtin & His Role in the Civil War

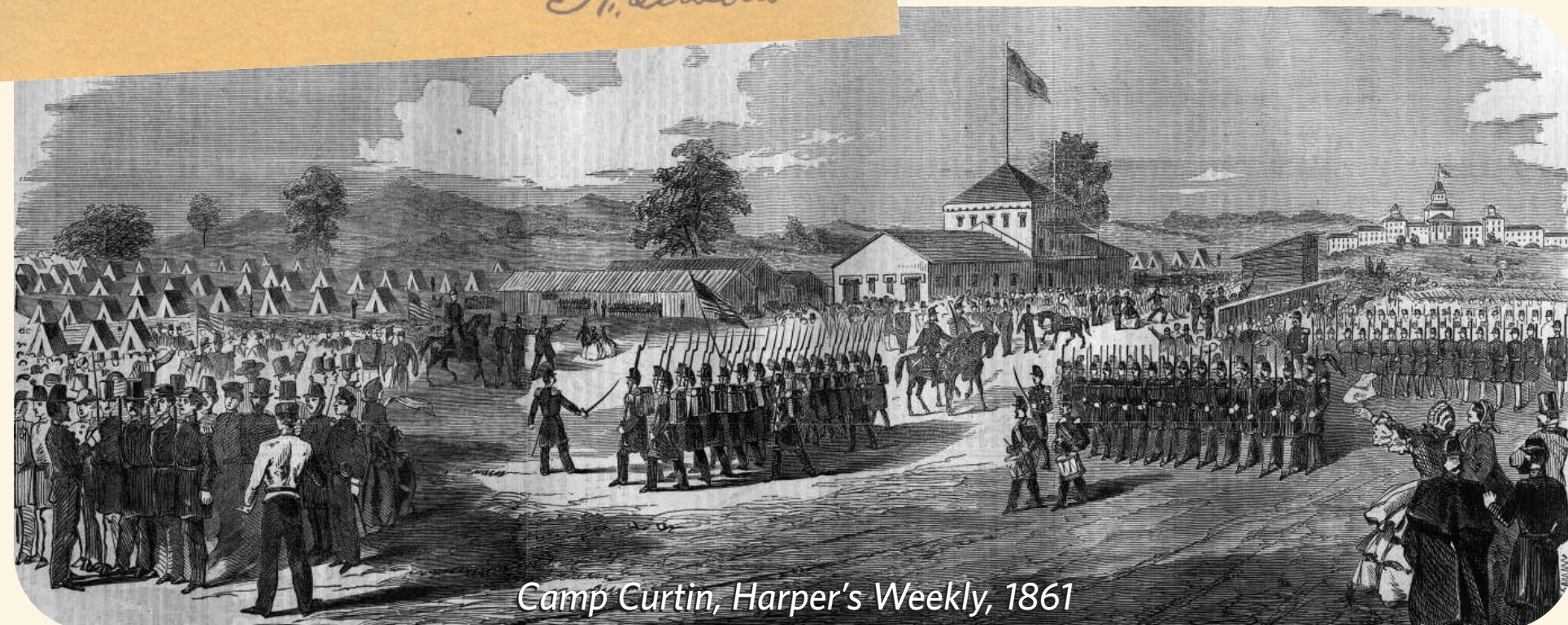
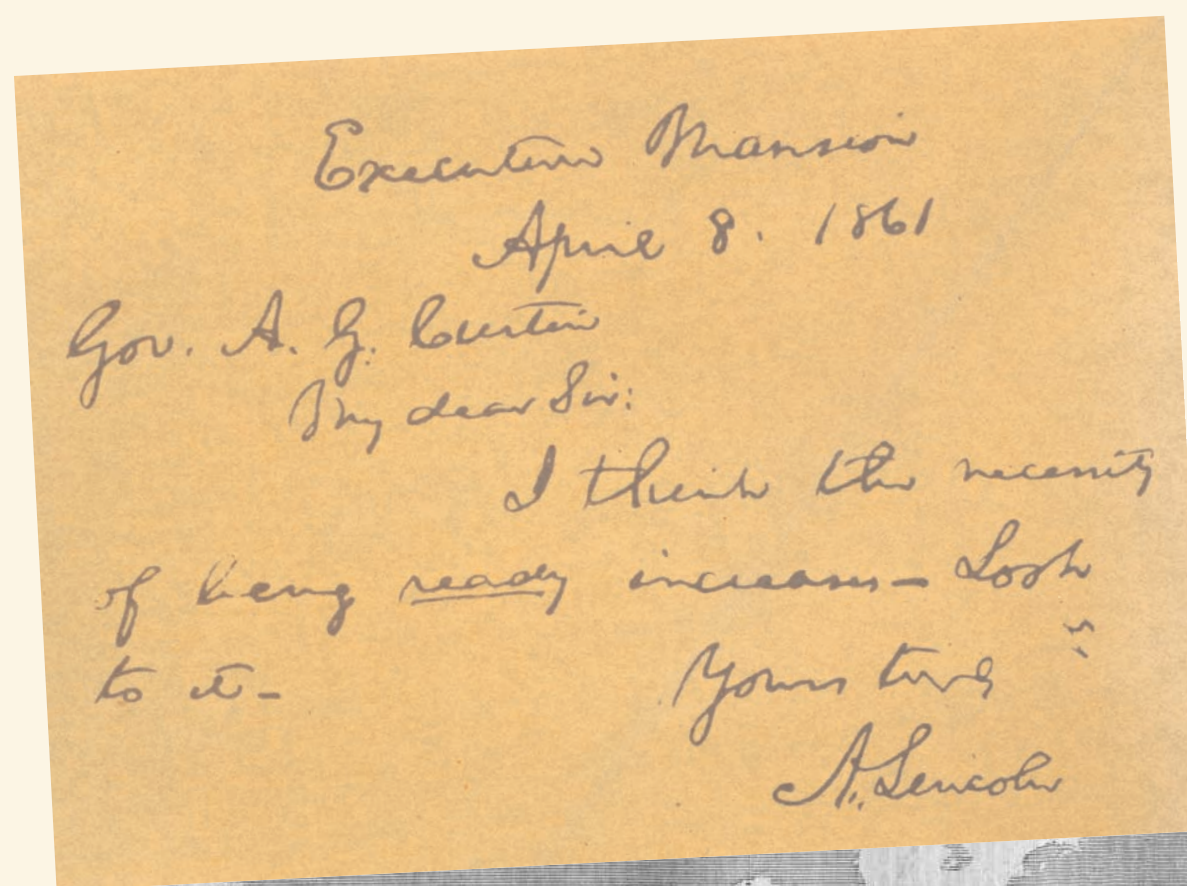


Andrew Gregg Curtin (Anonymous Collection)

Viewed as one of the most important political figures in the Civil War, Pennsylvania Governor and Bellefonte native Andrew Gregg Curtin (1815–1894) was a strong supporter of Abraham Lincoln, whose October 1860 gubernatorial win was considered essential to Lincoln’s election. He was the first governor to send troops to protect Washington DC after Fort Sumter and arranged for unified support of the Northern governors during one of the most critical

points of the War. Referred to as “the soldiers friend” Curtin maintained contact with the volunteers by visiting them during their training at Camp Curtin in Harrisburg, making trips to the battlefields, and even intervening when necessary.

Copy of a letter from Abraham Lincoln
(Anonymous Collection)



Camp Curtin, Harper’s Weekly, 1861

The response in Centre County to the initial 1861 call for troops was cause for excitement for many. By the summer of 1862 though, that initial wave of patriotism was dissipating in the wake of lost battles and talk of slavery being the true reason for the war. The county and the country was losing faith in the War, and Curtin recognized the need for increased morale and organized support of Lincoln.

It was not uncommon for underage boys to become so excited by the romance of war that they would sneak into service. In this letter from Curtin, he asked Colonel Charles T. Campbell of the 1st Light Artillery to discharge the 16 year old son of a friend who was ill. Records indicate that this may be Miles Askey, the son of Ellis Askey, a 48 year old farmer from Clearfield County who died in 1864. According to the Pennsylvania State Archives, Miles Askey was mustered into the 1st Light Artillery on 8-24-61 and was discharged by order of the War Department. (date unknown) Legal enlistment age was 18.

Harrisburgh, Sept. 6, 1862 via New York Gov. Andrew-Boston; In the present emergency, would it not be well that the loyal governors should meet at some point in the border states to take measures for the more active support of the government? An immediate reply is requested, that as an early a day as possible may be named for the meeting if approved.

— A.G. Curtin

Dec(?) 3, 1861

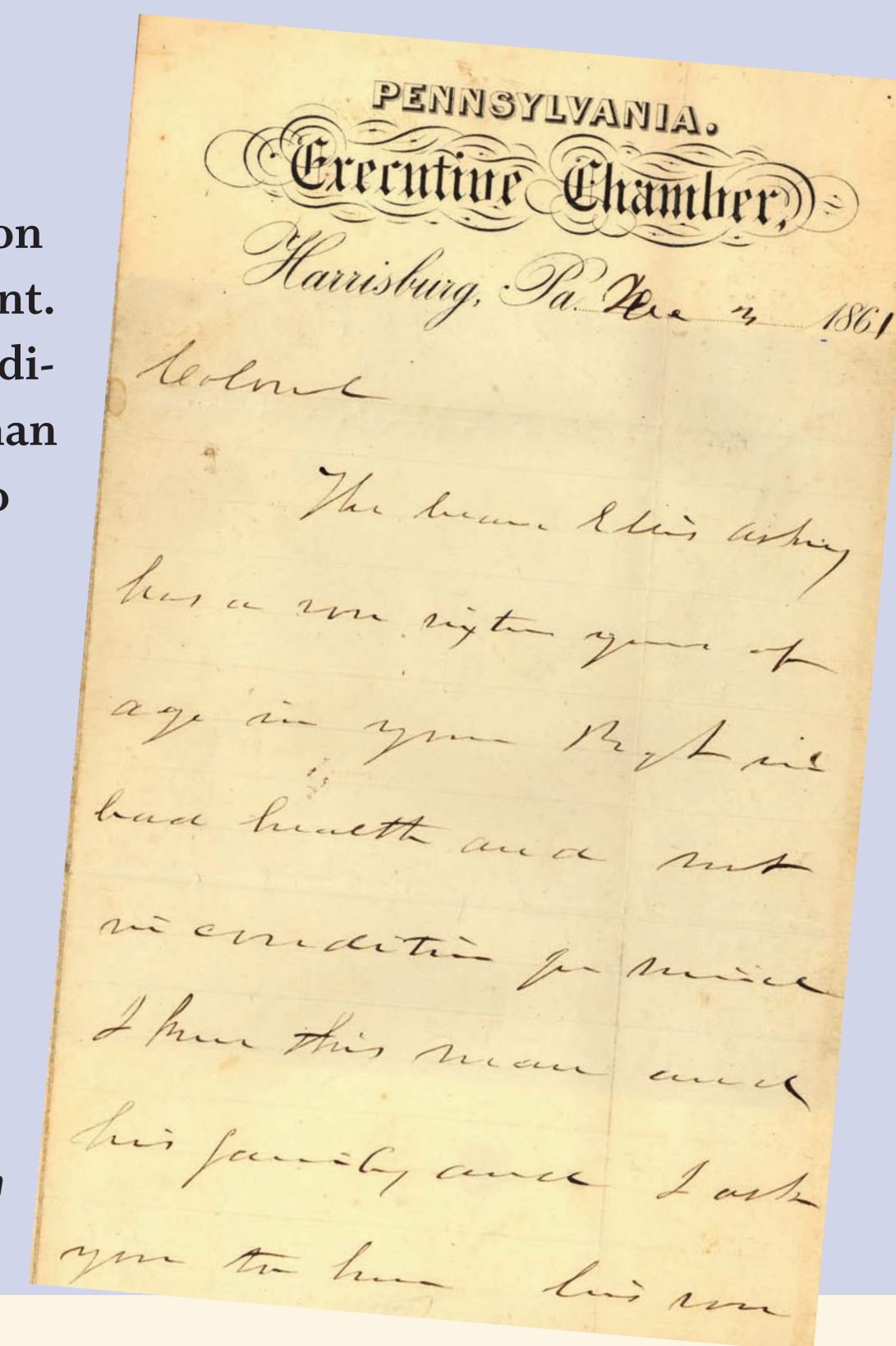
Dear Colonel,

The bearer Ellis Askey has a son 16 years of age in your regiment. He is in bad heath and no condition for service. I know this man and his family and I ask you to have his son discharged.

The boy ran off and is too young to serve in the army. Do interest yourself and — his discharge.

Yours truly
A.G. Curtin
Col. Charles T. Campbell

Letter written by Andrew Gregg Curtin
(Collections of the Centre County Historical Society)



On September 22, 1862 Abraham Lincoln issued a Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation that would free slaves living in any state, including Confederate states. Generally, Curtin’s Northern political contemporaries supported the preservation of the Union, but they had varying opinions on emancipation. At the invitation of Curtin, fourteen pro-Union governors arrived at the Logan House in Altoona, Pennsylvania on

The Logan House, Altoona, c.1880s
(Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania [PHMC])



September 24th, 1862 to create “more active support for the government” and discuss this issue (among others) at length. Two days later a document was personally presented to the President affirming the loyalty of most of those who attended the conference. Considered by some historians to be a critical event, no official documentation took place during the meeting, perhaps contributing to its quiet presence in the history of the Civil War.

“We hail with heartfelt gratitude and encouraged hope the proclamation of the President, issued on the twenty-second instant, declaring emancipated from their bondage all persons held to service or labor as slaves in the rebel States, whose rebellion shall last until the first day of January next ensuing.”

—Address of the Loyal Governors,
September 26, 1862

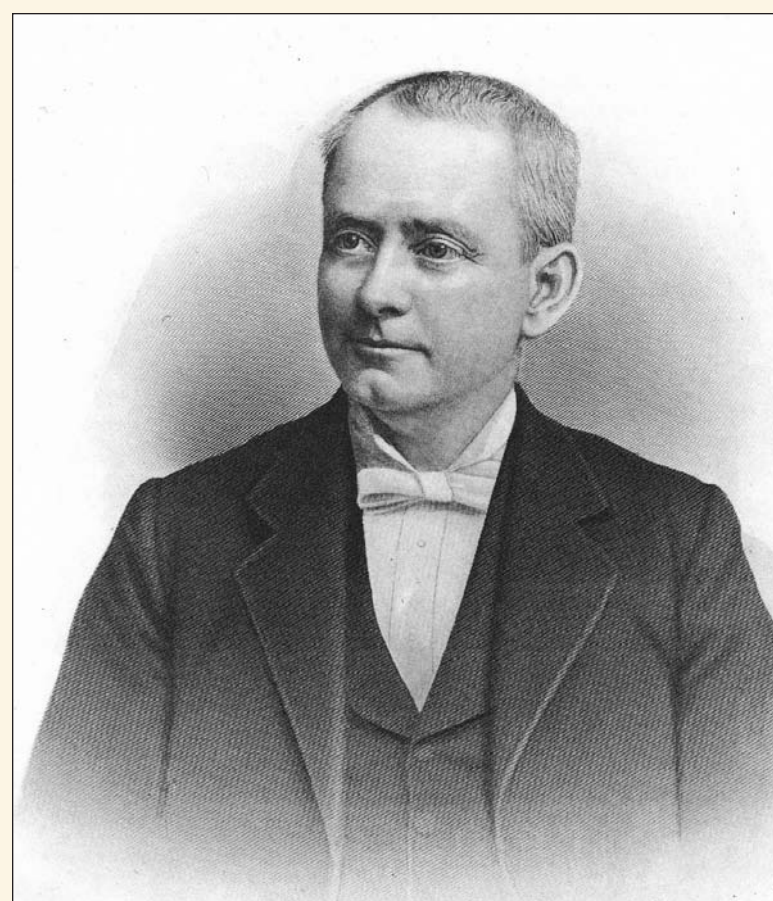
War Politics in Centre County

Four days after the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation was released in September of 1862, Peter Gray Meek, editor and part owner of the *Democratic Watchman* wrote “He [Lincoln] has shown his real character at last. The cloven foot now sticks out boldly from beneath the hypocritical gown which so long hid it from the public, and there can no longer be any doubt as to the real sentiments of our old Tycoon.”

Democrats during the Civil War generally fell into two categories: War Democrats who supported the Union cause and Peace Democrats, otherwise known as Copperheads, who advocated compromise and conciliation. The most notorious

“Abolitionism is the sole cause of secession and the present inhuman civil war, waged to turn loose upon the country 3,000,000 negro servants which are the property of the South, their title to which is as good and Constitutional, as ours to our horses, etc.”

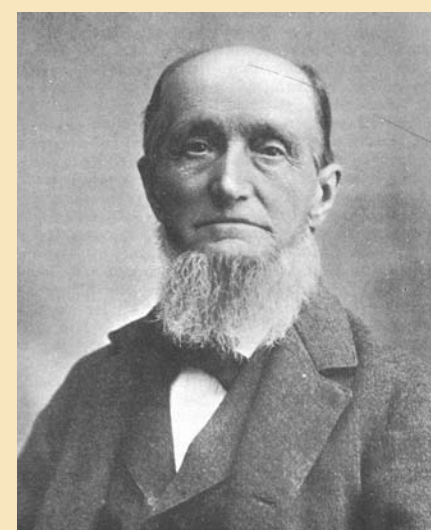
—*The Democratic Watchman*,
March 27, 1863



Peter Gray Meek (1842-1919)

Centre County Copperhead was undoubtedly Peter Gray Meek who purchased an interest in the Bellefonte weekly in July, 1862 at the age of 19. He had a reputation for being “radically Democratic” and was consumed with the protection of Constitutional rights, which he claimed were being systematically eroded by the Lincoln administration. Though never convicted, Meek was arrested five times during the War for printing treasonous remarks and discouraging enlistments. He was an outspoken anti-abolitionist and believed that emancipation was the sole reason for war, not the restoration of the Union as claimed by the federal government.

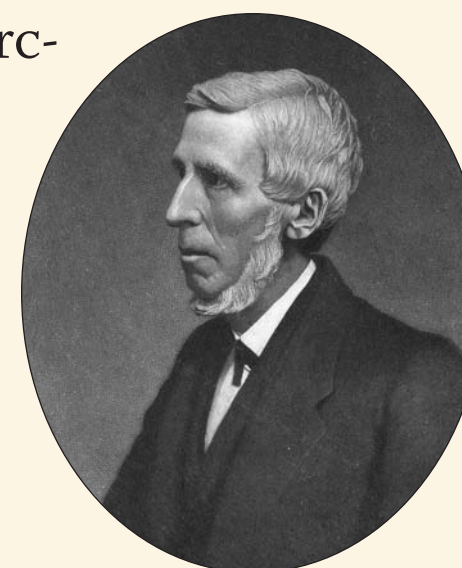
His vicious editorials enraged his pro-Union neighbors which helped to further divide a county that was struggling to meet the 1862 call for 500,000 more volunteers. If Centre County was to fulfill its quota and avoid political embarrassment, the Republicans would have to target the area where early support was the weakest, the Democratic German townships. Bellefonte lawyer Hugh McAllister (along with William Blair and Congressman James T. Hale) sought to create a Centre County Regiment in the fall



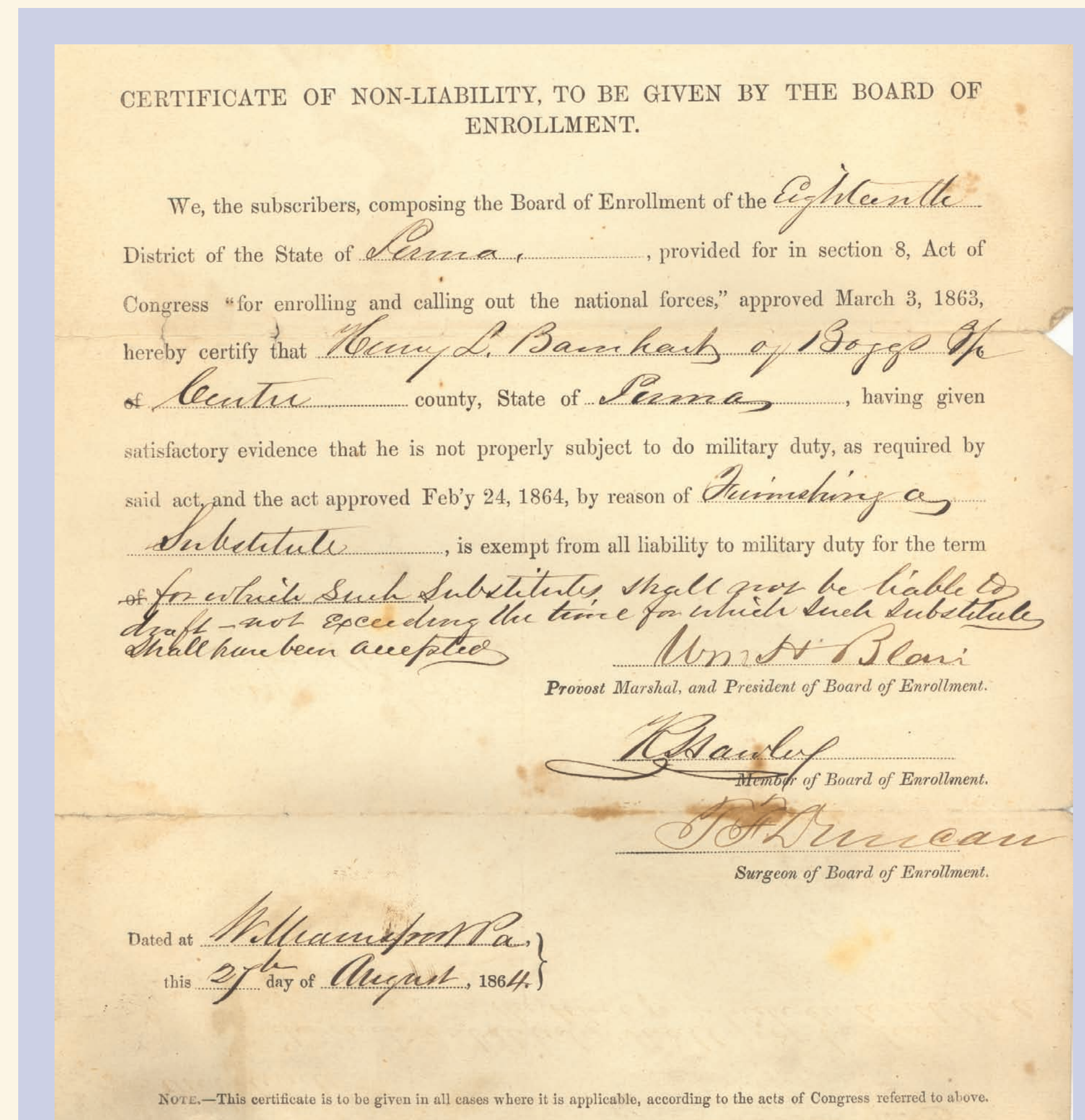
I have never thought of the people of our place to become so awfully spiteful and prejudiced at each other as they are at present. As sure as one thinks or speaks anything favorable of the government in the act of crushing this unholy rebellion, he is hooted at or stigmatized as an Abolitionist—Negro-kisser, etc. by such men who all the while call themselves good Democrats-of-Union men, when at the same time they are with heart and soul assisting the cause of the Rebellion, inasmuch as they are opposing everything the Government needs in order to save our country. It appears to me morally wrong that the rich man can pay \$300 and remain at home in the enjoyment of all comforts, while the poor man can't pay and of course is compelled to go in defense of the rich man's property, in this draft.

—From the diary of Samuel Gramly, a Republican school teacher from Rebersburg,
August 23, 1863

of 1862 by reinforcing a commitment to Lincoln and the Union, establishing an economic incentive, and downplaying the issue of slavery. In the end, the 148th Regiment was in fact not solely a Centre County Regiment as was hoped. Recruiting efforts produced 700 men, which was only enough for 7 companies — 3 short of a full regiment.



Hugh Nelson McAllister
(1809-1873)



At the age of 40, Henry Barnhart of Boggs Township was drafted but sent a substitute to serve in his place. (Collections of the Centre County Historical Society)

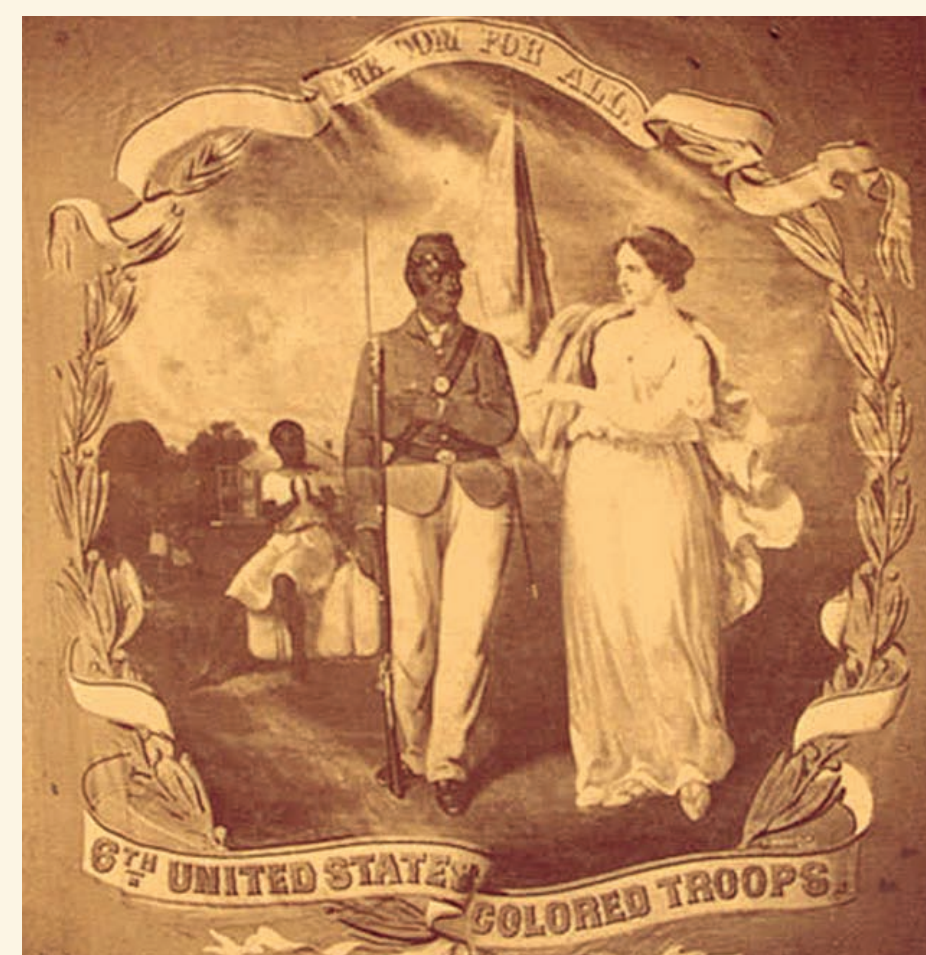
Threatening the unresponsive was the possibility of a draft. On March 3, 1863 the National Conscription Act was passed, which for the first time allowed the Government to require the service of men between the ages of 20–45. Chosen by lottery, they had 10 days to report, send a substitute, or pay

\$300 for exemption. The idea of being drafted carried with it a social stigma that propelled some men to enlist in advance. Some, like Meek, simply paid the \$300 while lamenting that 60 Centre Countians” unable to pay the price of blood” had to risk their lives “on the alter of fanaticism and folly.”

African Americans first entered the Union Army and Navy in 1862. Following the Emancipation Proclamation in January 1, 1863, 163 federal regiments would be created under the newly established Bureau of Colored Troops. Over the course of the remaining years of the War, 179,000 African Americans would serve in the Army and 18,000 in the Navy resulting in 449 engagements and 36,847 casualties.

Many white soldiers and officers thought that the Colored Troops would lack the courage to fight, a belief that was quickly negated by the actions of the troops. Though they faced discrimination, unequal pay, and the prospect of enslavement or death if captured, enrollment in the United States Colored Troops grew and by the end of

Freedom For All, Image from the flag of the 6th US Colored Troops



the War, 1 out of every 8 soldiers was an African American.

General James S. Brisbin of Boalsburg supervised the recruitment of Colored Troops in Kentucky. During his command of the 5th US Colored Cavalry, he witnessed the ridicule of his men by the White Troops and heard the insults that **“they would not fight”** remarks that were **“borne by the Colored Soldiers patiently...”** After the battle against the Salt Works in West Virginia, Brisbin wrote on October 20, 1864 that **“On the return of the forces, those who had scoffed at the Colored Troops on the march out were silent.”**

Pennsylvania’s regiments trained at Camp William Penn outside of Philadelphia. Locally, 15 men joined the 6th Regiment, US Colored troops in 1863, (September 26, 1863–September 20, 1865) with 13 more being drafted that same year and 3 more the following year. The 6th lost a total of 224 men during the War including:

Hartstock Delige of Patton Township who died in Wilmington NC in 1865 at the age of 35

William Derry of Bellefonte who was killed in Petersburg VA in 1864 at the age of 24

Moses Johnston of Bellefonte who drowned in the James River in 1864 at the age of 24

African Americans & Women



On December 8, 1910 an article appeared in the *Centre Democrat* regarding the life and accomplishments of Isaiah Henderson Welch. Born in Maryland in 1845, he was brought to Bellefonte in infancy by his parents. As a boy he worked for Governor Andrew Gregg Curtin but when his father moved onto the farm of Hugh McAllister, Isaiah joined him and learned all that he could about farming. His desire for education led him to Willberforce University in Ohio in 1861, but he joined the 54th Massachusetts in 1863 (he was then transferred to the 55th) and served two years and five months in the Army. At the time the article appeared he was the Reverend of a large congregation in Chattanooga, Tennessee, but he visited Bellefonte and sent donations for the AME church there, which had recently been destroyed.

ABOVE: Rev. Isaiah Henderson Welch
Used with Permission of Documenting the American South,
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Libraries

I have worked night and Day and ceep mi children together and I have touck sick and am on able to do enething.

— Esther Jane Chapman of Clearfield Co.
to Andrew Gregg Curtin in April 1865

The Civil War affected women differently according to social, economic, family, and geographical conditions. For some middle class women who took jobs, the absence of a male work force provided a situation that some historians recognize as the “beginning of the end of domesticity.” Their new-found skills and experiences led some to post-war careers, but for poor people like Esther Jane Chapman of Clearfield County, it was not an opportunity for equality; it was a situation that took her husband away from the farm, leaving her alone with her children and few options. In her letter to Curtin, Chapman asked for badly needed financial assistance. It was denied.

In some close knit communities, neighbors assisted the women and children left behind and helped them to survive during the absence of their husbands and hired work-

ers. In the exchange of letters, some men dictated to their wives how to handle situations, what to pay, and when to pay it. For most

women on small farms in rural areas, this was not their first time in the field. But it may have been their first time managing their affairs alone, all while caring for their children and maintaining the family.

When the circumstances permitted, women were allowed to visit their husbands while in the Army. John Miller repeatedly writes to his wife about her impending visit, and though she was hesitant to go, he remained fixed on it.

I hope to have some fine times when you come down. Just stay at the station till I come over. Perhaps I can get a cheaper place yet.

I will try. I know that Millheim women had to pay 2 Dollars a week at the stationhouse, with the exception of Otto’s wife and she had no child. Try and get ready as soon as possible and come.

— John A. Miller, November 27, 1862,
to his wife Mary from Luthersville

For other women, such as the mother and sister of John McKivison, the promise of a bounty and ability to tap into the county relief fund provided a financial incentive for the unambitious John to join the Army. On September 21, 1862 Sallie McKivison wrote to her brother, **“I am glad that your pleased with Solgier life; it will please you for you never liked to work well.**

John, a member of Company C in the 148th Regiment died of Typhoid Fever on March 17, 1863.



Our Heroines, Thomas Nast for Harper’s Weekly, 1864

This image depicts women in a variety of situations in which they cared for, comforted, and supported soldiers.

Soldiers' Letters

ALL I WISH IS TO BRING BACK MY LIFE IF IT LASTS THREE YEARS.

— John A. Miller Company A, 148th Regiment, March 5, 1863 written to his wife Mary, Army of the Potomac

Camp in the field, VA August 8, 1864

Dear Wife,

I received your most welcome letter of July 31st and perused it with a feeling of the greatest of pleasure. From the fact that it is the written thoughts of Elizabeth, the wife of my life and the mother of my children. And though it has been a long time since we have met yet is thine image fresh upon the tablet of my heart, in the association of other days when we were enjoying each others society together in the dear old home surrounded by our children, the dearest object to a parent on earth. And though you and I, Elizabeth are separated for a time by many miles of trackless forests wide and extended plains and mighty streams of water, yet can and doth our hearts unite and hold sweet communication, and I trust through the mercy of God that it will not be very long until we will be permitted to meet once more in the flesh, when all our sorrows will have passed away and with our little family circle we shall enjoy indescribable happiness on earth, until God in his wisdom sees fit to take us to himself when we shall be joined to part no more, for sorrow and parting will be no more in the Heavenly Father's Kingdom.

But now I must tell you how I am getting along. I am well and in very good spirits. I am now in the Company again which at present is encamped with the regiment on the reserve in front of Petersburg. The weather is exceedingly hot and a man could not stand it to do much duty at present. Our company are in pretty good health, that is what is of us. There are not many of the old boys left who are with the company, probably 6 or 8. While I write the atmosphere has become clouded over, and we can hear the rumbling of thunder in the distance. I hope we may have a shower to settle the dust and make things more pleasant.

But you wrote me that John has left Rishels, and I feel very sorry about it for I thought that had he stayed and learned his trade that when I returned that him and I could carry on a shop together. Tell

John that it is his father's wish and only for the good of his son that he should go back to Rishels and finish his trade as that is the only way to become a man. Remember John the old axiom that a rolling stone gathers no moss, and if a young man travels too much from place to place he can never come to much nor ever become wealthy. Remember John, you are a young and just starting out in the world and habits contracted will remain with you throughout life. But I must close for this time by sending my love to you and inquiring friends.

Your affectionate husband

Abram Hull

PS. I here enclose you \$40 and will send you some more as soon as I find that this gets home safe. N.B. write soon and let me know whether you got the money.

Abraham Hull was a blacksmith from Aaronsburg who joined the 148th at the age of 42. He was killed by a sharpshooter at Reams Station, Virginia on August 25, 1864 just 17 days after writing this letter.

FAR LEFT: Abraham Hull (1820-1864)
Collections of the Centre County Historical Society

LEFT: Elizabeth Hull (1827-1893)
Collections of the Centre County Historical Society

INSET RIGHT: George Dare (died 1864)
Anonymous Collection



Like Hull, other local soldiers' letters are filled with detailed descriptions of their experiences in the Army. This panel contains heartfelt, affecting, and important excerpts from their original letters which are invaluable resources for understanding their individual situations and psyches.

Note: Images of the letters referred to in this panel, along with their full transcriptions, are on display nearby.

There was a great many black troops lay on our left. Some regiments of them left lately. It is rumored in camp that they joined Butler. For my part I am perfectly satisfied if he takes them all for they can't face a white man and fight him.

— Shu Lyons, Company I, 51st Regiment
November 22, 1864 to Bellefonte merchant,
John H. Barnhart, from Petersburg, Virginia

One of our fellows deserted to the rebels and our men shot him before he got over...

— William F. Diehl, Company D, 51st Infantry
March 21, 1865 to his cousin from Petersburg,
Virginia. Diehl was related to the
Abraham Hull family.

I still think that if I would not have come to the Army that brother Tasker would not of come. Instead of staying at home as you wanted me to, I came and bring that grief on my parents and brothers and sisters. John, I could often sit down and weep over it.

— B.F. Koch Company D, 148th Regiment
January 15, 1863 to brother John from
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Jacob and Mary Ann Koch had 11 sons, 6 of whom fought in the Civil War. B.F., Tasker, and Jacob

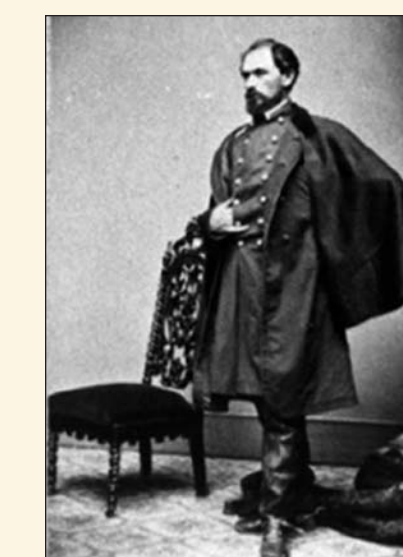
were in Company D, 148th Regiment and only Jacob survived. Tasker died of Typhoid Fever in 1863 at the age of 26, and B.F. was killed in battle in Chancellorsville, Virginia that same year at the age of 23.

I am very glad to hear that you and Sergie are both so well — Oh but I would like to see you both. I think I can never forget his anxious appearance when playing peep with me when I last seen him. I hope you will not let him forget me.

— George Dare, 5th Reserve Regiment
October 20, 1861 to his wife from
Prospect Hill, Virginia

The reflections that a most dastardly set of demagogues are by every device in their power, endeavoring to break up and ruin this great country, or Government with all of its noble association of the past, and where so many millions never before lived so comfortable or happy or so free — and who are endeavoring to destroy every interest of the people and defy our manhood — is something more than can or will be.

— George Dare, 5th Reserve Regiment
May 22, 1862 to his wife from Falmouth, Virginia



Lieutenant-Colonel George Dare of the 34th Infantry, 5th Reserve Regiment discusses his actions in the army in detail writing about his position, the accommodations, and mundane things like the type of socks

he prefers. In the battle of the Wilderness on May 6, 1864, Dare was mortally wounded and died later that night. His letters are filled with a longing for his family, affection for his children, and a desire to serve his county.