

ADDENDUM A - 10/18/07

Jeff Holder, a teacher at West York High School for past 7 years, a resident of Dover Township since 1977, lived in Weigelstown until 2002 and now lives on North Main Street in Dover Borough. Has been a Civil War enthusiast since 1984 when he was junior in high school. He became Civil War re-enactor approximately 10 years ago and has been active re-enactor with the 63rd Pennsylvania and 30th Pennsylvania. He learned a lot from visiting museums, battlefields and reading monuments. In the 1990's, he had 3 special collections on display at York College in the Smith Library. This past summer he had opportunity to work with group called Pennsylvania Past Players, which does re-enacting. He was assigned the character of Dr. Harry Palmer of York Military Hospital.

The Civil War as we call it today was not called the Civil War until 1920. They were dedicating a monument in Annapolis, Maryland and they needed a phrase to unify the country which was Civil War. Before that most of the Northerners called it the War of Rebellion since the southern states seceded from the Federal union. Before the war, the growing division between the North and South was evident all over the country. The folks in Dover followed the gossip and issues. This news and the events at Fort Sumter stirred the hearts of local Dover men with ideas of heroism and adventure. Dover men thought of the war as "adventuresome" from reading books. The real war effect on life in Dover was very little. During the war, Dover did not have a main rail connection to the South and we do not have textile mills making cloth from southern cotton. Folks in Philadelphia and New England did not really want the war. But York did have the Northern Central Railroad which took agriculture products (from Dover) to Baltimore for sale. Agriculture product prices and manufacturing would be affected by the war.

Mr. Holder researched the census from 1850. York County did not vote for Lincoln. They supported the Democrat candidate (Breckenridge who was VP under President James Buchanan) and the Democrats voted to keep things just they way they were and hold the Union together by compromise. Breckenridge lost the election and eventually became a general in the Confederate army.

On April 15, 1861, President Lincoln calls for 75,000 volunteers and Pennsylvania was very eager to volunteer. The quota for Pennsylvania was 14,000 men and we exceeded that number with a total of 20,979 volunteers. York sent a total of 30 companies of men, many from Dover, which showed York supported the war.

In 1863 Dover had uninvited guests. The Confederate Division, under the direction of Major General Earl, and the Confederate Cavalry, under the direction of Major General Stewart, came to York. They zigzagged their way from South Mountain on their way to Wrightsville; leaving many exaggerated tales behind and frightened many residents. On June 28, 1863, General Stewart camped in Big Mount and marched into

Weigelstown. On July 1, 1863 after the Battle of Hanover, General Stewart had captured a wagon train filled with provisions, took Union soldiers & prominent citizens prisoners and headed into Dover Borough. They camped out in Dover and released their prisoners in the Dover square when they become too cumbersome. The Confederate soldiers helped themselves to breakfast in resident's homes and the Confederate Cavalry needed fresh horses so they took 387 horses from Dover Township. General Stewart and his men left Dover and headed to Dillsburg, then Carlisle and eventually landed in Gettysburg.

While the men of Dover were at war, the women and children had to take over running the farms and homesteads. The women of prominent families in Dover started groups to support the war and offer comfort aides. Mrs. Charles A. Morris of York started the Ladies Aide Society whose main purpose was to support the hospital. The society's job was to provide comfort items (socks, bandages).

Mr. Holder spoke at the Emancipation Proclamation and how it affected the war in 1863. In the 1864 election, York County supported Lincoln. Dover was a busy place during the war - we had uninvited guests (Confederate soldiers), we had refugees (people fleeing Gettysburg and South Mountain to get to across the Susquehanna River), and people from Carlisle coming down the main road to get to Wrightsville and across the bridge.

There was a short break @ 7:20pm for a brief social and questions for Mr. Holder.