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**The Franklin County Historical Society-Kittochtinny**

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# Civil War Graves



*Self Guided Tour  
Cedar Grove Cemetery  
Chambersburg, PA*

## *The Cedar Grove Cemetery* 130 N. Franklin St, Chambers-

burg, PA, was part of the great "garden cemetery" movement of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Park-like cemetery spaces were established across the country as a response to overcrowded, decaying church graveyards. This is reflected in the green carriage paths, narrow roadways, and ancient trees which can be seen throughout the cemetery.

The first burial here was made in 1854, and Cedar Grove received its official charter from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on Jan 22, 1855. The cemetery spans 21 acres, and the total number of graves is more than 11, 000.

This self-guided tour will familiarize the visitor with some important Civil War era gravesites within the cemetery. The exact number of Civil War veterans' graves here is unknown, but it is estimated to be at least 350. A list compiled by a former caretaker names 250 gravestones bearing the unit designation of a Civil War veteran on the marker.

During the Burning of Chambersburg, July 30, 1864, many townspeople took shelter from the flames within the cemetery and in the fields just beyond it. The map shows the approximate location of the grave of each person below. You may view them in any order you would like, but we suggest you start with the military gravestones of soldiers from the Battle of Antietam. This is in Section C, to the left side soon after you come through the main gate. Then proceed to the Grand Army of the Republic plot at the corner of Franklin and Pleasant Streets. After that, continue to explore individual gravesites.

Please watch your step as the ground is uneven in some places, and please be respectful of the cemetery as you tour this hallowed ground.

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### **1. BATTLE OF ANTIETAM SOLDIERS GRAVES. SECTION C**

This small section within Section C. contains 13 graves marked simply "U.S. Soldier," as well as others with names and units. These men were mostly casualties from the Battle of Antietam, brought to Chambersburg to be cared for in the three hospitals established in the town for that purpose.

### **2. THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC MEMORIAL GRAVES**

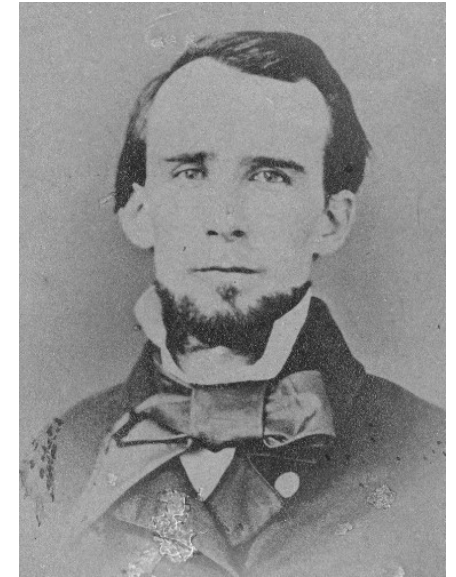
Franklin St section at the top of the hill--look for the flagpole  
These plots were donated by Jasper W. Kline in 1907 as a final resting place and memorial for Union veterans who were members of the veterans' organization, The Grand Army of the Republic. (GAR)

### **20. MARY ELIZABETH DITTMAN GIBBS 1837-1916 SECTION F**

Mrs. Gibbs was one of many local people who took refuge in Cedar Grove Cemetery during the Burning of Chambersburg. She gave birth to her son, William T. Sherman Gibbs in this cemetery on July 31, 1864. She and the baby both survived, and have descendants in the Chambersburg area today.



#17 *Frances "Dolly" Lesher*



#13 *Lt. Col.  
Benjamin Franklin Carter*



#19 *Franklin Keagy*



#16 *Louisa Brand*

**4. MAJOR LUTHER B. KURTZ 1820-1891 SECTION K**

17th PA Cavalry. He was captured and held at Libby Prison for nine months in 1862, fought on the first day at the Battle of Gettysburg, was later wounded at Waynesburg, VA. He was promoted from Captain to Major in Dec 1864 for gallantry. After the war, Kurtz, a brewer and hotel keeper by trade, served as the Franklin County Sheriff from 1884 to 1887.

**5. COLONEL JAMES GETTYS ELDER 1822-1882 SECTION E**

Enlisted first in CO C, 2nd PA Volunteer Infantry, and served with Gen Patterson in the 1861 Shenandoah Campaign. In 1862, he formed and recruited the 126th PA Volunteer Infantry. He was wounded at Fredericksburg in the charge on Marye's Hill and mustered out in May 1863. After the war, he returned to Chambersburg and served as the County Treasurer and helped establish the Franklin County Bank.

**6. THADDEUS MACLAY MAHON 1840-1916 SECTION D**

Co A, 126th PA Volunteer Infantry, 21st PA Cavalry, Wounded at Hatchers Run, VA. Mahon was an attorney and judge and served 7 terms as a US Representative for the 18th Congressional District. He spent many years advocating for war reparations for the district. He was also a leading member of the Housum GAR post.

**7. REV. MARTIN LUTHER GANOE 1843-1917 SECTION L**

Co F, 2nd PA Cavalry. He was wounded by having a horse trample his leg during the Battle of Gettysburg. Per his obituary, he received his religious calling during the battle, and served later as the pastor of the Gettysburg Methodist Church from 1874 to 1876. Poor health led to an early retirement though he volunteered as a pastor in Chambersburg and also served as the Chaplain for the PA State GAR.

**8. ALLAN C. MCGRATH 1835-190 SECTION A**

126TH PA Volunteer Infantry. Wounded at Fredericksburg and honorably discharged. In 1863, McGrath was one of the civilians taken hostage during Lee's occupation of Chambersburg and was held at both Libby Prison and Castle Thunder in South Carolina. He was paroled and returned to Chambersburg in 1865. He was a founding member of the Housum Post GAR. In civilian life, he ran the town water works.

**9. HENRY MCCLOUD 1844-1863 SECTION C**

Co D, 57th PA Infantry. Born in Orange County, NY, he worked in Chambersburg before enlisting. McCloud was wounded at Fredericksburg, and was sent here to recover at the home of Christian Eacker. He died several months later at the age of 19. His gravestone reads: "Erected by the friendly hand of strangers."

**10. ROBERT CUNNINGHAM 1844-1862 SECTION C**

From Clarion County, PA, he enlisted in CO H, 8th PA Reserves. He was wounded at the Battle of Antietam and suffered an amputated limb, then sent to the King St School hospital in Chambersburg where he died of the wound, September 1862.

**11. JOHN W. KIMBLE 1841-1875 SECTION B**

Private, Independent Patapsco Guards, Maryland Infantry (Union) Kimble was present at the burning of the Wrightsville-Columbia Bridge in June of 1863. He was hospitalized during this event and sent to the US military hospital in York, PA. Mustered out with his unit in 1865.

**12. SGT GEORGE W. NOLAN 1843-1865 SECTION B**

Enlisted Co G. n126th PA Volunteers, 1862, aged 18 years  
Re-enlisted Battery C, 2nd PA Heavy Artillery "died in the service of his country at Petersburg, VA."

**CONFEDERATE BURIALS** ~ There are two known Confederate soldiers interred at Cedar Grove 13 & 14

**13. LT COL. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN CARTER 1831-1863 SECTION I**  
4th Texas Infantry. Before the war, Carter had served as Mayor of Austin, Texas. He was wounded at Gettysburg during the charge on Little Round Top and was left behind at a farm in Guilford Township during the Confederate retreat due to the seriousness of his wounds. He died on July 21st at the Chambersburg Academy hospital. Originally interred at the Methodist Church, his body was moved to Cedar Grove when the whole graveyard was relocated here in the 1890s. A gravestone was installed with military ceremony by the Sons of the Confederacy in 2010. The site is marked with a CSA veteran's marker and a small flag.

**14. WILLIAM H. TRUITT (TRUETT) 1836-1920 SECTION N**

\*Note – the stone says Truitt, but the correct spelling is Truett  
From South Carolina, he served in Co C, 8th Florida Infantry. According to family tradition, Truett was left behind in a hospital in Chambersburg during the Gettysburg campaign. He returned here in 1865 and married Anna Maria Rutledge. They soon divorced and he then married Annie Nail. He spent the rest of his life in the area. There is no veteran's marker on this grave.

## NOTABLE CIVIL WAR ERA CIVILIANS

### 15. ELLEN CHENEY MCLELLAN 1822-1904

#### SECTION A

Ellen McLellan was a philanthropist and a prominent woman in Chambersburg society. During the Confederate occupation in 1863, she personally went to see Gen Robert E. Lee to ask for more flour to be left for the poor citizens of the town. She wrote a first-hand account of her interview with Gen. Lee which was published after the war by Jacob Hoke.

### 16. LOUISA BRAND 1836-1878

#### SECTION C

In his accounts of the Burning of Chambersburg, Jacob Hoke tells the story of how Louisa Brand stood guard at the door of her family's home, draped in an American flag and waving a pistol. She saved their home and a hotel next door which was owned by her family from destruction.

Louisa's grave was unmarked until July 2024 when a gravestone was installed by the Franklin County Historical Society.

### 17. FRANCES "DOLLY" HARRIS LESHER 1845-1906

#### SECTION L

As a girl, Dolly Harris lived in Greencastle. When General Pickett's Division marched through on the way to Gettysburg in late June 1863, Dolly defiantly waved a US Flag at the troops passing by. It is said that Gen. Lewis Armistead raised his hat in salute to her. She later married a Union veteran and moved to Chambersburg. When she died, she was given a full military funeral by the Housum GAR post. Her grave was unmarked until 2019 when an obelisk was installed through the efforts of the Allison-Antrim Historical Society.

### 18. JACOB HOKE 1828-1893

#### SECTION F

Hoke was a local merchant and a publisher who ran the printing facility of the Methodist Church here. His shop, his house, and the Methodist publishing house were destroyed in the Burning of Chambersburg. After the war, he wrote two books, "The Great Invasion of 1863, or, General Lee in Pennsylvania," and "Reminiscences of the War" in which he collected up firsthand accounts of the war years in Franklin County. Hoke's work is invaluable to historians and is widely quoted in Civil War studies.

### 19. FRANKLIN KEAGY 1837-1910

#### SECTION H

Frank Keagy was a prominent local architect. In 1859, he was living at Mary Ritner's boarding house while John Brown made it his Chambersburg headquarters and was involved with helping some of Brown's people escape after the failed raid at Harper's Ferry.

There is one large stone commemorating a group of nine persons, and the graves of twelve other GAR veterans and two of their wives are in the northwest part of the area. For many years, the town's celebrations for Decoration Day (now known as Memorial Day) were held at this site.

The most prominent GAR organization in the area was the Col. Peter B. Housum Post #309. The next site on the tour is the memorial to Col Housum.

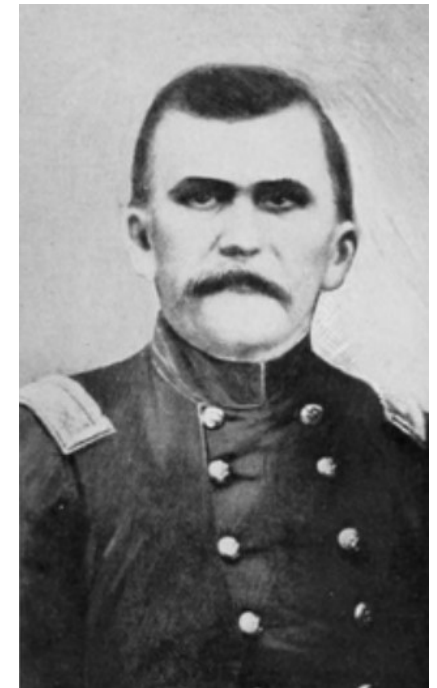
### 3. COLONEL PETER B. HOUSUM ~ 1823-1862

#### SECTION A

The inscription on the large, ornate marble stone reads as follows:

Peter B. Housum, Col, 77th PA Volunteers. Erected by the non-commissioned officers and privates of the 77th Reg't PA Vols. To the Memory of their brave and beloved commander Col. Peter B. Housum, who fell mortally wounded at the Battle of Stone River, Dec 31, 1862, aged 39 years. Shiloh, April 7, 1862, Clayville, Frankfort, Salt River, Lavergne. Stone River Dec 31, 1862.

*#5 Colonel James Gettys Elder*



*#3 Colonel Peter B. Housum*