



The Regimental Bulletin

Phil Kearny Civil War Round Table of Northern New Jersey

*** NEXT MEETING ***

Wed, Feb 15th @ - 7PM - Online Zoom Presentation

See Details Below to Join In

Antietam - The Cornfield **Speaker: Kevin Pawlak**

Volume 19 Issue 2

Feb 15th, 2023

Hasbrouck Heights
Municipal Building
320 Boulevard
Hasbrouck Heights, NJ

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The severest fighting on America's bloodiest day, September 17, 1862, centered on a 24-acre field of corn owned by Sharpsburg, Maryland's, Miller family. For four hours that morning, battle raged in and around the Cornfield, and close to 13,000 soldiers became casualties in that fighting alone. The fighting north of Sharpsburg decided the outcome of the Battle of Antietam. This talk will examine the commanders and soldiers who struggled in Miller's Cornfield, and explain this fight's significance to the Battle of Antietam.

Kevin Pawlak is a Historic Site Manager for Prince William County's Office of Historic Preservation. He also serves as a certified battlefield guide at Antietam National Battlefield and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Kevin is a regular contributor to the Emerging Civil War blog, and is the author of four books on the American Civil War, with two more due out shortly.



Kevin Pawlak



Men from Brig. Gen. John Gibbon's hard-fighting Iron Brigade emerge from Miller's Cornfield into a hailstorm of Confederate bullets in the morning hours of September 17, 1862, at Antietam. Painting by Keith Rocco.

You must register with this new link before the meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZAoc-CvqToqHNIbtG5CQv7Nd3MP48BWcidR>

Rabbit Holes in Research and Civil War Collecting

Jim Madden

Recently, a fellow civil war collector reached out knowing my interest in New Jersey Civil War items, especially Hudson County. He offered a Civil War CDV (carte de visite) of Dr. William Joseph Dodd (*B: 1828, D: Oct. 20, 1909*). This photo had many Jersey City connections starting not only with the subject pictured but also the photographers backmark of Theodore Gubelman's photography studio.

The Jersey City connection grabbed my interest knowing the photographer Gubelman operated out this 54 Montgomery Street in Jersey City only for brief time from 1864 to 1865. This backmark helped set the photo's timeframe as when it was taken which is between those dates.



Surgeon William J. Dodd

Gubelman was a German immigrant who first lived in New York City then moved to Tennessee before the Civil War. He had been an apprentice for a local photographer learning the art of early photography. The War brought him bigger opportunities, especially with over 10,000 Union troops encamped in the Memphis area. The 22 year old started his own traveling photo studio taking photos of soldiers. Tennessee was still a hot bed of conflict during this period so he decided to traveled back East, to eventually join the 13th New York National Guard in May 1863 for only a brief of three months. He set up his studio afterward in the Paulus Hook section of Jersey City.

I did not know much about the subject in this CDV, Dr Dodd, but he likely would have a connection to Jersey City having shown up in uniform at Gubelman's studio to "get his picture struck". These two men were also neighbors.

William was the son of Colonel Joseph Dodd [*B: 1790, D: 1874*], a well-known resident who had been a United State Postal messenger transporting the US mail across the Hudson River by rowing a small skiff long before the Civil War. Joseph had become a wealthy citizen owning many large plots of land in Jersey City.

Dr. Dodd graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the graduate medical school of Columbia University, Manhattan and was attached for several years to Bellevue Hospital. William graduated from Bellevue Hospital Medical College, Manhattan as well.

Through more research, Dr William J. Dodd was a Jersey City native and served as an US Army surgeon aboard the hospital steamer "*Benjamin Deford*," that carried the sick soldiers from the south to the north. The "Ben Deford" also played a key role off the coast during the Carolina Campaigns and at one point served as the flagship for General Ben Butler.

PKCWRT 2023 Schedule

PKCWRT will remain online
Zoom Meetings until further notice

2023

Wed. Feb 15 - 7pm

Kevin Pawlak

"Antietam - The Cornfield"

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?secret=506web&meetingRef=register/tZAoc-CvqToqHNlbtG5CQv7Nd3MP48BWcidR>

Wed. March 15 - 7pm

Steven Knowlton

"13 Months in Dixie"

https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?secret=506web&meetingRef=register/tZwvdO2upzk-rGtBcwc8kQ3_NL1U_hp_a1Zrv

Wed. April 19 - 7pm

Jim Rosebrock

"South Mountain"

https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?secret=506web&meetingRef=register/tZwvdu2srT4u-HtZmv_TxK6YjbBW3VZynnvsjS

Wed. May 17 - 7pm

Bob Lineman

TBD

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?secret=506web&meetingRef=register/tZMrdeGsrzls-GdxZ-WqgBKRZ43yVJDcqGGm1>

Wed. June 21 - 7pm

Joe Truglio

"Chivington - Part 2"

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?secret=506web&meetingRef=register/tZEtf-rrDkqG9SFlopKizklwp1PJPQHypVK>

Summer Break

July & Aug

For updates and changes please visit
PhilKearnyCWRT.org

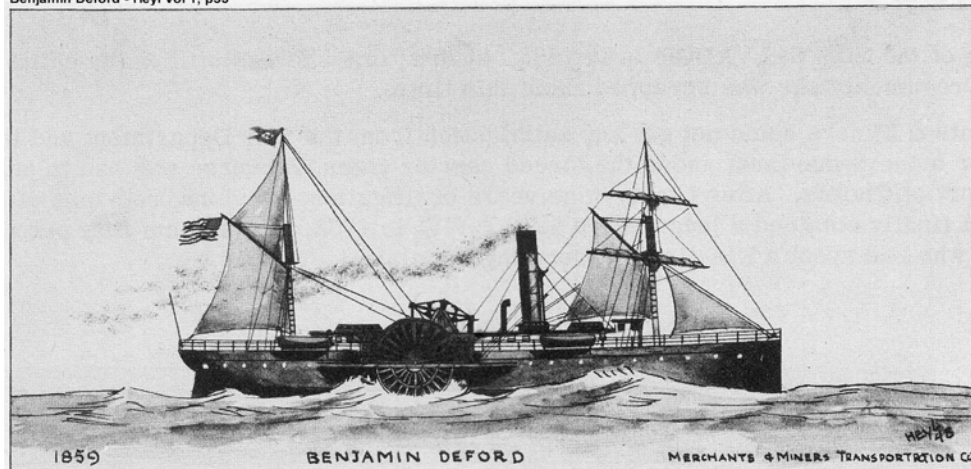
After the war, Dodd returned to private medical practice in Jersey City. He accumulated more wealth and properties retiring from medicine to run the "Dodd Estate" of buildings in the Paulus Hook section of the City, near the Hudson River. Dodd never married and became an eccentric old man living at 101 Grand Street for more than 50 years.

Based on several period newspaper articles, his behavior became more peculiar later in life. Dodd did not get along with many his neighbors and appears to have become the local neighborhood old crank. In one incident, his neighbors complained that he rented some of his shotty buildings to African Americans upsetting many who lived nearby. These building Dodd owned were more like cheap poorly maintained tenement flats with Dodd as the "Slum Lord", not putting money back into his properties while reaping the rents.

In another episode of neighborly love, which the newspaper headline called "An Escapade", Dr Dodd was doing an inspection of one of his many properties but became upset with some people who congregated outside the property. He went inside, opened the first-floor window and threw a pail of water down onto the annoying citizens.

He then proceeded to the roof where bricks began to rain down on the grating people.

Benjamin Deford - Heyl Vol 1, p53



Police were called, and after a standoff and forced entry, Dodd was taken into custody and fined \$20.

Upon his death in 1909, he left a strange request in his will to be followed: "I direct that after my death and before any funeral that the radial artery in my body shall be cut by a surgeon, and for this service I direct my executors to pay to the surgeon performing such service the sum of \$30."

Obviously, Dodd was worried about

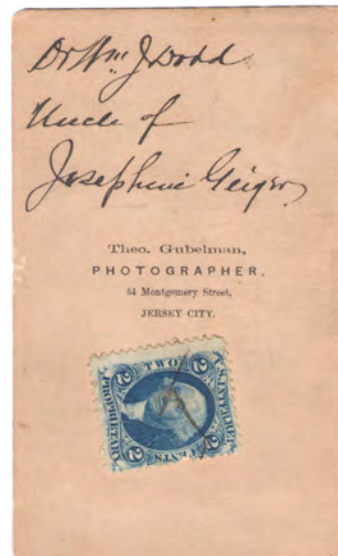
being buried alive. He must have been a reader of Edgar Allen Poe novels or witnessed some premature mistaken deaths during his day as a medical practitioner. The fear of being buried alive was a real fear for some during the Victorian era.

Dr. William Joseph Dodd's obituary, published on October 21, 1909 issue in the Asbury Park Press, reads as follows:

"Dr. Wm. J. Dodd Dead, Brother of Miss Carolyn Dodd of This City [Asbury Park] Passes Away at Jersey City. Dr. William Joseph Dodd died yesterday at his home, 101 Grand Street, Jersey City, after a lingering illness. He was 80 years old. He owned considerable real estate there and is said to have left a large fortune."



His estate was valued at \$200,000 at the time of his death, which is over \$7 million dollars in 2023 worth. Dodd died a bachelor leaving a fortune to his surviving sisters and nieces. He also left a portion of his wealth to several NY Charities to children and animals. All of the Dodd Estate was eventually purchased by Colgate Company and included in with other surrounding properties to expand their Jersey City Corporate headquarters and production facility campus in Paulus Hook. Dodd is buried in his family plot in Bloomfield Cemetery, Bloomfield, NJ



The Theodore Gubelman Backmark



THE LATE COL. JOSEPH DODD CARRYING HIS OWN MAIL ACROSS THE HUDSON FROM NEW YORK TO PAULUS HOOK (NOW JERSEY CITY).



Phil Kearny Civil War Round Table

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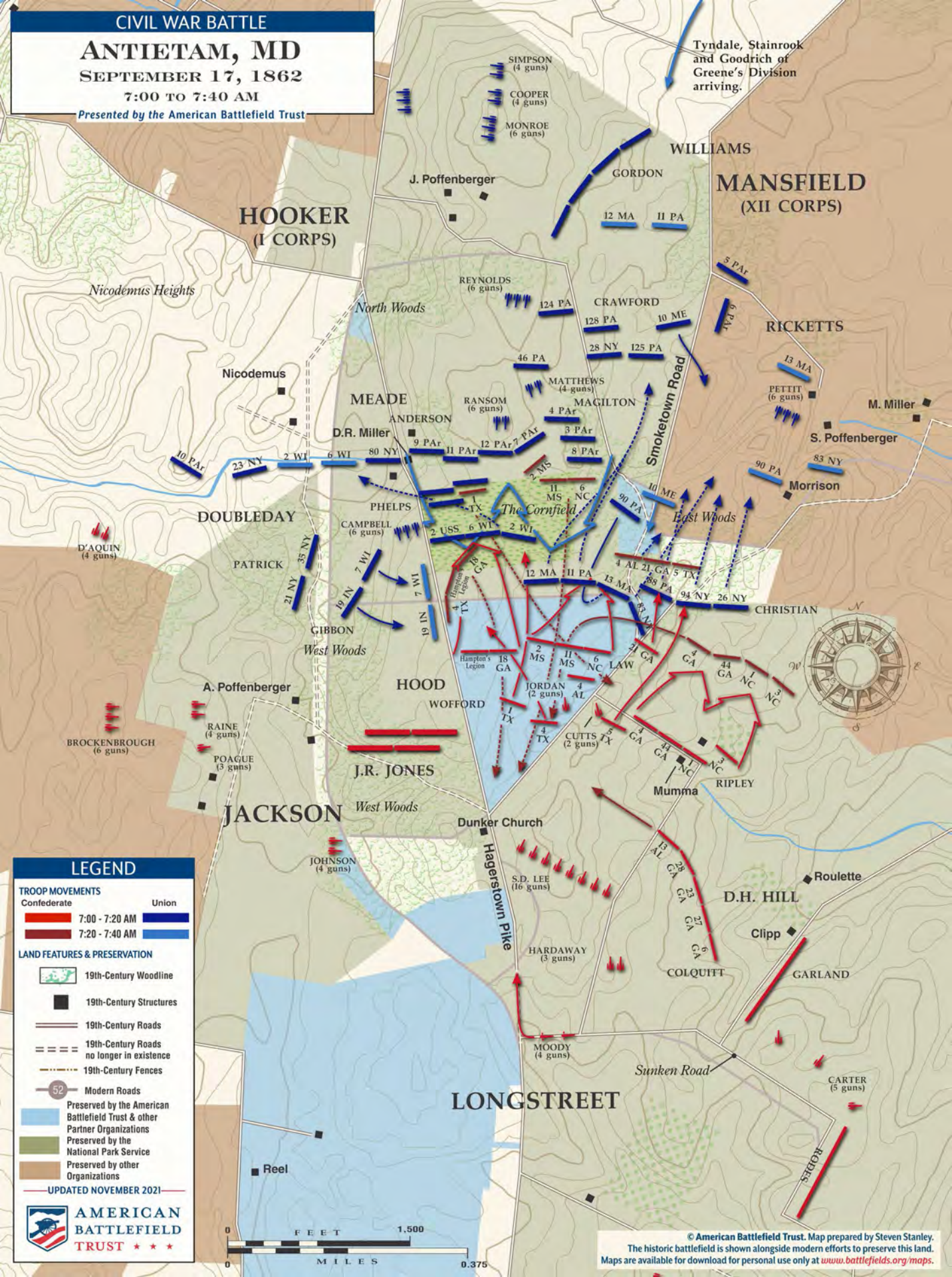
CIVIL WAR BATTLE

ANTIETAM, MD

SEPTEMBER 17, 1862

7:00 TO 7:40 AM

Presented by the American Battlefield Trust



CIVIL WAR BATTLE

ANTIETAM, MD

SEPTEMBER 17, 1862

8:00 TO 8:30 AM

Presented by the American Battlefield Trust

