

## October 28, 2017 Trip to Neill (Lost) Ave in Gettysburg

The first field trip of the year (2017-2018 Campaign) took us to Neill (Lost) Ave. in Gettysburg. The tour started in the parking lot on the Baltimore Pike with Dean Shultz, property owner and personal guide, using a large map to explain the battle in general and handing out personal maps of the property. As we left the parking lot and crossed Baltimore St., Dean pointed out some building and their significance like the saw mill, and the house used as a hospital with a small field adjacent to it, used temporarily as a grave yard. At the end of the field is a dried up well that soldiers used. That brought us to Dean's house which was a log cabin built about 1760, and owned by Peter Baker in 1863. The house has blood stains on the upstairs floor, a marker on the front of the house designating it a "Manor of Maske" and a bench on the porch that Dean said many soldiers sat on. We then moved to his barn which he explained the siding boards were not original because the boards were removed to be used as coffins.

Dean had been educating us for twenty minutes just to get to the point where I thought the tour would start. Sometimes we would walk about 50 to 100 feet and he would stop and explain about cattle grazing in a wooded area, or where soldiers had temporarily been buried, or demonstrate dowsing or how the wind mill's purpose was power to move water uphill to water crops.

Now we were approaching Neill Ave. which is considered "pristine" because it's appearance is like it was in 1863, not paved like all other avenues in Gettysburg and the original wall that the two adversaries fought over. The main reason for this, it's on private property. He explained how Gen. Neill sent the 7th ME and the 43d NY to the stone wall at the crest of the hill to move the 2nd Va. away from the stone wall to protect the Baltimore Pike. Gen. Neill then went to get the 49th NY and 61st PA and put each on it's flanks. Neill's other unit, the 77th NY was guarding Powers Hill. Dean talked about the 4 monuments to the union units of Neill's Brigade. The last monument on the hill was the 61st Pa and the last unit in line in the Army of the Potomac. Just past the 61st monument is the marker stating The Extreme Right Flank of the Army of the Potomac. There is no marker for the left flank of the Army of the Potomac. One thing missing is a monument to the 2nd Va. but a small confederate flag placed in the rock wall is it's only memento.

From there we made our way through the woods and fields, all the while Dean was explaining who owned what and how each property changed hands up to today's ownership including private or GNMP. Dean told a story how someone decided to build a house on John Taney's site (which is where we were) but was persuaded to sell to the Civil War Trust. The John Taney house foundation is only remaining rock rubble but Dean has a great picture of the house with a woman at the wooden fence and I thought it a beautiful stone structure. He also had a story about a more recent sub-contractor who covered the hand dug well with a less than admirable solution.

Now the path, covered with loose rocks and leaves, takes us downhill toward Rock Creek. We stopped at another hand dug well not covered, so we could see what a hand dug well looked like. It was next to the foundation of the Zephaniah Taney farm house foundation. The picture Dean has is another stone house but this one is in plain sight of Spangler Spring Meadow, if today's trees were removed. So the significance of this house (being of stone), is a sniper nest. Confederates used this building to snipe the

13th NJ and the 27th IN of Colgrove's Brigade, 1st Div., 12th Core across Rock Creek in McAllister's Woods and the lower meadow. Since crossing Rock Creek and flushing out the confederate snipers was not an option, the union brought in a Parrott gun. After a few shots the gun hit the house which drove out the snipers but returned later. This part of the tour was vitally important to me because it's a possibility this is where John Wesley Culp died. One story states he was buried in it's basement , though later moved to the family cemetery in an unmarked grave.

From here we moved toward Rock Creek where Dean pointed out that the water level today is a small comparison to it's former self. As we moved downstream we saw the place where McAllister's dam was washed away, rebuilt, washed away again and not rebuilt. The obvious reason for the water level being lower than 1863. Since I had never seen the McAllister's Mill site , I had to jump across a few rocks to cross Rock Creek to get a look. Even though a hole in the ground and a few huge boulders is not a lot to look at, I felt like I had accomplished something just being at the site. Dean also explained how the creek route changed so the island is not as large as it once was. It was here he showed us drill marks in the boulders where the footbridge crossing the creek was attached.

Downstream we passed an area where Dean pointed out where confederate relics were found behind possible fortifications. He took a moment to mention Wind Cave which is a group of very large boulders with an even larger boulder on top causing a cave that the wind blew through giving it the obvious name. A study dated it to about 8,000 years ago but a foreign group bought it, harvested what they could from the boulders and since they couldn't be stopped, it no longer exists. That's an example why "The Trust" needs our support.

After 5 plus hours, we were all exhausted but amazed at the tour we just observed. From here we made our way back to the barn, and thanked Dean profusely for his time, knowledge and talent and gave him the donation we mustered up. He decided to give it to the Land Conservancy of Adams County of which he is the founder. After we crossed Baltimore St. to the parking lot, I showed him the picture of Wesley Culp's rifle stock in the Harry Pfanz book "Culp's Hill & Cemetery Hill". When I told him it was not at GNMP, he was very curious as to what happened to it.

Wayne Schaeffer