

Colonel Henry Zinn of the 130th Pennsylvania Volunteers



Colonel Henry I. Zinn of York and Cumberland Counties was born in Dover, York County, on December 11, 1834. Zinn enlisted in the 7th Pennsylvania Reserves (36th Pennsylvania Infantry), Company H, as a 1st Lieutenant. On June 28, 1861, Zinn was promoted to company Captain. He resigned from the 7th PA Reserves while at Camp Pierpont near Langley, Virginia, due to a disagreement with the colonel of his regiment. Zinn returned home to Cumberland County where on August 16, 1862, he joined the 130th Pennsylvania, Company F - a day later, he became the Regiment's Colonel!

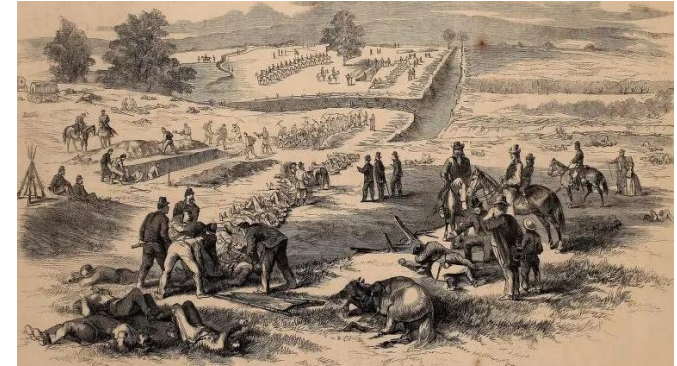
Zinn's leadership qualities allowed him to rise above four other family members: John B. Zinn, Captain of the 130th PA, Company F; William E. Zinn, Sergeant of the 130th PA, Company F; Private Thomas R. Zinn of Company F, who was killed serving with Zinn at Antietam on September 17, 1862; and Edward P. Zinn, Sergeant of the 7th PA Reserves, Company H. Zinn led his fledgling regiment into battle at Antietam just a month after its creation!

On December 13, 1862, at the Battle of Fredericksburg, the 130th Pennsylvania as part of Palmer's Brigade, French's division, was ordered to storm a battery on the crest of a hill in front of Fredericksburg at Marye's Heights. They drove the rebels from their rifle pits but were compelled to fall back. At this point, the color bearer fell; Colonel Zinn took up the colors, thrust them into the ground, saying to his men, "stay here till those colors leave." As the brigade was without orders, all the regiments fell back, except the 130th; Colonel Zinn ordered his men to give the rebels a couple more rounds, which they did. As the 130th prepared to leave the field, Colonel Zinn retrieved the colors and remarked to Captain Porter, of Company A, from Carlisle, "the 130th has won honor for itself today in being the last regiment on the field." As he turned to give a command, he was shot just below the eye and fell with the flag over him. He was taken to the hospital, and in about 20 minutes he breathed his last.

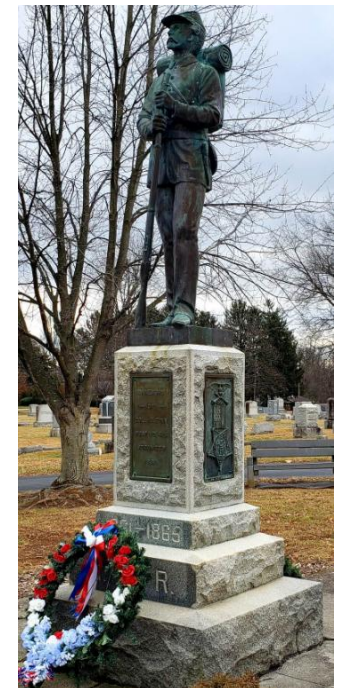
Colonel Henry Zinn was transported in full uniform by his men to Mount Zion Cemetery at Churchtown, PA for burial. This was done in deepest respect for a leader who was very well liked. Later, Zinn Post 415 of the Grand Army of the Republic would erect a monument to Colonel Zinn in the Mechanicsburg Cemetery on Marble Street in Mechanicsburg, PA. A majority of the soldiers of the 130th PA hailed from Cumberland, Dauphin and York Counties.



Colonel Zinn's grave



Zinn and the 130th PA burying the dead at Bloody Lane, Antietam



Post 415 Monument
Mechanicsburg Cemetery

