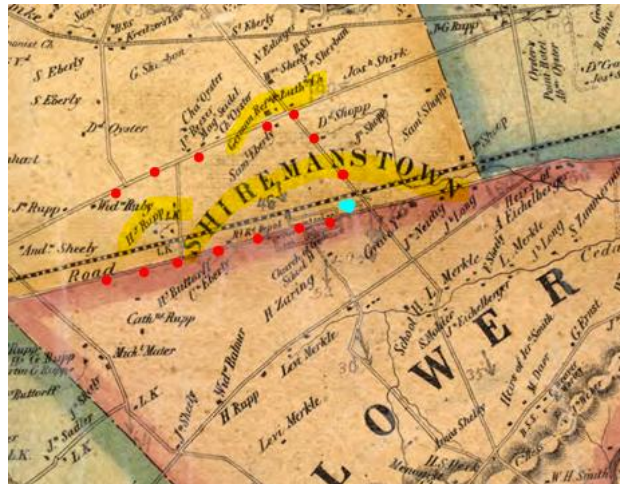


John Stoner of Shiremanstown



Region of the St. Johns Church Road and East Front Streets where John Stoner was killed

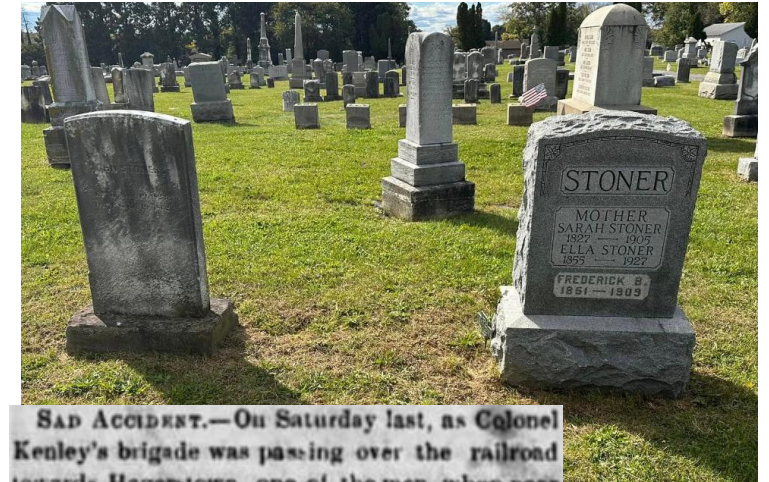


The Harrisburg Area was touched by the Civil War in many ways. The most active period involved the June of 1863 Pennsylvania Invasion where the capital city was threatened by Confederate Lieutenant General Richard Stoddard Ewell's 2nd Corps as they moved up the Cumberland Valley. Ewell replaced Lieutenant General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson after Jackson's mortal wounding at Chancellorsville on May 2nd, 1863. Ewell's arm of cavalry, under the command of Brigadier General Albert Gallatin Jenkins, made huge inroads on Simpson Ferry Road, Trindle Road and the Carlisle Pike, as his cavalry threatened the Cumberland County with the Harrisburg as their target. Fortunately, the move to Harrisburg was called off by Confederate Lieutenant General Robert E. Lee, and Gettysburg became the location where the Union and Confederate Armies would clash on July 1st!

One such tragedy that hit Shiremanstown, Pennsylvania, occurred in mid-September of 1862 after the Battle of Antietam. On Saturday, September 19th, Mr. John Stoner was working in his field along the rail line south of the Peace Church in White Hill (Camp Hill). He went about his business as usual, tending to his tobacco and celery crops. These staples are normally harvested in late summer to early fall. John heard a train approach as he tended to his harvest. Then, out of the blue, a shot rang out. A bullet would hit Mr. Stoner and kill him instantly. This tragedy occurred unbeknownst to the men of the 1st Union Maryland Regiment under Colonel John R. Kenly. His regiment was on its way to Williamsport, Maryland to support the Pennsylvania Militia in the days after the Battle of Antietam.

John Stoner rests in the Peace Church Cemetery next to his wife Sarah. This tragedy would bring the realities of war to the Harrisburg community in a unique way. Stoner is commemorated by the avenue in Shiremanstown that bears his name. The tobacco and celery fields are gone but the evidence of a man lost to the fate of war still lingers for those who seek him out. Stoner would become a casualty nine months before the Confederate approach on Harrisburg.

The Peace Church would become a safe-house for suspected spies used by Jenkins's cavalry in June 1863 when the pounding of horse hooves would shake the ground on which Mr. Stoner would be laid to rest.



SAD ACCIDENT.—On Saturday last, as Colonel Kenley's brigade was passing over the railroad towards Hagerstown, one of the men, when near Shiremanstown, carelessly discharged his musket, and shot Mr. John Stoner, who was at work in his tobacco patch, dead. Another sad case of the careless use of fire-arms.—*Carlisle Democrat*.



The Parrott Gun (range of 2 miles) – four Confederate guns were placed in the vicinity of the Peace Church under the command of Wiley Griffin. These were taken from Milroy at 2nd Winchester and used against the defenses of Harrisburg