

THE BLAUVELT NEWS

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Gettysburg, Pennsylvania Site of the 78th Annual Meeting and Reunion

By James Blauvelt Curren, ABD Member #1616
Reston, Virginia

As I write this, American soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines are engaged in yet another war that will be discussed in chapters of history books in the future. But when we think of the great wars our nation has fought, the Civil War, sometimes referred to by historians as the second American Revolution is always at the forefront filling volumes. Clearly, the Civil War turned the collection of states into “The United States” and established a singular nation. No longer were the Blauvelts just New Yorkers or New Jerseyans but first and foremost Americans. This defining point in our history had many great battles, but Gettysburg fought over the first three days of July, 1863 is often thought of as the turning point.

When George Blauvelt asked me to consider a reunion at Gettysburg I jumped at the chance. I’ve studied the battle for years, making a half-dozen pilgrimages a year for the last decade walking the fields of battle. I thought I knew it all – but I never looked at the work of our Blauvelt forefathers at Gettysburg. Although I am not a direct descendant of any of the men that fought here, many of you are as more than 110 Blauvelts served the Union during the Civil War. Blauvelts served with the initial Union force that secured the July 1 defensive line. They were with the New York 126th (known as the Harper’s Ferry cowards for their surrender and later parole) that repelled the Confederate offensive on July 2. A Blauvelt rode with young General (brevetted) Custer against JEB Stuart’s cavalry on July 3. When the smoke of Pickett’s Charge cleared, Blauvelts held the Union line securing the eventual Union victory. Impressive.

On Friday, we will tour the battlefield. I am arranging with the Gettysburg guides to give special emphasis to those areas that Blauvelts participated. The guides are spectacular in their depth of knowledge and the tour will be a Blauvelt one-of-a-kind. Perhaps we can teach them “*We’re a bunch of Blauvelts!*”

So, it is with great pride and humility that the Blauvelts return to Gettysburg in their greatest numbers since July of 1863. George has worked his magic again to ensure that we will have a weekend of fun, education and kinship. ***Bring your war stories – this will be a reunion to remember!***

This photo shows five men from the 85th New York Infantry, who escaped from a prison in Columbia, South Carolina, over the North Carolina mountains into Union-held Tennessee. They are not Blauvelt Descendants!

Photo from:

Reminiscences of a Prisoner of War and His Escape
by Captain D. A. Langworth.

