

# NOTES

Email from Dennis Bertland, 7/15/14: Researching in Hunterdon Republican index, I came across this notice, which I thought you might find interesting:

January 13, 1860

Locktown Debating Society. Date: last meeting [date not given] Topic of debate: "Should Slavery be abolished in the United States."

Names:

Affirmative – John Bellis, Francis Rittenhouse; Jonathan Hoppock and John O. Heath;

Negative – Andrew B. Everitt, Peter F. Opdycke and Abraham R. Quick.

Affirmative won.

From the Gazette, July 8, 1863: THE GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION.

Gov. [Joel] Parker is now calling on New Jersey for Volunteers, to serve for three years unless sooner discharged. He calls upon the citizens of this State to use every exertion in recruiting as speedily as possible. Five regiments of Infantry and one of Cavalry are to be recruited. We hope that our patriotic citizens will at once take measures to fill these regiments. "Come to the rescue!"

The whole number of recruits required from this State is 6000. Owing to time and space we are unable to publish the amounts required from each township and ward in the State. The following is the quota from the Third District:

THIRD DISTRICT, Hunterdon County.

Alexandria, 39

Bethlehem, 20

Clinton, 36

Delaware, 26

East Amwell, 18

Franklin, 15

Kingwood, 18

Lebanon, 28

Readington, 29

Raritan, 35

Tewkesbury, 27

Union, 12

West Amwell, 10

Lambertville. 26

## The Enrollment Act of 1863

From Wikipedia: The Enrollment Act, 12 Stat. 731, enacted March 3, 1863, also known as the Civil War Military Draft Act,[1] was legislation passed by the United States Congress during the American Civil War to provide fresh manpower for the Union Army. A form of conscription, the controversial act required the enrollment of every male citizen and those immigrants who had filed for citizenship between ages twenty and forty-five. Federal agents established a quota of new troops due from each congressional district.

The Provost Marshal General James Barnett Fry administered the national implementation of the Enrollment Act and answered directly to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. Beneath Provost Marshal General Fry were the State Acting Assistant Provost Marshal Generals. The State Provost Marshal Generals were not authorized by the Enrollment Act, but were appointed personally by James Fry to attend to matters in each individual state.

Each state was divided along district lines with each district under the jurisdiction of an enrollment board. The enrollment boards were headed by a district provost marshal and also included a surgeon and a commissioner. Each enrollment board employed clerks, deputies, and special agents as needed. The enrollment boards divided themselves into sub-districts along ward (in cities) and township (in rural areas) lines. In each sub-district a census was conducted by an enrollment officer to document every man eligible for the draft in the sub-district.

The policies of substitution and commutation were controversial practices that allowed drafted citizens to opt out of service by either furnishing a suitable substitute to take the place of the drafted, or paying \$300. Both of these provisions were created with the intention of softening the effect of the draft on pacifists, the anti-draft movement, and the propertied classes. The result however was general public resentment of both policies. These two practices were major points of contention among the general public and led directly to the slogan "rich man's war, poor man's fight."

## On Gov. Joel Parker (Wikipedia)

Historian William C. Wright wrote that "Of all the nation's governors, Joel Parker was one of the Lincoln administration's most outspoken critics. However, while he attacked the administration's handling of political issues and its use of 'war power,' he could not bring himself to call for a halt in the fighting." 35 Parker supported the war effort but strongly opposed the Emancipation proclamation. In an 1864 campaign speech, he said that "the majority of the people, without respect to party, wanted peace, and desired compromise, but the Republican leaders would not consent to fair terms, and refused to submit the momentous issue to the people."36

Like other mid-Atlantic governors, Governor Parker was alarmed by the invasion of Pennsylvania by Confederate forces at the end of June 1863 even though he engaged in the usual gubernatorial complaints about conscription and the state's draft quota. He telegraphed President Lincoln on June 29: "The people of New Jersey are apprehensive that the invasion

of the enemy may extend to her soil. We think that the enemy should be driven from Pennsylvania. There is now certainly great apathy under such fearful circumstances. That apathy should be removed. The people of New Jersey want McClellan at the head of the Army of the Potomac. If that cannot be done, then we ask that he may be put at the head of the New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania troops now in Pennsylvania, defending these Middle States from invasion. If either appointment be made, the people would rise en masse.”<sup>37</sup>

President Lincoln responded: “Your dispatch of yesterday received. I really think the attitude of the enemies’ army in Pennsylvania, presents us the best opportunity we have had since the war began. I think you will not see the foe in New-Jersey. I beg you to be assured that no one out of my position can know so well as if he were in it, the difficulties and involvements of replacing Gen. McClellan in command — and this aside from any imputations upon him.”<sup>38</sup>

From “Lincoln and the Copperheads” by Jennifer L. Weber, NY Times, Jan. 28, 2013:

Peevish and bordering on paranoid, the Peace Democrats thought nearly everything the Lincoln administration did to prosecute the war was unconstitutional. Some of the more extreme peace men thought the war itself was illegal, since the Constitution was silent about secession.

Peace Democrats typically came from one of three backgrounds: strict constructionists in understanding the Constitution, people of Southern birth or heritage who now lived in the lower Midwest and or immigrants who had suffered from nativists’ hostility and worried that freed slaves would come north and take their jobs. Whatever their origins, these dissidents framed their objections in constitutional terms.

From “Our Forgotten Civil War” by W. Barksdale Maynard, NJ Monthly, March 14, 2011:

Fearful of growing federal power, Democrats condemned Lincoln for suspending the writ of habeas corpus and arresting several newspapermen in the state when they spoke against the government—including one who called Honest Abe a “foul-mouthed gorilla.” Most of the state’s 80 newspapers were Unionist, but some were raucously Copperhead, opposed to the war. The Monmouth Democrat wondered why Robert Lincoln, the president’s son, was “sporting away his college vacations at Long Branch” instead of enlisting. Many Jersey Copperheads blamed pro-Lincoln abolitionists for the national bloodletting: “We are cutting each other’s throats for the sake of a few worthless negroes,” one told a Democratic crowd in Trenton. Such anti-black feeling was evident in New Jersey—the last Northern state to outlaw slavery (in 1846)—where a gradual approach to emancipation left more than a dozen elderly house servants still enslaved when the war began.