

# RUPP FAMILY FACT SHEET

Compiled by Benjamin Neely and John Zaremba

- John Rupp – born March 5, 1825 – died November 08, 1871
- Parents of John Rupp:
  1. Father – Henry (1802-1876)
  2. Catherine (nee Schmitt) (1806-1884)
- Siblings of John Rupp:
  1. Josephine (1831)
  2. Edward (1833-1839)
  3. Josephus (1831-1838)
  4. William Henry (1839-1913)
- Rupp family moves to Gettysburg around 1830
- About 1842 – John and William are active in the family tannery business near the corner of Southwest York and Stratton Streets
- John Rupp marries Caroline Ruth Martin on December 18, 1849 by Rev. Benjamin Keller at St. James Lutheran Church
- Parents of Caroline Rupp ( born 1826 - died January 19, 1911):
  1. Father – Ephraim Martin (1788-1859)
  2. Mother – Ruth Fletcher Martin (1793-1860)
- Caroline Martin Rupp grew up in the family home on the town square where her father, Ephraim, owned a tailoring firm
- April 1, 1851 – Henry Rupp purchased land on Baltimore Street near the southern edge of town from Samuel McCreary
- This land included the house and tannery
- John Rupp was sent to run this tannery, a steam powered tannery
- William Henry Rupp remained at the York Street tannery, eventually taking over from their father Henry
- John and Caroline's Children\*:
  1. **Henry Jennings (born October 3, 1851 – died about April 1930)**
  2. **Carl Martin (born December 28, 1853 – died April 6, 1903)**
  3. John Franklin (born September 5, 1855 – died October 3, 1862)
  4. **Rueben Hill (born May 1, 1857 – died between 1920-1930)**
  5. **Robert (born September 12, 1859 – no death date)**
  6. **Caroline May (born May 23, 1861 – no death date)**
  7. **John Grant (born January 9, 1863 – died between August 31 to September 2, 1871)**
  8. Jane L. "Jennie" (born August 10, 1864 – no death date)
  9. Catherine Elizabeth (born May 8, 1867 – January 27, 1868)
  10. George Meade (born 1870 – died August 31 – September 2, 1871)
- Gettysburg Zouaves:
  1. April 25, 1861 a meeting was held for the purpose of forming a company of Zouaves for Gettysburg

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\* Children in bold print lived in the house at the time of the Battle of Gettysburg

2. April 26, 1861 measures were taken to fill the company
3. April 29, 1861 an election was held for officers – John Rupp is elected 1<sup>st</sup> sergeant – afterward they conducted a preliminary drill of the Zouaves
4. The Zouaves started with 35 men
5. The company was organized under strict moral principles – violation meant expulsion
  - a. no intoxication
  - b. no profanity
  - c. no impropriety of any kind
- June 22, 1863 – the Zouaves (about 50 men) head to South Mountain to cut down trees to obstruct the passage of the Confederate forces moving towards Gettysburg
- Details from John Rupp's letter to his sister-in-law Anne Mary Martin
  1. Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> 1863 - when the battle commenced the family headed across the street to the cellar of Solomon Welty\* (which would make a possible 14 people in the Welty cellar)
  2. The Rupp's returned home Wednesday (July 1) evening and sleep on the floor ("such sleep as it was")
  3. Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1863 – when the battle resumed the family went to their own cellar and stayed there all day
  4. Thursday night (July 2) Henry Rupp (John's father) arrived and took Caroline and the children to his house (southwest corner York and Stratton Streets)
  5. John Rupp stays in the cellar throughout the remainder of Thursday night
  6. Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1863 – John Rupp remains in the cellar
  7. Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> 1863 – in the morning John Rupp emerges from the cellar when he hears Union soldiers moving into town on the double quick
  8. John Rupp's tannery was used as a fort by Confederate sharpshooters who fired at in the direction of Cemetery Hill (Solomon Welty's fence – located at the modern day entrance to the Holiday Inn)
  9. John Rupp notes that Union soldiers were on the porch and the Confederates were position at the rear of the house\*
  10. John Rupp claims that Union troops knew he was in the house, but the Confederates did not\*
  11. John Rupp could hear Confederates load and fire\*

Zouaves in Gettysburg.

On Thursday evening last, a meeting was held for the purpose of forming a Company of Zouaves, in this place. GEORGE SCHMUCKER presided. We have not a full account of the proceedings, but we learn that committees were appointed for several purposes—amongst others, to ascertain whether arms could be procured.

On Friday evening the committee reported satisfactorily, and measures were taken to fill the Company.

On Monday evening, an election was held for Officers, which resulted in the choice of the following persons:

Captains—Rev. D. L. K. Sumwalt.  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieut.—Rev. T. P. Buehler.  
2<sup>nd</sup> " Wm. J. Martin.  
1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant—John Rupp.  
2<sup>nd</sup> " Charles Ziegler.  
1<sup>st</sup> Corporal—J. O. Daiton.  
2<sup>nd</sup> " Charles Schumacker.

After which they went through the preliminary drill of the Zouaves. The Company will be drilled regularly by Rev. C. L. K. SUMWALT, who has had considerable experience in military life.

The organization is based upon strictly moral principles—no intoxication, no profanity, no impropriety of any kind being allowed, on penalty of instant expulsion.

The corps numbers already 85 members—all hale, hearty, energetic young men—prepared to defend their homes and families; and, if necessary, to carry and sustain the "Stars and Stripes" wherever their country calls them.

\* Solomon Welty (farmer), wife: Jane, children that may have been home during the battle: Mary (age 21), John (age 17), Sarah Jane (age 15), M. Louisa (age 9).

\* John Rupp's letter indicates that at this point Caroline and the children had been removed from the home

12. John Rupp notes a Union soldier's body in his lot near an oak tree and another located across the street in Snyder's meadow (the Snyder's lived in a home just south of the McClelland/McLean home where Mary Virginia Wade was killed)
  13. John Rupp notes that Confederate sharpshooters occupied Samuel McCreary's home and references the death of William H. Poole, 9<sup>th</sup> LA, Co. H
  14. John Rupp notes two Confederates killed in George and Henrietta Shriver's home, next to the Pierce family
  15. Confederates did not remove any stock from the tannery, but did break all glass and sash in the shop
  16. John Rupp claimed to gather a double handful of minie balls that were shot into the home
  17. John Rupp claims to have heard shells passing over the house and described the sound as an "awful thunder"
  18. John Rupp spoke with Brigadier General Adolph von Steinwehr regarding the number of Union cannons and was told 330 cannons were in action
  19. John Rupp notes Mary Virginia Wade's death and mentions that others were hit in the shins with spent balls which would not have happened if they had stayed in their homes
  20. John Rupp writes that the home is riddled with balls, with some hitting their "bed steads," but was not struck by any shells
  21. John Rupp notes that Henry Rupp's (his father's house where Caroline and the children were) was hit by a shell, but does not indicate the which day the house was struck
  22. John Rupp notes that Mr. [Andrew?] Stuck's house was struck 4 times, 2 shells went through Anne Mary Martin's (his sister-in-law, whom he wrote to) old house, and the Evergreen Cemetery suffered much damage
  23. John Rupp was satisfied with the damage inflicted on the Confederates, was confident that they would all remember Gettysburg, and ready to go through everything again should they return
  24. John Rupp opines that the fall of Vicksburg will help end the war
  25. John Rupp mentions that there will be no church for 4 weeks as every church and hall is being used as a hospital
- John Rupp does not mention taking in wounded or if any of the family was helping in the various hospitals
  - November 19, 1863, Lincoln's procession to dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery passed the Rupp House, the moment was captured by the Tyson Brothers
  - In December 1867, John Rupp contracts William Stallsmith and his son Charles



Stallsmith (Stallsmith and Son) to build a new house once the spring came

- In 1868, the Rupp's home was finished
- In 1868, the Rupp's lost their daughter Catherine Elizabeth; Caroline May fell into hot ashes while visiting the tannery, suffering burns on both legs from the knee down

*Burned.*—On Wednesday week, the oldest daughter of Mr. John Rupp, of this place, aged about 7 years, while in her father's Steam Tannery, by some means fell into a pile of hot ashes which had been taken from the furnace, severely burning both her legs from the knees down. Dr. C. Horner was called in, and the little sufferer is getting along as comfortably as could be expected.

Mr. John Rupp's new Cottage will soon be in progress of erection. We are told that it will be one of the finest houses in Baltimore street, if not in the town.

*Improvements.*—Improvements are in progress all over town, and more are in contemplation.

The double cottage on the College Campus is looming up handsomely—as is John Rupp's cottage, on Baltimore street.

- In 1871, the Rupp's lost 2 more children, George and John Grant, to brain fever; the children died between August 31 and September 2, 1871
- Towards the end of October 1871, John Rupp was being treated by Dr. John W. C. O'Neal
- John Rupp died November 08, 1871 from dysentery



Dr. John W. C. O'Neal's Journal for 1871

RECORD OF PRACTICE												234
October.												
No.	Patient	Su.	M.	T.	W.	Th.	Fr.	Sa.	Am't.	Prescription		
		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08			
	Mr. Miller											
	Sam't George											
	Jos Little											
	Geo. King											
	Mary Reiger											
	Mrs. Howard											
	John Rupp											

  

RECORD OF PRACTICE												235
October.												
No.	Patient	Su.	M.	T.	W.	Th.	Fr.	Sa.	Am't.	Prescription		
		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08			
	Mr. Miller											
	Sam't George											
	Jos Little (only)									1/1	Glauk	
	Geo. King											
	Sam'l Howard									1/1		
	John Rupp									X 1/2 1/2	Linn	
	John Rupp									1/1	Edward	
	John Rupp									1/1	Edward	
	John Rupp									1/1	Edward	
	John Rupp									1/1	Edward	
	John Rupp									1/1	Edward	
	John Rupp									1/1	Edward	
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	John Rupp									1/1	Edward	
	John Rupp									1/1	Edward	
	John Rupp									1/1	Edward	
	John Rupp									1/1	Edward	

236 RECORD OF PRACTICE								
No. Patient	October				November	An't. Prescription		
	Su.	M.	Tu.	Th.	Fr.		Sa.	
	22	29	31	1	2	3	4	
John Rupp	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Tanner
Henry Rupp	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	S. cov'd.
W. A. Deane								75
Gray Robinson								75 Col'd
Henry Rupp (Rupp)								75
Good Sheds								125 1/2 m. tannery
W. A. Deane								de L
Ed. H. Perkins								75
Manlyth Springs Hotel								625-625 tannery
Sherrin's Pharmacy								My 17th tannery 12 = 1874
Wm. H. Rupp								125
Plaster - at 125								
Peter Stablesmith								125
John Fehrmann								125
Carth (Blacksmith work St.)								125
Sample								125

238 RECORD OF PRACTICE								
No. Patient	November						An't. Prescription	
	Su.	M.	Tu.	Th.	Fr.	Sa.		
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
John Rupp								
Henry Rupp								75
W. A. Deane								75 (Tannery)
Gray Robinson								75
Good Sheds								125 1/2 m. tannery
W. A. Deane								125
Ed. H. Perkins								125
Manlyth Springs Hotel								625-625 tannery
Sherrin's Pharmacy								My 17th tannery 12 = 1874
Wm. H. Rupp								125
Plaster - at 125								
Peter Stablesmith								125
John Fehrmann								125
Carth (Blacksmith work St.)								125
Sample								125

- John Rupp's obituary as it appeared in the Gettysburg Compiler on November 10, 1871
- In the wake of the 1871 recession and John Rupp's nearly \$20,000 in debts, Caroline Rupp and his heirs sold the majority of his real estate holdings
- The administrators of John Rupp's estate were Henry Rupp, William H. Rupp, and Solomon J. Welty
- The property was sold in 3 parcels
  1. steam tannery with buildings, shops, bark shed, etc.
  2. two-story cottage dwelling, back building, stable, etc.
  3. 4 lots of ground behind (west) of his tannery and cottage which contained about 7 acres of land

DEATH OF JOHN RUPP.—We announce with sorrow the death of Mr. John Rupp, which occurred at his residence, in this place, on Wednesday evening, after an illness of two months, of dysentery. The public's solicitude for the recovery of this enterprising and large-hearted citizen, was deep and widespread, and the intelligence of his death, though feared for weeks, fell with saddening effect upon all our people. The usefulness of Mr. Rupp was manifested in many ways—not only in his business relations, as involved in the ownership and operation of the most extensive tannery in the county, but also in all local enterprises intended for the improvement and comfort of the town. In church affairs he was likewise much concerned, and St. James' congregation will miss his active and generous devotion to its interests. Thus has departed from among us one of our most useful and respected citizens. May he rest in peace!

The funeral will take place to-morrow (Saturday) at 2 o'clock, P. M. The deceased held the office of Treasurer for many years and at the time of his death, in the Masonic and Odd Fellows organizations of this place, and both Lodges will of course turn out. His age was 46 years 11 months and 19 days.

Neely and Zaremba

- Within a year the 4 lots of ground had been sold; Caroline Rupp purchased 1.4 acres of her husband's estate for \$145
- The remainder of the estate (tannery and dwelling lots) was purchased on April 17, 1872 for \$7,000 by Reuben M. Leber from York
- By 1880, the Caroline Rupp and her children Caroline May, Rueben, Mary, Carl, and Jane are living with William Henry Rupp and wife Amanda
- Caroline Ruth Rupp died January 19, 1911, she was living at 34 West Middle Street with her daughter Caroline May and several grandchildren

Rupp William H	Nov 41
— Amanda E	Nov 39
— Catharine	Nov 76
Rupp Mary C	Nov 25
— Carl M	Nov 26
— Robt	Nov 20
Crone Susan	Nov 30
— Lydia E	Nov 10
Rupp Caroline	Nov 33
— Reuben	Nov 22
— May C	Nov 19
— Jane L	Nov 16

## "My warm and uncomfortable situation"

On July 19, 1863, John Rupp wrote a letter to his sister-in-law in Baltimore, giving a lengthy account of his experiences during the fighting. The original handwritten letter was donated to the Adams County Historical Society in 1966. The version reproduced here was transcribed by Timothy H. Smith and reflects Rupp's own spelling, grammar and corrections.

Gettysburg, July 19th 1863

Dear Sister, Anne

I received your letter of the 6th on the 13th inst, and was happy to hear from you. I am very thankful to Almighty God for his mercifull goodness in protecting and bringing us all, safely through this terrible slaughter of human life. We have all escaped bodily injury. My property sustained very slight injury indeed, considering the heavy cannonading of both armies. Our house was under fire of both armies from Thursday morning until Saturday morning. An I hardly know where to begin to tell of you about our trials. When the battle commenced on Wensday morning [July 1st] we took our children and went over to Mr. Welty's celler. We stayed thair until Wensday evening. We then After the fire ceased, we came home and all slept on the floor that night, such sleep as it was. Thursday morning [July 2nd] when the battle again began we went to our own celler, [and] stayed thair that day. In the night of thursday father came and took Caroline and the children up to his house. I was then in the celler by myself, that thursday night [July 2nd], and all day friday and friday night until Saturday morning [July 4th], when relief came by our troops coming into town on [the] double quick; happy moment Ann. The Rebs had my Tannery in thair possession for four days thay used the shop for a fort. It was full of Rebs firing on our pickets up at Welty's fence. Now, Ann I will tell you about my warm and uncomfortable situation I was placed in after Caroline and the children had gone up to fathers. The Rebs occupied the whol of town out as far as the back end of my house. Our men, that part of town wich lays between our house and the Cemetary, wich is not much as you know, and the Cemetary and all the high ground for miles around. Our men occupied My porch, and the Rebels the rear of the house, and I the celler. So you can see that I was on neutral ground. Our men knew I was in the celler, but the Rebs did not. I could hear the Rebs load thair guns, and fire. Thair was one of our men killed under my big ok tree in the lot, and one in Snyders meadow close to our house. The Rebs occupied Mr. McCreary's house, from wich they could pick off our men as thay pleased. Our sharpshooters found it out, and kept a look out and finely shot one in Mr McCreary's front room up stairs and killed him on the spot, and also killed two up in Mr. G. Schrivvers house, next to Mr Pierces. I sustained no loss in Stock, but the Rebs broke all the glass and sash in the shop. I gathered up a double hand full of Minie Balls on in my dwelling after the battle that ware shot into it from both armies. If you could have heard the shells fly over our house from both sides. It was awful. I cannot describe it to you, but you can judge from the number of cannon on our side. Genl. Steinweir told me we had 330 cannon in play, and you may know the Rebs had as many more, It was awful thunder. I tell You Ann. Virginia Wade was killed while neading up her bread for her sister up in the house that Ellen Frieberger used to live. Several others were hit on the shin with spent balls, ware if they had stayed in thair houses, [it] would not have happened [to] them. I cant tell you all, it would take me a week to do so. Our house is prety well riddled, thay balls passing through our bed steads, no shell struck it. Father's house was struck with Shell. Mr. Stuck's house was struck with four shells, wich made large holes clear through it. Thair It was ware two shells passed through you old homestead, not doing much damage. I think we have given the Rebs a sample of Penn. life in wich they will remember Gettysburg, for even our beautiful cemetary has suffered very much. But I would go through it all again, the same fire again, if we had them back again, to repete the same woes to them again. But I think the fall of Vicksburg and all our recent victory will bring things to a focus. Grant is doing things up. We call our baby John Grant, fine little fellow he is too. We have had no sunday for four weeks. Every church and hal is taken for Hospitals. I will tell you more when I see you. We are all well. Life, Lou, Mat are well lickwise.

I remain your brother, John Rupp