

# Bible provides link to the past

By: Lou Sessinger The Intelligencer

On Aug. 8, 1861, 16-year-old Anderson W. Pidcock, a carpenter's apprentice from Lambertville, enlisted as a private in Company H of the 6th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry.

Bidding farewell to his parents, Charles and Mary, and his many younger brothers and sisters, he marched south to help preserve the Union in the bloodiest conflict in which our nation has ever been involved.

Young Anderson must have been a good soldier. A little more than a year after donning the blue woolen uniform of the Union Army, he was promoted to the rank of corporal. With the 6<sup>th</sup> New Jersey, part of the Army of the Potomac, Andersen would fight many battles against Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. The unit fought the Confederates around Williamsburg, Va., during the Peninsula Campaign in May 1862.

They were camped near Manassas, Va., not far from the nation's capital on Nov. 11, 1862, when Andersen wrote a letter to his 13-year-old brother, Clark, back home in Lambertville.

In April and May 1863, Anderson and his regiment fought at Chancellorsville. And the unit endured the terrible fighting at Gettysburg in July 1863.

By the following spring the 6th New Jersey was back around Chancellorsville where Anderson Pidcock, just 19, was killed on May 6, 1864, during the Battle of the Wilderness.

The remains of the young soldier rest beneath a small stone bearing his name at the Holcombe-Riverview Cemetery near Lambertville.

Fast forward almost a century and a half.

Kathleen Greco of Southampton likes old books, and about three years ago she purchased a Bible, printed in 1861, at Stephenson's Auction in the township, related Cathy Pidcock Thomas.

She put it aside, and didn't really examine it until last winter.

Neatly penned on both fly leaves was the name Anderson Pidcock, and carefully pressed between the pages of the holy book were four four-leaf clovers.

Greco was touched by these silent prayers for good luck and wanted to learn more about Anderson Pidcock.

An Internet search led her to the Web site of the Pidcock Family Association, [www.pidcockfamily.org](http://www.pidcockfamily.org), and to Cathy Pidcock Thomas, the association's president.

Anderson Pidcock's little brother, Clark, was Thomas' great-grandfather.

The Pidcocks have long roots in Bucks County and Hunterdon County, N.J.

John Pidcock, an associate of William Penn, was an Indian trader who owned a large tract of land in Bucks along the Delaware, much of which is now the site of Washington Crossing State Historic Park, Thomas said. Pidcock Creek bears his name.

Greco and Thomas, who lives in Warren, N.J., arranged to meet at Anderson Pidcock's grave so Greco could show her the family heirloom. To Thomas' great surprise and delight, Greco gave the young soldier's Bible to the Pidcock Family Association.

The family's many members were able to view it Saturday at their 97th annual reunion at Washington Crossing State Historic Park.

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