

History Of The Doubleday Inn

The ground that the Doubleday Inn now occupies was part of the John Forney Farm at the time of the Battle of Gettysburg. Oak Ridge was the eastern boundary of his property, and in July 1863, it was part of Forney's expansive apple orchard.

This land and the original stone wall in front of the house were witness to vicious fighting during the First Day's Battle, with heavy casualties realized on both sides. In the late 1800's the land of the Forney farm was split into parcels, including the one on which the Inn sits today. This land and the original stone wall in front of the house were witness to vicious fighting during the First Day's Battle, with heavy casualties realized on both sides. In the late 1800's the land of the Forney farm was split into parcels, including the one on which the Inn sits today. □□



The house at 104 Doubleday Avenue was built for the Reverend Abram Longanecker & his wife Agnes in 1939. Abram was an 1895 graduate of Gettysburg College and an 1898 graduate of the Lutheran Seminary. He spent his career traveling to local congregations and after retiring in 1940 settled here on Oak Ridge in the house which had been built with contributions by the couple's four adult children. Agnes & Abram celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the house on July 6, 1948 with a large family party.

With the passing of their parents, the house was inherited by the three Longanecker daughters, who converted it into three separate apartments. The home stayed in the family until it was sold and converted into a B&B in 1987. The Doubleday Inn has enjoyed continuous operation as the premiere Gettysburg bed and breakfast with just three owners since that time.

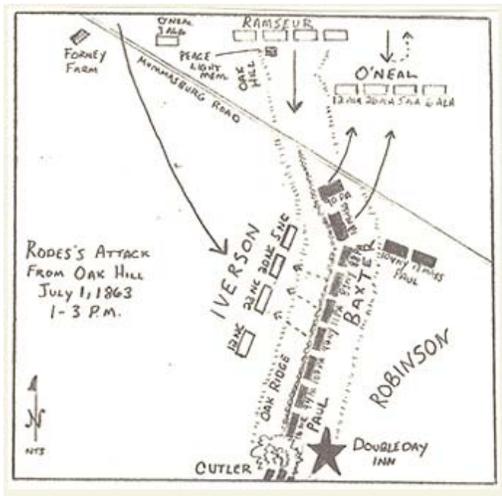
Oak Hill Battle Summary, July 1, 1863

Oak Ridge was the scene of vicious fighting on Wednesday July 1, 1863. This, the opening day of the momentous Battle of Gettysburg, along with the concurrent fall of Vicksburg, was the turning point of the American Civil War.

The Battle of Gettysburg began in the morning of July 1, 1863 in the fields to the west and south of the ground now occupied by the Doubleday Inn. General Buford's dismounted U.S. Cavalry slowed the eastern advance of General Heth's Confederates until the Union First Corps could arrive on the field.

As fighting continued along the Cashtown Road, Confederate troops led by General Rodes of General Ewell's Corps were marching from the northeast and soon occupied Oak Hill. General Doubleday ordered General Robinson to occupy Oak Ridge north of the Cashtown Road. Baxter's brigade was stationed at the apex of the ridge, and on the ground now occupied by the Doubleday Inn. The time was about 1:30 P.M.

Rodes ordered an immediate attack, but it was poorly coordinated. Iverson's and O'Neal's brigades were ordered to advance along Oak Ridge and attack the Union's newly acquired position. Before Iverson's men could advance, O'Neal's brigade attacked prematurely and without his entire force. That left O'Neal in front alone and approaching Baxter who was positioned behind a stone wall. Baxter quickly repulsed O'Neal and inflicted over 40% casualties.



Iverson now followed along the western slope of Oak Ridge. With O'Neal out of the way, Baxter was able to shift his complete attention to Iverson. Iverson's brigade marched blindly into Baxter's awaiting brigade with devastating results. The North Carolina troops were approaching the stone wall when the Union line rose up and fired at point blank range. Exposed and receiving enfilade fire, the Confederates found a shallow dip in the wheat field about 80 yards west of the stone wall. Dead and wounded fell instantly in a line of battle. General Rodes later mistook the scene as a regiment lying down to escape enemy fire. Nearly 70% of Iverson's brigade became casualties in the area west of Oak Ridge now infamously known as "Iverson's Pits".

General Paul's Brigade was then ordered to reinforce Baxter's right at the Mummasburg Road. But within minutes the Confederates, led by General Ramseur, reappeared on Paul's front, and swept around in a more organized attack. Paul's men fought desperately and General Paul was severely wounded. By mid-afternoon the whole Federal line from Oak Ridge to McPherson Ridge gave way and the Union troops on Oak Ridge were ordered to retreat to the Seminary. The men followed the railroad cut toward Gettysburg with other troops and ran a gauntlet of Rebel fire before dashing into the towns streets.

The stand that Buford made west of Gettysburg, and the fighting that ensued by the arriving armies on July 1st, were an attempt to preserve the high ground of Cemetery Hill southeast of town. The Confederates unquestionably were victorious on July 1, but the Union successfully protected the high ground of Cemetery Hill. They were concentrated there by the morning of July 2. General Lee ordered a flanking assault on July 2, and a frontal assault on July 3 (Pickett's Charge), but was unable to dislodge the Union. After 3 days of intense fighting, 51,000 total casualties lay on the field, and the small town of Gettysburg would never be the same again.