

CAPTAIN WILLIAM THOMAS BLANCHARD

As Portrayed by Ken Gulick

Captain Blanchard was born on March 26, 1838, in Palmer, MA. He would attend the academy at Warren, Mass and eventually run a mercantile business and work for the Bradford and Pittsburgh Railroad.

When the war broke out, Blanchard enrolled to fight on May 15, 1861. He was then elected captain of Company I, 42nd PA Volunteers, which was mustered on May 30, 1861. Blanchard was shot in both legs at the Battle of Harrisonburg, VA, in June 1862. His wounds giving him a great deal of pain, Blanchard walked on crutches for several months. Blanchard rejoined his regiment on October 3, 1862, but due to his wounds, he resigned his commission on December 1, 1862.



On September 6, 1863, Blanchard joined the Veteran Reserve Corps as a captain. After the war William was involved in life insurance and the coke business. He would eventually die on September 6, 1918.

William Thomas Blanchard was fortunate enough to have been a soldier in the famous "Bucktail" regiment as well as be an officer in the Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteer Corps. Both groups earned the esteem and respect from both Union and Confederate armies. At the Battle of Second Bull Run, General Longstreet told to his staff officers just before attacking the Pennsylvania Veterans Reserve Corps line, "boys that is the Pennsylvania Reserves ahead. Prepare yourselves for many casualties."



Captain Blanchard is portrayed by Ken Gulick. Ken has been a Bucktail re-enactor for twelve years now and has been adjutant in the PRVC Battalion for two years. He resides with his wife Sarah and sons Charlie & Nolin in Dillsburg, PA.