

You oughta know...



Stephen H. Weed

You oughta know that Stephen H. Weed of New York City often visited his family in New Dorp - until he was accepted into the military academy at West Point. After graduation in 1854, he began a distinguished career that included participation in the Civil War battles of Second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and finally, Gettysburg.



In June of 1863, he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in the Fifth Corps of the Army of the Potomac, and on the 2nd day of July he and his men were tasked with defending Little Round Top, alongside Joshua Chamberlin's legendary 20th Maine. Late on that afternoon would come the historic Confederate charge up the hill in an attempt to turn the Union Army's left flank. It is well within the realm of possibility that had the Rebels been successful in their charge the outcome of that battle - and indeed the entire war - might have been different.

Weed led his brigade against the onrushing Confederates, mostly Alabamians and Texans under General Longstreet. "I would rather die on this spot" Weed told his friend Augustus Martin before the battle, "than see those rascals gain one inch of ground."

And die he did, his chest pierced by a Confederate sniper's bullet fired from Devil's Den. But the Confederates never did gain one inch of the ground held by his men.

You oughta know that his body was laid out at New York's City Hall, and that he is buried at Moravian Cemetery under a 15-foot high limestone monument. Weed Avenue in New Dorp is named after his family. And Battery Weed in Fort Wadsworth, overlooking the Narrows, is named in honor of this American hero who would spend much of his youth on Staten Island, and an eternity here after his death.

- **BOROUGH PRESIDENT JIM ODDO**
WITH FRANK SANTARPIA

