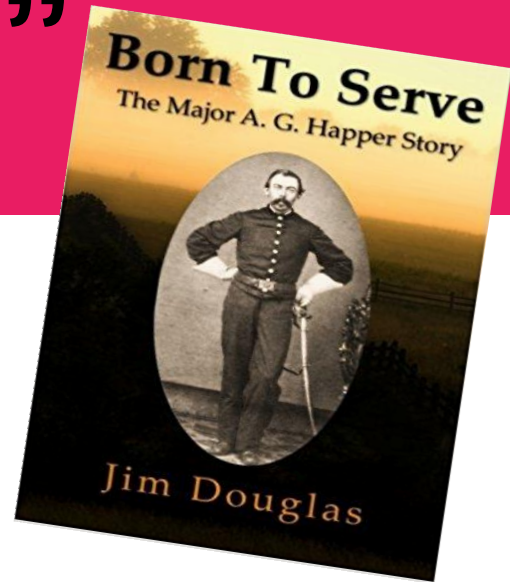


Major A.G. Happer Soldier in Battle and Life “Born to Serve”

**Unsung Civil War & Civic Hero Rediscovered
Why He Should Be Memorialized**



Welcome to Wash High: Home of the Prexies

- PA State Representative, The Honorable Brandon Neuman
- Mr. Jim Douglas, Author of *Born to Serve: The Major A.G. Happer Story*, and his wife Linda Douglas
- Mr. Clay Kilgore, Washington County Historical Society
- Mr. Nathan Doughty, Observer Reporter



Major Happer Project Endorsed by Representative Brandon Neuman

- Brandon Neuman is a Pennsylvania state representative and future judge on Washington County 27th Judicial District Court of Common Pleas, winning both party nominations in the 2017 spring primaries.
- He has eagerly offered to sponsor, support, and contribute a sizeable sponsor donation to obtain a Pennsylvania State Historical Marker for Major A.G. Happer.



Our Mission

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Major A.G. Happer was not concerned with his own recognition while playing an instrumental part in developing Washington. We learned about him only through Jim Douglas's book "Born to Serve" and felt that it was unjust for such a key figure in our local history to not have any formal recognition in the city. This project allows us to go beyond the classroom to make an impact on our community while learning life skills and applying them to honor an important local historical figure.

Project Objectives

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Short Term

- Veterans' Walkway brick
- Plaque (preferably at W&J Admissions House)

Long Term

- Statue for Happer in Washington with city recognition
- PA Historical Marker

Born To Serve

The Major A. G. Happer Story



Jim Douglas







Photo courtesy of Mr. Bunner

Learning about the man who built Washington

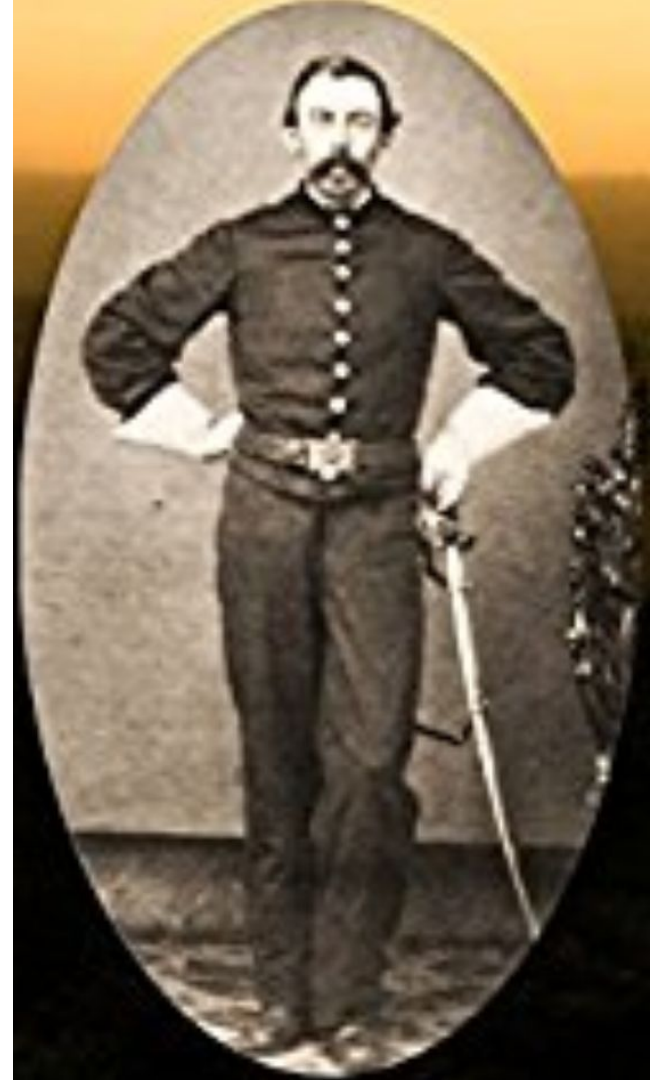
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[Newspaper article - click here](#)



War Hero

- Major Happer left W&J College for war, serving in many key battles of the Civil War; including Antietam, Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville until he was wounded in the Battle of the Wilderness.
- Left for dead on the battlefield, he was rescued by an anonymous slave. Afterwards, he was captured and endured 10 months as a POW in Libby Prison.
- Post-Civil War, he accompanied Lincoln's body on the Lincoln Special funeral train before returning to Washington county at age 26, eager to start a life of service to his home, Washington, PA and Washington County.



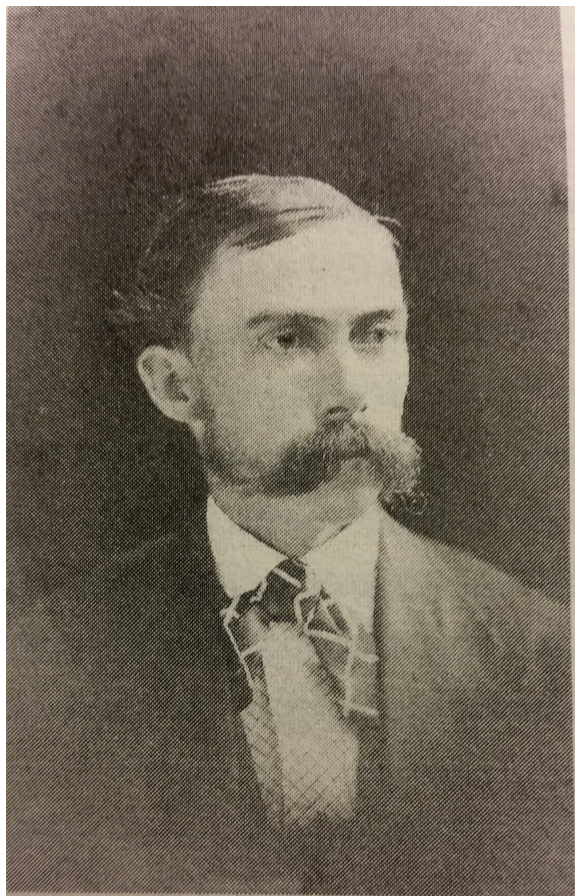
W&J Connection

- Major Happer attended W&J, but left college when duty called for the Civil War.



- W&J's admission house was built by Major Happer in 1890 and was his home with wife Matilda "Tilly" Morgan Watson Happer.





Major A. G. Happer

Personal Life

[Online Biographies](#)

[Encyclopedia of Pennsylvania Biography](#)

[Ancestry.Com](#)

[Battle of Antietam](#)

[Newspaper article - click here](#)

Insurance Office

- Happer opened an insurance office at 55 South Main Street in 1871, which gained popularity and business after the Great Chicago Fire.
- Happer's successful insurance business was eventually bequeathed to valued employee, Henry G. Hood. The Hood Insurance Associates remained a viable business until 2004.



Hospital

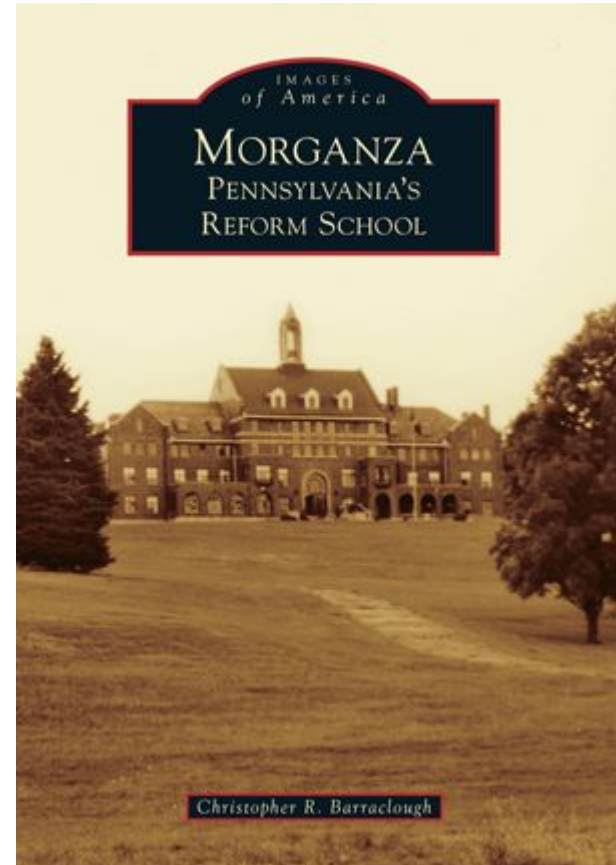
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- Major Happer was instrumental in the grant that founded the Washington Hospital
- He funded the hospital's construction (along with others) out of his own personal finances
- Within one year, the hospital was opened in May 1898



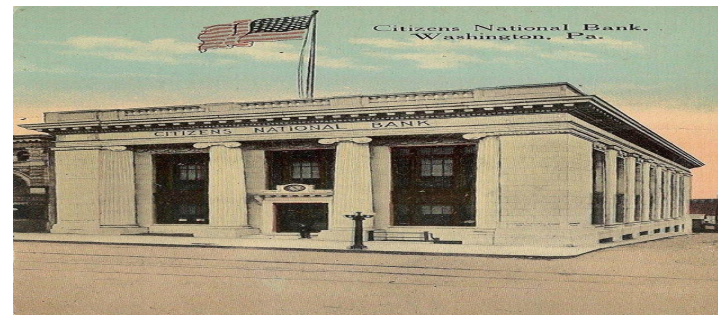
Morganza - 1879

Major Happer was instrumental in moving the Pennsylvania House of Refuge, a reform school for children and young people located in Pittsburgh, to part of the old Colonel Morgan farm named Morganza in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. This home, which helped distressed youth, included a girls department, boys department, a church, and workshops. Happer served as President of the Board of Managers from inception until his retirement in 1911.



Citizens National Bank

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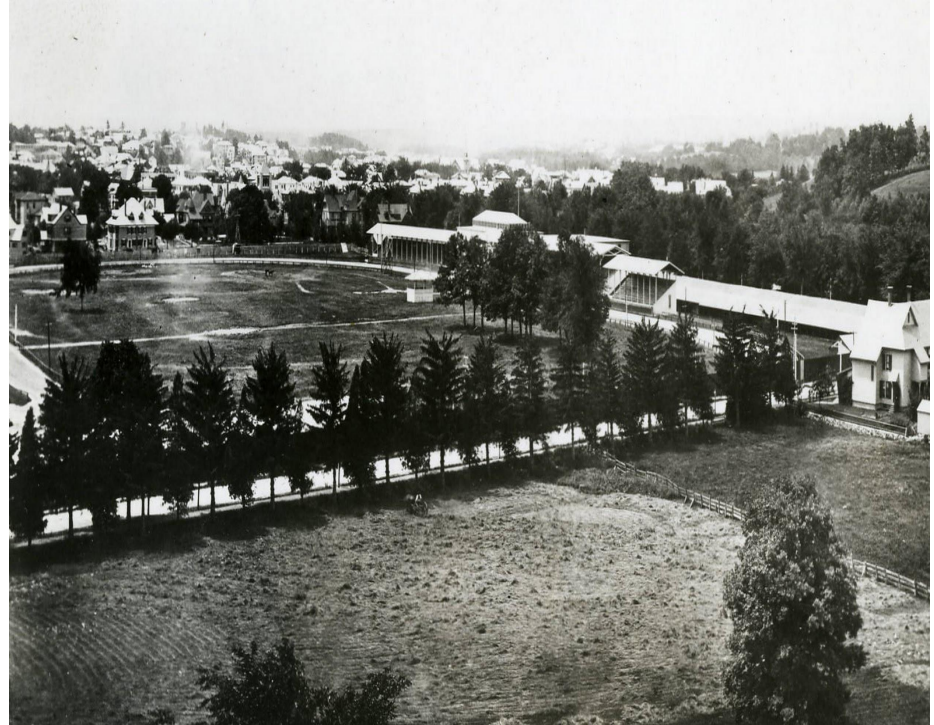


- Prior to starting the Citizens National Bank, Happer was one of the largest sellers of real estate and insurance in the area
- Along with some of his real estate partners, Happer started the bank
- Citizens National bank remained the largest bank in Washington until taken over by Mellon bank in 1948

Agriculture

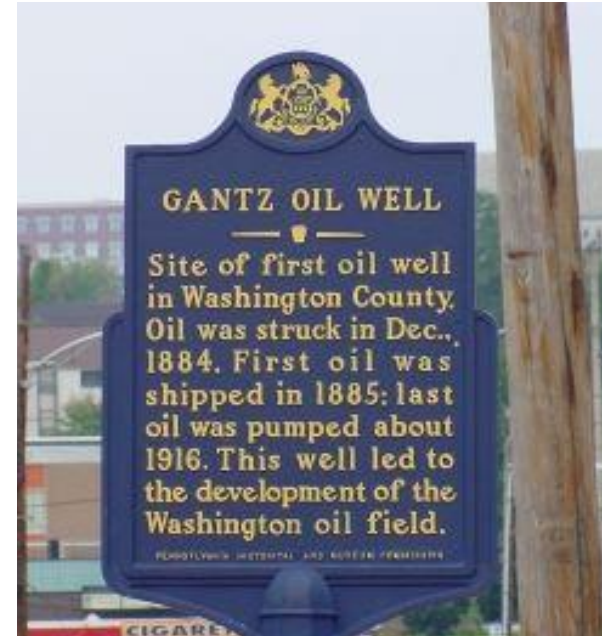
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Major Happer was a member of the Washington Society for the Promotion of Agriculture and Domestic Manufacture in Washington County. The organization held fairs on their fairgrounds in Washington, PA, which were later sold to W&J for athletic fields. Happer was then instrumental in forming the Western Pennsylvania Agricultural Association.



Real Estate & Utilities

- Bought 220 acre Gordon farm and developed it — with top manufacturing companies in the area
- Real Estate developments become West End & East Washington
- Instrumental in establishing the Charter for Citizen's Water Company
- Director in oil and gas real estate & development. Acquired oil and natural gas leases for the area and put wells on Happer farm - beginning of oil and gas boom in Washington and Western Pennsylvania
- Attracted people & businesses to move to Washington
- Happer part of development team to open first telephone exchange in Washington, PA.



Plaque Concept: To possibly be affixed to W&J Admissions House or other structure

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Major A. G. Happer

Civil War Hero and Community Developer

(1839-1915)

This house was constructed by Major Happer in 1890, who lived in it for several years. Major Happer was a war veteran, serving in battles such as Antietam, Gettysburg, and the Wilderness Campaign, where he was wounded and for a time became a prisoner of war. Following the war, Happer became a major contributor to the development of Washington, PA, including the establishment of what would become the Washington Hospital.

PA Historical Marker Concept

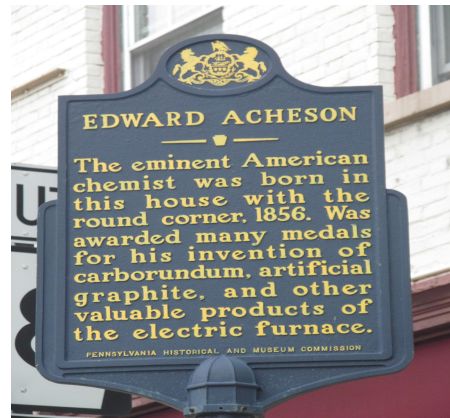
Major A.G. Happer

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This Civil War hero fought in many battles, including Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and the Wilderness, where he was severely wounded and taken prisoner. After the war Happer built his home on this site, which now serves as the W&J Admissions House. He owned and operated a successful insurance company and spearheaded many real estate ventures and civic developments in Washington, PA, including the Washington Hospital and Citizen's Bank.



Other similar markers in Washington, PA



Contact Listing

- Jim Douglas
 - “Born to Serve” author
- Washington Health Systems- Gary Weinstein & Brook Ward
 - Developing primary interest
- Chamber of Commerce
 - Referred us to Washington and Jefferson College
- Washington County Historical Society (Lemoyne House)- Chuck Edgar
 - Mr. Edgar referred us to Clay Kilgore
- Washington & Jefferson College- Robert Adkins, Tori Haring-Smith, Erik Rueter, and Cory Zahradnik
 - President Tori Haring-Smith referenced Clay Kilgore
- Citizens Bank (Giant Eagle)
 - Developing primary interest
- Political Resources- Representative Brandon Neuman and Megan Scott (secretary to Camera Bartolotta)
 - Developing primary interest
- Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
 - Marker coordinated with Mr. Neuman, who is contributing over fifty percent of sponsorship cost.
- Observer Reporter- Lucy Northrop Corwin, Celeste Van Kirk, and Nate Doughty
 - Developing primary interest

Born To Serve

The Major A. G. Happer Story



Jim Douglas