



# Company C 53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry

"The Sentinel" April 2022

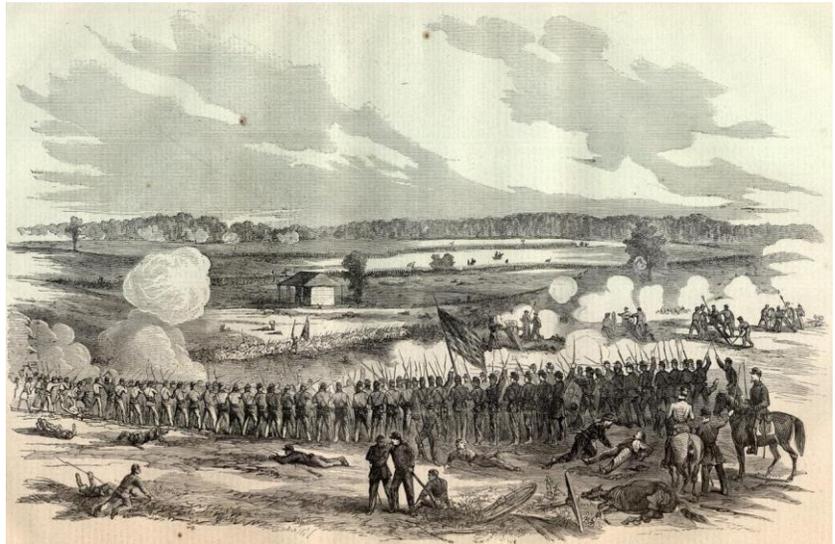
Newsletter of The James Creek Guards



"Clubs Are Trumps!"

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*I am always looking for newsletter content, so please forward your articles, book reviews, event summaries/photos, stories, etc.) to me for inclusion in a future edition of "The Sentinel". – Matthew Steger, editor*

## EARLY WYNN: THE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PITCHER AND HIS TOUGH AND FIERY CONFEDERATE FAMILY

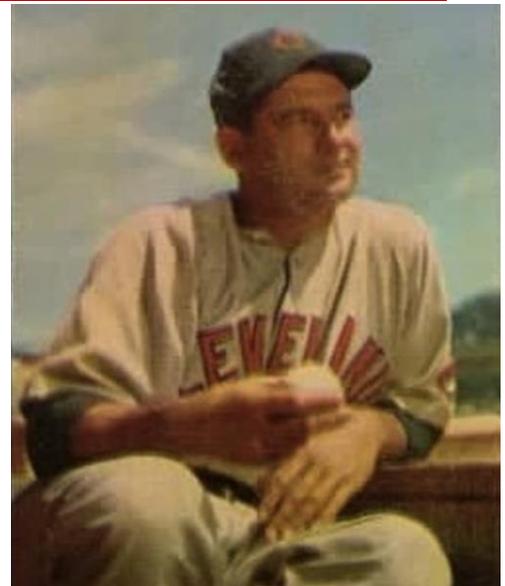
Norman Dasinger, Jr., October 29, 2021

Blue and Gray Education Society

*Wynn's 1953 Bowman baseball | Public Domain ->*

**Ted Williams called him "the toughest pitcher I ever faced."**

Early Wynn was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1972, along with Yogi Berra and Sandy Koufax. The Geneva County, Alabama, native approached the game of baseball with enormous passion, sometimes throwing chairs in frustration after losses. In fact, he actually threw a pitch at his own 15-year-old son. During a pre-game batting practice session, Joe, Early's son, hit two long drives in a row off his father. Moments later, Joe was lying flat on his back, frightened by his father's knockdown pitch. The Dad later said, "He was leaning in on me, and I had to show him who was boss."



Born in 1920, Early Wynn, Jr. played 23 seasons of major league baseball for three different teams and won the 1959 Cy Young Award. He was the son of an automobile mechanic. When he was a teenager, Wynn attended a tryout camp in Florida and signed with the Washington Senators for \$100 per month. He never finished high school and made his major league debut in 1939. In 691 games, he won 300 of them and had 2,334 strikeouts.

### Was such drive and determination in his DNA?

Maybe.

Early Wynn's great-grandfather was Robert W. Wynn. He was born in 1830 in Dale (now Geneva) County, Alabama. In April 1862, he joined The Daleville Blues, Company G, 33rd Alabama Infantry Regiment, Confederate States Army. This unit's first combat was Perryville, Kentucky, in October 1862. Immediately after the battle, the 33rd was ordered to be part of Gen. Patrick Cleburne's command. This division would become one of the Confederacy's finest fighting units, and the 33rd (along with Wynn) would remain with Cleburne until the commander's death in November 1864.

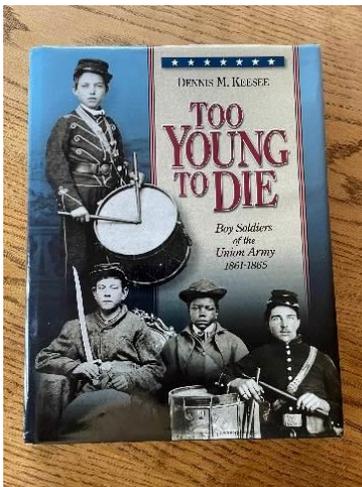
At the battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on December 31, 1862, Sgt. Robert W. Wynn received a nasty bayonet or gun thrust wound. The regimental adjutant described some of the action Sergeant Wynn was part of that day:

*"On the morning of the 31st we were formed in line and commenced to move forward. . . I could hear the balls whistle by me . . . [but] Our fire soon became too hot for them . . . We ran them a long distance, killing and wounding many. . . After getting some more ammunition and resting a short time, we again moved forward. We saw a brigade of Yankees in an open field . . . [S]oon a battery nearby opened up on us; we charged it but lost a good many men and were unable to take it . . . It was now about 2pm, and having been in the fight ever since sunrise . . . we had driven the Yankees a long way and slept that night on the battlefield."*

Sergeant Wynn would not be away from the 33rd very long. He was wounded again at the battle of Chickamauga, Georgia, in September 1863. He died in 1903.

Did Early Wynn get his tough, fiery temper from his tough, fiery great-grandfather? Yeah, he probably did.

## **BOOK REVIEW – TOO YOUNG TO DIE**



Author: Dennis M. Keesee

Reviewed by Mike Espenshade

Hardback; 2001; Blue Acorn Press.; 259 pp.; in addition: >80 pictures, 19 pp sources and notes, 11 pp index. \$5 used.

What a joy to read!! Dennis Keesee reveals his life-long study of the Union boys under the age of 18. This book is physically larger than most, 8.5" x 11", and packed with closely-documented stories and pictures of scores of young patriots leaving home, some with parental permission, and some without.

The author expertly assembles his deeply-researched material into a cohesive and enjoyable presentation of the motives, circumstances, and experiences of these boys as they enter the army and serve as much of their term as God allows. Getting help from unpredictable sources, they often side-step army regulations governing the service of underage recruits.

Aged sometimes 8 or 9, but always under 18, these volunteers learn to be able to serve the army usefully as musicians, sometimes as officer servants. Sadly, but predictably, they are often too small and frail to withstand the ardors of camp and campaign. Many do not last more than a few months in the service. Many succumb to their exposures to disease and weather. Those who last longer than a few months, and show dedication to their duties, are treated well. They are considered "pets" by the older men who take care of these boys as if they are their own family.

The many, many experiences displayed by the author show the excitement of the young recruits, their challenges, and their thoughts. Musicians were expected to lay aside their instruments during battle and serve as stretcher bearers and aid the wounded. This work samples their daring exploits in and out of camp, dealing with the enemy, avoiding capture, escaping captivity, assisting with the wounded, dealing with their own sickness and wounds, etc.

This tiny book review does poor justice to this author's work. The book leaves this reader astounded by the number of underage boys who served so well and bravely for the Union, on all the fronts, including the U.S. Navy. Their strong ambitions to serve beyond their physical means is clear. Many boys strong enough to safely handle the rifle still could not honestly say they were 16 or 17 - much less the minimum age of 18 - yet were found in the ranks. The younger musicians seemed to impatiently "bide-their time" until they, too, could be "in the ranks".

Too short to be in the ranks, but having no shortage of bravery, 10 year old John Klem, drummer in the 22nd Michigan Infantry, picked up a rifle at Chickamauga in time to defend his sergeant - to badly wound an attacking mounted Confederate Colonel.

I am honored to still be here to give my 12-year old grandson, Brayden, this book for his reference. He has just spent his first weekend with the 53<sup>rd</sup> PA at Landis Valley as drummer = he has been studying and waiting since he was 5 years old to join us.

I know that Brayden will discover, from this reading, a kindred connection to those young soldiers who have gone before. Thereby, I hope, this connection will help to build for Brayden the many years of teaching and sharing the CW experience to others ... and follow in my footsteps.

## **THE CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF LEVI J. FRITZ**

(thank you to Rich Sauers for providing this series)

*[Note - any grammatical and typographical errors were kept intact as they are original to the letter - editor]*

Levi J. Fritz served in Company A, 53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He enlisted in 1861 and was mustered out with the regiment in July 1865. During the course of the first three years of the conflict, Fritz wrote a number of lengthy missives to the *Montgomery Ledger*, a Pottstown newspaper.

Headquarters 53d Penna. Vols.  
Camp Near Brandy Station, Va.,  
Sunday, Nov. 15th, 1863.

Messrs. Editors:-It is past eight o'clock, and while the good folks at home have congregated in the churches for Sabbath evening worship-we that have no churches to go to, and even very little to remind us that this day is Sunday, occupy ourselves in writing you. Instead of the clear tingling of church bells reminding us that the pastors are waiting for their flocks, we hear the rap-tap-tap of the drum, and the far-sounding strains of the tattoo bugle, warning us to "tumble out" for roll-call. Well, such is life *a la militaire*.

The election is over and of course, the country is once more saved. We will not violate the neutrality of your columns by saying that we are sincerely pleased by the re-election of Mr. Curtin. Presuming that politics is not now the all-absorbing theme of your readers, we are pleased to render the following historyette of the doings of the 53d during the past month.

September 12th, in accordance with orders we broke camp near the mythical burg of Morrisville, and took up the line of march. A march of six miles brought us to Bealton Station on the Alexandria & Orange Railroad. The weather was oppressively warm and several men died from the effects of the heat. In the evening we arrived at Rappahannock Station, and we bivouacked in the woods about a mile from the river. The next morning we passed over the Rappahannock on pontoon bridges. The cavalry was in force in our front and our Corps (2d) was its support. The move appeared to be a reconnoissance in force, as no other corps had as yet broken camp. Our cavalry had advanced but a few miles beyond the river when they began skirmishing with the rebels. The enemy was steadily pushed back. At noon we were at Brandy Station. Here permit me to remark in parenthesis, that the proper name of this Station is Brandreth; but, once upon a time, so the rumor goes, a certain General had his headquarters there, and ever since that the place has been termed Brandy Station.

Our cavalry had a right smart skirmish at Culpepper. Gen. Custer's brigade of horsemen made a beautiful charge upon the rebels, and captured two pieces of artillery and a number of prisoners; and afterwards charging through the streets of Culpepper, and driving the rebels several miles beyond the town. At sundown our corps bivouacked near Culpepper. During the night, the enemy withdrew to the south bank of the Rapidan River.

On September 15th we again moved forward and marched twelve miles, taking up a position near the river and advancing our picket line to the stream itself. It now became evident that the whole army was advancing. Our camp was in the woods near Cedar, better known as Slaughter Mountain, where Pope had a big fight when he was going to Richmond with "his headquarters in the saddle." Lee was in a strong position on the hills on the southern side of the Rapidan. His works could be plainly seen; as well as the frequent manoeuvring of his battalions. Our position confronting him was a weak one, and would have no doubt required more force than Gen. Meade had at his disposal to dislodge Lee from his chosen position.

The railroad was used for transportation purposes to Mitchell's Station, at which place Gen. Warren commanding the 2d Corps in the absence of Gen. Hancock, had established his headquarters. The rebels used the same road to Rapidan Station, but four miles from Mitchell's, and often we heard at the same time the whistles of the Union and rebel locomotives.

We remained in the front of the Rapidan until the 8th of October, when the 6th corps came up to relieve us and we marched to the rear and camped about a mile to the rear of the town of Culpepper. Here we anticipated some rest. While in front the picket duty was unusually heavy, but there was to be no rest for us. [The excellent Band of the 3d Division is discoursing a grand air, and I really must stop writing until the music ceases.]

On the 10th of October, it was discovered that Lee was flanking us on our right. At noon of that day we passed over Mountain Creek and moved a few miles out the Sperryville pike, at nightfall forming in line of battle in good position about three miles to the right of Culpepper. We built small fires, cooked supper, coffee, and bivouacked. Two o'clock in the morning we were aroused by that hateful word "fall in, fall in." It was so very dark that it was difficult to tell whether we fell in or fell out, and we are certain that several had their personalities disturbed by falling down.

Well, we marched and we countermarched through the woods in the dark, and daylight found us on the road to Brandreth—beg pardon—Brandy Station. At noon we arrived at Rappahannock Station. Here we lay until late in the afternoon, until the wagons had all passed the river. About 4 P. M., we crossed the stream and marched to Bealton Station, where we bivouacked. The entire army was evidently retreating. At 10 o'clock the morning of the 12th, we were much surprised by receiving orders to move forward to Rappahannock Station. We were immediately pushed across the river and upon reaching the Southern side at once developed lines of battle. Skirmishing was going on in our front and as our advance kept forcing the rebels back we advanced our lines of battle and at sundown we were near Brandreth—once more your pardon, kind reader—Brandy Station.

We captured entire a rail fence, built bivouac fires and tumbled in for the night. Everything was lovely until midnight when a "get up! pack up! fall in" and away we moved instanter and at a double quick. We tumble into runs, we break our neck over fences, we fall among the briars, we bring our toes in close contact with stones, in which the stones stubbornly maintain their position and come off victorious. We were on the skedaddle now in earnest—no one doubted it; our aching toes painfully testified to the fact. We double-quickened for nearly four miles to Rappahannock Station at once crossed the river. Within the space of twenty-four hours we had passed this historic stream three times. We followed the railroad to Bealton Station, and which place we arrived about half past three in the morning. We the proceeded in the direction of Warrenton.

At daylight we halted in line of battle and were allowed a few minutes to cook coffee. We then resumed the line of march—and all day were marching—over all manner of roads; apparently in every direction. The 2d Corps was covering the retreat of the whole army. At sunset we bivouacked in a wood about 6 miles from Warrenton, at which place the enemy was in force. During the close of the day's march we had abundant evidence that the rebels were around us. They fired upon our flankers. A squad of the graybacks fired upon the gallant General French and staff as he was riding at the head of his column. We believe that it was about this time that the brave Col. Tippen of the 68th, was so unfortunate as to be "gobbled up." While we were making arrangements for bivouacking the 3d Corps was passing us. During the day we marched at least 35 miles.

Day was just breaking on the morning of the 14th of October when we marched. A few miles tramp brought us to Kettle Run, which we waded, and marched to the top of a hill, stacked arms and built fires for the purpose of cooking coffee for breakfast. While we were engaged in this laudable enterprise our cavalry became engaged with the rebel skirmishers about a mile from us, in the direction of Warrenton. It was quite a brisk bang-banging, and many of us were looking on, congratulating ourselves that the minnie balls were harmless when we were out of range; when quick as gunpowder, the rebels opened on us in our rear with a battery, and they planted their shells right among us. The fact of the matter is, it was decidedly bad. Notwithstanding the bursting, hissing and furious splurging of shell, obedient as ever to the commands, cool and prompt, of Col. Brooke, every man fell into his place behind the stacks of muskets and took arms as coolly as if on parade. The brigade was moved partly under cover of a hill. A battery of ours was got in position and soon the rebels were compelled to haul off their guns. The enemy had got in our rear under cover of the fog. Seven men were killed and about twenty wounded in our brigade. In the 64th N. Y., a few yards in front of our regiment, two men were killed and four wounded by the explosion of one shell. The Corps began moving out on road leading to Catlett's Station. Our Division was in the rear and our Brigade was the rear guard of the Division. The place at which the action occurred in the morning is known as Auburn, not the "loveliest village of the plain" that Goldsmith sings so emphatically of, but one of those two houses-and-several-negro-shanties affair that the First Families of V. seem to have a mania for forming towns and burgs.

Col. Brooke formed his brigade in line of battle in the woods parallel with the Centreville Road and placed his pickets and skirmishers. Although the enemy vastly outnumbered our rear guard, and were hurling at our troops shell, grape and schrapnell, Col. Brooke boldly advanced his lines, and by this movement for a while deceived the enemy as to the fact that our corps was moving off towards Catletts. To keep our brigade from being cut off required quick movements and good generalship. The rebels appeared to be everywhere. While engaging the enemy in the front it would become necessary to about face in order to give the compliments of the season to those in our rear or pressing rather too heavily on our flanks. This unequal fight continued until noon—during the action the brigade was about faced six times to repulse the enemy in the rear. At noon Col. Brooke withdrew the troops and followed the main column. They followed savagely for several miles.

While our brigade was desperately holding the rebels in check at the infant village of Auburn, the corps advanced to the Railroad at a point between Catletts and Bristoe Stations. The 5th corps had come up the Railroad and were halted near Broad Run, and afterwards moved off towards Manassas. Hill's column of the rebel army fell in with the rear of the 5th corps and began shelling. While this was going on the 2d corps very quietly moved in on the flank of the enemy—took up a strong position along the railroad bank, and, no doubt very much to the surprise of Rebel General Hill, opened upon the enemy with cannon and musketry. The rebels saw that while they were amusing themselves by good bye shells and farewell grape after the 5th corps, Gen. Warren was taking particular pleasure in covering the rebel

flank with the veterans of the old 2d corps. The fight lasted for several hours. The rebels tried hard to gain the day. Victory, six pieces of artillery and several hundred prisoners were ours.

The Provost Guard of the 2d corps, consisting of companies A, B, and K of our Regiment, was following the second Division. Their position does not require them to go into the front during a battle, but when the lines were formed preparatory to the opening of the battle of Bristoe, they advanced to the front and throughout the entire action fought well and gallantly as men of the Fifty-third always fight. The detachment in the battle was commanded by Lieut. Mahlon S. Ludwig. And the boys speak in the highest terms of his coolness and bravery while under the fire of the enemy. He has recently received his commission promoting him to First Lieutenant of Co. "B."

The rear guard brigade under Col. Brooke reached the field of Bristow when the fight was pretty well over. Skirmishing occurred when crossing Broad Run at midnight. We arrived at Bull Run near Centreville early the following morning. The Regiment on the 14th October, participated in two battles, marched at least twenty miles and all the time was in the difficult position of rear guard. One officer and seven men were wounded and two men taken prisoners by the enemy. The regiment was fortunate.

Oct. 18th we again moved forward, passing through Manassas Junction—wading Broad Run, and halting in the old or rather recent battle field of Auburn. Then we witnessed shameful evidence of the rebel chivalry and humanity. The enemy robbed our dead but left them unburied. We remained several days at this place, and then moved a few miles and took up a position along the line of the Warrenton Branch railroad, about four miles from the town. Camps were laid out in regular order and many of the boys began to hug the hope that we were going into winter quarters.

"Nary." Nov. 6th Gen. Meade said "hold your commands in readiness to move at very short notice." Nov. 7th we moved. It soon became apparent that our brigade was to be rear guard of the wagon train of the Corps. We were immensely happy—we thought we would have an easy time of it, such was our expectation; alas, for the straggling realization. It was at least ten o'clock before the teams had all pulled out and we took up the line of march. At noon we were at Warrenton Junction. At sunset were at Bealton, where we rested. This guarding the wagon train was not in our case what it was said to be. Like angels visits the rests that we received were "few and far between." We were going to Morrisville, only six miles further, and then the train would park. But six miles when it is the tail end of a day's march is quite different from six miles when it is the commencement of a day's march. It any man who has not got three hundred dollars and is not enrolled in the *Corps de Exempt*, (this is not very good French, but Frenchy enough for the occasion) doubts this assertion he can enlist and prove it to his own personal satisfaction.

Well, we pushed on—we saw the bright cheering blaze of the Camp fires in our front and we pushed on. We reach, we pass our old Camp grounds. We are in Morrisville, that grand village of a princely one story frame mansion and two houseless chimneys. The wagon train parks here but we do not. Col. Brooke has orders to immediately re-join the corps at Kelly's Ford only six miles further. How pleasing the prospect! How delightful! Who wouldn't be a soldier! and the echo answer, who. We were not in the best humor in the world. We had no dinner—that was bad, we had no supper—that was worse. It was rather hard to keep Mr. Breakfast on guard in the stomach all day but there was no help for it. Orders must be obeyed if it costs a cow. At or near midnight the Brigade organization arrived at Kelly's Ford on the Rappahannock. While we were on duty with the wagon train—the 3d corps and 6th corps were having a fight and winning honors at Rappahannock Station, capturing a battery and over two thousand prisoners. The following dispatch on the matter has been published:

"Maj. Gen. Meade,—I have just read your dispatch of operations on the Rappahannock on Saturday, and wish to say well done."

(Signed) "A. Lincoln."

On the morning of the 8th inst the corps passed the river and formed line of battle on the southern side. In line of battle we advanced several miles, bivouacking about three miles from the Ford, near a place called Berry Hill. On the 10th we moved to a new position, about half way between Kelly's Ford and Brandreth *alias* Brandy Station. We are in regular Camp and have fixed ourselves comfortable quarters. But we doubt whether the present quietude will remain undisturbed long. We have on hand that diabolical superfluity—eight days rations, and doubtless there is strategy on the carpet. Our letter is getting lengthy—more anon.

[*Montgomery Ledger*, November 24, 1863]

## **EXPERIENCES OF THE CIVIL WAR (PART 7)**

By Leavitt W. Cushing (a member of the original 53<sup>rd</sup> PVI, Co. G)  
(supplied by Tom Kear, a decedent of Cushing)

[*Note – any grammatical and typographical errors were kept intact as they are original to the letter - editor*]

Harrisons Landing Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Mother, Brother & Sister

I recd. Yours of the 3<sup>rd</sup> mailed the 5<sup>th</sup> yesterday and was very glad to hear from you again, and that you were getting along with the work so fast I should think faster than when I was at home We have been having some quite warm days lately but have a little cool breeze once and a while which takes off the heat a little, Last Wednesday we had Division just at night and after we got into camp were ordered out and marched about six miles up the river and laid down and slept an hour and then came back 2

miles and laid down and took another short nap before daylight, We were supporting a battery it was feared the rebels were going to attack our troops at Malvern Hills and we were to cover their retreat if or support them if necessary but we did not hear a gun fired, and came into camp Friday afternoon. There has three of our men that were taken prisoners came into camp Friday that were landed with about 3000 down here, they did not have such a very nice time but were as well treated as the means of the rebels would permit, they were those that were unwell at the time we started and came along with the trains but did not keep with them, Nelson Crowell was at Richmond with the rest but was not well enough to walk down the river as some did while those who didn't think they could were put on the boats, it is not thought that he will stop here as he was not very well besides his hand.

I was glad to hear that the money we sent arrived safe at C – [Coudersport] and hope the rest will. I recd- a letter from Henry this morning, One or two of the boys have been looking for boxes but have not got them although there is a boat which has not been unloaded yet that will perhaps have some of them. I shall not look for my things under a week or more. The Qt [Quarter] Master will here after see to bringing the Express goods to the Regt. I staid with the Judge last night til one or two oc [o'clock], It was expected that the Division inspecting Dr.-. would be around yesterday and that he would be sent of[f] with some others but he did not come, and here he is yet, as he is disappointed which has a bad effect on a sick Soldier, But the Doctor thinks his symptoms better this morning and I am in hopes the Inspector will be around today and that he will be sent of as I think a change will be beneficial to him, Our boys say the rebel soldiers do not talk about invading the north as much as their leaders do, "They say all weems want is for you to stay away and let us alone" perhaps they have had their eyes opened a little as to what they might expect if they should get to far from their works especialy if we should raise a few hundred thousand more troops, They still cling to the idea of England helping them.

We have drawn post of a loaf of bread twice which makes it seem like living again, we are getting so that we do not think as much of meat beans or coffee or vegetable soup and even cakes do not taste so very good. I traveled considerable yesterday morning to find some saleratus or soda to mix with my cakes so as to make them lighter but could find none and had to eat them a little but they were quite light although I had nothing to put in them I am in hopes we shall not draw any more flour without it is baked in soft bread.

It is rather warm weather here for cooking at present, I went down yesterday morning to have my picture taken but was to early the first time and to late the next but will try it again tomorrow morning if nothing happens, I hardly know what to do about the matter as I have not taken the trouble to cut of that detestable mustache sinc I came from home, I guess though that I will let you have one just as I am and if you do not like the looks will make any improvements which your good sense and judgement may dictate My health remains good as ever, I had a touch of that scourge of our army The Diarhea but stopped eating heavy cakes and drinking cold watter, with my meals, And took to crackers and coffee or toasted bread, which I found had a better effect on me than the Doctors doses did on many others, we have good cool weather now and it tastes better than anything else when eating warm meals but I found that it left me very thirsty between meals, and obligated to drink to much watter, while a cup of weak coffee could quench thirst so that I would scarcely want to drink once between meals, I have a good apetite but do not generally eat only 2 meals a day or at least not cook more than twice.

Cheese has got down to 25 cts per lb but butter keeps just double that. Cheese I do not care much about here and butter only once in a while as it melts down in the middle of the day and is not first rate after that they have cans of preserved fruits and bottles of jelly but for a person that has always been in the habit of eating sauce as I have it would not amt. to much considering the price which is a dollar or 10 shillings for about a pint bottle full, I dare say if my apetite was poor I should get them as the rest do, but as it is now I can eat enough for my health and perhaps more without any of the Sutlers aids, I have not had much time to read the papers lately and hardly know what is going on although there is not much of importance or others would speak of it The drafting I imagine will create quite a stampede in the northern States But I think it was necessary to act with vigor in raising troops at least enough so to match the rebels, Well Wilson I would advise you not to be quite so worldly minded, But as our folks always thought that hunting was poor business I cannot blame you for staying at home and helping get the hay in, I suppose there will be some filing documents as to the health and unfitness of many person in Potter on account of the Drafting but think that you will have none to make and suppose you will come if it fall to your lot, I do not know as I regret it although many may be obliged to come who would be excusable in staying at home while others may be left who might just as well come as not. But all are equally interested in the matter whether young or old married or single.

Well Mary I am very much obliged to you for sending me something you picked but would hardly have wished you to stay out of School for that purpose You may tell all the kind folks in Ulysses that remembered me with little gifts that I thank them very much for their kindness and will ever feel grateful for the interest they take in my welfare, I will send you a little gift the same as Frank and you may use it, as I advised Frank to, or any other way you please or suits you best I shall not consider it as paying you for the trouble of getting some berries to send me, As any such thing is above price to me, I think you will have a fine time visiting with Mr. Worden and his daughter when they get to keeping house in Lewisville perhaps you cannot read this as I have not taken much pains with it. I have not generally wrote on such large sheets but find that I shall hardly wish to write on them every time as it takes one so long to write one letter write whenever

you can as well as all the rest and I will always answer immediately if possibly With many wishes for your health and happiness I remain your affectionate brother

Benjamin Jay Cushing

to Mother Sister & Brother

## UPDATED EQUIPMENT VENDOR LIST

I have updated and added a few website links, where needed, on the Equipment Vendor page on the unit website. Especially for the newer members, please check with a veteran member of the 53<sup>rd</sup> before buying things for your kit, such as forage caps, sack coats, trousers, bootees, tentage, etc. as there are many vendors out there, yet only some sell quality authentic-looking and authentically-made items. The veteran members have seen good and bad quality gear over the years so the website list shows approved-vendors who we know sell quality stuff. Buying cheap, non-authentic gear won't last you long in this hobby.

53<sup>rd</sup> PVI Equipment page: <https://www.53rdpvi.org/equipment/> (the vendor list is at the bottom half of this page)

## SCHEDULE CHANGES

The USAHEC event originally scheduled for 21~22 May has been postponed. They are looking at rescheduling the event to a date in September. Once we hear about the new dates, we will let you know. Also, the cartridge rolling party (postponed in March due to snow) has been rescheduled for 21 May at Sgt. Fasnacht's home @ 8AM.

## THE CIVIL WAR MERCHANT

(if you have something for sale or are looking for something, email me to include it in a future edition of "The Sentinel")

### For Sale –

(1.) Listed by Rick Kramer for a friend. All items are in good shape unless noted otherwise. Contact Rick directly for any inquiries/questions - [auktion8@comcast.net](mailto:auktion8@comcast.net)

Keune McDowell Kepi - some brim cracking \$20.00  
 Grey Blanket with black stripe \$35.00

(2.) Kerry Williard is handling the selling of Dave Swigert items for Dave's wife. Marc and I met several months ago to look at the items, give them descriptions, and give approx. values. Several of the items have been sold yet some remain. The list is current as of 24 Jan. 2022. Contact Kerry directly with any and all inquiries: [shamokin71@aol.com](mailto:shamokin71@aol.com) (see the updated list below)

Uniform Clothing	Item Description	Detailed Description	Price
1	Trouser - Steel Blue each with suspendors	34 min waist/27" inseam-avg. condx and a little dirt w/ braces no watch pck	\$25.00
1	Dk Blue Vest Size 42	3 pockets - light wear	\$20.00
1	Colored Pattern Shirt	blue plaid with white china buttons - sun faded - good condx	\$10.00
1	White muslin Shirt	19" at shoulder 14" neck - very short in body length	\$5.00
1	White muslin Shirt	20" at shoulder 16" neck - very short in body length - cuffs are stained	\$5.00
1 pair	Woolen Grey Gloves	modern - right hand is fingerless	\$2.00
1	Underpants - Night Pants - White	36" waist - knee stains - 25" inseam white muslin - rear repair	\$3.00
1	Lt Brown Scarf - Acrylic - Modern		\$1.00
1	Havelock - White - VG condx		\$2.00
3 pairs	Grey Wool Socks - Modern		\$2.00/pr
2	Hats - Union & Confederate for cchildren		\$1.00
<b>Accoutrements</b>			
1	Scabbord - Late war 7 Rivet		\$15.00
1	Gum Blanket	some cracking with oversized grommets	\$20.00
1	Shelter Tent - Both Halves - Heavy Canvas w/Loops w/Mildew		\$35.00
1	Bag of 7 wooden Tent Stakes w/Rope		\$3.00
1	Grey Smooth Face Canteen - Leather Sling Satinette Cover w/ Corded Stopper		\$20.00
1	Haversack - Tarred Black - Brittle Strap w/opwn seam		\$5.00
1	Haversack - Tarred Black w/Liner- Paint peeling Holes @ Strap Connection		\$10.00
1	Grey Smooth Face Canteen - Leather Sling Satinette Cover w/ Corded Stopper		\$20.00
<b>Misc Items</b>			
1 can	sno-seal (half full)		\$1.00
1	Wood Mirror - Haversack filler	sliding cover	\$3.00
1	Wood Comb - Haversack filler		\$1.00
1	Wooden button board		\$1.00
2	Coin Purses - Made from Tic Material		\$1.00/ea
1	Bag with Coffee	brown coffee	\$1.00/ea
1	shoe lace - undied		\$0.25/ea
2	Soap Bar		\$1.00/ea
6 1/2	Wax Candles		\$0.25/ea
1	pocket sharpener stone	new	\$2.00
1	box rifle cleaning kit	pads, steel wool, rags, etc	\$5.00
3	match boxes w/ matches		\$0.25/ea
1 Pair	shoe tree		\$3.00
1	Green Army Duffle Bag		\$3.00
1	drawers for use as patches		\$1.00
<b>Armaments</b>			
1	1861 Springfield Rifle - Armi Sport		\$900.00



(3.) Dave Townsen, a fellow pard of mine in the old 83<sup>rd</sup> PVI, is selling off most of his CW gear. You can contact him directly at: [grumpydave58@comcast.net](mailto:grumpydave58@comcast.net) with any inquiries. He lives in Mechanicsburg.

## **2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS - UPDATED!!**

~~15 January - Holiday Party - Gettysburg~~  
~~5 February - Winter Drill - Landis Valley (ELF and Sykes Regulars invited)~~  
~~26-27 February - NR School of Instruction (Gettysburg)~~  
23 April - Robesonia  
21 May - Cartridge Rolling Party (Kleinfeltersville)  
30 May - Memorial Day Parade (Hummelstown)  
11-12 June - Gruber Wagon Works Living History (Reading)  
16-17 July - Landis Valley Civil War Days (Lancaster) - NR Camp of Instruction  
16-18 September - 160<sup>th</sup> Antietam Reenactment (NR)  
TBD September - Army Heritage Days (USAHEC Carlisle)  
8 October - Millersville Parade  
15-16 October - Cedar Creek Reenactment (NR)  
5 November - Adopt-A-Position (tentative)  
19 November - Remembrance Day (Gettysburg) - NR Annual Meeting and Parade  
3 December - Annual Meeting (Kleinfeltersville)



### Secondary schedule -

~~1-3 April - Shiloh (as the 22<sup>nd</sup> LA) - Cancelled~~  
21-22 May - Old Town, MD - ANV/USV  
5-7 August - Slaughter on the Mountain (Culpepper, VA)

### **53rd PVI Contacts**

President: Eric Ford ([reenactor53@gmail.com](mailto:reenactor53@gmail.com))

Vice President: Pete Zinkus ([zinkusp@gmail.com](mailto:zinkusp@gmail.com))

Treasurer/Secretary: Matthew Steger ([n3ntj@outlook.com](mailto:n3ntj@outlook.com))

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Unit Website: <http://www.53rdpvi.org>

2022 Field Officers - Sergeants: Mark Fasnacht & Marc Benedict. Corporals: Mike Espenshade & Matthew Steger

53rd PVI Member Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/53rdPVI>

National Regiment Phone line: 800-777-1861 (code 61)

New National Regiment Website: <https://www.thenationalregiment.com>

