



53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry

Company C

"The Sentinel" August 2022

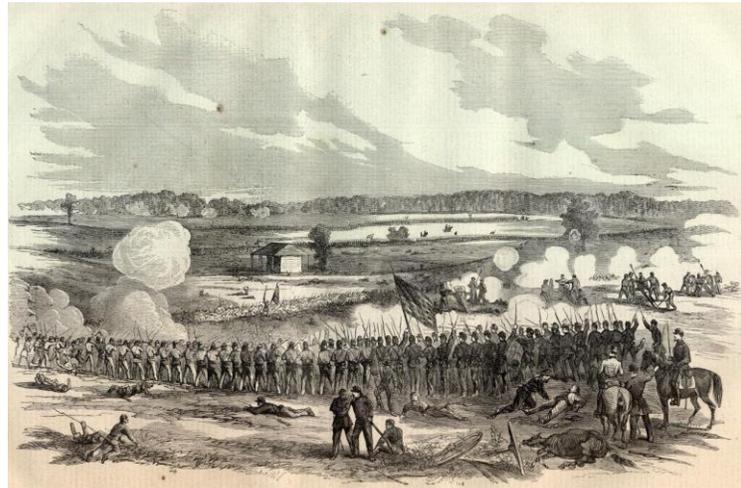
Newsletter of The James Creek Guards



"Clubs Are Trumps!"

This Month:

1. Book Review - "4 Years On The Firing Line"
2. 2022 Gettysburg Foundation "Sacred Trust Talks"
3. 2022 Landis Valley Event Summary
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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

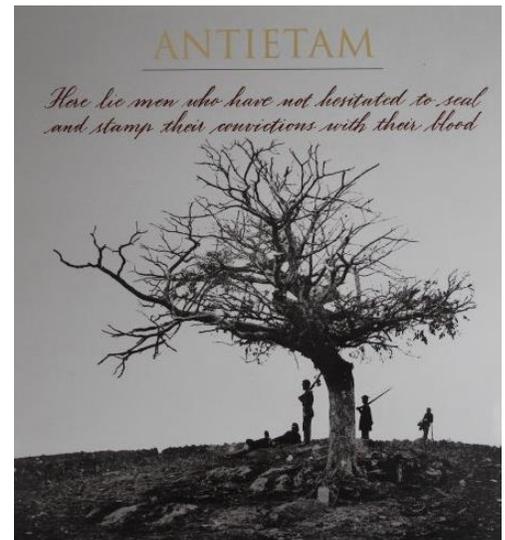
BOOK REVIEW - "4 YEARS ON THE FIRING LINE"

By Paul Parvis

Editors of Time-Life Books, *Antietam, Voices of the Civil War*, Richmond, Va.: Time-Life, Inc., 1996, 168 pages, hardcover

A highly recommended book, which succinctly and easily interprets the Maryland Campaign story. Each engagement phase, beginning with South Mountain, consists of a few pages of narrative as well as excellent maps, sketches, well-placed artifact images, and period photographs providing great orientation and chronology. Following the opening introductions, the story continues with actual accounts provided by officers and men from both sides—and many of the accounts include images of those who wrote them. I have read this book ten times beginning in 1993 and currently reading it now—it transports the reader to the actual ground and sublime events taking place on the field. It is only 168 pages, but packed with emotional and profound accounts. Always learn something following each reading. I give this book five stars.

As an aside, one way to embrace the hobby and maintain enthusiasm is through reading. The personal battle accounts are of course gripping, but soldier-life accounts are also useful and on occasion humorous from pitching tents, foraging, practical jokes, discipline and more.



GETTYSBURG FOUNDATION "SACRED TRUST" TALKS

The 2022 battle anniversary weekend was filled with the return of the Gettysburg Sacred Trust talks. Numerous well-known authors and historians gave great educational presentations.

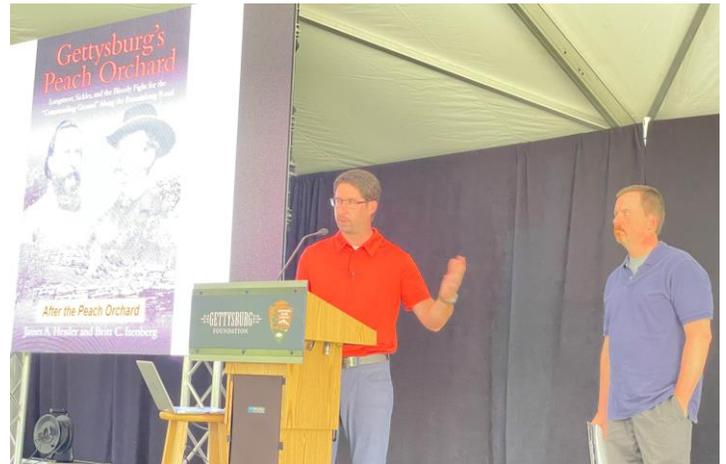
Dr. Kurt Luther gave a presentation on Civil War Photo Sleuthing. This entails trying to determine the identity of people in CDVs, tintypes, ambrotypes, prints, etc. and often uses software. Dr. Luther showed photos that had previously been at the Lost Soldier Office in Washington, DC and then later identified by various ways. He also showed a new website (<https://www.civilwarphotosleuth.com/>) that he's promoting which allows people today to upload photos and try to help identify people. It was quite an interesting topic and presentation.



Wayne Motts (President and CEO of the Gettysburg Foundation) introducing Dr. Luther before his presentation.

Gettysburg's Peach Orchard author's Jim Hessler and Britt Isenberg gave a presentation based upon their book.

The presentation discussed the Sherfy family, their peach orchard, the burning of their barn and the many soldiers (both Federal and Confederate) who were stuck inside and killed.

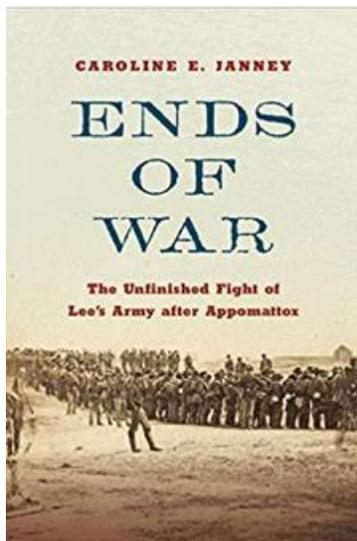


Garry Adelman gave a presentation on the topic of Devil's Den. Garry has various written books on the topic which included mostly photographs and its history.



Wayne Motts introducing Garry Adelman before his presentation.

Dr. Carry Janney gave a sold-out talk at the Gettysburg Foundation Saturday night based upon her book “End of War”. The talk discussed how Confederates at Appomattox Court House were paroled and what some of them did next. Some tried to get home. Some tried to join Johnston’s army still fighting Sherman.

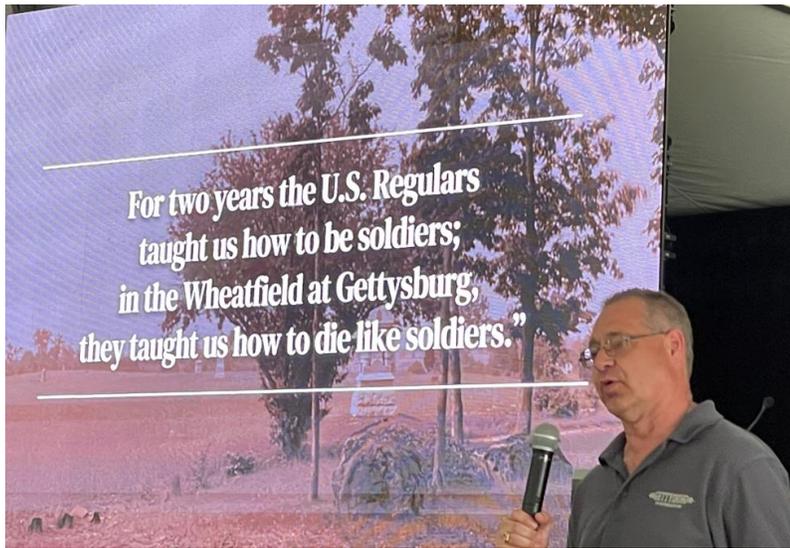


Chris Gwinn (Gettysburg NPS Chief of Interpretation and Education) gave a talk which highlighted the various battle reunions, most specifically, the last one in 1938. He covered the planning as well as the logistics of the 75th anniversary event. Due to threats of the GAR and UCV to not attend, the events (especially the 1913 and 1938 ones) almost didn't happen.



Dr. Carol Reardon gave a presentation about the U.S. Regulars at Gettysburg, specifically in the Wheat Field.

She also covered how the Regulars and the Volunteers interacted.

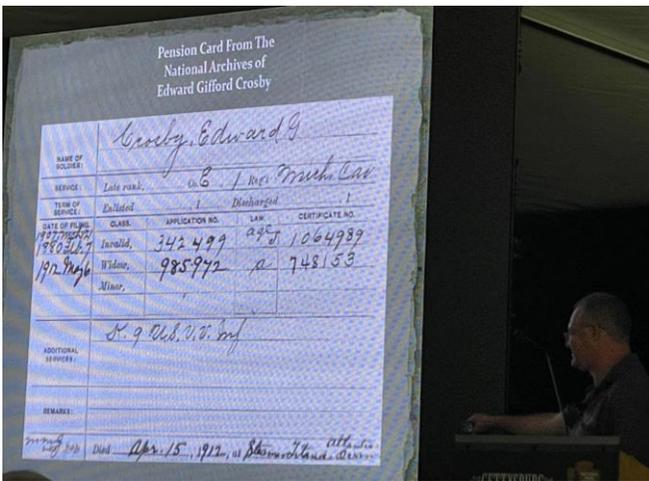


Wayne Motts MC'ing the question and answer period for Dr. Reardon at the end of her U.S. Regulars presentation.

Wayne Motts gave a great presentation on the Gettysburg connection to the Titanic tragedy.

Edward Crosby served in the 1st Michigan Cavalry with Gen. Custer at East Cavalry Field on 3 July. He was a rags-to-riches story. When he enlisted, he listed "broom maker" as his occupation. He was injured a few times before the war ended. Afterwards, he went back to Michigan and had various jobs before starting his own steamer business across Lake Michigan from western Michigan to Milwaukee. He became rich at this venture and went over to Europe in 1912 to try to gain additional investors. He also took his wife and daughter with him. They had 2 first-class rooms on the ill-fated luxury steamer.

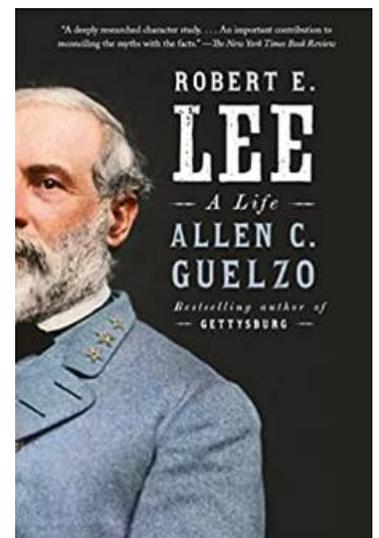
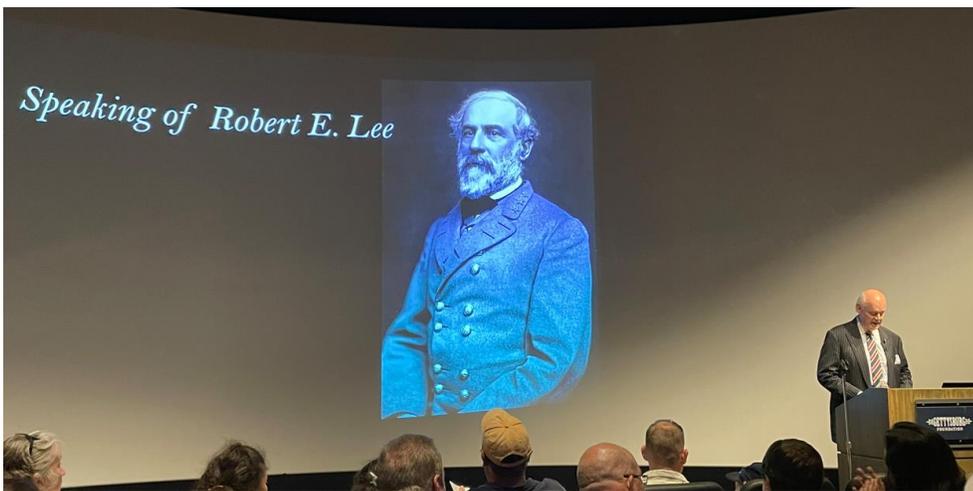




Edward Crosby's pension card is shown at the left. At the bottom, it lists his death upon the Titanic.

His wife and daughter made it into a partially full life boat but, for unknown reasons, Edward didn't and became one of the approx. 1,517 victims. His body was retrieved a few days later and brought to shore at Halifax, Canada. He was returned back to Milwaukee (that was his primary residence by this time) and was cremated and buried. His wife and daughter were also buried with him when they died.

Dr. Allen Guelzo (renowned historian and author) gave a sold-out presentation at the Gettysburg Foundation Sunday night called "Speaking of Robert E. Lee" on the topic of his new book "Robert E. Lee – A Life". The discussion covered various aspects of Lee's life and service. It also discussed the contradictions in his life and the decisions he made.



LANDIS VALLEY EVENT SUMMARY

Landis Valley held its annual Civil War Days on July 16th/17th and it was part of the National Regiment's Camp Of Instruction (COI). Participating as guests of the 53rd PVI were 8th Ohio, 1st MD, 3rd MD, 7th PA Res., 1st PA, Sykes Regulars, 5th NY, 6th NH, and the 27th CT. Thanks to Trenton Lewis, Adam Baker, Eric and Traci Ford for the below photos. You can find a lot more event photos on the FB pages of the 53rd and the NR.







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

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

(2.) Dave Townsen, a fellow pard of mine in the old 83rd PVI, is selling off most of his CW gear. You can contact him directly at: grumpydave58@comcast.net with any inquiries about items, pricing, etc. He lives in Mechanicsburg and he has only quality gear.

(3.) 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 (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
Accoutrements			
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
Misc Items			
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 sharpenig 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 Duffie Bag		\$3.00
1	drawers for use as patches		\$1.00
Armaments			
1	1861 Springfield Rifle - Armi Sport		\$900.00

2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ~~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 - MAX EFFORT~~
- 16-18 September - 160th Antietam Reenactment (NR) **MAX EFFORT**
- 8 October - Millersville Parade
- 15-16 October - USAHEC Army Heritage Days - Carlisle **MAX EFFORT**
- 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 22nd LA) - Cancelled~~

~~21-22 May - Old Town, MD - ANV/USV~~

5-7 August - Slaughter on the Mountain (Culpepper, VA)

15-16 October - Cedar Creek Reenactment (NR)

53rd PVI Contacts

President: Eric Ford (reenactor53@gmail.com)

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

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

Newsletter Editor: Matthew Steger (n3ntj@outlook.com)

Webmasters: Steve Dillon (steve@gofoxpro.com) and Matthew Steger (n3ntj@outlook.com)

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>

