

53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry

Company C

"The Sentinel" November 2023

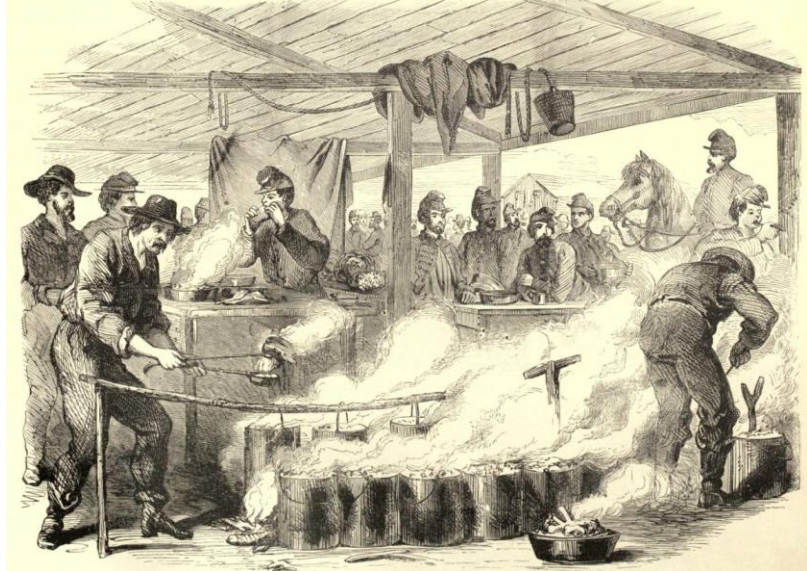
Newsletter of The James Creek Guards



"Clubs Are Trumps!"

This Month:

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

ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND THE ONCOMING WAR

John M. Taylor, September 4, 2023,
blueandgrayeducation.org

The Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C., was the site of the unsuccessful 1861 Peace Conference. | LOC

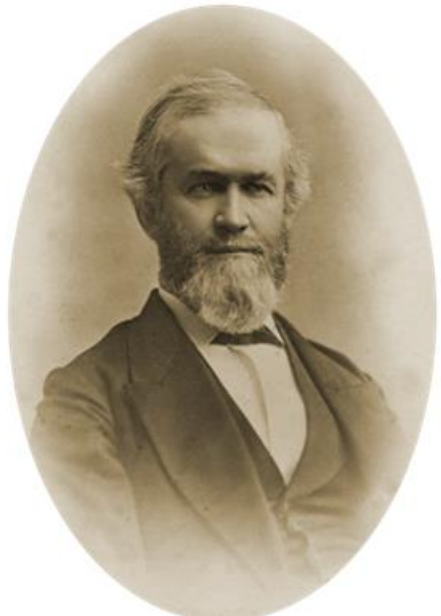
In March 1861, Virginia, which had not yet seceded, became concerned after the Abraham Lincoln Administration rejected peace overtures.

In his First Inaugural Address on Monday, March 4, 1861, Lincoln spelled out his only reason for war:

"The power confided to me will be used to hold, occupy, and possess the property and places belonging to the Government and to collect the duties and imposts; but beyond what may be necessary for these objects, there will be no invasion, no using of force against or among the people anywhere."

Through Virginia's persistence and its concern, Lincoln finally agreed to meet with Southern peace representatives.





First Meeting: On April 4, 1861, Virginia Unionist John Brown Baldwin met Lincoln in Washington, D.C., to offer a compromise. As their dialogue progressed, Lincoln asked, “Well ... what about the revenue? What would I do about the collection of duties?” Baldwin asked how much revenue would be lost per year. Lincoln responded “50 or 60 million.” Baldwin said \$250 (based on a four-year presidential term) would be “a drop in the bucket” compared to the cost of war, and Virginia’s compromise plan would ameliorate the situation. Lincoln added, “And open Charleston, etc., as ports of entry, with their 10 percent tariff. What, then, would become of my tariff?”

Second Meeting: A.H.H. Stuart, William B. Preston, and George W. Randolph, all prominent Virginians, spoke with Lincoln on April 12-13, 1861, and received a similar response. “I remember,” says Mr. Stuart, “that he used this homely expression: ‘If I do that, what will become of my revenue? I might as well shut up housekeeping at once.’”

Third Meeting: Another attempt at compromise was detailed in the April 23, 1861, edition of the Baltimore Exchange and reprinted in the May 8, 1861, edition of the Memphis Daily Avalanche. This meeting was led by Dr. Richard

Fuller, a preacher from the Seventh Baptist Church in Baltimore. The article states:

“We learned that a delegation from five of the Young Men’s Christian Associations of Baltimore, consisting of six members each, yesterday [April 22, 1861] proceeded to Washington for an interview with the President, the purpose being to intercede with him in behalf a peaceful policy.”

Fuller made a plea for peace and recognition of Southern rights. Lincoln responded, “But what am I to do? ... what shall become of the revenue? I shall have no government? No resources?”

Lyon Gardiner Tyler, a Virginian, and son of former President John Tyler, wrote:

“The deciding factor with him [Lincoln] was the tariff question. In three separate interviews, he asked what would become of his revenue if he allowed the government at Montgomery to go on with their ten percent tariff....”

All of the April 1861 peace efforts were rejected.

BOOK REVIEW: LAST CHANCE FOR VICTORY – JUBAL EARLY’S 1864 MARYLAND INVASION

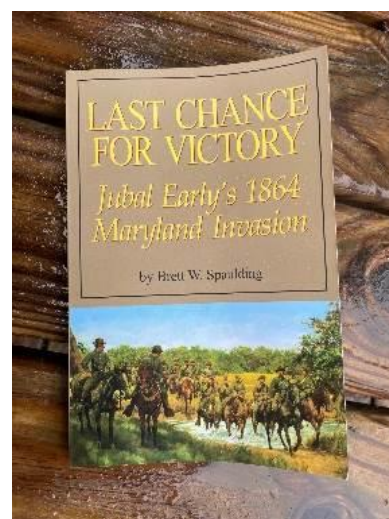
Author: Brent W. Spaulding

Reviewed by Mike Espenshade

Paperback; 2010; 203 pp.; 28 pictures, 40 maps, excellent notes on every page, 9 pages of bibliography, 9 pp index. Free from a friend of Pete Zinkus or \$9.98 at a battlefield bookstore.

As Lee’s army was getting engaged around Petersburg starting in mid-June, 1864, Union General David Hunter and 18,000 troops marched up the Shenandoah Valley and attempted to seize at Lynchburg, Va the vital manufacturing and rail center and begin to strangle the western-approach supply lines to Richmond and Petersburg. Gen Jubal Early, now commanding Ewell’s 2nd Corps, marched over 130 miles west from the Cold Harbor area and beat Hunter on June 18 in a limited battle at Lynchburg, encouraging Hunter to leave the Valley westward past the Appalachians. This effectively removed Hunter’s force from Virginia, freeing Early to threaten Maryland and Washington – by Lee and Davis’ suggestion.

Hard and hot marching over 20 miles nearly every day for the next 24 days was the plight of Early’s nearly 30,000 infantry/cavalry force as they surprised the North at Harper’s Ferry, Frederick, Battle of Monocacy Junction, and to the very outskirts of Washington, DC at Fort Stevens. There was even a



significant cavalry/naval action planned to liberate the 15,000 CSA prisoners at Point Lookout POW camp.

Please read this engaging work to learn how the Union was able to pull enough strings together to just barely prevent this juggernaut from overturning the tides of war and give the Confederacy a desperate, yet spectacular, victory.

This very useful and enjoyable work was researched by NPS Interpretive Park Ranger Brent Spaulding, who works at the Monocacy National Battlefield. He crafted this work in response to many of the typical questions asked by visitors to the battlefield. Although not a lengthy publication, it is laid out nicely and the multiple, simultaneous actions by the opposing forces are easy to comprehend. This book provides all the information for a medium level coverage from which most of us can benefit. The Union and Confederate Order of Battle are listed by battle area and are provided in four Appendixes.

ANNUAL MEETING INFO

Reminder that our annual meeting is scheduled for 9AM on Saturday December 2nd at Sgt. Fasnacht's home in Kleinfeltersville. Should you need directions, please let me know. On the agenda will be topics such as 2023 in review, our 2024 schedule, the NR's 2024 schedule, treasurer's report, membership, the election, the holiday party, and more. Please arrive by 8:45AM so we can start on time. Please also bring a food item to share for lunch with the group after the meeting and please let Mark know asap (1.) if you are attending the meeting and (2.) what food item you are bringing.

I will also be accepting checks for 2024 dues and the holiday party. More details about the holiday party will be provided at the meeting. Hope to see you all at our annual meeting.

USAHEC EVENT SUMMARY

On 14 October, USAHEC held it's "Army Expo '23" event (formerly called "Army Heritage Days" in prior years) at the Carlisle barracks. Re-enactors and equipment from many time frames were on display including F&I, Rev War, War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, SpanAm War, WW1, WW2, Korean War, Vietnam War, and Iraq/Afghanistan Wars.

We were joined by some of our parads from the 1st MD, 3rd MD, 7th PA Reserves, 1st PA Reserves, 8th OH, and 1st MN. Due to on and off rain much of the day, the schedule was modified. We did some drill for the crowd however the firing demo was cancelled since it would have been a nightmare of misfires from wet powder. Attending from the 53rd were: Sgt. Steger, Corporal Brumbaugh, Private Orris. Sgt. Steger was 1st Sgt. for Saturday's activities. Photo supplied by Chip Smith (7th PA Reserves). Not everybody present at the event was in the 1st photo however the photo includes men from ELF (now including the 53rd PVI) and the 8th OH.





CIVIL WAR FLAG PRESERVATION SITE VISIT

On Saturday October 28th, the 53rd PVI made a pre-scheduled field trip to the Capitol Preservation Committee's "Pennsylvania Civil War Battle Flag Education Center" in Harrisburg to see some original flags of the 53rd PVI, 95th PVI, and the 83rd PVI. The new site, which opened in early October to the public, includes interactive/research tools, artifacts, and the climate controlled (temperature and humidity) room where the flags, banners, and flag staffs are stored and preserved. This visit was a real treat! The site historian (Jason Wilson) is a great resource.

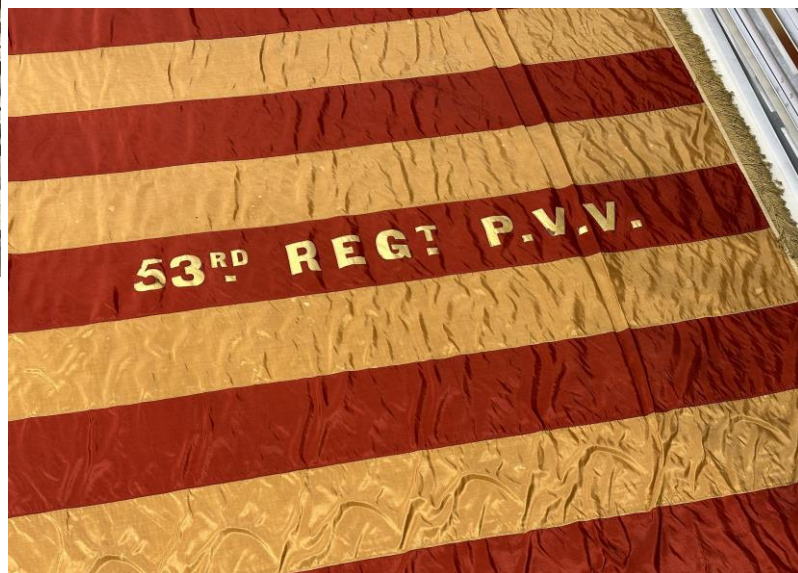
The 53rd PVI's 1st national colors which was supplied to PA on 14 Sept. 1861 and saw action up to the fall 1863. Manufactured by Evans & Hassall (Philadelphia).



The 53rd PVI's 2nd national colors. Presented to the 53rd in the early spring of 1864 before the spring campaign began and saw action through the end of the war. Manufactured by Horstmann Brothers & Co (Philadelphia).



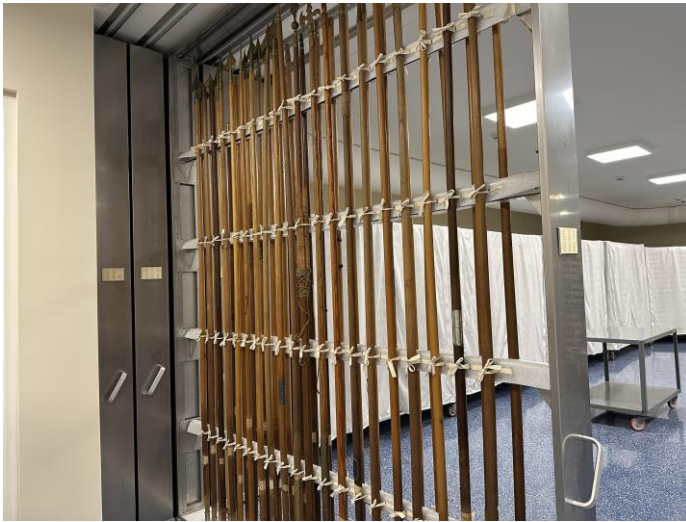
The 53rd PVI's 3rd national colors. Ordered in May 1865 but delivered after the unit had disbanded. Officially presented to the Commonwealth of PA in 1866. Other than a few small tears near the lower right and discoloring of the white stripes, the flag looks phenomenal (of course, it never saw battle, though).



Close-ups of the 53rd's 3rd national colors.



Tassel with the 53rd's 3rd colors. The designs of the tassels supplied with the 1st and 2nd/3rd state colors of the 53rd PVI were of different designs.



3 of these flag staffs are labeled as those belonging to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd flags of the 53rd PVI. The 1st 2 were replacements (never seeing battle but likely replaced when the reg't turned their flags back to the Commonwealth in 1866) and the 3rd was likely the original one presented with the 3rd flag (which also never saw combat).

These photos show what's left of the 95th PVI's 1st national colors, including battle honors ribbons. The small amount of red silk nailed to the area where the canton would be (see close-up photo below) is the remnant of the portion of the flag that says "95th PVI". There are also remnants of an unidentified artillery flag on the same table below the 95th's battle honors ribbons. These ribbons were a post-war (likely GAR) addition.

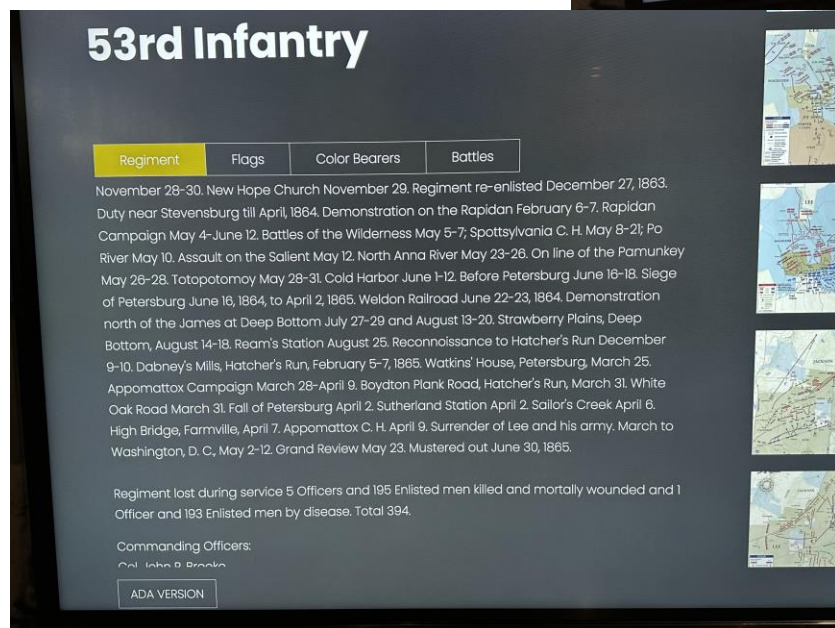
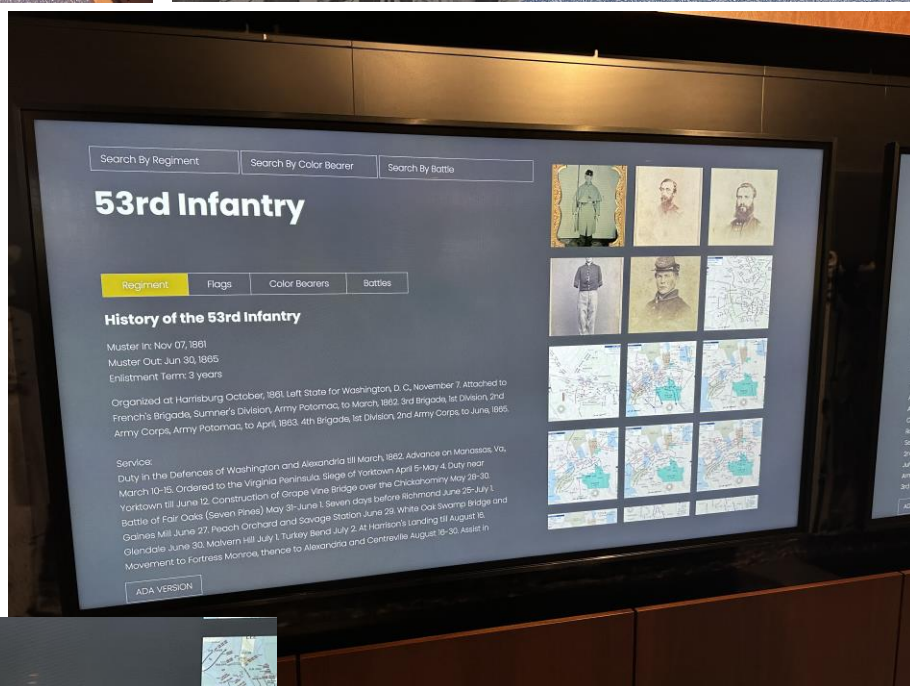


The 95th PVI's regimental flag. Notice that the unit's designation was never painted in the red ribbon below the eagle. These regimental flags came this way (with no unit designation painted on) and it was up to the individual units to get their unit designation painted on or left blank.

While the Army guidelines stated that Federal units were supposed to be issued national and regimental flags, many PA volunteer units (such as the 53rd PVI) never received a regimental flag. Special thanks to our own Rick Sauers' "[Advance The Colors](#)" book for some info contained in this article.



Some views of the site's museum and research center:





WINSLOW HOMER SOUVENIR CARD

Noted American artist Winslow Homer (1836 ~ 1910) created a series of drawings entitled "Life In Camp" originally published circa 1864 by L. Prang & Co. The series was exhibited in "The Civil War in America" at the Library of Congress in 2013. This month's image is entitled "The Guard House".



ANTIETAM 2022 EVENT PHOTO



This photo was shared by Mike Espenshade from the 2022 Antietam (160th) event showing Corporals Espenshade and Brumbaugh and musician Thomas.

UPCOMING EVENTS

18 November - National Regiment annual meeting and Remembrance Day parade. The NR board of directors and NR unit representatives will meet on Saturday November 18th for our annual meeting to discuss 2023, the NR's 2024 schedule, etc. The annual Remembrance Day parade is scheduled for the same afternoon. If you plan on marching in the parade and/or attending the afternoon reception for Col. Downes, please let Eric know ASAP.

2 December - Our annual meeting will begin promptly at 9AM at Sgt. Fasnacht's home in Kleinfeltersville. Please arrive by 8:45AM. Should you need directions, please let me know. Agenda topics will include our 2024 schedule, treasurer's report, the election, holiday party, etc. and a nice surprise! Please bring a food item to share for lunch with the group after the meeting and please let Mark know ASAP (1.) if you are attending the meeting and (2.) what food item you are bringing. You can also pay for your 2024 dues and holiday party at the same time with a single check. All checks are payable to "53rd PVI".

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

We have two more events on the 2023 schedule and I'm hoping for a strong turnout at both. The first is Remembrance Day on November 18. I sent this info to each of you on October 26;

I know how most of you feel about Remembrance Day. However, I'm going to push this year's parade as a max effort. We'll be doing a formal change of command ceremony during the dress parade.

The Board is also hosting a happy hour reception for Tom Downes from 4pm - 6pm at the Days Inn.

I feel that it's important for the 53rd to be well represented this year.

I sent an email to NR unit reps asking for attendance numbers so I can start planning for the purchase of refreshments. **I need to know who is attending by November 4th.**

The second event is the annual business meeting. Attendance has fallen for the meeting in recent years so I'm hopeful that you can make arrangements to attend. The meeting itself will wrap up timely (before lunch) with our traditional pot-luck lunch to follow. The meeting will begin promptly at 9:00AM on December 2nd at Mark Fasnacht's home. The election ballot will have NCO's and President on it. The nominees are:

- Sgt: Marc Benedict and Matt Steger
- Cpl: Mike Espenshade and Mike Brumbaugh
- President: Eric Ford

As per the bylaws, the Sgt. and Cpl. receiving the most votes will hold the rank of 1st Sgt. and 1st Cpl. Those in the 2nd position should be prepared to fill the role as 1st should the need arise.

Unit dues will remain \$40 per man. (\$30 dues and \$10 insurance) Plan to pay your dues at the meeting. If you can't attend, mail them to Matt before the end of the year.

*****Save the date: The annual banquet is scheduled for January 13. Details will be made available at the meeting and sent to the entire membership and alumni later that day or the next.**

QM inventory: With the exception of the Enfield, we're going to make usable equipment available to our newest recruit to assist him in putting together a kit so he's ready in time for winter drill. If anyone has surplus gear that they wish to make available to Ryan, please reach out to Ryan directly via his email address: ryorris13@gmail.com.

NR's School of the Soldier: Let me know if you're interested in leading a discussion or teaching a topic at the School. The date for the event is March 2, 2024 at the Gettysburg Fire Dept. I'll pass along your info to Ted Brennan.

Thank you!
Eric

THE CIVIL WAR MERCHANT

(if you have something for sale or are looking for something to add to your kit, email me your ad or want for a future edition of "The Sentinel")

For Sale –

(1.) 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 quality gear.

(2.) I have a C&D Jarnagin size 46 federal enlisted frock coat for sale. Still in great condition. Email me with any questions/inquiries: n3ntj@outlook.com

(3.) Kerry Williard is handling the sale of Dave Swigert items for Dave's wife. Marc and I assembled an inventory list with approximate values. Some items remain. The list is current as of 21 July 2023. Contact Kerry directly with any and all inquiries: shamokin71@aol.com (see the updated list below)

Quantity	Item Description	Detailed Description	Selling Price
Armaments			
1	1861 Springfield Rifle - Armi Sport		\$900.00
Uniform Clothing			
1	Trouser - Steel Blue each with suspenders	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	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
1 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	Haversack - Tarred Black - Brittle Strap w/opwn seam		\$5.00
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
2	Soap Bar		\$1.00/ea
1	box rifle cleaning kit	pads, steel wool, rags, etc	\$5.00
1 Pair	shoe tree		\$3.00
1	Green Army Duffle Bag		\$3.00
1	drawers for use as patches		\$1.00

2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

15 January – Holiday Party – Gettysburg (private)
 4 February – Winter Drill – Landis Valley (our NR pards are invited)
 18-19 February – NR School of Instruction (Gettysburg Fire Hall)
 25 March – Cartridge Rolling Party (1st Sgt.'s Home)
 1 April – ELF Drill at Ft. McHenry
 15 April – Patriotic Order Sons of America (POSoA) event (Robesonia)
 6-7 May – NR Camp Of Instruction (COI) – Gruber Wagon Works (Reading, PA)
 29 May – Memorial Day Parade (Hummelstown) [Max Effort]
 23-25 June – Gettysburg 160 [Max Effort]
 15-16 July – Landis Valley Civil War Days (Lancaster) [Max Effort]
 12 August – Safe Harbor Cemetery – grave rededication
 8-10 September – Thunder on the Gauley (Summersville, WV – Carnifax Ferry Battlefield [Max Effort]
 14-15 October – USAHEC Army Heritage Days (Carlisle) [Max Effort]
 18 November – Remembrance Day (Gettysburg) – NR Annual Meeting and Parade
 2 December – Annual Meeting
 13 January – Holiday Party



Secondary schedule -

~~20 May Lancaster Cemetery grave decoration day~~

~~28-20 July Receding Tide Trenches of Williamsport~~

~~21-22 October Cedar Creek re-enactment~~

For updated event info and other news, please check out the Facebook pages of the 53rd PVI and/or the National Regiment (links below) and check your email on a regular basis

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)

53rd PVI Website: <http://www.53rdpvi.org>

2023 Field Officers - Sergeants: Mark Fasnacht (1st Sgt), Marc Benedict, Matthew Steger
Corporals: Mike Espenshade & Michael Brumbaugh

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

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

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

National Regiment Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/842904089142263>

