

# 53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Company C

"The Sentinel" July 2017

Newsletter of The James Creek Guards



"Clubs Are Trump!"

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## **Military Etiquette**

Officers rate salutes from all enlisted men, except in the following circumstances:

1. If the officer is not in uniform (without his hat or coat), he does not require a salute.
2. When in a group (fatigue party, comrades walking together, etc.), the senior man in the group (can be a Sgt. or Corporal) salutes the officer for the group.
3. If no one is obviously in charge, one should take it upon himself to salute for the group.
4. The 1st Sgt. salutes for the company when an officer comes into the company street. The men lounging on the street or out of their tents will come to attention at the warning call "Officer on the street!". Men outside their tents are not required to come out. As is often the case, when the men see an officer coming towards their street, it is not uncommon to see many dive into their tents.
5. Men under arms, but not on guard duty, will salute with the rifle salute.

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### Military Etiquette

6. Men on guard duty will render the proper salute for the officer's rank. The rifle salute is NEVER the proper salute when on guard duty.

7. There are no rules for saluting 'enemy' officers. It is up to the man, but he is not required to do so.

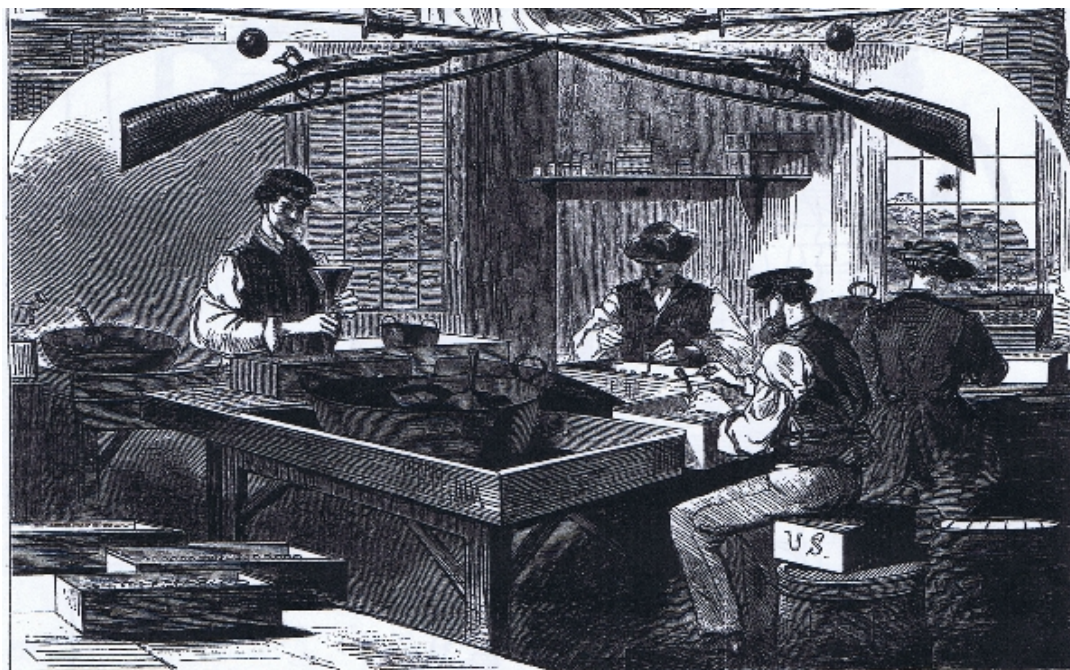
The 1st Sgt. is the 'man in the middle' meaning he is the interface between the enlisted men and the officers.

Enlisted men should not be in officer's country, except when accompanied by their 1st Sgt.

By the same token, officers should not come into the Company area except on official business. If he feels the need to be in the company area, he should first request the permission of the 1st Sgt. The 1st Sgt. does NOT have to give permission for the officer to come into the Company area.

### Weapons and Cartridges (continued from April)-

At the 2017 NR Officer/NCO School, Capt. Timothy App (3rd MD) presented on weaponry and projectiles from the Civil War. I started a summary of his presentation in the April Newsletter.



FILLING CARTRIDGES AT THE UNITED STATES ARSENAL, AT WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS.—[SEE NEXT PAGE.]



The two above images are engravings called "Filling Cartridges" from Harper's Weekly 20 July 1861. These pictures show the cartridge filling operation at the U.S. Arsenal at Watertown, Mass. At this establishment, some 300 operatives are kept constantly at work making war material. The power (of which the best is used, a large quantity came back from the Mexican War being thrown aside for fear that it may not be good) is inserted in the cartridge by men, lower picture. The bullets are inserted by girls, top photo. At least 70 girls and women are constantly employed in this avocation. The amount of cartridges turned out daily at this factory alone is enormous; and it is evident that, in the course of a few weeks, there will be no lack of this material of war, at all events.

### *Weapons and Cartridges -*

- Standardization of arms and ammunition, while this technology was developing at a rapid rate in the US, had not been fully achieved at the outbreak of the Civil War.
- A great variety of muskets were used during the Civil War, especially during the first two and a half years. This was true also of carbines, pistols, and revolvers.
- US arsenals and their contractors did not begin distribution of the ubiquitous Springfield Model 1861 rifled musket until late 1862.
- Older and some obsolete muskets were stored and available in arsenals in the North and South and were used by both armies throughout the war, especially during the first 2 years, before the Model 1861 appeared.
- Both governments imported arms from European countries, such as England and France.
- Imported arms had a number of calibers ranging between .52 and .71, and thus required various forms of cartridges.
- Every effort was made by both North and South to standardize rounds and cartridges for effective distribution and use in the field.
- Some US and foreign long arms were altered in caliber to facilitate standardization.
- Inventors and patentees bombarded ordnance offices with new ideas for weapons, along with proprietary bullets and cartridges.
- Bullets were made in 3 ways: with molds, by a process of cutting and compressing the lead, and by compressing and cutting on a lathe.

- Most cartridges were made with projectiles and powder wrapped in paper, with one end tied and the other end crimped with an extended tail.
- There was a wide assortment of such rounds with different calibers, various wrappings, and different bullet conformations. This included paper wrapped, combustible, pin-fire, rim-fire metallic, and center-fire metallic cartridges.

### Hummelstown Memorial Day parade.....



Attending – (from left to right) – Sgt. Mark Fansacht, Corporal Mike Espenshade, Privates Troy Espenshade, Michael Fedorshak, Eric Ford, Brent Miller, Doug Raab, and Corporal Matthew Steger. Thank you to Mike and Carol Espenshade for hosting the post-parade debriefing. (photo courtesy of Traci and Eric Ford)

### A word from our president.....

Gentlemen,

With June flying, by it will time for Landis Valley before we know it. Just to remind everyone, we're the host unit this year so I'm expecting we'll have a very strong showing. I will be sending the proposed daily schedule to the Officer's and NCO's soon. Once I have everyone's final input and revisions I'll pass it along to each of you. If you have not already responded to my earlier request for suggestions of activities and wish to do so please contact me right away.

We were contacted recently through our website by a gentleman asking us to attend a headstone dedication to his recently discovered great-great grandfather's grave outside of Philadelphia. His name is Richard Moylan and he served three years in the 53<sup>rd</sup> Co B. His grandson, Keith, has applied for and been approved by the VA for the headstone and all of the arrangements with the cemetery have been approved. Right now, he is planning to have the dedication ceremony on September 9<sup>th</sup> around noon. I'm expecting copies of the enlistment, discharge and pension paperwork soon. He asked that I provide our members with copies and hopes that we will incorporate the info on our website. If anyone has any info on Sgt. Moylan please forward it to me. Keith stumbled across this finding while just doing some basic family research late last year and would be grateful for any additional help. At this point, I would like to get a headcount of who is able and willing to commit to attending. Email me with your interest. This would even be a good opportunity for any of our alumni and friends to attend as well. Sgt Richard Moylan was born in 1836 and died in 1907. He is buried in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Cheltenham, PA. At the time of his enlistment he lived in Marietta, Lancaster Co.

With his attendance in the Hummelstown Memorial Day Parade, Michael Fedorshack completed his probationary requirements. A motioned was proposed to vote on his promotion to a full active member following the event by all who were in attendance. The result was unanimously in favor.

Eric

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## Upcoming events -

### Landis Valley 'Civil War Days' -

22 - 23 July 2017 - Landis Valley Museum (Lancaster)

Landis Valley Museum has graciously invited the 53rd PVI, Co. C back to their 'Civil War Days' event again for 2017. We look forward to another 2-day event to portray normal camp life, drill, and interaction with museum visitors. The final schedule is still being worked on, but plan on bringing your normal kit including approx. 50 rounds which will normally cover 3 firing demos each day. Our friends from the ELF units and the 1<sup>st</sup> MN will be attending as our guests.

### Gruber Wagon Works -

30 July 2017 - Gruber Wagon Works (Reading)

A one-day event near Reading. Firing demos, camp life, some drill, and interaction with site visitors. Schedule is not yet finalized, but plan on bringing your normal kit and approx. 25 rounds which should cover the day. We will likely be able to set up Sat. evening after 5pm. More details to come from Eric.

### Cedar Mountain -

5 - 6 August 2017 - near Culpepper, VA

The 155<sup>th</sup> Cedar Mountain living history is scheduled for the original battlefield located five miles south of Culpepper, Virginia, on US Route 15. Saturday activities will include firing and drill demonstrations and a tactical demonstration. Sunday morning will feature a semi-scripted tactical for the participants. Activities are expected to wrap up about 12 noon on Sunday.

If you would like to participate in this program, please go to [www.facebook.com/Cedar-Mountain-155th-Anniversary-Living-History-Weekend](http://www.facebook.com/Cedar-Mountain-155th-Anniversary-Living-History-Weekend). The registration fee is \$20 and helps with logistics for the event. Cedar Mountain is privately managed by a small volunteer organization that receives no state or federal funding. Contact James Owens for more info: [JDO@npmhu.org](mailto:JDO@npmhu.org)

### 2017 Calendar of Events -

~~4 February - Winter Drill - Landis Valley Museum - Lancaster~~

~~25 February - Cartridge Rolling Party~~

~~25-26 February - NR Officer/NCO School of Instruction - Gettysburg~~

~~1 April - 53rd Monument Cleanup - Gettysburg, PA~~

~~6-9 April - 155th Shiloh Reenactment - Shiloh, TN~~

~~29-30 April - Spring Drill - Antietam (ELF Event)~~

~~5-7 May - 155th McDowell Reenactment - McDowell, VA~~

~~20-21 May - New Market Reenactment - New Market, VA (NR Event)~~

~~20-21 May - Army Heritage Days - USAHEC - Carlisle, PA~~

~~29 May - Memorial Day Parade - Hummelstown~~

~~2-4 June - On to Richmond - Richmond, VA~~

~~24-25 June - Corbitt's Charge - Westminster, MD~~

~~1-4 July - Gettysburg (GAC) Reenactment - Yingling Farm - Gettysburg~~

~~15-16 July - Civil War Days at the Winery - Manassas, VA~~

~~22-23 July - Landis Valley Museum 'Civil War Days' - Lancaster~~

~~30 July - Gruber Wagon Works - Berks County, PA~~

~~15-17 September - South Mountain Reenactment - Burkittsville, MD~~

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2017 Calendar of Events - (continued)

**7 - 8 October – Gettysburg Living History – Spanglers Spring – Gettysburg NMP**

14 - 15 October – Battle of Cedar Creek Reenactment – Middletown, VA

**5 November – 53rd Monument Cleanup – Gettysburg NMP**

**18 November – Remembrance Day Parade – Gettysburg**

**2 December – Annual Membership Meeting**

(**RED** colored events are considered 53rd PVI 'Max Effort' events)

(**GREEN** colored events are NR 'Max Effort' events)

### 53rd PVI Contacts

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

Vice President: Croce Volpe ([vafomedic@aol.com](mailto:vafomedic@aol.com))

Secretary/Treasurer: Pat Rose ([p.m.rose@comcast.net](mailto:p.m.rose@comcast.net))

Newsletter Editor: Matthew Steger ([n3ntj@comcast.net](mailto:n3ntj@comcast.net))

Webmasters: Steve Dillon ([steve@gofoxpro.com](mailto:steve@gofoxpro.com)) and Matthew Steger ([n3ntj@comcast.net](mailto:n3ntj@comcast.net))

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

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

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

National Regiment Website: <http://nationalregiment.com>

### **Still need to pay your 53rd PVI dues?**

Mail checks payable to "53rd PVI" to:

Pat Rose

919 North 26th St.

Reading, PA 19606

