

53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry

Company C

"The Sentinel" April 2017

Newsletter of The James Creek Guards



"Clubs Are Trump!"

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Best Care For Your Equipment

Uniform -

The consensus is that it is fine to dry clean your uniform coats, trousers, and vests but there should be no creases. For wool socks and shirts, Woolite® with cold water and air dry only. Make sure your buttons are tight on your trousers. Waved linen thread is good for this.

Bootees -

It is best to brush off dirt and allow bootees to air dry. Treating them with a light application of 100% neats foot oil (including the bottom sole) is suggested. Exercising the shoe to ensure suppleness is suggested. To help the bootee keep its shape, filling it with tissue, grocery bags, etc. has proven useful. Hob nails should be avoided. When needed, some local shoemakers (including one or more members of the 53rd) can repair pegs or even Missouri Boot and Shoe offers this.

Leathers -

Flatten any leather wrapped around a buckle or is otherwise bent. A light application of neats foot oil is suggested. If any mildew is observed, simply wipe it off.

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Best Care For Your Equipment

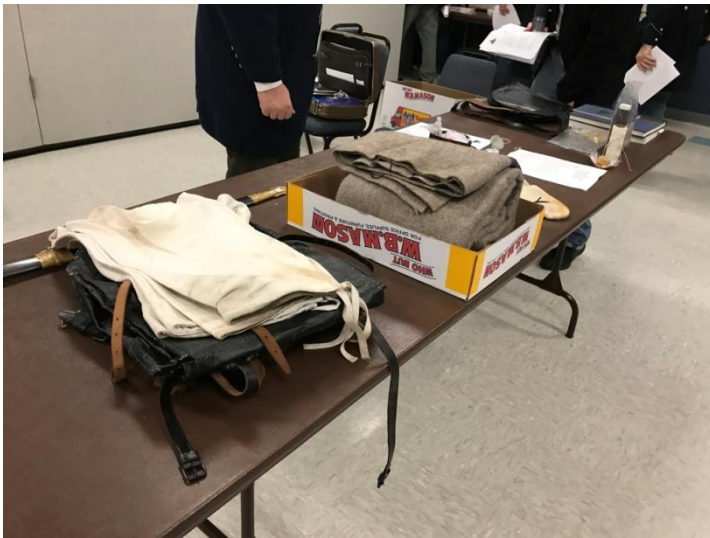
Muskets -

Make sure your M1861 bolster vent is clear. A small drill bit to cut through the crud can be used. Make sure your cone (nipple) is also clean. On M1861 bands, the open end of the stamped "U" is towards the muzzle.

Equipment Repair -

Lightly damaged leathers and knapsacks can be stitched. Clothing can be patched; there are period-appropriate patching methods to be used. Keeping extra parts (nipple, screws, pick, etc.) in your knapsack or cartridge box is a good idea.

Most of all, ensure that all items are stored in a cool, dry, and well ventilated space between events. If you take care of your equipment, it will take care of you. For holes in socks, they can be properly darned.



I took these photos during the equipment maintenance presentation by Capt. Paul Parvis (5th NH). The 2nd photo shows how to properly repair (patch) a pair of drawers using a whip-stitch.

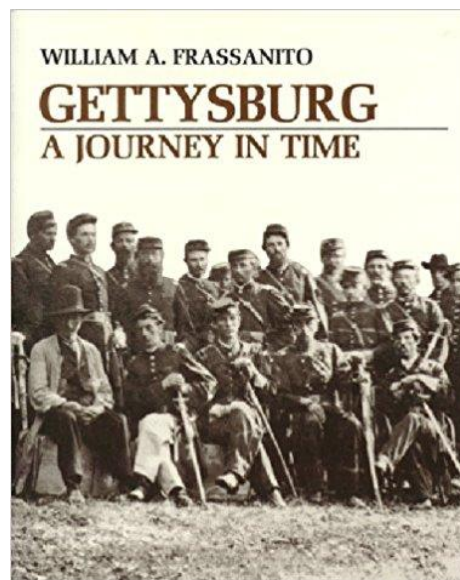
Book Review - (Cathy Steger)

Book: **Gettysburg – A Journey in Time**

Author: William A. Frassanito

I love this book. I still remember buying it in Gettysburg at Greystone's American History Store. Frassanito extensively researched original photos taken in Gettysburg following the Civil War battle and took modern photos in the 1960s/1970s of what those locations looked like then. He has maps showing locations and angles of where he believes the original photos were taken. He also provides history behind the photos and details of his research to identify the locations.

A couple years ago, Matt and I decided to take the book out onto the battlefield and take our own modern photos of these locations now that another 40 years had passed since Frassanito's book was published in 1975. This is a fun and different way to explore the town and the battlefield. Matt has a lot of patience to locate and line up the perfect modern photos! Last summer, we vacationed in Gettysburg again and continued our quest to locate more photos from the book. I'd say we probably have about 75% of them. If you want a new way to discover Gettysburg, I recommend bringing this book and a camera to Gettysburg and start taking pictures.



A word from our president.....

As we finally start to move into Spring it's time to take a look at our schedule. The Spring Adopt a Position event will be held this Saturday (April 8). Plan to be at the monument site and ready to begin at 10:00am. We made a lot of progress last November in clearing the area across the road. We should be able to finish opening up that view with this event. Bring the usual tools for the job.

The first of two max effort NR events is rapidly approaching. The New Market event is on the schedule for May 20-21. As of Friday we have nine registered. I forwarded an email from Col. Downes late last week. **PLEASE READ THAT EMAIL.** All NR unit's need to put as many in the field as possible for this one. At this point you're on your own to register. If you do register please let me know so I can keep Tom up to speed on the numbers.

It's been a while since I requested photo and/or content submissions for the website. We continue to receive a steady flow of inquiries on our website. I would like to keep adding to it on a regular basis. If you have anything to submit please send the info to Steve Dillon. I'll also echo the same request for the newsletter. Send those submissions to Matt Steger.

See y'all soon!

Eric

Upcoming events -

New Market Event info - 20~21 May 2017 - 153rd Anniversary Battle of New Market

More info: <http://www.vmi.edu/museums-and-archives/virginia-museum-of-the-civil-war/the-reenactment/registration-form>

Hummelstown Memorial Day Parade - 29 May 2017 - Hummelstown, PA

Parade steps off at 10AM, but we should be assembled by 9:30AM at the northwest corner of Olde Factory Antiques. Normal kit of uniform, weapon, leathers, etc. Shine your brass. We normally need 2 rounds for the center square volley and a single round for the volley in the cemetery. Afterwards, we normally meet at the American Legion for their picnic and then a volunteer debriefing at Corporal Espenshade's hut. Mike Espenshade is the contact person should you have specific questions not covered here.

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.

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

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)

"Get To Know Your Pard"

The purpose of this segment is to help the members of the 53rd learn a little more about a '53rd member of the month'. I hope to feature a different member every month or so, assuming each member in the unit is willing to tell us a little about himself. We have likely learned something about each of our pards (little or a lot) over time while sitting around the camp fire at events, but this feature should help us dive a little deeper. Since I am the newsletter editor and I just created this segment, I guess I'll go first...

This Month... **Dennis Fink**

10 Questions:

1. Where were you born? **Reading, PA**
2. How long have you been re-enacting? **Since 1996**
3. What is your favorite part of the hobby? **Enjoying the camaraderie of our unit and friends while experiencing some of the hardships of campaign and camp life that our ancestors endured.**
4. What was the first Civil War-related kit item that you bought? **Haversack from Marc Benedict – gotta eat**
5. Have you ever taken part of a Civil War movie , TV, or other production? **No.**
6. Do you have a favorite or most memorable CW event? **Antietam 1997 (?) and Burkittsville 1998 (?) and very first Battle of McDowell**
7. Do you have any other non-Civil War hobbies? **High School Football coach, Rotarian, cooking, eating, drinking**
8. Do you have a Civil War photo (wet-plate or tin-type image) to share? **See below**



9. What do you do (or did you do, if retired) for a living? **Vice President, Northeast Prestressed Products, LLC**
10. Favorite Saying? **"Dying ain't much of a living." – Josey Wales**

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