

53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Company C

"The Sentinel" September 2017

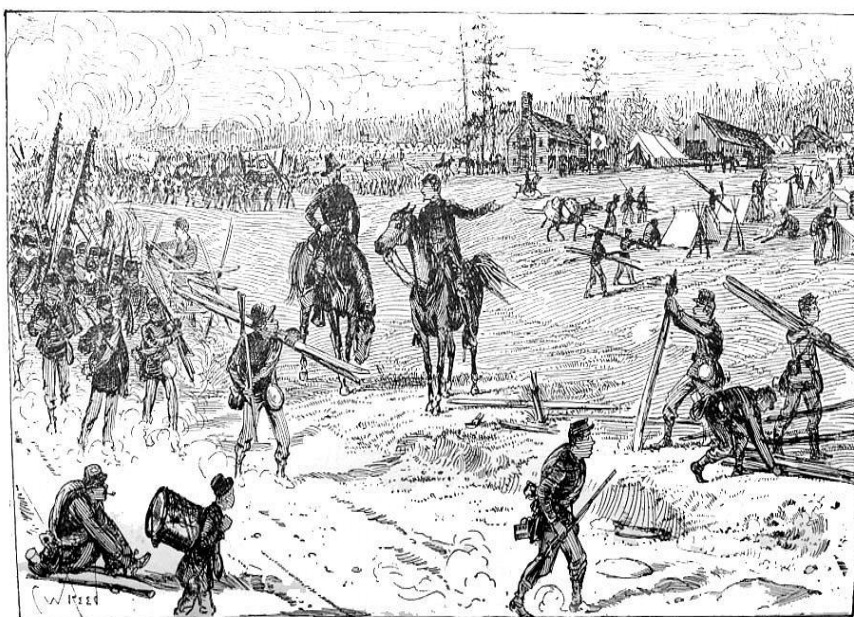
Newsletter of The James Creek Guards



"Clubs Are Trump!"

This Month:

1. Sometimes You Just Get Lucky
2. Photos from the Gruber Wagon Works event
3. Get To Know Your Pard
4. A word from our president...
4. Upcoming Events
5. Calendar of Events
6. 53rd Contact Info



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

Sometimes, You Just get Lucky

By Travis Shick

I thought I'd share a little story about some luck that came my way recently.

Once, I saw a guy on *Antiques Roadshow*, when he was told the old sword that he found in the attic, after he bought an old house, was a Confederate manufactured officer's saber that was worth about as much as he would pay to build a new garage. If I wasn't cursing the man for his blind luck when the appraiser told him what the saber was, I defiantly was cussing when the idiot confessed he had once used it to cut watermelons at a family picnic. We've all probably felt the pangs of jealousy in this hobby, when you hear of someone's lucky find.

Well, I won't be building a new garage anytime soon, but I thought I'd share the story of a little luck that came my way, a few months ago. I was looking to find a pair of vintage affordable cuff links on eBay that I would like. It isn't uncommon to find ones with card or gambler motifs, which don't interest me. One pair, however, caused me to

make a double take. They were listed with the title of something like ‘vintage suits of cards cuff links’ or something like that. As you can see from the picture, the seller had no idea what he had. Those aren’t card suits, those are Federal Corps badges! I, II, III, V, VI, and IX, plus the red, white, and blue of the divisions. Apparently, cuff links are notoriously difficult to date, but I like to think that these were once worn by a proud veteran of the Army of the Potomac, in his later years. I wear them today with pride and reverence to those past veterans. I may not have found Hancock’s saddle or Longstreet’s pocket diary, but it’s nice to be the lucky guy, once in a while.



Gruber Wagon Works event 2017

Another event at Gruber Wagon Works has come and gone and we had a very good turnout from the members. A few of us arrived Sat. evening and we had a chilly night to enjoy our shelter halves. The turnout by the park visitors was also good and many of us also got to enjoy some of the free ice cream. Photos are courtesy of Doug Raab and Kerry Williard.







"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. If you have not yet sent in your 'profile' for a future edition of "Get To Know Your Pard", please consider doing so.

This Month... Travis Shick.

- 1. Where were you born? Akron, Ohio**
- 2. How long have you been re-enacting? 1990-1994 with The Citadel's Civil War Reenactment Club & the 10th South Carolina (galvanized as the 55th Ohio), then I was stationed in Alaska with the Army (definitely no Civil War reenacting in Fairbanks), and I finally returned to the hobby by joining the ranks of the acclaimed 53rd PVI in 2012.**
- 3. What is your favorite part of the hobby? Learning the history and experiencing those moments when you feel transported to another time. As Tom Downes put it, this the study of history that takes you beyond what can be conveyed in a book.**
- 4. What was the first Civil War-related kit item that you bought? I bought my basic kit (sans rifle) as a cadet, in 1990. I think it all came from C&D Jarnigan. I still have a number of items from that "first issue," although only two items still remain on the "active duty rolls"; my federal cartridge box & plates and, believe it or not, my tin cup. I believe that cup has been with me at every reenactment event I've ever attended.**
- 5. Have you ever taken part of a Civil War movie, TV, or other production? Nope, I've merely watched them. On a side note (and just to make this entry a little more interesting) my favorite Civil War film has always been *Alvarez Kelly*, starring William Holden and Richard Widmark (1966). Yes, yes, I know this film will never be a glowing example of historical accuracy and more than one scene will make the farby-faint-at-heart cringe. But what can I say? I still remember the first time I ever saw it, and I lost track of how many times I had watched it somewhere around the mid-forties. I just love that film.**
- 6. Do you have a favorite or most memorable CW event? My most memorable event was a combination. During the 150th anniversary of Gettysburg, I got to spend ten days under canvas. I attended the National Regiment's week of supporting the NPS, where we were encamped on the battlefield, as well as both of the weekend reenactments that bookended that NPS living history. All total I was in the field for ten days, and due to several twists of fate, during the first battle reenactment I was randomly selected to be one of the very few Confederates that got to "go over the wall" during Pickett's charge. Every one of those days is a treasured memory. A few other memorable career highlights include participating in the massive (another reenactor remembered the number of reenactors at around 7,000) Murfreesboro 130th reenactment in 1993, seeing the sun blotted out over the cornfield at Antietam 150th, three day "march around Pope's Army" in the early 90's, Appomattox 150th (I'm told only the third battle reenactment ever conducted on a NPS battlefield), watching from the Confederate line as the seemingly endless attack on Maryes Heights at Fredericksburg 150th poured onto the field, and tacticals at Resaca, GA and Olustee, FL. I could go on and on...this hobby makes for fantastic memories.**
- 7. Do you have any other non-Civil War hobbies? There are other hobbies? ... Really?**

On the left is a photo of me at my first battle reenactment (Secessionville, 1990). On the right is a tintype I had taken at the end of my Gettysburg 150th sojourn. Conclusion; time has added weight, but improved my authenticity (if nothing else). Glad I don't have to deal with those farb glasses anymore. However, I can't rock that derby like I used to. All and all, It's been a great journey.

- 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? I am a full-time member of the Pennsylvania National Guard.**

10. Favorite Saying? “A goal without a plan is just a wish.” – Antoine de Saint-Exupery

But for a favorite quote, I would add; “I care not how humble your bookshelf may be, nor how lowly the room which it adorns. Close the door of that room behind you, shut off with it all the cares of the outer world, plunge back into the soothing company of the great dead, and then you are through the magic portal into that fair land whither worry and vexation can follow you no more. You have left all that is vulgar and all that is sordid behind you. There stand your noble, silent comrades, waiting in their ranks. Pass your eye down their files. Choose your man. And then you have but to hold up your hand to him and away you go together into dreamland. Surely there would be something eerie about a line of books were it not that familiarity has deadened our sense of it. Each is a mummified soul embalmed in cere-cloth and natron of leather and printer's ink. Each cover of a true book enfolds the concentrated essence of a man. The personalities of the writers have faded into the thinnest shadows, as their bodies into impalpable dust, yet here are their very spirits at your command.” – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *Through the Magic Door*



A word from our president.....

Gentlemen,

Up next on our schedule is the headstone dedication for Richard A. Moylan on September 9th. If you plan to attend and have not already confirmed with me please do so as soon as possible. We will be carpooling from my house leaving at 11:00AM sharp. The service is scheduled to begin at 1:00PM. Please reference my prior email for the full details of the event. The address for the cemetery is:

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
3301 W. Cheltenham Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19150

The Burkittsville event is on the schedule for September 16-17. The unit has pre-registered Rose, Fasnacht, Ford and Shick. If you are going and have not registered, I need to know right away in order to keep Col. Downes up to date. The event will NOT be a reenactment as originally planned due to the lack of Confederate participants. We'll be doing a larger scale living history. Over the next couple of months, I'll be looking for events to bring to the table for the 2018 schedule. If you have suggestions please forward them to me along with any details you have and the event organizer's contact info. As always, we're looking for living history, reenactment, education and preservation opportunities.

Eric

Upcoming events -

53rd PVI Veteran's Headstone Dedication -

9 Sept. 2017 – 53rd PVI, Co. B veteran memorial – near Philadelphia, PA

See the details above from Eric. Events like this are rare but they are quite an honor to be able to participate in.

Gettysburg Living History –

7 - 8 October 2017 – At Spanglers Spring (Gburg NPS)

Bring your normal kit, stuff to show the public, and enough rounds and food for the weekend. Be there by 8AM Saturday.

Remembrance Day Parade –

18 November 2017 – Gettysburg

As in previous years, we generally meet behind the elementary school up on the hill (NW corner of the large group of re-enactors) with our fellow parads from the National Regiment. More details will be provided as we get closer to the event.

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~~

~~5–6 Aug. – Cedar Mountain – Culpepper, VA~~

9 September – 53rd PVI, Co. B Veteran’s Monument Dedication (near Philadelphia)

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)



53rd PVI Contacts

President: Eric Ford (reenactor53@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

