

53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Company C

"The Sentinel" December 2017

Newsletter of The James Creek Guards



"Clubs Are Trump!"

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I am always looking for newsletter content, so please forward your articles, book reviews, photos, stories, etc. and your "Get To Know Your Pard" profile (if you have not done so already) to me for inclusion in a future edition of "The Sentinel". – Matthew Steger, editor

Allowances and Costs For The Soldier

At the 2017 National Regiment's Officer/NCO school held in Gettysburg, the 1st MD's Sgt. David Bloom did a presentation on the allowances for the Federal infantry soldier. Obviously as one lived and marched from place to place, clothing and other equipment would wear and sometimes get lost. An allowance for clothing was \$42/year for most of the war years and later \$48/year in 1864. If an item was lost, for example, the soldier would have to make up the cost by way of a deduction from his bi-monthly pay. For example, if a soldier lost his rifle, he would see an \$18 charge taken from his pay. For obvious reasons (such as not being able to fulfill the duties of an infantry soldier and that the cost was nearly his entire 2 month pay), protecting your rifle was very important. In some cases, however, where equipment was lost or otherwise damaged in the course of soldierly duties (i.e., battle), the soldier's officer could provide a letter explaining the issue (why his knapsack was lost or damaged, for example) and prevent his soldier from being stuck with the charge.

Clothing Allowance

\$42/year (1864 \$48/year)

great coat	\$7. ⁵⁰
frock coat	\$7. ⁰⁰
trowsers	\$3. ⁰⁰
sack coat (unlined)	\$2. ⁵⁰
bootees (brogans)	\$2. ⁰⁵
flannel shirt	\$1. ²⁰
drawers	\$0. ⁹⁵
forage hat	\$0. ²⁸
stockings (socks)	\$0. ³²

Camp and Garrison Equipage

rifle	\$18. ⁰⁰
shelter tent	\$3. ⁷⁵
blanket	\$3. ²⁵
gum blanket	\$2. ⁵⁵
bayonet	\$2. ⁰⁰
knapsack	\$1. ⁸⁵
cartridge box	\$1. ¹⁴
haversack	\$0. ⁴⁸
canteen	\$0. ⁴¹
screwdriver	\$0. ²⁵
wiper	\$0. ²⁰

Prices of Small Arms.

NAMES OF PARTS.	U.S. Muskets, smooth bore. Calibre .69.	U.S. Muskets, rifled. Calibre .69.	U.S. Rifle Musket, Springfield model. Calibre .58.	U.S. Rifles, Harper's Ferry model. Calibres .54 and .58.	Foreign smooth bore Muskets, all calibres.	Foreign Rifle Muskets, Enfield model.	Other Foreign Rifled Muskets, all calibres.
Vent screw.....	09	09	03 12	03 09	01 03	03 10	02 07
Cone.....	\$0 50	\$0 50	\$0 75	\$0 50	\$0 32	\$0 57	\$0 50
Ramrod.....	1 65	1 65	2 50	.....	1 00	2 33	1 30
Bayonet, complete.....							
Arm, { With bayonets.....	\$13 00	\$14 50	\$19 25	.....	\$8 00	\$18 00	\$13 00
{ With sw'd bayonets.....	.....	.....	.....	\$18 50	.....	.....	15 00
comp'te. { Without bayonets .....	.....	.....	.....	15 20	.....	.....	.....

Appendages for all Arms.

Spring vice, 30 cents each; 1 to 10 arms.....	03 cents.
Ball screw.....	13 "
Wiper.....	20 "
Screw-driver.....	23 "
Tompson.....	02 "
Tumbler and band spring punch, 20 cents each; 1 to 10 arms.....	02 "
Spare cone.....	12 "

Monument Cleanup Summary –

The unit met at our monument on Brooke Avenue to do our bi-annual cleanup around the 53rd monument. The weather cooperated fully for a nice fall day raking leaks, trimming small growth, etc. In attendance: Matt Steger, Michael Fedorshak, Jeff and Joseph Marks, Steve Frey, Pete Zinkus, Mark Fasnacht, Mike Espenshade, John Nyeste, as well as one of our new members Alec Bohlenblust. We were also joined by some spouses and significant others and “Little Bear” (the Marks’ dog).



Photo courtesy of Michelle Zinkus.

The War Between The States and the War On Terror Converge By Travis Shick

I think most everyone has heard about the events of the, now infamous, 153rd Cedar Creek. I think last month's newsletter gave everyone a clear picture of the event, but I would like to submit my personal report, for whatever it is worth. This event was rather important for me, as it was the first major battle reenactment that my wife and daughters would be able to witness. My earlier reenactment career was well before meeting my wife, and the more recent battle events have either been too far a drive for them or beyond their crowd tolerance. After experiencing Cedar Creek 150th, I thought that this would be the goldilocks event for them to see (not too hot, not too cold, not too crowded, etc.).

As the lone 53rd trooper at the event, I fell in with the 116th. The National Regiment was not there in force, but we made a fine showing, falling in with the Mifflin Guard. On Saturday, the Union lines fell under Confederate pressure, but fortunately, the Mifflin Guard was posted right in front of the spectators, so my family got to see daddy fighting wearing his 'other' uniform, in the heat of reenacted battle. When the smoke cleared, I linked up with them, and we decided to visit the much fabled sutler row, which they had heard me tell of.

With me still cootered up, we headed to the lemonade vender, nearby. We had finished our drinks and were about thirty feet from sutler row, when a policeman emerged from the tent in front of us and started stretching a police 'do not cross line'. Another officer was ordering everyone to clear back about ninety feet. It had the looks of a 'suspicious package' drill to me, and we assumed that the issue would be quickly resolved and the site cleared. After a few minutes, the 'safe zone' was extended from ninety feet to three hundred. We decided to start with the second row of sutler tents, hoping the far row would be deemed free of suspicious packages by the time we worked out way that far. Soon after entering the tent, another man entered the tent and directed everyone to leave, because the police wanted the area cleared for nine hundred feet. We left sutler row with a small crowd of notably concerned sutlers and other evacuees. Finding some shade amongst the sutler cars and vans, we again made the best of waiting it out. I felt very badly for the sutlers, as the crowd of souvenir seeking civilians after the battle was very sizable, and as the minutes ticked by, I could see the crowd of would-be customers heading back to their cars. In a low profit business, like sutlering, my heart went out to the proprietors of those now empty tents. Our rest in the shade was finally interrupted by yet another 'town crier' who informed everyone that the police were directing everyone to the other side of the road, which passes along the battlefield.

Our patience worn out, my family and I walked back to the Union camp. The kids were in good spirits through it all. I must admit, however, that my spirits darkened considerably once we arrived in camp. I had no sooner dropped my cartridge box, when someone from another unit (not the Mifflin or National Regiment to my knowledge) came walking through the camp announcing that the police wanted everyone on the "other side of the road". Having just come from sutler row, now at least a mile and two major terrain features behind me, and knowing the "the road" the police were referring to was hell far and gone from where we were currently standing, and tried to throw a flag on the play. Knowing of the original intent of the request and knowing more than just a little about explosives, I tried to point out that there was an obvious misunderstanding of the police direction. I also pointed out that, unless the police had found a nuclear warhead in the sutler's tent, there was basically zero percent chance that the Union camp was in any danger. Everyone was trying to be compliant with the police order, misguided as it was, and my concerns got little traction. About this time, however, two things happened. First, a loud and very irritated reenactor was laying into a mounted reenactor (another town crier directing people to 'the other side of the road') because the 'safe area' he was being directed to was the same area he had just been directed from by another well-intentioned soul. Second, the 116th's lieutenant returned and provided a much welcomed voice of calm and reason what was beginning to show the making of a circus. He gave us the information he had learned from the meeting of Union leadership, and directed us to sit tight until we received clearer and more precise direction. My wife and kids the saw their opportunity to E7E back to their car, before someone decided the whole county needed to go on lock-down.

From what I gather, a man walked into one of the sutler tents after the battle, placed a box on the ground, took a picture of it with his phone and left. The box was determined to have a pipe bomb in it. We were later told that they also found a second one in the food vender area, but I have not heard if this was confirmed. A few hundred Confederate reenactors, camped nearest the sutler row, were evacuated and spent the night in an elementary school. Sunday morning we were told that the Cedar Creek Foundation had cancelled all the public events scheduled for today because they couldn't meet all the logistical requirements of the event, once the police cordon was lifted. We were also told (again I can't confirm) that there were screws and nails packed in the pipe bomb. Thank the good Lord no one was injured. Of course the people who suffered here are the foundation (this event constitutes a significant portion of their yearly fundraising income) and the sutlers and other mom & pop business that rely heavily on this event for their yearly income).

The good news was that in a show of solidarity and defiance against people who try to terrorize others, the reenactors took to the field Sunday morning and had the reenactment anyway (sans spectators). At the end of the 'battle' the blue and the gray came together on the field, congratulated and thanked each other, played the traditional bugle taps to remember those who fell, and then cheered, "USA! USA!". It was a sight to warm the heart and I shall

never forget it. In many ways, the gallants of our hobby took a tragic scene and turned it into one of triumph.

These reenactors come from all walks of life, and in our own way I think it was a noble gesture. I should point out that the pipe bomb was placed in sutler row, where both union and confederate reenactors as well as spectators were congregating, not the Confederate camp, as some have reported. In other words, everyone was a target. Second, if the screws and nails report is true, then the perpetrator was obviously trying to kill and maim, not just get attention.

Between Iraq, Kosovo, and now Virginia, this is the third time that I have been within some relative proximity to a specific act of terror. I have friends who have been far closer to the death that terrorism sows than I have been or ever hope to be. I just ask that everyone spend a moment contemplating that some of America's greatest triumphs have come from its embrace of freedom of speech, compassion, toleration, and open and thoughtful debate. These are but some of the blessings of liberty. As a reenactor and a humble student of history, I am reminded of this often. I look forward to returning to the reenactment field, as undaunted and un-terrorized as my fellow reenactors.

A word from our president.....

Hello everyone,

It's time for our annual business meeting. We'll be starting at **9:00AM** sharp this coming Saturday (Dec. 2nd). For anyone not familiar with how to get to Mark Fasnacht's house, please see Matt's info below for the address. My goal is to wrap up the business at hand before we have lunch. That way we can get everyone out and home as early as possible.

If anyone has event info to propose for next year's schedule, please send it to me ASAP so I can add it to the agenda. Also, if possible, please be prepared to pay your dues and the cost for your dinner at the Holiday Party. It makes Pat's job a lot easier if he can collect at the meeting. If you will NOT be at the meeting, I need you to send me your roster info (name, phone, address and email). I need to update our roster with complete physical addresses for ALL dues paying members. The new NR insurance policy requires it. I will also send you the event attendance records for you to review so I can make sure that you get proper credit in the weighted voting in this year's election.

See y'all Saturday.

Eric

Upcoming events -

Annual Membership Meeting – (private)

2 December 2017 – Sgt. Fasnacht's Home (101 Millbach Rd., Kleinfeltersville, PA)

Annual meeting of members of the 53rd PVI to discuss the 2017 season, assemble a preliminary 2018 event schedule, discuss the holiday dinner, election, etc. Meeting starts promptly at 9AM at the 1st Sgt.'s home in Kleinfeltersville. Bring something to share for lunch. Let Mark know ahead of time what you are bringing to ensure we don't have 3 people bringing the same item. Payment for your 2018 dues and the holiday party will be gladly accepted by Pat Rose.

For those of you who have not been to Sgt. Fasnacht's home, his home is located at the corner of Rt. 897 and Millbach Rd. It's a cream colored brick house with red trim. Parking is available at the Methodist church across the road. Please park to the rear of their lot in case they need to use the spaces closer to their building.

Annual Holiday Party – (private)

13 January 2018 – The Dobbin House (Gettysburg)

Our annual get together of pards, spouses, and significant others for a good time of mingling and dinner. Additional details will be forthcoming from Croce Volpe at the annual membership meeting on 2 December.

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

4 November—53rd Monument Cleanup—Gettysburg NMP

18 November—Remembrance Day Parade—Gettysburg

2 December—Annual Membership Meeting

13 January—Annual Holiday Dinner

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

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



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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

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Reading, PA 19606

