



# Company C 53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry

"The Sentinel" October 2019

Newsletter of The James Creek Guards



"Clubs Are Trump!"

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An illustration of the burning of the Wrightsville Bridge

*I am always looking for newsletter content, so please forward your articles, book reviews, event summaries/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*

## SHERIDAN'S VALLEY CAMPAIGN

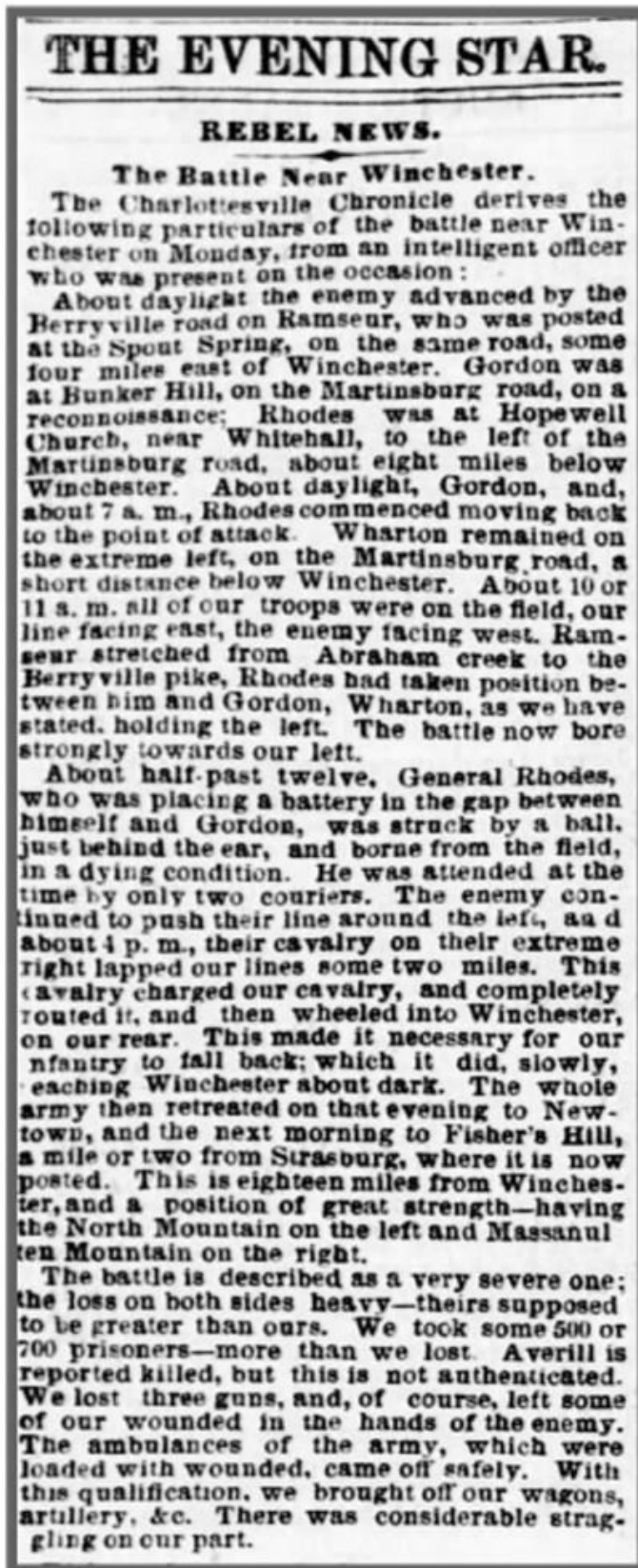
by [The Jersey Gallinipper](#) (reprinted with permission)

There's an event coming up that you'll get more out of if you understand the historic context. "Shenandoah 1864" is the 155th anniversary reenactment of parts of Sheridan's Valley Campaign. "Parts," because it's just too sprawling a theater of war, in space and time, to even think of doing the whole thing as a reenactment.

The history-heavy event will feature unit-specific, detailed battle scenarios, even-handed rule enforcement, correct force ratios, including artillery and mounted forces by invitation only, both campaign and garrison camping and unit specific impressions

[Winchester](#), Va., in 1864 was the site of the biggest battle in the Shenandoah Valley in the entire war. The town was, in a military status sense, "neutral ground." That has nothing to do with politics. It just means that, like the Peach Orchard at Gettysburg, either side could take it, but neither side could hold it. Winchester changed hands dozens of times during the war, once several times on the same day, and usually when one side simply left at the approach of opposing forces of greater size. But there are three fights that can be categorized as "battles of Winchester." The one in 1864 was dubbed

(subsequently) the ["Third Battle of Winchester."](#) The link will take you to very informative chapter-and-verse on the battle and the units that were engaged.



Here's the overall context: In July, Jubal Early and several thousand Confederate infantry had gotten to Fort Stevens on the northwest outskirts of Washington, D.C. To prevent a recurrence, Phil Sheridan was assigned a strong force to drive the Confederates from the entire Shenandoah Valley, ruin the Valley as a resource for the Confederate armies, and permanently block up this vexing back door into the northeast. After Fisher's Hill and the rout of Confederate cavalry at Tom's Brook, Sheridan thought "mission accomplished." Early had one more surprise, Cedar Creek -- which is also the next big reenactment later in October. Serendipity.

For the event, three scenarios have been picked and the action will drill down to what happened to a few regiments from each side when they collided. This is going to be an attempt to show the original movement of forces on a specific slice of the battlefield.

They are: [Berryville](#)

[Third Battle of Winchester;](#)

[Fisher's Hill.](#)

The links will take you to concise descriptions of the action.

## LOOKING BACK -

Snippets from the 16 April 1861 edition of "The Lancaster Examiner & Herald" newspaper:

**THE WAR COMMENCED!!**

**FORT SUMTER ATTACKED**

BY THE  
**"CONFEDERATE" ARMY!!**  
**AND SURRENDERED BY MAJ. ANDERSON!**

*Correspondence between the Southern Authorities  
preceding the Hostilities.*

CHARLESTON, April 12.

The following is the telegraphic correspondence which took place between the War Department of the confederate government and Gen. Beauregard, immediately preceding the commencement of the hostilities. The correspondence grew out of a formal notification of the United States government, disclosed in Gen. Beauregard's first dispatch.

[No. 1.]  
CHARLESTON, April 8.

To Hon. L. P. Walker,  
Secretary of War.

An authorized messenger from Mr. Lincoln has just informed Gov. Pickens and myself that provisions will be sent to Fort Sumter—peaceably if possible, otherwise by force.

(Signed) G. T. BEAUREGARD.

[No. 2.]  
MONTGOMERY, April 10.

Gen. G. T. Beauregard, Charleston.

If you have no doubt of the authorized character of the agent who communicated to you the intention of the Washington government to supply Fort Sumter by force you will at once demand its evacuation; if this is refused, proceed in such manner as you may determine to reduce it.

Answer. (Signed,) L. P. WALKER,  
Secretary of War.

[No. 3.]  
CHARLESTON, April 10.

To L. P. Walker, Secretary of War:

The demand will be made to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

(Signed,) G. T. BEAUREGARD.

[No. 4.]  
MONTGOMERY, April 10.

Gen. Beauregard, Charleston:

Unless there are especial reasons connected with your own condition, it is considered proper that you should make the demand at an earlier hour.

(Signed,) L. P. WALKER,  
Secretary of War.

[No. 5.]  
CHARLESTON, April 10.

General Beauregard, Charleston:  
Telegraph the reply of Anderson.

[Signed,] L. P. Walker,  
Secretary of War.

[No. 8.]  
REPLY OF ANDERSON.  
CHARLESTON, April 11.

L. P. Walker, Secretary of War:  
Major Anderson replies as follows:  
"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication demanding the evacuation of this fort, and to say in reply thereto that it is a demand with which I regret that my sense of honor, and of my obligation to my government, prevent my compliance."

He adds, verbally: "I will await the first shot, and if you do not batter us to pieces we will be starved out in a few days."

Answer. (Signed,) G. T. BEAUREGARD.

[No. 9.]  
MONTGOMERY, April 11.

To Gen. Beauregard, Charleston:

We do not desire needlessly to bombard Fort Sumter. If Major Anderson will state the time, at which, as indicated by him, he will evacuate, and agree that in the meantime he will not use his guns against us unless ours are employed against Sumter, you are authorized thus to avoid the effusion of blood. If this or its equivalent be refused, reduce the fort as your judgment decides to be the most practicable.

(Signed) L. P. WALKER,  
Secretary of War.

[No. 10.]  
To L. P. Walker, Secretary of War.  
He would not consent. I write to-day.  
G. T. BEAUREGARD.

**PROCLAMATION**  
OF  
**PRESIDENT LINCOLN.**  
A CALL  
FOR 75,000 VOLUNTEERS.

An Extra Session of Congress Called.

PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, the laws of the United States have been for some time past, and are now opposed, and the execution thereof obstructed in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the marshals by law.

Now therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution and the laws, have thought fit to call forth, and hereby do call forth, the militia of the several States of the Union to the aggregate number of 75,000, in order to suppress the said combinations and cause the laws to be duly executed.

The details for this object will be immediately communicated to the State authorities through the War Department. I appeal to all loyal citizens to favor, facilitate and aid this effort to maintain the honor, the integrity, and the existence of our National Union, and the perpetuity of the popular government, and to redress the wrongs already long enough endured. I deem it proper to say that the first service assigned to the forces hereby called forth will probably be to repossess the forts, places and property which have been seized from the Union; and in every event the utmost care will be observed, consistently with the objects aforesaid, to avoid any devastation, any destruction of property, or any disturbance of peaceful citizens in any part of the country. And I hereby command the persons composing the combinations aforesaid, to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes within twenty days from this date.

Deeming that the present condition of public affairs presents an extraordinary occasion, I do hereby, in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution, convene both Houses of Congress. The Senators and Representatives are therefore summoned to assemble at their respective chambers, at 12 o'clock noon, on Thursday the fourth of July next, then and there to consider and determine such measures as in their wisdom, the public safety and interest may seem to demand.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of state to be affixed. Done at the City of Washington, this fifteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-fifth. [Signed,]

[By the President,] ABRAHAM LINCOLN.  
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

**REQUISITION OF THE PRESIDENT UPON  
THE STATES FOR MILITARY.**

SIXTEEN REGIMENTS FROM PENNSYLVANIA.

WASHINGTON, April 16.

The following are the requisitions of the President upon the several States for military to act in the maintenance of the Union.

New York.....	seventeen	regiments.
Pennsylvania.....	sixteen	"
Ohio.....	thirteen	"
Illinois.....	six	"
Indiana.....	six	"
Missouri.....	four	"
Kentucky.....	four	"
New Jersey.....	four	"
Maryland.....	four	"
Virginia.....	three	"
North Carolina.....	two	"
Tennessee.....	two	"
Massachusetts.....	two	"
Wisconsin.....	one	"
Minnesota.....	one	"
Iowa.....	one	"
Michigan.....	one	"
Delaware.....	one	"
Connecticut.....	one	"
Rhode Island.....	one	"
Vermont.....	one	"
New Hampshire.....	one	"
Maine.....	one	"
Arkansas.....	one	"

The following is the form of the call on the respective State Governors for troops issued through the War Department to day:

Sir, under the act of Congress for the calling out of the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrection, repel invasions, etc., approved February 28th, 1795, I have the honor to request your Excellency to cause to be immediately detached from the militia of your State, the quota designated in the table below, to serve as infantry or riflemen for a period of three months, unless sooner discharged.

Your Excellency will please communicate to me the time at which your quota will be expected at its rendezvous, as it will be met as soon as practicable, by an officer or officers to muster it into the service and pay of the United States. At the same time the oath of fidelity to the United States, will be administered to every officer and man.

The mustering officers will be instructed to receive no man under the rank of commissioned officer, whose years are apparently over forty-five or under eighteen, or who is not in physical strength and vigor.

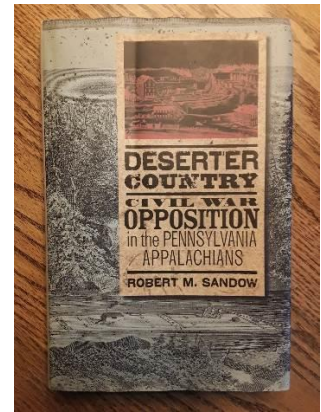
It is ordered that each regiment shall consist, in the aggregate, officers and men, of 780. The total thus to be called out is 78,391; the remainder to constitute the 75,000, under the President's proclamation, will be composed of troops in the District of Columbia.

The War Department, by telegraph to day, accepted the offer of Gov. Sprague, of Rhode Island, of a regiment for Federal service. He was requested by the Secretary to send them to Washington, without delay.

The first and second regiments of the District of Columbia militia have tendered their services to the government. The prevailing rumors that martial law will be immediately declared in this district, are untrue.

## Book Review –

Book Review: Reviewed and Submitted by Mike Espenshade  
Deserter Country - Civil War Opposition in the Pennsylvania Appalachians  
Author - Robert M. Sandow



Hardback; 2009; Fordham University Press; 234 pp. 32 maps/charts/pictures, epilogue, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$19.95 online.

William Miller, Associate Professor of History at Lock Haven University of Pa., has produced a scholarly, well-noted, work drawing attention to the rarely covered topic of the impact of the war on the rural northern tier of Pennsylvania. Sandow explores one of the least-known “inner civil wars”, the widespread, sometimes violent, opposition in the Appalachian lumber country. Sparsely settled, these mountains provided safe-haven to opponents of the war. The dissent of mountain folk reflected their own challenges in the face of rapidly increasing exploitation of timber resources by big firms, as well as partisan debates over loyalty.

The author does a nice job setting the stage for this situation by detailing the pre-war region landscape of isolation, small farming and timbering, use and growing contention of the vital river transportation systems between private loggers and the encroaching lumber companies, and the economic, social and political conditions.

The initial positive response of volunteers to the Union Army from this region compares to the lower-volunteer/draft evasion/desertion statistics as the war went on. The emancipation, federal draft, and the increasing crippling of the private lumbering industry by the “lumber baron” influences were key factors to the region’s growing anti-war, Democratic feelings.

The late 1864 military response by the Federal Provost Marshal using the 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Veteran Reserve Corps to arrest the draft dodgers and deserters, suppress the abuse on loyal citizens, and corral the political Copperhead leadership is also covered.

I recommend this book primarily for understanding of the unique topic, and the valuable charts and figures provided. Of special interest to me is the Pennsylvania county-by-county depiction of 3-month volunteers, total enlistments, PA Reserve Corps volunteers, economic stats, and more. Much of this figure-information was drawn from author (and former 53<sup>rd</sup> reenacting member) Richard Sauers’ Advance the Colors!.

## Honoring the Original 53<sup>rd</sup> PVI

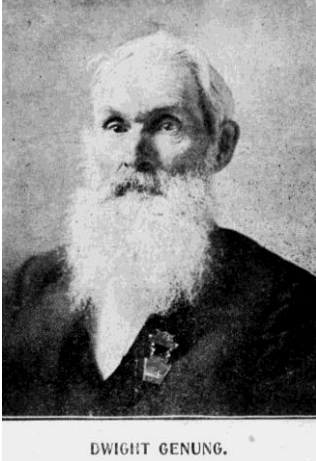
Thanks to Marc Benedict for providing this info:

**Priv. John Goldsmith** - born on Sept. 10, 1830. At 30, he enrolled on Sept. 1, 1861 in Pottstown, PA. Mustered in for a 3 year enlistment in Co. A at Harrisburg, PA on Sept. 18, 1861. He died on Jan. 8, 1916 and is buried in Mount Zion Cemetery and Mausoleum, Pottstown, PA.



**Jacob S. Geiger** - born on Nov. 7, 1848. He was living in Pottstown, PA and at age 18 he enrolled in Co. A on Feb. 29, 1864. The next day, he mustered in at Norristown, Pa for 3 years as a private. He mustered out June 29, 1865. He died on July 21, 1916 and was buried in the Union-West End Cemetery, Allentown, PA.

**Dwight Genung** - born on March 10, 1831 in Hammondsport, NY. At 29, he lived in Ulysses, PA and worked as a wagon maker. He enrolled in Coudersport, PA in Co. G on March 31, 1864 for 3 years. He was 5'9" with dark eyes, hair and complexion. He mustered in in Harrisburg as a Private on April 4, 1864 and mustered out June 30, 1865. He died on July 12, 1906 and is buried in Genesee Cemetery, Genesee, PA.



DWIGHT GENUNG.

**Deloss Genung** - born on March 22, 1831. At 29, he enrolled in Co. G as a private for 3 years in Coudersport, PA on Feb. 29, 1864. His residence was Ulysses, PA where he was a blacksmith. He was 5' 10" with brown eyes and dark hair and complexion. He mustered in at Harrisburg on March 4, 1864 and mustered out June 30, 1865. He died on Aug. 3, 1894 and is buried in the Blockville Union Burial Ground, Blockville, NY.



**Henry Gilbert** - aged 32, was living in Delaware Co, NY when he went to Scranton, PA to muster in to Co. F as a private for 3 years on March 26, 1864. He was a farmer, 5'6" with dark eyes and complexion with black hair. He was captured and died in Andersonville Prison, Georgia on Sept. 20, 1864.

**William H. Gilchrist** - born on June 10, 1843 in Adamsburg, PA. When living in Youngstown, PA, he mustered in to Co. K as a private on Nov. 5, 1861 for 3 years at the age of 19. He lost his left arm at Poe River, in a minor engagement two days before the battle of Spottsylvania, and soon after was discharged for disability. Shortly after the war ended, he moved to Kansas but returned to PA to attend the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg reunion in 1913. His story was related to the Kansas City Star.



"Really, I had no business in the Battle of Gettysburg. You see, it was this way: My regiment was coming up toward Gettysburg the first day of the battle. We stopped at Unionville, about twenty-five miles from Gettysburg, and among others, I was detailed to guard duty. My job was to guard the back door of the hotel in the little town, and I began to feel that I was missing a lot when the regiment moved on, leaving me alone at that back door. I stood it for a few hours, and I couldn't see where the place was in need of a guard when I could hear the sound of the fight at Gettysburg. I talked to the good-natured cook about it, and she agreed to help me out if an inquiry ever should be made why I left my post, and off I hiked. I caught up with my regiment by walking fast, six or eight miles on the road to Gettysburg, and we marched all that night, and were on hand early next morning, spoiling to fight.

I had done a good bit of provost guard duty in the two years of my service, and at Chancellorsville had

helped to guard an especially large number of prisoners. Because my captain had said that I had done this work well I was again detailed to the duty of guarding prisoners, and instead of being at the front, where I was aching to be, I was at the rear to see that no "coffee-coolers" got outside the lines. "Coffee-coolers" was what we called those fellows who got cold feet, and made all sorts of excuses for getting to the rear. Helping a wounded comrade off the field was a favorite dodge.

But sending stragglers back to their duty was only part of the work that was up to us forty-five men in the detail. We had to guard prisoners, and all that long weary second day we moved from place to place in an effort to find comparative shelter, but as soon as we seemed to be partly out of the range of Confederate bullets a volley from another direction would sweep over us. Most of the time we seemed to be in direct range of 250 of Lee's big guns, and a good many of the prisoners, as well as any number of our own men, were killed by the Confederate fire.

That night forty-five men were guarding 3,600 prisoners. The Johnnies made no trouble--they were as worn out as we, and were glad to lie down on the hard ground after they had eaten their supper. They were better off than we, for we had to stay on guard--and no sleep the night before. But our orders were strict--no one was to sleep, lest the prisoners escape. I can't speak for the rest of the boys, but when daylight came I was sitting on a pile of rubbish, hugging my gun, and was surprised that the night had passed so quickly. I sat down to rest just a minute early in the evening, and the next thing I knew it was daylight. I didn't get a scratch at Gettysburg, though the bullets were whizzing around me all day. And the sight of the dead and dying and the suffering of thousands of wounded will stay with me till my dying day."

He died on Jan. 31, 1914 after declining in health for 2 years. He is buried in Maplewood Memorial Lawn Cemetery, Emporia, KS.

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

Pards,

As we roll into October, we still have a fair amount of upcoming business. First, I'd like to report that I got a call from Michael Fedorshak last week. As most of you know, he completed basic training a few weeks ago and he's currently stationed at Ft Sam Houston where he'll complete his Corpsman training. He reported that everything is going well for him and he'll be home for a couple of weeks around Christmas. As we get closer I'll coordinate a date and time that we can get together with him at our home. You can find his address on the unit's Facebook page or you can reach out to me for it.

Unit President and all NCO's (1st and 2nd Sgt's and two Corporals) will be on this year's ballot at the annual business meeting. Send your nominations to Pete by October 15th. Please confirm that the person you are nominating is willing to accept the position. If you're nominated, you must accept in writing (to Pete) by October 31st so the ballot can be posted in the November newsletter.

Does anyone have any event proposals for 2020? If so, send me the info ASAP and include the contact info for the organizers. I will add the event to the list for the unit's vote at the business meeting.

Let me know if you have any feedback on the revised NR by-laws. We will be voting on the proposed changes at the annual meeting on Remembrance Day. The NR is also asking for Soldier of the Year nominations. Please email me if you wish to nominate someone.

I hope everyone is planning to attend the monument clean up on November 2nd. As you all know, the Fall cleanup is the one that requires a little more effort after a full season of growth and the early leaf fall. Let's plan to be at the site by 10:00am. As always, if the weather looks to be an issue, I'll make the call on rescheduling for the following week by Friday afternoon.

Finally, I think it's time that we update some photos on the website. You can send photos to Matt and he will upload them to the site. Specifically, a nice group shot for the home page would be nice. We've been using the same one for a few years now.

See y'all soon!  
Eric

## The Civil War Letters of Levi J. Fritz

(thank you to Rich Sauers for providing this series)

[Note – any grammatical and typographical errors were kept intact as they are original to the letter - editor]

Levi J. Fritz served in Company A, 53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He enlisted in 1861 and was mustered out with the regiment in July 1865. During the course of the first three years of the conflict, Fritz wrote a number of lengthy missives to the *Montgomery Ledger*, a Pottstown newspaper.

Headquarters, 53d Regt. P. V.

Camp on Battle Field at Fair Oaks,

Saturday, June 7th, 1862.

Messers. Editors:—Since writing you last, we have passed through many of the most exciting vicissitudes of the soldier's varying life. The division several weeks ago left camp near the banks of the Pamunkey, and after a series of short but rapid marches, some of them performed through drenching showers of rain, we finally bivouaced on the banks of the Chickahominy, on the left of our lines, and about twelve miles from the rebel capitol. Our regiment was thrown to the front to act as the picket guard. We laid in camp for several days without anything outside of the usual routine occurring, with the exception that we were all the time under orders to be in readiness at any moment to march forward to the field of battle. On Saturday last our attention was centered with more than usual interest on the heavy firing of cannon, and sharp discharges of musketry in our front. A battle was raging. About 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the division received orders to march to the front as quick as possible. The command of Gen. Casey had been attacked by overwhelming numbers and he was compelled to fall back from his position. We were wanted—urgently wanted. Heavy rains had been falling and the Chickahominy was rising rapidly. The rude corduroy bridge was being fast washed away. The river must be crossed immediately, and so over we went our brigade in front of the division, and the 53d in front of the brigade. We held our cartridge boxes up, and we dashed on, and wading through mud and water for five hundred yards we made the other side. Gens. Richardson, Howard and Meagher, and most of their respective staffs, dismounted and waded through in front of their respective commands. Many amusing incidents occurred in the crossing of the stream, but we have not space to dwell upon them. By five o'clock the whole division had got over, and, in quick time the forward line of march was taken up. About twilight a general halt took place. But orders came for us to forward on, so we did. Night had fairly set in and the cannonading had just ceased as we reached the battle ground. Marching now became slow, disagreeable and fatiguing. The night was dark, gloomy and threatened rain. Keeping our files closely dressed, we slowly forwarded on over the battle field. Treading carefully to avoid tramping on the dead and wounded, on we went. There was nothing to relieve the mysterious monotony of this slow and silent night march, but here and there the bright light from the lantern of some surgeon who was attending to the wounded. At midnight we were halted and forming line of battle, stacked our arms, and throwing ourselves upon the earth endeavored to get such repose as we could. It must be recollected that we had nothing with us but our accouterments, haversacks and canteens.

At early dawn, the low, but earnest command of the officers brought us quickly into ranks. About ten minutes after we had fallen in ranks and made a change in position, the picket regiment, a few hundred yards in advance of us became engaged with the enemy's skirmishers in the woods. A few volleys made them apparently skedaddle. This was the prologue to the Sunday tragedy. We marched through the woods. We passed over the Richmond and York River Railroad, we kept slowly passing on through the woods, now halting, now going on a few steps. The command "rest" was given. We rest as soldiers generally rest on such occasions, some lying down, some sitting, others standing, ranks as a general thing completely broken, when—a truly terrific fire of musketry opened upon our front and flanks. We had fallen into an ambushade, and the rebels were upon us in force. It was a complete surprise. And here it was that our officers showed that they were worthy of commanding, and were equal to the occasion. To avoid the unwelcome hailstorm of bullets, that the opening fire of the concealed foe sent rattling among us, every man sought the ground. When the rebel fire was somewhat spent the cool and determined command of our gallant Colonel brought every man to his feet, and the order was given to commence firing, and our boys, who cannot be too highly praised for the cool and gallant manner in which they stood to their posts throughout the terrific surprise did open fire, with a telling and deadly effect upon the rebels. It is evident that we were attacked by a vastly superior force. To avoid being flanked it was necessary for the right wing to fall back about twenty yards; this was accomplished quickly, but in good order. We soon, however, recovered this ground again. The battle now commenced to rage fiercely. The rebels fought well. They hotly contested every inch of ground. The 52d N. Y., on our left, as well as Gen. Howard's brigade, became hotly engaged. Bullets were flying in every direction; the field was beginning to be covered with the dead and wounded. Col. Brooke, who took things as coolly as if he was manouversing his battalion on the parade ground, was constantly cheering on his men, by word and brave example. Lieut. Col. McMichael was also doing his duty. In the early part of the action the Colonel's horse was shot under him. Our boys acted like veterans, and when we say so, we give the opinion of those whose duty it is to judge of our actions in fight. At one time during the engagement we were surrounded by six times our number, and things looked as if the tide was moving against us, but a deadly fire from the heated guns, followed by a bayonet charge, soon compelled the enemy to fall back to his original position. We had been fighting for several hours when the rebel fire sensibly became weaker, and they evidently began to be aware of the fact that victory on this day would not grace their banners. During the heat of the action Maj.

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Yeager, who was last seen gallantly cheering on the men, became detached from the regiment, and falling in with a force of the rebels he was instantly shot dead—three musket balls entering his body; his horse was killed at the same time. For more than four hours the 53d fought the foe—and it was no cowardly enemy that we were engaged with, but foemen worthy of our steel—the flower of the rebel army were pitted against General Howard’s and our brigade. The enemy was fast falling back before the fire of our advancing columns, when we were ordered out of the action. The 69th and 88th of Gen. Meagher’s Brigade finished things up by making a brilliant bayonet charge and drove the rebels completely out of the woods. The day was ours; glorious victory was ours. The battle was won, and won mainly by the noble, gallant conduct, the hard fighting of Gen. Richardson’s division.

The following is a correct list of casualties occurring in our regiment during the battle of Fair Oaks, fought on the 1<sup>st</sup>:  
Major Thomas Yeager, killed.

Lieut. Col. McMichael, slightly wounded in leg by a buckshot.

Company A.

Eli H. Graham, killed.

Lt. Wm. Mintzer, buck shot wound in leg—slight.

Even Fryer, serious wound in hip.

Holeman V. Potts, slight flesh wound in left arm.

Capt. S. O. Bull, chest injury - spent ball, slight.

Jacob Nagle, wound in leg—severe.

David Houck, slight wound in head.

David Robinson, wounded in shoulder—slight.

Missing - Sgt. Thomas Clark, Sgt. Charles Geiger; J. D. Taney, J. Godshallm W. Penn Johnson, Harvey Skean, John Boyer, George Beard, Henry Holt and Richard Gable (no doubt, are prisoners in the hands of the enemy)

Company B.

Orderly Sergt. John Daily, killed.

George Fondersmith, killed.

Capt. Geo. Eichholtz, slightly wounded in the hand.

Eli T. Hoops, wound in arm, not dangerous.

Caleb Bland, slight contusion of leg.

Wm. O. Beard, wounded and missing.

Jno. A. Mathews, wound in head and finger.

Wm. B. Kenney, wound in pelvis—severe.

Corp. John Rader, killed.

George Davis, killed.

Corp. Jacob Yerger, severe wound in leg (amputated).

Enos Hoffman, wound in arm—slight.

Paul Frick, slight wound in elbow.

John Wildermuth, wound in shoulder.

James Harbison, slight wound in head.

Isaac VanLeer, mortal wound in head.

Company C.

Chas. Lightner, killed.

Henry S. Boyer, severe wound in pelvis.

Ord. Sergt. H. J. Smith, slight contusion.

Jno. Rauch, missing.

Company D.

John Glasgow, killed.

Peter Detwiler, wounded slightly.

Joseph Murray, wound in arm—severe.

Mathew McMullen, killed.

John Cantwell, “ ”

Corp. E. P. Fulkinson, severe wound in leg (amputated).

Patrick Conner, wound in knee-severe.

Jno. Bael, slight contusion.

A. M. B. Mahood, slightly wounded.

J. Miller, “ ”

Company E.

Isaac Hess, killed.

S. W. Sergeant, wounded in both arms & nose shot off—severe.

Capt. Thomas Church, wound in head-severe.

Company F.

Mylo Demond, killed.

Charles Clark, wound in arm—severe.

Wyron Strickland, missing.

Capt. Moody, severe wound in shoulder.

Samuel Parks, finger shot off.

Company G.

Sergt. J. F. Hamilton, wound in ankle—severe.

Decatur Wykoff, wound in finger.

Uriah Glase, flesh wound in arm.

Ira Baxter, slight flesh wound.

Lyman C. Perry, flesh wound in hand.

Nelson S. Cobb, “ ”

Corp. Edson Hyde, badly wounded in arm.

Asa Toombs, wound in chest—severe.

Orman Blackman, severe wound in head.

Raymond Calhoun, wound in neck—severe.

Charles H. Westfall, slightly wounded.

Daniel S. Mossey, “ ”

#### Company H.

Corp. Joseph Black, killed.  
J. M. Confer, slightly wounded.  
Wm. A. Long, slight wound in nose.  
Joseph Wetzell, slight wound in shoulder.  
Zachariah Robnult, wound in chest, severe.

Corp. W. C. Best, wounds in neck and face, severe.  
John Seibert, “ “  
A. Fox, contusion slight.  
Henry Wilson, wound in abdomen, slight.  
W. H. Swentzel, wound in leg severe.

#### Company I.

Corp. Hiram Jackson, wound in leg—slight.

Wm. H. Martin, wound in leg—slight.

Wm. Haim, wound in side—severe.

Michael Alman, slight wound in head.

John M. Foltz, slightly wounded.

Corp. G. W. Meridith, Samuel Aurant, Levi Masterson and Job Shine are missing and very likely prisoners.

#### Company K.

Sergt. Patrick Williams, killed.  
Tobias Sigel, slight wound in leg.  
Peter Everett, wounded in both legs—severe.  
Peter Wentz,—slightly wounded.  
The total loss in killed, wounded and missing is 97.

Corp. Jackson Schall, killed.  
John G. Lowry, flesh wound in thigh.  
Harry Kern, wound in the leg—slight.  
J. M. Berlin, wound in thigh—severe.

Our excellent Adjutant, Charles P. Hatch, while gallantly fighting and urging on the men, was surrounded by a number of secesh and compelled to surrender. Towards the close of the action, Capt. Bull led a charge of his company upon the very squad of “rebs” who had the Adjutant in charge. The enemy was driven back by Company A, and in the melee the Adjutant “skedaddled” and succeeded in arriving safely to the regiment—minus his sword, belt sash and pistol, the rebels taking those articles from him as soon as they captured him.

Pottstown has ample reason to feel proud of the brave and gallant boys composing the Sumner Rifles, that she has sent into the field to defend the stars and stripes of our noble Union. Never did men fight more gallantly; never did men for four long hours stand to their posts more coolly and firmly, than the patriotic boys of Company A. Capt. Bull and Lieuts. Mintzer and Potts acted bravely—constantly in the thickest of the fight, they heeded not the murderous fire of the enemy, but undaunted by ball or bayonet, they performed the duties of their positions manfully and heroically. A few words with regard to the loss of Company A. Of most of those wounded the injury is but slight and should not cause their relatives and friends any alarm. Several cases are serious but by no means hopeless. Our Surgeons, Drs. McKinnon and Wynne, carefully dressed the injuries of the wounded, and every means at hand was brought into requisition to make them as comfortable as possible. With regard to those who have been captured we can only hope that they have fallen into good and humane hands and will be treated well. Company A lost one killed, Eli H. Graham, who was shot down in the latter part of the engagement. Throughout the conflict none fought the foe more bravely than he did—none done more nobly; but he fell while gallantly fighting for a cause that is only secondary to the cause of God. The starry decked flag of the Union, the emblem of a nation revered by freemen and blessed by heaven, is the fitting grave mantle of Eli H. Graham, the true soldier, the true friend and the true patriot.

The woods in which the engagement took place was swampy and made almost impassable on account of the dense undergrowth. The rebel regiments who first opened fire upon us was the 3d Alabama (1300 strong) and the 41st Virginia. They were laying in ambush not more than fifty yards in our front. The 41st Virginia was drawn up in line of battle immediately in the rear of the 3d Alabama. The first volley they poured into our ranks was from the four ranks of these two rebel regiments, and at the short distance they were from us was terrific in the extreme, and it was truly providential that we were not mown down like grass before the scythe. During the fight our regiment became engaged with the 51st Virginia, the 21st Alabama, a Mississippi regiment and a portion of the Hampton Legion, of South Carolina. Gen. French was constantly on the ground during the fight, and with great courage and coolness made such changes in position, &c., as they became necessary. Gen. French, in his report, speaks highly of the gallantry of our brave Colonel, and says that the 52d New York and our regiment bore the brunt of the fight. Several times the enemy made desperate attempts to break our lines, but as often did we drive them back at the point of the bayonet. At one time during the contest the upper part of the cartridge boxes became empty and needed replenishing. Several regiments of Howard’s brigade were ordered to the front while this was being done; but, in the official language of Gen. French, “the gallant Col. Brooke, instead of falling back to the second line, kept his position in the front and continued to bravely charge the enemy. The fight commenced about 5 ½ o’clock, A.M., and lasted until 9 ½ A.M. As the action was confined to the woods, the infantry had all the work to do. Gen. Richardson, then whom a braver or more determined man never led troops into action, was constantly boldly riding over the field, wherever his duty called him.

We have confined ourselves almost exclusively to our own regiment in this letter. We have not time or space to describe the noble deeds of the thousands of brave Union soldiers who helped to win the victory of Fair Oaks. All the divisions that were engaged did nobly. Because we have confined ourselves to our own regiment, our readers must not suppose that we wish them to think that we did all the fighting—far from it. We only did our share, and endeavored to do it well. Our division is now in bivouac along the line of the Richmond and

York River Railroad—five miles from the rebel capital. By climbing a high tree the church spires of the city can be seen as well as the smoke which rises from the factories, &c.

In a few days, if nothing occurs to prevent it, we shall write to you and give some of the incidents of before, during and after the battle, that came under our observation. The Union is triumphant.

Yours, &c.

L.J.F.

[Ledger, June 24, 1862]

## Upcoming events –

### **4-6 Oct. – Shenandoah 1864 (Lovettsville, VA) – NR MAX EFFORT EVENT**

The National Regiment's only big event in 2019 so register NOW (meaning right now, the deadline is 30 Aug.). The info released to this point indicating that this will be a very good event that everyone should seriously consider participating in. The location is Lovettsville, VA which is about an hour from Gettysburg and located in the northern tip of VA. Registration is now CLOSED.

### **2 Nov. – Monument Cleanup – Gettysburg NMP**

Our annual cleanup of leaves and other debris on Brooke Avenue at the 53<sup>rd</sup> PVI's monument. Meet at the monument by 10AM and bring tools (rake, loupers, work gloves, etc). We are most often finished by noon.

### **16 Nov. - Remembrance Day Parade – Gettysburg**

Annual parade honoring the dedication of the Soldiers Cemetery in Gettysburg. The NR meets up on the hill behind the elementary school each year for formation and dress parade before the parade starts. Keep tuned to the Facebook group and/or email for specific details (time to form up, etc.).

### **7 Dec. – Annual Meeting – Sgt. Fasnacht's Home (Kleinfeltersville)**

Our annual unit meeting to discuss all things 53<sup>rd</sup>.... such as the 2019 season, discuss events for 2020, new and old business, etc. Keep tuned to the Facebook group and/or email for details such as meeting start time, etc. Please plan on bringing an item to share with the others for lunch.

### **Save The Date! January 11, 2020**

The 53<sup>rd</sup> PVI Company C will soon be celebrating our 40th anniversary! This event is open to anyone who has ever been in our ranks. Stay tuned for more details. If you know of a past member of the 53<sup>rd</sup> PVI and have their contact information, please forward it to Eric and Pete asap.

### **For Sale –**

*(if you have something for sale or are looking for something, email me to include it in a future edition)*

All items in good shape unless noted otherwise. Listed by Rick Kramer for a friend; contact Rick directly for any inquiries/questions - auction8@comcast.net

Unlined Sack Coat (approx. xlarge)	30.00	CD Jarnigan Great Coat (approx. XL)	100.00
Keune McDowell Kepi some brim cracking	20.00	Grey Blanket with black stripe	50.00

### **Wanted –**

Eric Ford – looking for another gum blanket or poncho. Contact him if you have one for sale.

*If you have not submitted your "Get To Know who have yet to share theirs with their pards. This isn't meant to pry into your private life, but simply a fun way of letting your pards get to know you more.*

### 2019 Calendar of Events -

12 Jan. Annual Holiday Party — Dobbin House (Reservations/Payment due by 31 Dec.)  
2 Feb. Winter Drill — Landis Valley (weather back up date is 16 Feb)  
16 Feb. Cartridge Rolling Party — Mark Fasnacht's home (9 March back up date)  
2-3 March — NR School of Instruction — Gettysburg Fire Hall  
5 April — Ephrata Middle School — Civil War Day event with Michael Fedorshak  
6 April — Spring Adopt A Position  
13-14 April — NR Camp Of Instruction — Ft. McHenry **NR MAX EFFORT**  
18-19 May — USAHEC (Carlisle, PA) — PAID Event **53rd MAX EFFORT**  
27 May — Hummelstown Memorial Day Parade  
5-7 July — Gettysburg GAC — 2ndary Event  
20-21 July — Landis Valley Civil War Days — **53rd MAX EFFORT**  
28 July — Gruber Wagon Works (Reading, PA) **53rd MAX EFFORT**  
24-25 Aug. — 53rd Gettysburg Living History — Spangler's Spring **53rd MAX EFFORT**  
4-6 Oct. — Shenandoah 1864 (Lovettsville, VA) **NR MAX EFFORT**  
19-20 Oct. — Cedar Creek (Middletown, VA) - 2ndary Event  
2 Nov. - Autumn Adopt-A-Position — spring cleanup at the 53rd PVI Monument  
16 Nov. — Remembrance Day Parade — Gettysburg  
7 Dec. — 53rd PVI Annual Meeting (Mark Fasnacht's home)  
11 Jan. — Annual Holiday Party — Dobbin House (Gettysburg)



### 53rd PVI Contacts

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