

53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry

Company C

"The Sentinel" October 2020

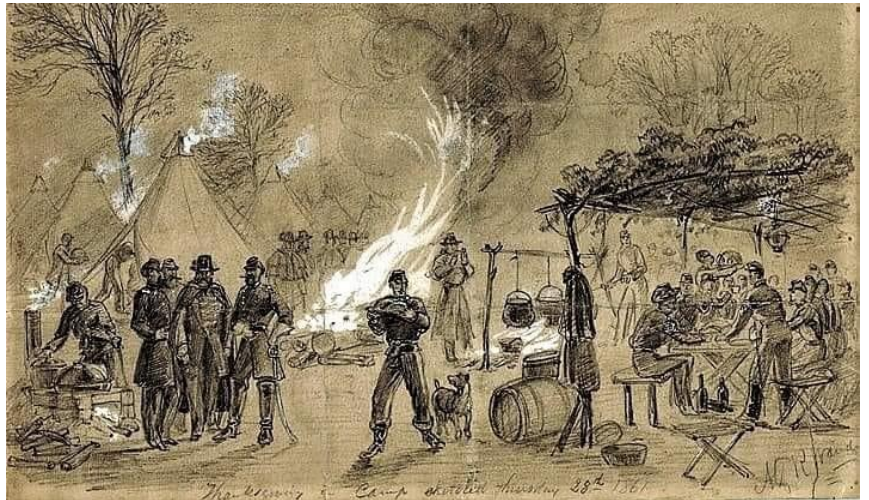
Newsletter of The James Creek Guards



"Clubs Are Trump!"

This Month:

1. Civil War Cooking: What Did The Soldiers Eat
2. Smithgall October Drill Event
3. Old Bedford Village event
- 4 Levi Fritz Letter
5. The Roll of Drummer Boys In The Civil War
6. From The Desk Of The President
7. Upcoming Events
8. The Civil War Merchant
9. Event Schedule
10. 53rd PVI Contact Info



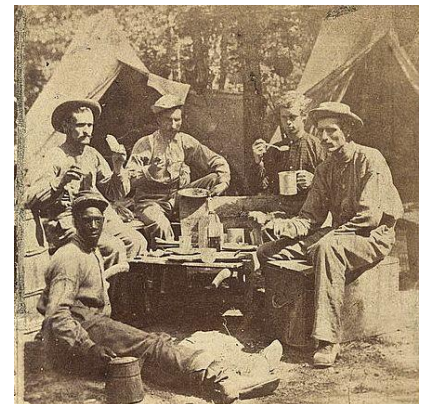
I am always looking for newsletter content, so please forward your articles, book reviews, event summaries/photos, stories of 53rd events from long ago, 53rd memories, etc. to me for inclusion in a future edition of "The Sentinel". Matthew Steger, editor

CIVIL WAR COOKING: WHAT THE UNION SOLDIERS ATE

Written by Tori Ayey. Originally posted on 21 Sept. 2012 on pbs.org

"We grab our plates and cups, and wait for no second invitation. We each get a piece of meat and a potato, a chunk of bread and a cup of coffee with a spoonful of brown sugar in it. Milk and butter we buy, or go without. We settle down, generally in groups, and the meal is soon over... We save a piece of bread for the last, with which we wipe up everything, and then eat the dish rag. Dinner and breakfast are alike, only sometimes the meat and potatoes are cut up and cooked together, which makes a really delicious stew. Supper is the same, minus the meat and potatoes." - Lawrence VanAlstyne, Union Soldier, 128th New York Volunteer Infantry

Army of the Potomac Union soldiers cooking dinner in camp →
[*\(Library of Congress\)*](#)



The biggest culinary problem during the Civil War, for both the North and the South, was inexperience. Men of this time were accustomed to the women of the house, or female slaves, preparing the food. For a male army soldier, cooking was a completely foreign concept. Thrust into the bleak reality of war, soldiers were forced to adjust to a new way of life and eating on the battlefield.

In the early stages of the war, the Union soldiers of the North benefited from supervision by the United States Sanitary Commission. Commonly known as The Sanitary, it made the soldiers' health and nutrition a top priority. Even before the start of the war, volunteers in The Sanitary were trained to find and distribute food to soldiers stationed in the field. They were expected to be knowledgeable in determining which foods were available during each season, and how to preserve food items for transportation and storage. It was the responsibility of The Sanitary to schedule and maintain a constant supply of food to soldiers at war.



Fredericksburg, VA - Cooking tent of the U.S. Sanitary Commission ([Library of Congress](#))

While the Sanitary did their best to provide a reliable supply of food, that didn't guarantee a tasty or healthy meal. Considering there were nearly 2 million soldiers in the Union army, the Sanitary did not focus on flavor nor variety. It was a large enough task to provide the basics and keep their soldiers from starving. When food deliveries were interrupted by weather delays or other challenges, soldiers were forced to forage the countryside to supplement their meager diets.

"Again we sat down beside (the campfire) for supper. It consisted of hard pilot-bread, raw pork and coffee. The coffee you probably wouldn't recognize in New York. Boiled in an open kettle, and about the color of a brownstone front, it was nevertheless the only warm thing we had." –

Charles Nott, Union Soldier, 16 yrs. old

At the start of the war, James M. Sanderson, a member of the Sanitary, became concerned with reports of poor food quality and preparation. Sanderson, who was also a hotel operator in New York, believed that his experience would be of value to the Union. With the help of New York Governor Edwin D. Morgan, Sanderson set out to visit soldiers in the field, in hopes of teaching them a few simple cooking techniques. He started with the camps of the 12th New York, as they were deemed most deficient in the proper culinary knowledge. He reportedly saw a significant change in just three days.

Colonel Burnside's Brigade at Bull Run ([Library of Congress](#))

On July 22, 1861, just after the Union's loss in the First Battle of Bull Run, Sanderson approached the War Department with a proposal. He asked that a 'respectable minority' in each company be expertly trained in the essential basics of cooking. For every 100-man company, the skilled cook would be appointed two privates; one position would be permanent and the other would rotate among the men of the company. The skilled cook would be given the rank of "Cook Major" and receive a monthly salary of \$50. It would be the Cook Major's responsibility to ration the food, prepare it, and delegate tasks to the company cooks. Sanderson had unknowingly proposed his idea at exactly the right time.



Washington was faced with the likelihood of the war lasting years, rather than months. The government was actively looking for ways to increase soldier comfort. Sanderson's proposal reached the Military Affairs Committee of the U.S. Senate. Though they did not follow his instructions specifically, Sanderson did receive a commission, he was named Captain in the Office of the Commissary General of Subsistence from the War Department.

Around this time, Sanderson wrote the first cookbook to be distributed to the military. The book was titled: *Camp Fires and Camp Cooking; or Culinary Hints for the Soldier: Including Receipt for Making Bread in the "Portable Field Oven" Furnished by the Subsistence Department*. Though his grammar was questionable, Sanderson did describe several techniques, such as suspending pots over a campfire, that made cooking slightly more convenient in the battlefield.

*Cooking with a kettle - City Point - West Point, Virginia
(Library of Congress)*

Sanderson believed his efforts were so successful that no man could consume his daily ration, although many waste(d) it. This certainly was not the case, as many men still suffered from hunger, illness and death from unsanitary and poorly cooked food. Sanderson did understand the importance of cooking with "well-cleaned pots and was quoted as saying, Better wear out your pans with scouring than your stomachs with purging."

Typical fare during the Civil War was very basic. Union soldiers were fed pork or beef, usually salted and boiled to extend the shelf life, coffee, sugar, salt, vinegar, and sometimes dried fruits and vegetables if they were in season. Hard tack, a type of biscuit made from unleavened flour and water, was commonly used to stave off hunger on both sides. After baking, hard tack was dried to increase its shelf life.



Dinner party outside tent, Army of the Potomac headquarters, Brandy Station, VA (Library of Congress)



Soldiers in the field would carry rations in makeshift bags called haversacks. Made of canvas, the haversack folded around its contents, basically anything the soldiers would need to survive for a few days on their own, and was held together with buckling straps and completed with two shoulder straps.

"An army is a big thing and it takes a great many eatables and not a few drinkables to carry it along." - Union Officer, October 1863

The following Union army recipe comes from *Camp Fires and Camp Cooking; or Culinary Hints for the Soldier* by Captain Sanderson. It's a basic recipe (in those days known as a "receipt") for "Commissary Beef Stew". This easy meat stew is thickened with flour and filled out with potatoes and vegetables. The flour and added vegetables allowed Union

cooks to stretch small amounts of meat into a substantial, filling meal. While many wartime stews were made from salted preserved meat, this recipe appears to be written for fresh beef. Here is the original recipe, as transcribed in *A Taste for War: The Culinary History of the Blue and Gray*. Note that grammar and measurements have been clarified from the original source:

Cut 2 pounds of beef roast into cubes 2 inches square and 1 inch thick, sprinkle with salt and pepper, and put in frying pan with a little pork fat or lard. Put them over a fire until well browned but not fully cooked, and then empty the pan into a kettle and add enough water to cover the meat. Add a handful of flour, two quartered onions, and four peeled and quartered potatoes. Cover and simmer slowly over a moderate heat for 3 ½ hours, skimming any fat that rises to the top. Then stir in 1 tablespoon of vinegar and serve. Other vegetables available, such as leeks, turnips, carrots, parsnips, and salsify, will make excellent additions.

SMITHGALL OCTOBER DRILL EVENT -

Our October drill event is scheduled for Oct. 17-18 at Charlie Smithgall's farm south of Lancaster. We hope to see everyone from the 53rd present. Some of our ELF friends will also be attending. Please arrive by 10AM Saturday. Fresh water, firewood, and bathrooms are available onsite. No need to bring rounds/caps as we will not be firing. The address is 1451 Harmony Ridge Road, Drumore, PA 17518. (See photos below for directions once onsite). We will be doing some drill, etc. as well as enjoying some time in uniform hanging out with our parads. For meals, you will be on your own so please plan accordingly. Bring your normal kit, tentage, leathers, rifle, etc. There will be no public at this event meaning we can make the rules and schedule.



The site is easy to access and is approx. 1.5 miles west of PA Rt. 272. The address is marked where the main driveway connects to Harmony Ridge Rd. A "Preserved Farm" sign and 3 mailboxes (one of which says "1451") is at the street. Turn north into the driveway and proceed approx. 300 yards; the driveway is partially lined with trees on the west side. Then, turn left (west) at the white house. Continue through an open gate past a large metal building and then past a large modern home both on the right (north) side. You will see the blockhouse and a pavilion ahead. Park at the area shown in the 2nd photo as marked. Proposed camp is on the slightly raised flat area on the west side of the blockhouse. There are various homes on the property; please obey the property's 5 mph posted speed limit.



OLD BEDFORD VILLAGE EVENT SUMMARY –

On Sept. 4-6th, Mark Fasnacht, Marc Benedict, and I participated in our 1st actual event of 2020 (besides our Winter Drill weekend). 'Twas nice to actually get to put on the wool and drill and march again.

The scenario of the event was the recruitment, mustering in, and initial training of Company F, 138th PVI in Bedford in 1862. Mark Fasnacht was one of the civilian recruits who showed up at the War Meeting in the town square where various prominent officials of the day gave patriotic speeches encouraging able-bodied men to join up to preserve the Union. On Saturday, the new men are completely raw and in civilian clothing. By Sunday, they have been issued their leathers, rifle, uniform, etc. and are 'slightly less raw' after some basic drill and training. Marc Benedict served as cook for the military for the weekend and provided 5 great meals for the men. He also served as Sgt. for the recruiting/enlistment and mustering-in of the new recruits. I served as 1st Sgt as I was the only other NCO (actual corporal) present to lead the men. That was my first time ever serving as a Sgt., let alone leading the men as 1st Sgt. Watching a 1st Sgt. do his thing over the years at various events is one thing, actually serving in that aspect when not expecting to serve in that capacity is sort of another but I hopefully I earned a 'passing' grade.

The men were led by Captain James Owens and Captain Diehl. The site is very much like Landis Valley, however not a state-owned or operated site, with its many wooden buildings each serving a specific purpose (jail, broom shop, tailor, general store, doctor's office, bakery, blacksmith, etc.) in the small village. We've seen this event come up for consideration for our event schedule in years past, but this was the first time Mark or I had been to this site. When the event comes up in future years, I would recommend you all consider doing this event. Some of our ELF pards also participated in the event as new recruits. The event ends with the men being formed on the town's main street, being given some departing gifts from the local women, and then marching to the train station to be sent off to Harrisburg for additional training at Camp Curtin and then, hopefully, 'on to Richmond'.



Recruitment poster at Old Bedford Village to help drum up volunteers to register to preserve the Union. It appears that Mark Fasnacht has been charged with being a "drunk horse robber" according to the charges displayed as he was put into the stockade for all to see. Before enlisting, he must have gotten out on good behavior as he was one of the new recruits to join the 138th PVI soon after.



Top left, Sgt. Benedict mans the recruitment table as a series of speakers (the NR's very own Tom Downes, although not portraying himself) is shown speaking to the crowd to help encourage able-bodied men to join in the fight.

Above, your author is shown monitoring the War Meeting and helping to encourage men of the area to join up.

To the left, newly-enlisted Private Fasnacht is shown with his new NCO (your editor) after we've done a little bit of training of the new recruits.

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 Near Warrenton, Va.
Tuesday, Nov. 11th, 1862.

Messers. Editors:--
"Summer's over--summer's over,
Sighing breezes whisper now,

And the leafy trees that cover
Misty vale and mountain brew,
Like the doomed in Aztec story,
Ere the dreadful sacrifice,
Stands arrayed in vesture glowing
with the rainbow's richest dyes."

For the past week we have been verifying the auctioneer's eloquent phrase of "go, going, gone." We have, day after day, like crazy John Brown's restless soul in the memorable song, "been a-marching along." For the past seven days we have had "times that tried men's souls"—at least the boot soles. If the bard who sings of the "poetry of motions" would keep his misunderstandings on the move for several days over Virginia roads, we opine he would have a somewhat different idea of the poetry of the thing.

When we wrote you last we were in camp in Loudon county, about six miles from Harper's Ferry. On Saturday, the 1st inst., our regiment was sent to the front on a reconnoissance. We advanced about two miles beyond our picket lines, but failed to find any traces of the enemy. The boys were anxious to go ahead, but Col. Brooke's orders were imperative, and we were reluctantly forced to return. We had a very pleasant time of it. We returned to camp about six o'clock. In the meanwhile French's and Sedgwick's Divisions had come up and gone into camp.

The next day, Sunday the 2d inst., at noon, agreeably to orders, we struck tents, and with two days' "grub," took up the forward line of march. The boys were in buoyant spirits, the roads were in fine condition, and the weather cool and pleasant. We passed through a fertile and beautiful country, abounding with cornfields and orchards. The apples were nearly all gathered, but the greater part of the corn was unhusked in the shock. Our course wound along the base of the Blue Ridge or Shenandoah Mountains—the western bounds of the Loudon valley. We marched about six miles when we halted and bivouacked for the night. Early the next morning, we were under arms, and at the sound of the bugles the long column moved onward, still keeping along the foot of the mountains. Occasionally when the road diverged too much in the valley, we would cut across the fields to another one that kept us 'neath the shadow of the heights. During the afternoon we passed over the fertile "broad acres" of one Mr. Carter—one of the finest plantations in the valley. The stately mansion of the Carter family was left half a mile in our rear, when we were halted, in closed columns by divisions, and stacked arms. Here the boys presumed we would rest for the night, and soon the bivouac fires were cheerfully blazing. Orders came to "fall in." We were marched a mile further on, when we again stacked arms—this time for the night. The following day, Tuesday we pitched tents. Rations of crackers and pork were issued. Wednesday morning the onward march was continued. About four o'clock we arrived at the village of Snickerville. Hastily marching up the slope of the mountain we took possession of Snicker's Gap. And we were just in time too—half an hour later and the place would have been held by the rebels. From the highest point of the road in the Gap, and glancing over the broad expanse of the Shenandoah valley, we could see the columns of the advancing enemy, coming on from Winchester to secure this mountain pass, but they were too late—for the once we had out-marched them.

Two guns of Pettit's battery were put in position commanding the road. The rebels opened with one piece, but at too great a distance to do any harm. Our brigade was ordered to the top of the mountain on the left of the Gap. We scrambled up over rocks and through bushes. At the top we found a curiosity, well worth viewing, which was nothing more or less than a natural fortification of solid rock, extending in a straight line for half a mile. A military engineer could not have planned a more substantial and regular field work, than this adamantine military achievement of nature. Our position was an impregnable one so far as regarded a front attack. A hundred yards in advance of our lines, the mountain side was almost perpendicular. From this point we had one of the grandest views of nature we ever gazed upon; before us was spread out the broad valley of the Shenandoah, appearing from the eminence on which we stood, like one vast expanse of plain, dotted all over with woodland and field. Far beyond the dark range of the Alleghanies, loomed their peaks up toward the blue concave. Beneath us was the silent silvered sheen of Shenandoah river. While we were gazing in speechless rapture upon this glorious panorama of nature, we heard the dull boom of a cannon, glancing down, we observed that the rebels had placed a gun on the road at the edge of the woods, and were shelling our skirmishers at the base of the mountain. Pettit answered shot for shot. From our elevated position we could see the shells from both parties explode. One shell from our battery exploded near the rebel gun, but as we had no glass, we could not tell with what effect. About sundown part of Porter's Corps, came up the mountain and relieved us. We were marched back to Snickersville where we bivouacked for the night.

The next day we continued the march, nothing unusual occurred on the road. The morning following we arrived at Upperville, near Ashby's Gap, which pass had been occupied by Sedgwick's division. The Rev. Andrew Burnaby A. M. vicar of Greenwich, who traveled through this portion of Virginia (then known as the Middle Settlements) in 1760, more than a century ago, thus describes this pass: "The pass at Ashby's Gap, from the foot of the mountains on the eastern side to the Shenandoah, which runs at the foot on the western, is about four miles; the ascent is nowhere very steep, through the mountains, are upon the whole, I think, higher than any I have ever seen in England. When I was got to the top, I was inexpressibly delighted with the scene that opened before me. Immediately under the mountain, which was covered with chamoedaphnes in full bloom, was a most beautiful river, beyond this an extensive plain, diversified with every pleasing object that nature can exhibit; and, at the distance of fifty miles, another ridge, which enclosed and terminated the whole."

We were kept marching over a roundabout road until sunset, when the troops began to take up positions for bivouacking, our regiment was on picket during the night. The next morning we again moved forward. A march of a mile brought us to Piedmont station on the Manassas Gap railroad. The first engine had just come through from Manassas Junction. A short distance beyond at Rectortown,

where McClellan had established his headquarters. Here we pitched our tents. It was cold during the night; the day following November 7th, we were visited by the first snow, which fell to the depth of three inches. On the 8th we again moved, the weather was once more pleasant. Marching some ten miles which passed us through the deserted and doleful looking village of Salem, we lit our fires, cooked coffee in our tincups, suppered on bacon and crackers, and wrapping our blankets around us, slept by the blazing fire, until morning. The day following, Sunday, an easy march of six miles brought us to Warrenton, near which place we are now in camp. We expect to move to-morrow, where, we of course, don't know, and, of course, don't care.

S. Octavius Bull, captain of Company A, had received his commission as Major of the regiment. 1st Lieut. Wm. Mintzer, has been promoted to the Captaincy of the Company, 2d Lieut. John T. Potts has been promoted to 1st Lieutenant, and orderly Sergeant John H. Root has been promoted to the 2d Lieutenancy. These promotions have all been well merited. The non-commissioned offices of the Company, have been filled up by the following promotions:

Orderly Sergeant—Thomas Clark,
1st Sergeant, Chas. L. Geiger,
2d “ , William Yorgey,
3d “ , Joseph B. Davis,
4th “ , George Sheets,
1st Corporal, Chas. W. Gausline,
2d “ , Jno. F. Fryer,
3d “ , Ed. R. Weand,
4th “ , T. B. Smearer,
5th “ , William H. Graham,
6th “ , Eli H. Nagle,
7th “ , John Heft,
8th “ , Geo. W. Shingle.

Yours &c., L.J.F.

[Ledger, November 25, 1862]

THE ROLL OF DRUMMER BOYS IN THE CIVIL WAR

By Robert McNamara "The Role of Drummer Boys in the American Civil War." ThoughtCo, Feb. 11, 2020, thoughtco.com/civil-war-drummer-boys-1773732.

Drummer boys are often depicted in Civil War artwork and literature. They may seem to have been nearly ornamental figures in military bands, but they actually served a critically important purpose on the battlefield.

And the character of the drummer boy, besides being a fixture in Civil War camps, became an enduring figure in American culture. Young drummers were held up as heroes during the war, and they endured in popular imagination for generations.

Drummers Were Necessary In Civil War Armies

In the Civil War, drummers were an essential part of military bands for obvious reasons: the time they kept was important to regulate the marching of soldiers on parade. But drummers also performed a more valuable service apart from playing for parades or ceremonial occasions. In the 19th century, drums were used as invaluable communication devices in camps and on battlefields. The drummers in both the Union and Confederate armies were required to learn dozens of drum calls, and the playing of each call would tell the soldiers they were required to perform a specific task.

They Performed Tasks Beyond Drumming

While drummers had a specific duty to perform, they often were assigned to other duties in camp. And during the fighting, the drummers were often expected to help the medical personnel, serving as assistants in makeshift field hospitals. There are accounts of drummers having to assist surgeons during battlefield amputations, helping to hold down patients. One additional gruesome task: young drummers might be called up to carry away the severed limbs.



Library of Congress

It Could Be Extremely Dangerous

Musicians were noncombatants and did not carry weapons. But, at times, the buglers and drummers were involved in the action. Drum and bugle calls were used on the battlefields to issue commands, though the sound of battle tended to make such communication difficult. When the fighting began, drummers generally moved to the rear and stayed away from the shooting. However, Civil War battlefields were extremely dangerous places, and drummers were known to be killed or wounded.

A drummer for the 49th Pennsylvania Regiment, Charley King, died of wounds suffered at the Battle of Antietam when he was only 13 years old. King, who had enlisted in 1861, was already a veteran, having served during the Peninsula Campaign in



Getty Images

early 1862. And he had passed through a minor skirmish just before reaching the field at Antietam. His regiment was in a rear area, but a stray Confederate shell exploded overhead, sending shrapnel down into the Pennsylvania troops. Young King was struck in the chest and severely wounded. He died in a field hospital three days later. He was the youngest casualty at Antietam.

Some Drummers Became Famous

Drummers attracted attention during the war, and some tales of heroic drummers circulated widely. One of the most famous drummers was Johnny Clem, who ran away from home at the age of nine to join the army. Clem became known as “Johnny Shiloh,” though it’s unlikely he was at the Battle of Shiloh, which took place before he was in uniform.

Clem was present at the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863, where he reportedly wielded a rifle and shot a Confederate officer. After the war, Clem joined the Army as a soldier and became an officer. When he retired in 1915, he was a general.

Another famous drummer was Robert Hendershot, who became famous as the “Drummer Boy of the Rappahannock.” He reportedly served heroically at the Battle of Fredericksburg. A story of how he helped capture Confederate soldiers

appeared in newspapers and must have been a sliver of good news when most of the war news reaching the North was depressing. Decades later, Hendershot performed onstage, beating a drum and telling stories of the war. After appearing at some conventions of the Grand Army of the Republic, a number of skeptics began to doubt his story. He was eventually discredited.



Getty Images

The Character of the Drummer Boy Was Often Depicted

Drummers were often depicted by Civil War battlefield artists and by photographers. Battlefield artists, who accompanied the armies and made sketches which used as the basis for artwork in illustrated newspapers, commonly included drummers in their work. The great American artist Winslow Homer, who had covered the war as a sketch artist, placed a drummer in his classic painting “Drum and Bugle Corps.”

And the character of a drummer boy was often featured in works of fiction, including a number of children’s books. The role of the drummer was not confined to simple stories. Recognizing the role of the drummer in the war, Walt Whitman, when he published a book of war poems, titled it *Drum Taps*.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT –

Pards,

I hope this finds you well. It looks like we were able to salvage a little bit of the year. Thanks to Matt and our friend, Rusty Dicks, we have been able to secure Charlie Smithgall's farm for a weekend drill on October 17-18. It looks like we will have a few ELF members joining us. Please see the event info on page 4 and let Matt and I know if you'll be attending.

We're also at the time of year when we have some other unit business to tend to. First, this year's election will fill the unit's VP position for the next two years. Nominations are due by the end of the month. Please send them to Mike Espenshade. For the record, our current VP, Pete Zinkus, has been nominated and has accepted. I will ask that you speak with your potential nominee to confirm his commitment to the position BEFORE sending Mike his name. The unit deserves only those willing to perform the duties to the fullest to be considered for the ballot.

Dates to keep in open are: November 21st for Remembrance Day. Even though the official event has been cancelled, as of now the NR will be planning to hold its own ceremony somewhere on the Battlefield. There will be more info coming in the near future. Our annual business meeting will be held on December 5th at Sgt. Fasnacht's home. The meeting will begin at 9:30am.

Finally, we will be planning for 2021 with the assumption that we'll be able to hold events. If you want an event to be considered and voted on at the meeting, please send me the event info. Include the date, location, brief summary and the contact info for the event organizer.

Eric

UPCOMING EVENTS –

17-18 Oct. - 53rd PVI Fall Drill – Charlie Smithgall's Farm (Drumore Twp.)

Event info is listed above on page 4. We hope to see everyone there!

17-18 Oct. - Cedar Creek re-enactment

Cancelled

7 November – 53rd Monument Cleanup –

The NPS monument cleanup program has been cancelled through 2020.

21 November – National Regiment meeting and Remembrance Day Parade–

The annual parade itself has been officially cancelled, however the NR's annual meeting will still be held to discuss unit business, the 2020 season, the 2021 schedule, etc. Unit reps will be either onsite or can participate virtually. Any NR member may also watch virtually and can submit questions, etc. via the viewing platform. After the meeting, we will plan on forming up near the Soldiers National Cemetery for a ceremony and then we (53rd) will head over to the 53rd PVI monument for a short ceremony. If you would like the link to watch/participate remotely, please contact Eric ASAP.

5 December – Annual Meeting – 1st Sgt. Fasnacht's Home (Kleinfeltersville)

Annual meeting of the 53rd to discuss the 2020 season, the 2021 schedule, old business, holiday dinner, old/new business, unit treasurer's report, etc. Meeting starts promptly at 9:30AM; please arrive early. Please bring something to share for lunch and email Mark what you will be bringing so we don't have multiple people bringing the same thing. Your 2021 dues and holiday dinner fees can be paid at the meeting using one check. We hope to see you all!

The Civil War Merchant -

(if you have something for sale or are looking for something, submit it for inclusion in a future edition of "The Sentinel")

For Sale –

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

Grey Blanket with black stripe 50.00

Keune McDowell Kepi some brim cracking 20.00

Wanted –

Rusty Dicks is looking for a rifle (Springfield or Enfield) for his son Jacob who plans on joining the 53rd. You can contact Rusty directly at: jeepfreak@ptd.net.

2020 Calendar of Events -

- 11 Jan. – Annual Holiday Party – Dobbin House (Gettysburg)
1-2 Feb – Winter Drill (Landis Valley)
29 Feb – 1 March – National Regiment School of Instruction (Gettysburg)
14 March – Cartridge Rolling Party (Sgt. Fasnacht's home)
4 April – Adopt A Position – 53rd PVI Spring Monument Cleanup (Gettysburg) (CANCELLED)
2-3 May – National Regiment Camp of Instruction (Gruber Wagon Works) (CANCELLED)
16-17 May – USAHEC Event – **53rd PVI MAX Effort** (CANCELLED)
25 May – Hummelstown Memorial Day Parade (CANCELLED)
29-30 Aug – Gettysburg Living History (Spangler Spring – Gettysburg NMP) (CANCELLED)
12-13 Sept. – Landis Valley “Civil War Days” (Lancaster) **53rd PVI MAX Effort**
12-13 Sept. – Burkittsville Re-Enactment (Burkittsville, MD) (CANCELLED)
17-18 Oct. – Cedar Creek Re-Enactment (Middletown, Virginia) **53rd/NR Max Effort** (CANCELLED)
17-18 Oct. – 53rd PVI Fall Drill (Lancaster)
7 Nov. – Adopt A Position – 53rd PVI Fall Monument Cleanup (Gettysburg)
21 Nov. – Remembrance Day (Gettysburg) (parade cancelled, NR meeting/formation, and 53rd PVI monument ceremony are still on)
5 Dec. – 53rd PVI Annual Meeting (Sgt. Fasnacht's home)



Secondary Events -

- 3-5 April – Lee's Last Stand Re-Enactment (CANCELLED)
18-19 April – Spring Drill at Ft. McHenry (ELF) (CANCELLED)
8-9 August – Cedar Mountain Re-Enactment (1st MN)
5-6 Sept. – Bedford Village (1st MN)

53rd PVI Contacts

President: Eric Ford (reenactor53@gmail.com)
Vice President: Pete Zinkus (zinkusp@gmail.com)
Treasurer/Secretary: Matthew Steger (n3ntj@comcast.net)
Newsletter Editor: Matthew Steger (n3ntj@comcast.net)
Webmasters: Steve Dillon (steve@gofoxpro.com) and Matthew Steger (n3ntj@comcast.net)
Unit Website: <http://www.53rdpvi.org>
Sergeants: Mark Fasnacht and Marc Benedict
Corporals: Mike Espenshade and Matthew Steger
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>

