



Company C 53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry

"The Sentinel" March 2021

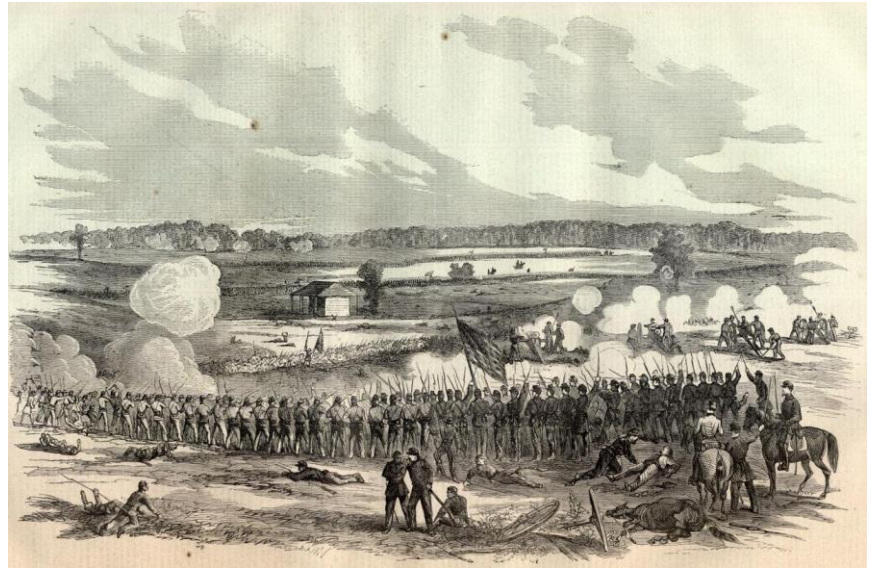
Newsletter of The James Creek Guards



"Clubs Are Trump!"

This Month:

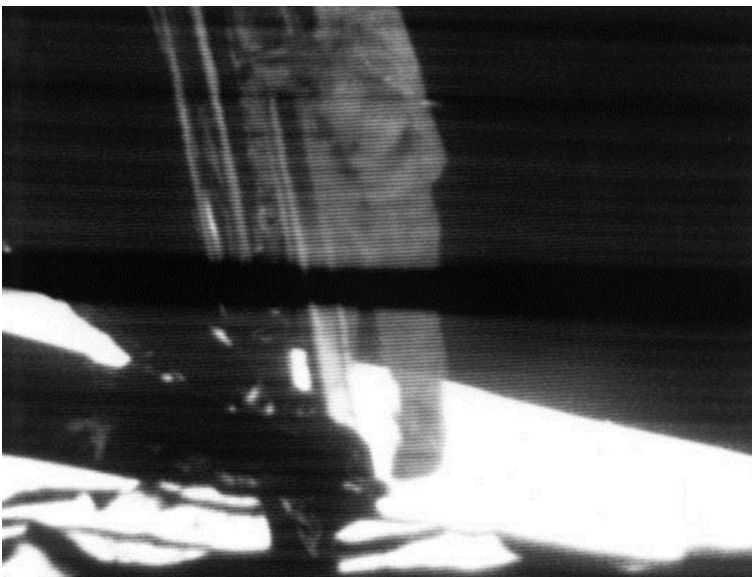
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I am always looking for newsletter content, so please forward your articles, book reviews, event summaries/photos, stories, etc.) to me for inclusion in a future edition of "The Sentinel". – Matthew Steger, editor

THE 1969 MOON LANDING STARTED WITH THE ASTRONOMICAL CURIOSITY OF A UNION

GENERAL By Norm Dasinger, Jr., June 26, 2020 published in blueandgrayeducation.org



Man's first step on the Moon, 1969 | NASA

As Americans we take pride at being the only nation to have landed men on the Moon. Our country's strong desire to expand beyond our world and learn about the stars and the Moon has been part of our national identity for a long time. It really began with a Civil War general.

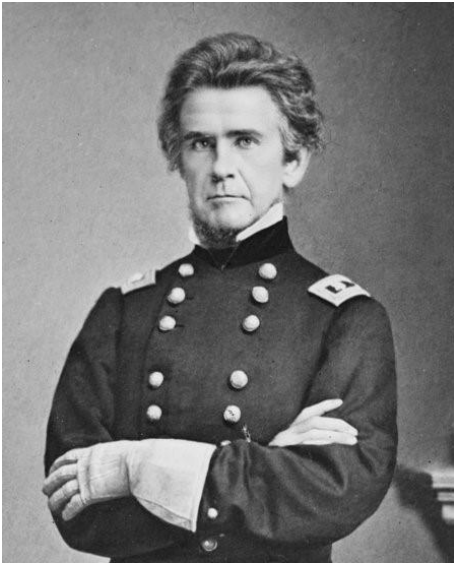
Ormsby Mitchel grew up in Ohio and was in the same West Point class as Robert E. Lee. He was a genius at mathematics and his favorite hobby was astronomy. After he graduated, he became a college instructor of math at West Point and then Cincinnati College (the forerunner of the modern University of Cincinnati).

Mitchel believed the United

States needed a world-class observatory. U.S. President John Quincy Adams—also an astronomy buff—had advocated for one during his term as president, but could not get

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Congress to fund it. Mitchel organized the Cincinnati Astronomical Society with dues set at \$25. Soon, the professor was off to Germany to buy the second largest telescope—at that time—in the world, with plans to bring it back to Cincinnati. But it needed a building. Mitchel worked tirelessly to raise the money for one. He was given the land for the structure and former President Adams—at 77 years old—arrived to give the keynote speech for the cornerstone dedication. Mitchel's schedule was demanding. He taught his classes each day and then changed roles to work on fundraising for the observatory building. He got it done by lecturing all over the country, sometimes speaking to 2,000 at one time, telling people about the Moon and the stars. In addition, he started three publications devoted to the study of astronomy. Then the Civil War came.



Major Gen. Ormsby Mitchel

Commissioned as a general in the Union Army, Mitchel commanded the Department of the Ohio, and it were his troops who briefly assaulted Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1862, and it were his men who carried out the famous “Great Locomotive Chase” (also known as the Andrews’ Raid).

Assigned command of the Tenth Corps at Hilton Head, South Carolina, he contracted malaria and died in the fall of 1862.

It is thanks to Civil War Gen. Ormsby Mitchel's tireless efforts that brought the study of astronomy to the forefront of 19th-century America. Mitchel and his advocacy would lead to our nation's continued interest in the Moon and the stars, with the establishment of NASA in the 20th century and eventually the Moon landing.



Maj. Gen. Ormsby Mitchel | LOC

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.

In the Field, Fredericksburg,

Monday, Dec. 15th, 1862.

Messers. Editors:—About midnight of last Thursday, we were aroused from a sound slumber in our quarters at Falmouth, and were hastily ordered to quietly pack up our things, and be ready at any moment to assemble under arms. Our knapsacks were stored in the place, and nothing but blanket and shelter-tent carried. At two o'clock Thursday morning we were up and in line. The morning was cold, and a dense fog hung around the hills. As we were about moving out of town, three or four shots, apparently from the enemy, notified us that the curtain was rising on one of the bloodiest tragedy's of the war. The pickets along the river immediately opened a brisk sharpshooting fire. We were marched to the woods a mile or so in rear of the town, and after file-righting and file-lefting until daybreak, we finally got our position in the column, and moved off toward the left. The Division was halted about 11 o'clock behind a hill near Sumner's Headquarters. During all this time the cannonading continued with unabated vigor; the rebels scarcely deigning to answer it. Several regiments of our brigade were supporting batteries on the river bank and 1 suffered considerably. The roar of the many pieces of artillery was terrific. Every discharge would make the earth tremble, and roll, echo and re-echo along the river like the loud and angry rumblings, the threatening and continued blastings of a legion of thunders. The Engineer Corps were doing their utmost to lay the pontoon bridges across the river. But the work proceeded slowly. The sharpshooters of the enemy, sheltered by the houses along the opposite bank, kept up an incessant and dangerous fire. It was only when Burnside was informed that the rebels were killing our men from the houses, that he ordered our batteries to open their fire on the doomed city of Fredericksburg.

At 4 P.M., the bombardment had reached its highest—at that hour the cannonading was the grandest we ever heard. Under this fire the 7th Michigan passed over the river in several pontoon boats, and, with great loss, gallantly held the Fredericksburg shore, until the pontoons had completed the bridges, when our troops immediately commenced passing over. During the night our troops held possession of the river bounds of the city, and the enemy the chief portion. Thursday night we bivouaced in the woods. At an early hour next morning we moved. We led the advance of our Division. We marched toward the river, and at 8 o'clock passed over the bridge to Fredericksburg. Hugging the river bank we moved towards the lower part of the city, with loaded rifles and bayonets fixed, for a portion of the city was yet within the rebel lines. Our regiment, as usual on like occasions, was ordered to skirmish in front of the Division. We advanced three squares forward when the rebel skirmishers fired upon us. All the companies, except two that were held as a reserve, were deployed as skirmishers. They engaged the enemy's pickets and drove them back out of the city. We lost one man, Color Corporal John Ramp, of Company I, mortally wounded. Near sundown we were relieved and moved a square back, and stacked arms in princess Ann street.

The city of Fredericksburg presents the most desolate scene of destruction we have ever beheld. A place, perhaps, of fifteen thousand population, we found it entirely deserted; scarcely a building in the city but what bears some marks of the fearful and fatal manner in which our gunners sent the shells home during the bombardment. The destruction of property is immense. Many of the houses are perfectly riddled; in one fine residence on the bank of the Rappahannock, we counted over a hundred holes made by our shells. Several mansions took fire during the cannonading and were consumed. A number of families must have remained in the doomed city until the "eleventh hour," as we noticed in several houses the morning meal remained half eaten on the table. Many things remained that for want of time or transportation could not be removed by the citizens when they skedaddled; and our soldiery completely sacked (we cannot express it by any other word) nearly every house. Thousands of pounds of tobacco and cigars, as well as a large amount of hams, flour, butter, molasses, pickles, potatoes, apples, &c., were "confiscated." Household furniture of the costliest kind, and endless variety of clothing, books, letters, &c., were left behind. Our boys stretched themselves on the sofa, and improvised a first lesson on the rosewood piano—of which some four hundred is said to have been left in the place. But we have not space to dwell in detail on this subject. Friday night we slept along the river shore in mud and without fires.

At 3 o'clock on the morning of Saturday, December 13th, we were roused up and speedily cooked our humble breakfast. Our whole Division was massed along the shore of the river, drawn up in lines, ready for orders to forward. The morning was exceedingly foggy, and it was impossible for several hours after sunrise to distinguish the enemy's works. About 9 A.M., we were marched up and halted in Princess Ann street, our right resting on the railroad. Here the regiment stacked arms and rested. Soon after Col. Hartranft's regiment, the gallant 51st, moved down the street, were halted and stacked arms in front of us. In almost every street parallel with the river was a line of battle. We had not been in this position long ere the enemy's batteries began to shell the town. One battery seemed to have a particular liking to the railroad, as it sent the "rotten shot" pretty freely around and over us, but though they fizzed and banged, and ker-thugged, and came crashing through the houses, scattering splinters and dirt, yet no one was injured

that we noticed. The fight was opened to the rear of the town, the centre and right of our lines, by General French's Division. They formed line of battle on the edge of town, and advanced up the hill under a heavy cross fire of shell and grape: but the fire from the enemy was too withering, deadly, blasting, to stand long, and they were compelled with the loss of thousands of dead and wounded to fall back. In the meanwhile our brigade, led off by the 53d, were ordered into the action. Under a terrible fire of shell, grape and canister, they moved by the right flank up King Charles street to near the upper end of the city—the extreme right, and formed line of battle. Confronting them was the enemy strong in numbers, but vastly stronger in position. The rebel infantry was protected by a stone wall along the road,—his batteries by heavy earthworks. From the town to the enemy's lines was a declivity, perfectly open, and sweepingly commanded by the enemy's guns that cross fired it. Up this hill, the open door, as it were, to the house of death, our troops must needs go to engage the enemy. Our regiment, with the 27th Conn. On the left, commenced the bloody work of ascending the hill. Forward they go; Col. Brooke shows them the way—leads them on through the rain of bullets showered upon them—on through the hurricane of deadly missiles that eighteen pieces of cannon unceasingly hurled in their devoted ranks—on until within a hundred yards of the enemy's position. But not all had reached this goal. The upward path was strewn with dead and wounded; by dozens the brave veterans had fallen. But they never faltered, never flinched, and many though wounded bravely fought on. The enemy behind their stone wall seldom showed themselves, except to fire a murderous volley into our troops. Unsupported by an effectual artillery and steady lines of infantry, it was an impossibility to carry the crest of the hill, although at several points the rebels were driven from their rifle pits.

Our regiment became engaged at noon. The line, through a devastating fire, was pushed forward to within a hundred and fifty yards of the enemy's heaviest fortifications on the ridge. Here they held their ground against the well aimed fire of the rebel riflemen behind the stone fence, and the terrific cross fire of shell, grape, schrapnel, and canister from the enemy's artillery. Whenever the rebels would show themselves or attempt to execute a flank movement, our boys would immediately and effectually repulse them. The regiment went into action, each man supplied with sixty rounds of cartridges. By three o'clock every round was exhausted. Then, at least, the regiment should have been relieved; but to relive our regiment and occupy the same advanced line was almost an impossibility. Again and again fresh brigades were thrown forward, but ere they could reach the front, the rebel fire became too heavy to face and they were reluctantly forced to retire. Although every round of ammunition was spent, yet we would not yield the position. Cooly Col. Brooke (who constantly exposed himself through all the action, and yet had not even his clothes scratched,) ordered the men to fix bayonets; and for five hours, until eight o'clock at night, when the battle ceased, the noble old 53d, with an rivalled, indomitable bravery, cheered by a Colonel whose every look kindled a fire of valor in the hearts of his men, held the first line with nothing but the bayonet. On every side brave men went down,—smaller and still smaller became the devoted band, yet still they held their ground. Darkness was approaching and yet our regiment was not relieved. By and by an aid came up to the Col. and said that Gen. Hancock desired him to hold out a little longer. The Colonel turned to his men, and remarked—"We will do it; we may as well die here;" and it looked as if every man of the regiment was doomed to die there or be captured. About eight o'clock at night when the firing had nearly ceased, and the day's sacrifice over, the regiment was moved from the front and marched to the river bank, where those who had escaped through the dangers of the awful strife, rested their weary bodies during the night.

Our regiment has nobly fought in a dozen battles, but perhaps, on no former occasion, did they exhibit such a steady perseverance and courage and valor, as in the Battle of Fredericksburg and, in the words of Gen. Hancock, the "regiment has won for itself imperishable honor and glory," but dearly has it been bought. The regiment went into action with 283 men, of these 158 were killed or wounded. Out of fifteen officers, one was killed and seven wounded. Lieut. Cross of Company I, had been absent on sick leave, and only returned to the regiment a few days before the fight, during the heat of the engagement, he was shot down by a minie ball. Capt. Eichholtz of Company B, was wounded by schrapnell as the regiment was passing through the streets of the city to take part in the engagement. Capt. Coulter of Company K, was wounded in the arm, while the regiment was desperately fighting at the stone wall near the brow of the hill. Lieut. Potts, of Company A, had command of Company D, during the battle. About an hour after the commencement of the fight, and while he was cheering on his men with a gallantry that had been tried in many conflicts, he was shot in the breast by a minie ball. Lieut. Root was sent by the Colonel to hunt up Col. Zook, commanding our brigade, to inform him that the ammunition was all spent, and while in the performance of this duty, he had to pass through a perfect storm of lead—he escaped with a slight but painful contusion of the arm, caused by a piece of shell. Lieut. Smith of C company was wounded in the arm by a ball. Lieut. Hopkins, commanding company F, was wounded on the top of the head by a brick knocked from a chimney by a shell; of course it knocked him down. Getting up he felt his cranium and coolly remarking that it was "a mighty hard brick bat," loaded the musket he carried, and again commenced to pop at the rebs. Where all are brave it is a difficult matter to particularize. Of Col. Brooke, when we say he was throughout the desperate conflict truly himself, we can use no higher term of praise. Were we asked for a personification of a warrior true and brave, we would point to our gallant Colonel. Major Bull was constantly at his post, cheering on the men. Captain Dimm of Company I, one of the finest types of the generous, open hearted gentleman and soldier, we have ever met, did glorious service, gallantly facing the fiercest tide of battle. Captain Mintzer has won new laurels by his unflinching bravery. Lieut. Anderson of Company K, the acting adjutant of the regiment, not satisfied with cheering on the men, got a musket, and during the fight fired a number of rounds. Every man done his whole duty nobly. Men who were wounded instead of endeavoring to get off the field kept shooting until exhausted. The wounded that were unable to shoot themselves would bite the paper of the cartridges, for those that were unhurt, so that they could load and fire faster. Sergeant Major Raifsnider did brave and efficient service. The left wing of the regiment was fearfully exposed and in a little while nearly every man was down. The right for a time derived slight protection from a stone wall that run at an angle with that which the enemy was using as a breastwork, but the rebels soon enfiladed it by a steady and deadly sharp shooter's fire, and here it was that some of our best and bravest men were picked off. Warren Missimer was the first one

wounded in Company A. He was struck in the foot by a piece of shell. The Colonel himself tied up the wound. With the exception of a short space along the river, that was protected by the bank, the whole city was at the mercy of the enemy's guns. The shells were crashing through the houses and exploding everywhere. Many of the wounded that were endeavoring to get off the battle field, were re-wounded or killed in the streets of the city.

The fighting was not so severe on the left where Franklin's Grand Division was engaged; and the enemy steadily fell back before him. The terrible fighting occurred in the attempt to storm the enemy from the strong position on the ridge in the rear of Fredericksburg. Here Sumner's Grand Division was engaged with part of Hooker's command. Hancock's Division was on the extreme right. The attempt to drive the enemy from his strong works was a failure—our army was defeated; it is no use to disguise the plain truth. Why we were repulsed perhaps the Generals who planned the fight can best tell. The rebel force that fought us numbered perhaps more than an hundred thousand strong—it is alleged that we had not more than half that number engaged. It may be so; but then the pertinent inquiry arises, *why* had we not more engaged? Certainly it can not be affirmed that they could not be had. Or is deemed Generalship to permit ourselves to be whipped rather than push the whole available force into the engagement. The enemy evidently intended us to occupy Fredericksburg, though, as a matter of course, they contested the passage of the river hotly. We strongly suspect that this bloody battle was fought to satisfy the craving desire of the public—forced upon us by popular opinion. Well we hope they are satisfied now—their morbid appetites may be satiated for a while. They can wallow in tales of blood and death. Those who would have us froze in a winter campaign, would, very likely have a different opinion of the matter if they were among the wounded, that have been laying on the field of slaughter, for more than thirty-six hours. It is bad enough to be wounded, Heaven knows, but to have the body shattered by shot and shell, and then freeze to death on the icy ground is infinitely worse. During the dead of winter the soldier should be permitted to rest—it is his right, made so by universal custom in all civilized warfare. The army does not desire a winter campaign—perhaps it is not considered necessary to consult the desires of the soldiery. We known McClellan was torn from us against our wish after completing the victorious Maryland campaign, and one of the results is the disastrous battle of Fredericksburg.

Our whole loss in killed and wounded is about fifteen thousand, that of the enemy, we feel confident will not reach five thousand. The reason of this is the enemy fought under cover, our troops were constantly exposed to a most murderous fire. Our division (Hancock's) went into the fight with 5368 men. Of these, 27 officers were killed and 108 wounded. And 3468 enlisted men killed and wounded. Our division suffered heavier than any engaged.

We send you a list of the casualties in our regiment with the nature and situation of the wound. A number of those wounded in the late engagement, were injured in previous battles, but had recovered, and again taken their place in the ranks.

Company A.
Wounded.

1, 1st Lieut. J. T. Potts, left shoulder, serious.
2, 2d Lieut. J. H. Root, contusion right arm, slight.

3, Serg't. Geo. Sheetz, breast, serious.
4, Corp. Wm. H. Graham, head, severe.
5, " Geo. W. Shingle, face, severe.
6, " John S. Heft, left leg, slight.
7, " Eli K. Nagle, mouth, slight.
8, Private Warren Missimer, foot, severe.
9, " Levi Welleigh, arm, slight.
10, " D. B. Foreman, arm, shoulder and leg, severe.
11, " Cornelius Uxley, breast, serious.
12, " Jonas Burns, contusion of hip, severe.
13, " Henry Rotes, right hand, severe.
14, " Ephraim Engle, contusion of cheek, slight.
15, " Christian lessig, hip, slight.
16, Pioneer Edward Houck, finger, slight.
The company went into action with 30 men.

Company B.

Killed—1, Corp. Levi Briton; 2, Privates George W. Wanger; 3, John Wildermuth.

Wounded.

17, Capt. G. C. M. Eichholtz, right foot, serious.
18, Sergt. John R. Good, right hip, severe.
19, Corp. Ephraim Supplee, left hand, severe.
20, " John Christman, contusion right shoulder, slight.
21, Private, Geo. W. Miller, contusion left ankle, slight.
22, " Wm. R. Kinney, left shoulder and back, severe.
23, " James B. kelley, right arm and wrist, left leg, severe.

- 24, “ Thomas H. B. Geiger, right hand and leg, severe.
25, “ Saml. Hall, contusion left heel, slight.
26, “ Wm. O. Beard, contusion arm, slight.
The company went into action with 19 men.

Company C.
Wounded.

- 27, 2d Lieut. Henry J. Smith, left leg, slight.
28, Serg't. Luther T. Sangree, right leg and left foot, severe.
29, Serg't. M. G. Iselt, leg, severe.
30, Corp. John Keiter, -----, severe.
31, “ Jacob Prough, finger, slight.
32, Private, Wm. Farnwalt, arm, severe.
33, “ Samuel G. Gill, right arm, severe.
34, “ Harry Sheeter, contusion breast, slight.
35, “ F. S. Snyder, neck, serious.
36, “ Peter Detwiler, side, slight.
37, “ John M. Garner, hip, severe.
The company took 24 men into the fight.

Company D.

Killed-4, 1st Serg't. Wm. McKiernan.

Wounded,

- 38, Serg't. D. W. Gibbs, left arm, slight.
39, “ R. M. Musser, arm, slight.
40, “ Harry Stetler, left leg, severe.
41, Corps. J. Gauvre, wounded and missing.
42, Private, G. B. Byer, ankle severe.
43, “ Charles Miller, ----- severe.
44, “ Thomas McGuire, leg, severe.
The company numbered 19 at the opening of the battle.

Company E.

Killed-5, Corp. Danl. McGinley; 6, Privates Peter Doyle; 7, C. F. Litchenbahn; 8, Daniel Toby; 9, Marius McFadden; 10, Michael Heenan.

Wounded.

- 45, 1st Lieut. John Shields, right thigh, severe.
46, 1st Sergt. F. G. Mangus, heel, slight.
47, Sergt. Daniel Artman, hand, severe.
48, Corp. John McClellan, foot, severe.
49, “ Wm. Which, leg, severe.
50, Privates, Jno. Cushing, arm, severe.
51, “ Lewis Flayer, breast, severe.
52, “ Geo. W. Getz, head, severe.
53, “ Edward Lafferty, foot, severe.
54, “ Jacob Mack, foot, severe.
55, “ H. G. walters, leg, slight.
The Company went into action with 22 men.

Company F.

Killed-11, privates Samuel Brewster; 12, Addison C. Woolert.

Wounded.

- 56, 1st Lieut. Walter Hopkins, contusion, head, slight.
57, Sergt. E. Kirkam, right side thorax, serious.
58, Corp. Alex Preston, hip, severe.
59, Privates, Perrigo, Sr., elbow, severe.
60, “ Robert McGuise, wounded and missing.
61, “ Marcellus May, arm, severe.
The Company went into action with 23 men.

Company G.

Killed—13, Corp. Barnett F. Stebbins; 14, Corp. Uriah F. Glace; Privates, 15, Welcome S. Coates; 16, Henry Mattison; 17, John Fiske (supposed).

Wounded.

62, Sergt. J. W. Stevens, ----- severe.
63, Corp. A. C. Evans, leg, slight.
64, “ W. W. Brown, hand, slight.
65, “ B. J. Cushing, wrist, severe.
66, Private Myron W. Bailey, abdomen serious.
67, “ Geo. W. Barlow, ----- serious.
68, “ L. W. Cushing, shoulder and wrist, serious.
69, “ Nelson B. Cobb, breast, slight.
70, “ Danl. Eastwood, head and leg, severe.
71, “ Adam Goller, arm, severe.
72, “ Chas. F. Parker, mouth, slight.
73, “ Walter Scott, hand, slight.
74, “ O. J. Webb, ----- slight.
75, “ Chas. Rapple, ankle, severe.
76, “ Reuben French (pioneer), arm, slight.
77, “ John R. Young, ----- slight.
78, “ Horner McKerg, ----- slight.
79, “ Frank Stone, ----- slight.
The company went into action with 32 men.

Company H.

Wounded.

80, Sergt. Wm. Harrison, leg, severe.
81, Musician, Jonathan Dalley, side, severe.
82, Private Wm. Stanley, ----- slight.
83, “ John Moyer, both legs, serious.
84, “ Chas. Britton, wounded and missing.
85, “ Wallace Dengler, foot, slight.
86, “ Geo. Hall, missing and wounded.
87, “ Alfred Hayes, contusion breast.
88, “ Geo. Hause, shoulder, severe.
89, “ Jno. M. Miller, elbow, severe.
The Company went into battle with 33 men.

Company I.

Killed—18, 1st Lieut. Isaac F. Cross; 19, Samuel Aurant; 20, Jos. P. Hallman; 21, Corp. John Ramp, (Dec. 12th).

Wounded.

90, Sergt. Henry Speece, hand, slight.
91, “ Jno. S. Borl, head, serious.
92, Corp. S. Coldron, foot, severe.
93, “ G. W. Meredith, breast, slight.
94, “ Hiram Jackson, leg, serious.
95, Private Jno. H. Foltz, hand, severe.
96, “ Edward Kilkelly, ----- severe.
97, “ Robert Long, foot, slight.
98, “ James Skinner, hip, slight.
99, “ Eber F. Woodber, arm and leg, severe.
100, “ A. Youngman, leg, severe.
101, “ John kriser, wounded and missing.
102, “ Able Raley, thigh, severe.
103, “ Wm. Harris, hip, slight.
The Company went into action with 34 men.

Company K.

Killed—22, Sergt. John A. Kerr; 23, Corp. D. B. Anderson; 24, Corp. Adam D. Rebort; 25, James Moore.

Wounded.

- 104, Capt. Wm. B. Coulter, right arm, amputated.
- 105, 1st Sergt. Chas. F. Smith, neck, severe.
- 106, Color Sergt. J. M. Haney, hip, severe.
- 107, Sergt. Jos. F. Coulter, head, slight.
- 108, “ Wm. G. Foster, wrist, severe.
- 109, “ Jacob G. Hughs, shoulder, severe.
- 110, Corp. H. R. Barnes, elbow, severe.
- 111, “ Wm. H. Kuhns, finger, slight.
- 112, Private Wm. Albert, leg, severe.
- 113, “ Jno. S. Altman, hand, severe.
- 114, “ David P. Baird, ----- serious.
- 115, “ Andrew Giles, ----- serious.
- 116, “ James Haney, ----- slight.
- 117, “ Luther H. Horbach, ---- slight.
- 118, “ W. W. Heck, ----- slight.
- 119, “ Jno. Kinnon, arm and wrist, serious.
- 120, “ H. J. Hern, shoulder, slight.
- 121, “ Jos. Landis (pioneer), shoulder, slight.
- 122, “ Jeff. Lewis, arm, severe.
- 123, “ J. A. Miller, ----- slight.
- 124, “ Tobias Sigle, arm, severe.
- 125, “ Cyrus Sterffer, leg, severe.
- 126, “ Thos. D. Wallace, leg, severe.

The company went into action with 40 men.

Recapitulation: 25 killed and 126 wounded.

Yours &c.

L.J.F.

Falmouth, Va. Dec. 1862.

Fredericksburg has been evacuated—our army is in their old camps. The rebel pickets are along the river as before the fight. What is left of our regiment is provosting this place. We have seen Mr. John Missimer of the 68th. He informs us that their regiment was in the engagement on the left, they lost 2 killed and 7 wounded, William Large is slightly wounded in the leg—the only casualty in Capt. Auchenbach’s Company. Col. Brooke commanding a large fatigue party has gone over the river with a flag of truce to bury our dead, on his return he said they buried over six hundred dead—he goes over again to-morrow when we shall accompany him.

L.J.F.

[*Ledger*, December 30, 1862]

NEW NATIONAL REGIMENT WEBSITE

The National Regiment is proud to announce its new website. The NR’s social media committee has been working to get the NR back on the internet after our prior website went dark. I created the new site and it’s a work in progress as I add more content. Its main purpose is to help with recruitment for member units and include pages about equipment, photos/videos of past NR events, re-enacting 101, a growing list of member units, and more.

It can be found at: <https://www.thenationalregiment.com/>

HONORING THE MEN OF THE ORIGINAL 53RD PVI

(thanks to Marc Benedict for supplying the information for this series)

Capt. Charles F. Smith - born in 1833. He enlisted as First Sergeant, Co. K, 53rd PVI on Nov. 29, 1861 possibly due to prior service in the 11th PVI (3 mos.). He was promoted to 2nd Lt. on Dec. 14, 1862 one day after being hit by a piece of shell at Fredericksburg, VA. It entered his neck and traveled 3" to his shoulder. Wounded again at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863, a minie entered his lower right jaw passed under his tongue, fractured his lower left jaw and exited. Promoted to 1st Lt. on April 23, 1864 and to Captain on Nov. 12, 1864. He was not present at the regiments' mustering out but on detached duty with Co. I, 3rd USCT. He died on Nov. 18, 1925 and is buried at Unity Cemetery, Latrobe, PA.



SOME OLD UNIT PHOTOS -

Jeff Marks shared some old newspaper photo clippings of the 53rd PVI:



Drummers L-to-R: John Steen, Wyet Traci. Front rank L-to-R: Scott Wallick, Mike Magrowski, John Heiser, Joe Zaiss. Rear Rank L-to-R: Jim Solick, Curt Breitegan, Jeff Marks. Civilians L-to-R: Sherry Dean, Mart Dean, and his daughter. Dated 1983.



PRESTON WHITCRAFT / *The Ephrata Review*

Another photo shared by Jeff from an unknown event in Ephrata. In the photo are: Jeff, Deb, and John Lowry. Dated 1988.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT.....

Pards,

I hope all is well with each of you. As we begin to transition into spring I'm hopeful that we'll be in the field soon. I've been in touch with a few event contacts and things are still tentative for most events at this point. Keep an eye on the 53rd's and NR's schedules. I'll keep everyone up to speed as things progress. Right now, the only firm cancellation is the Adopt a Position program at Gettysburg. The NR's School of Instruction is still moving forward in a virtual setting. There will be sessions from 8am - noon on March 27 and 28. Ted Brennan has a great schedule of presenters which I'll forward a little closer to the event.

The Sight & Sound film project that I've communicated to you is coming up on March 16th. Right now, I have 15 (with the help of a few "outsiders"). If you're free and interested, touch base with me ASAP.

Finally, head over to www.thenationalregiment.com. Matt and the NR tech committee have the NR back on the worldwide web. This is a great start and I look forward to seeing how the site continues to develop. We're always looking for good content in the form of photos, video, historical and modern hobby history as well as reputable sutlers to link to the site. Please share anything you have with Matt and I so we can add it to the site as well as our own site and social media.

See y'all soon!
Eric

THE CIVIL WAR MERCHANT -

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

For Sale –

(1.) Listed by Rick Kramer for a friend. All items in good shape unless noted otherwise. Contact Rick directly for any inquiries/questions - auktion8@comcast.net

Unlined Sack Coat (approx. XL) 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

(2.) Kerry Williard is handling the selling of Dave Swigert items for Dave's wife. Marc and I met a few weeks ago to look at the items, give them descriptions, and provide approx. values. Several of the items have been sold yet many some remain. The list is current as of 30 January 2021: Contact Kerry with any and all inquiries: shamokin71@aol.com

Quantity	Item Description	descr.	approx. value	Quantity	Item Description	descr.	approx. value
Uniform Clothing							
1	Great Coat - Enlisted Assume Size 42	minor staining - heavy wool	SOLD	1	Tin Cup	sturdy	5
1	Sack Coats - Assume Size 42 Dk Blue Wool	lined	SOLD	1	Mess Kit		SOLD
1	Trousers - Steel Blue each with suspenders	unlined faded course wool	20				
1	Trousers - Steel Blue each with suspenders	34 min waist/27" inseam - avg. condx and a little dirt w/ braces no watch pockets	25				
1	Dk Blue Vest Size 42	36 min waist/27" inseam - avg. condx and a little dirt w/ braces no watch pockets	25	1	Tin Dinner Plate		SOLD
1	Colored Pattern Shirt	3 pockets - light wear	20	1	Fork		SOLD
1	Colored Pattern Shirt	blue plaid with white china buttons - sun faded - good condx	SOLD	1	spoon		SOLD
1	White muslin Shirt	blue and brown plaid - bone buttons - large - very good condx - neck 16"	SOLD	2	Small Fry Pan & Large Fry Pan		SOLD
1	White muslin Shirt	inside neck stains 21" at shoulder 16" neck	10	1 can	sno-seal (half full)		1
1	White muslin Shirt	19" at shoulder 14" neck - very short in body length	5				
1	White muslin Shirt	20" at shoulder 16" neck - very short in body length - cuffs are stained	5	1	Wood Mirror - Haversack filler	sliding cover	3
1 pair	Woolen Grey Gloves	modern - right hand is fingerless	2	1	Wood Comb - Haversack filler		1
1	Underpants - Night Pants - White	36" waist - knee stains - 25" inseam white muslin - rear repair	3	1	Wooden button board		1
1	Underpants - Night Pants - White	34" waist/field modified can be enlarged 4" - 28" inseam white muslin	SOLD	1	Toothbrush w/ tooth powder	bone handle bristle - new	SOLD
1	Lt Brown Scarf	acrylic - for modern use	1	1	Housewife with buttons/needles	blue plaid	SOLD
1	Havelock - White - VG condx		1	2	Coin Purses - Made from Tic Material		1/each
1	red nightcap with black tassel		SOLD	1	Cloth ditty Bag	used (1 left, 7 sold)	1/each
3 pairs	Grey Wool Socks	modern	2/pair	1	Bag with Coffee	brown coffee	1/each
2	Hats - Union & Confederte for children		1	1	shoe lace - undied		.25/each
				2	Soap Bar		1/each
				6 1/2	Wax Candles		0.5
Accoutrements							
1	Cap Box with Caps w/ pick		20	1	pocket sharpnig stone	new	2
1	waist belt	53" long w/brass keeper	5 SOLD	1	box rifle cleaning kit	pads, steel wool, rags, etc	5
1	Scabbord	late war 7 rivet	15	3	match boxes w/ matches		0.25/each
1	Cartiridge Box with Tin Inserts	w/ sling and brass and late war plate - tools, cone, etc.	35	1 Pair	shoe tree		3
1	Gum Blanket	some cracking with oversized grommets	20	1	Green Army Duffle Bag		3
1	Grey Blanket	with US sewn	SOLD	1	drawers for use as patches		1
1	Shelter Tent - Both Halves	heavy canvas with loops w/ mildew	35	1	large shite cotton sheeting		1
1	Bag of 7 wooden Tent Stakes	with rope	3	2	sky blue patch material - 3 pcs		SOLD
1	Blue Cloth Bulls-Eye Canteen	w/ chain stopper needs new sling	20	1	hankerchiefs - blue cotton	used	SOLD
1	Grey Smooth Face Canteen	leather sling satinette cover w/ corded stopper with light wear	20				
1	Knapsack - Black	double bag w/ blanket straps - needs light cleaning	SOLD				
1	Haversack - tarred Black	brittle strap, open seam	5				
1	Haversack - tarred Black	w/ liner - paint beginning to flake. holes at strap connections.	10				

2021 Calendar of Events - all events are tentative as of right now.

TBD - NR School of Instruction – Virtual – details will be announced soon.

1-2 May – NR Camp of Instruction – Gruber Wagon Works (Reading) – NR Max Effort

15-16 May – USAHEC Event – cancelled

31 May - Hummelstown Memorial Day Parade

June – Company Picnic - Date/Location TBD

12-13 June - Fenian Raid (8th OH) - Fort Erie, Canada – contact Tom Downes for more info.

17-18 July - Landis Valley "Civil War Days" (Lancaster)

7-8 Aug. – Cedar Mountain Re-enactment

28-29 August - 53rd PVI Living History w/ ELF – Spanglers Spring – Gettysburg NMP

4-5 Sept - Old Bedford Village – Bedford, PA - NR Max Effort

16-17 Oct - Cedar Creek Re-enactment (NR)

20 November – Remembrance Day Parade/NR Meeting – Gettysburg

4 December – Annual business meeting

Other events - 1st MN's Living History 10-11 July @ PA Monument (the 53rd PVI is invited)



53rd PVI Contacts

President: Eric Ford (reenactor53@gmail.com)

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

New National Regiment Website: <https://www.thenationalregiment.com>

