

53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry

Company C

"The Sentinel" June 2021

Newsletter of The James Creek Guards



"Clubs Are Trump!"

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

SIEGE OF SUFFOLK

By Bert Dunkerly, April 20, 2020 blueandgrayeducation.org



Suffolk Camp of the 6th Massachusetts Infantry, with the outlying Federal earthworks | Library of Congress

Civil War research often focuses on these the campaigns in the main theaters: Eastern, Western, and Trans Mississippi. We may also consider sub theaters such as the Carolina coast or Mississippi Valley in our studies. While the large operations and great battles often draw our attention, it is good to reflect on smaller operations as well. They have value as important events in and of themselves, and often impact the larger events which dominate our

attention.

In the spring of 1863, the Army of Northern Virginia faced critical food shortages. Lee detached Gen.

James Longstreet and two of his division (linking up with a third from North Carolina) to the southeastern part of the state. The goals were to protect Richmond, drive out the Union garrison, and gather supplies. This region had been largely unaffected by the war.

Longstreet's commissary and quartermaster personnel scoured the area, gathering corn, bacon, fodder, and other foodstuffs. The harvest was so successful that wagons, horses, and mules had to be impressed to transport the goods. This part of the operation was a success for the Confederates; the rest, not so much.



*View of Suffolk, 1863,
Harper's Weekly*

The siege of Suffolk was not truly a siege in the sense that the Union garrison was never fully cut off—rail and naval support could enter the town freely. Yet being surrounded by a formidable and veteran Confederate force was certainly nerve-racking, and impacted the town's civilians as well.

Suffolk residents were not happy about being occupied (the Federals had arrived in May 1862). Since the town was cut off from the countryside, the Union army supplied civilian

needs. Resident Mattie Prentiss wrote, "The Yankees have opened three or four stores. I don't intend to get anything from them." Runaway slaves flocked to the town, further straining resources.

The Union troops initially built a line of defenses around the town shortly after their arrival. Gen. John Peck took command soon after and had them strengthened with Longstreet's approach.

While this engagement might seem insignificant, consider that it involved three Confederate infantry divisions, and an equal number of Federal troops. Union naval forces were active during the entire operation and played a crucial role. The fighting featured artillery bombardments, night action, and river landings. General Peck's troops dug 10 miles of earthworks, Longstreet's men about 12. Peck reported that "not less than ten miles of batteries, covered ways, and rifle pits have been thrown up; most of the artillery was protected by embrasures; the parapets were from 12 to 15 feet in thickness and well revetted, while the covered ways were from 8 to 10 feet."

The most heated part of the action was from April 13 to 15, 1863. General Peck, whose garrison initially consisted of 13,000 troops, gradually was reinforced to nearly 30,000. Longstreet intended to hold the Union troops in place while he gathered supplies from the countryside. Then he hoped to retake the town and capture its defenders.

On April 13, General Hood's division built a battery at Hill's Point overlooking the Nansemond River to block naval supplies from reaching the garrison. Union ships could still pass, but had to contend with Confederate artillery fire.

To counter this move, on the next night Union troops secretly placed their own batteries across the river. The next day they suddenly opened fire and weakened the Confederates occupying Hill's Point. It was a massive artillery exchange.



Gen. James Longstreet | Library of Congress



Gen. John Peck | Library of Congress

In the meantime, General Peck requested both reinforcements, and more importantly, supplies. He noted that they had only 12 days of rations on hand. A few days later he stated that the civilians were suffering, and considered evacuating them. It never came to that.

On the evening of the 19th, nearly 300 Union troops stormed ashore from transports at Hill’s Point, capturing the Fauquier Artillery’s battery and 130 prisoners. It was an incredibly successful joint army-navy operation.

General Peck wrote that Longstreet “will not succeed.” The Confederate forces surrounding Suffolk, never able to fully cut off the garrison, were not strong enough to force its submission. Events elsewhere soon forced Longstreet’s hand. As the end of the month approached, Lee needed Longstreet’s men back. Lee recalled him on the 29th, and the last Confederates departed on May 4. They arrived just after Chancellorsville.

The action at Suffolk was one of those side operations, of which there were dozens during the war in all theaters. Unfortunately, this engagement has been overshadowed by Chancellorsville.

Modern Suffolk has grown and engulfed much of the site of the siege lines and areas of fighting. Features such as the Nansemond River, major roads, railroad lines, and prominent hills allowed me to compare historic maps and the modern town to see battle positions. In Cedar Hill Cemetery stands an impressive Confederate monument and a Civil War Trails marker.



Confederate Monument, Cedar Hill Cemetery | Courtesy of author

An important surviving site is Riddick’s Folley (so named because it was such a large home). Home of businessman and planter Nathaniel Riddick, it was used by General Peck for his headquarters. A view out the second-story windows showed its importance. I could see past the courthouse to the north shore beyond the river, where the Confederates were positioned.

Inside Nathaniel Riddick’s office is one of their prized artifacts: a letter left by General Peck upon his departure to the homeowner. Acknowledging that he never met Riddick, Peck assured him that he treated his house respectfully and stated that he hoped to meet him under better circumstances. And it was true: The Federal troops did no damage. Upstairs was graffiti by both Northern and Southern soldiers. One Confederate scrawled, “Go back home and stay there.” Another soldier from the 93rd New York neatly signed his name.

The Suffolk campaign includes many topics which we could delve into more deeply, any one of which could be fertile for a longer discussion: Union garrison life in southern towns, the impact on southern civilians, foraging and food procurement by the Confederates, army and navy joint operations, contraband

camps, etc.



Riddick's Folley | Courtesy of author

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.

Camp Curtin, Harrisburg,
Monday, Sept. 10th, 1861.

Messrs Editors:--During an absence from camp of more than a week I have lost the run of events here, and consequently can give your readers nothing more than a short account of matters as they appeared after a hasty inspection.

Last week all of the old linen tents that have been in use here for the last four months, and were much worn dirty and torn, were, agreeable to order, struck, and new ones of a much better article of canvass, pitched in their places. More regularity was also observed in placing them. The streets or company parades being more roomy than heretofore. As a general thing you can make a pretty fair judgment of the character of the men by inspecting the tents they bunk in. If you see things lying around loose--everything in dirty confusion, you may rest satisfied that the occupants of it are slovenly fellows who look as if they never changed clothes or seen water for weeks. On the other hand if you observe a tent kept clean, blankets, if not in use, neatly stowed away, clothing hanging up, eating utensils all in some proper place: the dwellers beneath that canvass will be respectable men and good soldiers. These remarks are as true of officers as of the privates. Nothing looks so comfortable as a well arranged camp in its every particular kept perfectly clean and tidy, and it should be the first duty of the proper officers to see that such is the case.

Last Thursday the Base Ball club of our company (recently organized) played a match game with a picked crowd from Capt. Wise's (Reading) company. The game, which was very exciting, lasted more than four hours and resulted in the complete victory of the Pottstown boys--they making 31 scores to their opponents 19. Our boys were commanded by Lieut. Potts and the Readingers by Lieutenant Rogers.

Yesterday at 3 o'clock there was preaching in Camp; one of the clergymen of Harrisburg officiated in the pulpit. Their is a temporary pulpit erected which is occupied by some divine every sabbath afternoon. There is, in bold characters inscribed above the pulpit these words--"in God our trust."

Camp Curtin now covers a large field outside the fair ground enclosure--there being not sufficient room inside to pitch the requisite number of tents. The divisions of the Camps are distinguished as camp No. 1, and camp No. 2. Each has its set of guards but are under the same Colonel commanding and officers of teh day. The regular routine of camp duty is suspended on Sundays except dress parade which comes off every evening at 6 o'clock. The parade is participated in by about two thousand men, and is formed in two lines of battle, one

immediately behind the other; the first line being composed of those troops who have received their uniforms (dark blue pants and blouse). The appearance is fine and on pleasant days attracts numerous spectators from Harrisburg. There are three bands of music in camp. They have connected themselves with some of the regiments forming here.

Yours, &c.
L.J.F.

[Ledger, September 10, 1861]

NEWVILLE EVENT INFO –

As mentioned in the May edition of *The Sentinel*, the 53rd PVI and our ELF friends have been invited by James Owens (1st MN) to their drill event in Newville. The new dates are 12-13 June and will be on private land in Newville, PA (west of Carlisle) being preserved through a non-profit organization. Below is additional info from James:

- Starts at 10:00 AM Saturday
- Camp will be shelter halves only
- Activities will include company drill, skirmish drill, a short field march and some talks on material culture subjects (schedule TBA)
- Will finish off the weekend with knapsack drill and guard mount
- Tailgate sale Saturday evening for folks interested.

Marc Benedict has agreed to cook. There will be a cost per man (for food and port-o-john rental) which hasn't been decided yet. According to James, the site is really nice and well cared for. There is plenty of shade and parking will be close by. The Blue Hill Green Space project, the non-profit preserving the land, is designed to keep land adjoining Laughlin Mill and the mill stream open for use in both historical program as well as conservation and nature study. For more information got to www.bluehillgreenspace.org.

Should be a good event to help get the rust off after being off the field for so long and a good opportunity to spend some time with your pards.

Please let me know ASAP if you plan to attend and I will email the list to James. We will send more info/updates once we get them as we get closer to the date.

SOLDIERS MAKING THE MOST OF ARMY FOOD 1861-1865

By John U. Rees

Many soldiers *did* write often of the foods they ate (or tried to eat), but my research shows that soldiers' complaints about food were overshadowed by simple reportage of their everyday fare, and those narratives liberally sprinkled with accounts of good, sustaining comestibles. Army food *could* be awful and monotonous, but the men fighting the Civil War often leavened their meals with extra and extraordinary foodstuffs and eventually learned to make do, when necessary, with the issued ration. Having long studied American soldiers' food, I am constantly impressed that many thrived on the rough diet and hard living, and, with reduced expectations, periodically had some very satisfying meals. Circumstances varied and impacted how the troops considered what they were given to eat; for example, when dealing with onerous duty and strict discipline at a fixed post, poor food could exacerbate the situation; on the other hand, on campaign, where soldiers were less dainty as to what they ate, simple fare (augmented occasionally by purchase or pilfering) sufficed to strengthen the inner man of many. And, as will be seen, the ability to live on such rough fare as hard tack and coffee was a point of pride and the mark of a veteran soldier.

“Seeing the Elephant”: New Soldiers and Army Food For Civil War soldiers, “seeing the elephant” meant experiencing combat for the first time. In an era in which everyday food preparation was generally done individually or in small mess quads, soldiers new to army life often learned that the first beast they had to face was their raw ration issue waiting to be tamed into a meal. With President Abraham Lincoln’s call for 75,000 volunteers two days after the surrender of Fort Sumter (13 April 1861), and with southern states’ troop mobilization, thousands of inexperienced men poured into military camps and eventually marched to face their foe. Whether in camp or in the field, the troops had to be fed, and issued foods and meal preparation were everyday necessities to be overcome. As a Connecticut lieutenant put it in 1863, “An army is a big thing and it takes a great many eatables and not a few drinkables to carry it along.”

Soon after being mustered in, new recruits had their first meal as soldiers, but not all were immediately introduced to army rations. Shortly after Alfred Bellard enlisted in the 5th New Jersey Volunteers in August 1861, he joined his company at a training day, where, after drilling, “we were invited to partake of a lunch that had been prepared for us. Standing at the table we helped ourselves to a sumptuous repast of ham, coffee, and cakes, being our first meal in Brother Jonathan’s service...” Even after arriving in Washington, DC, some soldiers had not yet placed on rations as noted by 2nd Rhoad Island Corporal Elisha Rhoads at Camp Clark”:

“Sunday June 31 1861 – We march to our meals up to the camp of the 1st RI where the food is cooked. We have excellent food and not at all as I thought it would be. If we take the field, I guess there will be a change of diet. Plum pudding, gingerbread, and milk and other good things served daily.”

Others, however, were quickly acquainted with true soldiers’ fare. In barracks at Porage, NY, private John McMahon of the 136th NY wrote “our rations this morning consist of potatoes, bread, meat, and coffee. About noon we have all but the coffee. Some times there are beans for dinner. This morning, I was put on guard for the first time. It is not hard. This morning, we had bread with maggots in it! The boys were so made that they threw it away.” Later he wrote, “this morning we had a good breakfast and generally have decent food. The other day, I got some meat for the boys that stunk so bad that I had to hold it at arm’s length. I like this life better than at first.”

Confederates’ first experiences were as varied as Federal troops’. John Jackman left home on 26 September 1861 to rendezvous with the Nelson Grays (later part of the 5th Kentucky), forming to march south. At “camp ‘Charity’—so called because the people furnished us with rations while their encamped, ”Jackman fed one morning on a broiled “piece of fat bacon on the end of a stick, and with a fragment of corn-bread . . .” Of the same day he recorded, “Had a good dinner. James H., who was in the commissary department, fed me on pies and such things.”



Union troops preparing and eating a meal while on picket (outpost) duty.

Courtesy of the Military and Historical Image Bank (image no. CWp367d)

Three days later the gathered troops moved to join Confederate forces at their Green River defensive line. Private Jackman noted, “After crossing a long rocky hill, we stopped on the side of a creek to breakfast. I had walked 40 miles without hardly resting, carrying my gun and 40 rounds— also some articles of clothing.

My breakfast was a piece of beef, broiled on the end of a stick, without salt. After resting about an hour we pushed on... Sept.30th.— We moved out early.... We halted at noon to rest, not to dine, for we had nothing to eat.” In the afternoon they reached the camp of the 2nd Kentucky, where Jackman, broken down from the march, was “placed in the tent of H. who gave me a pint of coffee and a piece of camp-baked bread. I slept well that night.... Oct. 1st.— We commenced camp-life— learning how to cook, pitch tents, drill, etc.”

Two men in the 10th Texas Regiment told of foods eaten that first winter, 1861/62, at Galveston. On 10 November 1861, Private Isaiah Harlan related, “We have plenty to eat such as itis, beef, bread and coffee with bacon enough to grease with, bad enough, but a man that would voluntarily live as I did last spring and summer on the farm ought not to complain at anything.” By the end of January 1862, Corporal Aaron Estes noted some improvement in their provender, “We are doing fine living on beef and bread and are gitting (sic) fat. We have plenty of molasses and will soon git vegetables. I have just seen some as fine lettus (sic) and cabbage and mustard as I have ever seen.”

Soft bread, pies, and cabbage were one thing, but for green soldiers salt pork and hard tack (especially the latter) were quite another. Hard tack was an important staple for campaigning troops, and most eventually came to appreciate it. Having just enlisted on 25 February 1862, a month later Private Elisha Stockwell of the 14th Wisconsin Regiment was headed south. “W got our first hardtack on the steamboat from Alton to St. Louis. It was piled on a

table on the lower deck with the strongest cheese I ever ate I liked the hardtack and never got tired of it. Also, on this trip we got bacon, or ‘sow bosom’, as the boys called it. We drank river water to wash it down.” Iowan Cyrus Boyd, too, had his first taste on shipboard: “April 1st [1862] ... Our regiment [the 15th] with the 16th Iowa, 23rd Missouri and 15th Michigan came down together to the landing.... We went aboard the steamer ‘Minnehaha’ and ... started down the stream towards ‘Dixies’ land.... April 2nd. This morning about 40’clock the steamer again started.... We have made our first attack upon ‘hardtack’ this morning and think we shall like it. We have bid farewell to Bakers bread, cow’s milk and such soft things. Had a piece of meat and a hard tack for breakfast—we are gradually breaking in.”

Soldiers’ correspondence, diaries, and postwar literature, evincing both fondness and antipathy, show that hardtack held a special place in their collective consciousness. Wilbur Fisk, former private in the 2nd Vermont Volunteer Regiment, speaking to a group of fellow veterans in 1895 recalled a river crossing prior to Gettysburg, where “my comrade and myself ... got into a deep place and we got our haversacks all wet. The contents, principally hard tack, were thoroughly soaked.... [O]ur haversacks were stuffed full and You know boys how soon hardtack will lose its flavor—if it ever had any, by being soaked in water.” Capt. Francis Donaldson, of the 118th Pennsylvania, expressed this mixed attitude, writing in April 1862 of “the despised sheet iron cracker.” Only six months later Donaldson noted, “I can make as enjoyable a meal on [hard] crackers as others can on roast chicken and trimmings.” And Sgt. Joseph Barquet, 54th Massachusetts, noted, “In a cracker four inches square, you can find a world. Out from a little circular hole comes weevils, red ants Wash them down with brackish black coffee; no sweetening”

Northern armies were more consistently supplied with hardtack than were their southern counterparts. Pennsylvania Major Frederick Hitchcock described a popular preparation: Our bill of fare for Christmas dinner consisted of boiled rice and molasses, “Lobskous” and stewed dried apples.... The dish consisted of hardtack broken up and thoroughly soaked in water, then fried in pork fat.... One of the boys ... improvised the following blessing:

Good Lord of love
 Look down from above
 And see how a soldier’s grub has mended,
 Slushed rice, Lobskous, and shoat,
 Where only hardtack and hog were intended.

Most soldiers eventually learned to live on army rations at their simplest. By 1863, Vermont Private Wilbur Fisk was a veteran, having enlisted in 1861, and served in the 1862 Peninsula campaign and at the Chancellorsville defeat. He wrote “On the March”, 13 July 1863, describing the march of Sedgwick’s 6th Corps toward Middletown, Maryland, following the Battle of Gettysburg: I had an excellent breakfast that morning ... a slice of fat pork... plenty of hard tack and coffee. I had a tin plate and tin cup; on my plate I fried my pork, and in my cup I made my coffee. My hard tack I converted into fried cakes, superior to ordinary doughnuts, from the fact that they had the benefit of an extra cooking.... [M]y appetite had been accumulating all night. I

A Victual-Rich Vocabulary:

The significance of food in the Civil War is further underlined by the humorous epithets uttered by soldiers. A sample:

- “dough bellies”.....infantrymen
- “chicken thieves”.....cavalrymen
- “soft breads”.....Army of the Potomac soldiers
- “pound-cake brethren”.....easy-living soldiers
- “coffee coolers”.....stragglers
- “desecrated vegetables”.....dessicated vegetables
- “salt horse”.....salt beef
- “Virginia rabbits”.....pigs
- “cast-iron biscuits”, “teeth dullers”.....hardtack
- “Lincoln pies”, “McClellan pies”.....hardtack
- “a square meal”.....hardtack





Haversack and tin plate carried by Edgar S. Yergason, 22nd Connecticut Regiment, in 1862 and 1863. Note the hardtack on the plate. Also, shown are several utensils, including a combination knife, fork, and spoon, and (center) a small bag for carrying coffee or sugar, sometimes both mixed.

Courtesy of the Military and Historical Image Bank (image no. CWp367d) - www.historicalimagebank.com

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT.....

Hello Pard,

I hope this finds all of you well. I'm going to take this opportunity to briefly discuss some of the scheduling questions that I'm receiving from around the 53rd and the NR .

I shared on the 53rd's FB page earlier this week that the NPS at Gettysburg has CANCELLED all living history events through August which impacts our Spangler's Spring event with ELF. On August 10th a decision will be announced for September and October. I wouldn't hold out hope that they will have any LH events in those two months either. All 2021 dates have been moved forward to 2022 for the units on this year's calendar. I'm as disappointed in their decision as anyone can be. However, it's out of our control. We'll see if things change next year.

The most asked question I'm getting is in regards to Landis Valley. Yes, I know that PA has lifted all Covid restrictions as of this weekend but that doesn't mean that all events are back on track as originally planned. At least not yet. All I'm asking is for everyone to keep the dates for the event on your calendars. I've had a few conversations with Tim and his hands are somewhat tied as of the timing of our last conversation. Since then, these new Covid announcements have been made. We all know that LV is a state owned and operated facility. They have had next to zero staff and volunteers for over a year now. Putting Civil War Days back on the schedule is going to take proper planning and it is going to take some time. Tim told me that I will be his first call if he gets the greenlight. Again, PLEASE be patient! I'll communicate all updates as soon as I get them.

As far as the rest of the schedule is concerned, I'll ask the same thing. Keep all events on your calendars. I'm just as anxious as anyone else to get back into the field. Some things will develop rapidly and others will take a little more time. Nothing is in my complete control but I will do everything possible to salvage what we can in 2021. I look forward to seeing all of you SOON!

Eric

OLD PHOTO OF THE 53RD -

Shared by Joe Zaiss (possibly from an event in Nashville in 1992)



MEMORIAL DAY 2021 -

The 53rd PVI was invited to participate in a ceremony at the Zion Goshert Church in Lebanon on the morning of 30 May 2021. Participating were: Ford, Marks, Bohnenblust, Fasnacht, Kramer, Brumbaugh, Espenshade, Steger. Colonel/Pastor Ferrell of the church is shown at our right. During the ceremony, we honored 5 Civil War veterans buried in the church's cemetery.



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

Keune McDowell Kepi some brim cracking 20.00 Grey Blanket with black stripe 35.00

(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 (see list on next page)

| Quantity | Item Description | descr. | approx. value | Quantity | Item Description | descr. | approx. value |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Uniform Clothing | | | | Misc Items | | | |
| 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 | Sack Coats - Assume Size 42 Dk Blue Wool | unlined faded course wool | 20 | | | | |
| 1 | Trouser - Steel Blue each with suspendors | 34 min waist/27" inseam - avg. condx and a little dirt w/ braces no watch pockets | 25 | | | | |
| 1 | Trouser - Steel Blue each with suspendors | 36 min waist/27" inseam - avg. condx and a little dirt w/ braces no watch pockets | 25 | 1 | Tin Dinner Plate | | SOLD |
| 1 | Dk Blue Vest Size 42 | 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 | Colored Pattern 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 | | 2 | 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 | pocket sharpenig stone | new | 2 |
| 1 | Cap Box with Caps w/ pick | | 20 | 1 | box rifle cleaning kit | pads, steel wool, rags, etc | 5 |
| 1 | waist belt | 53" long w/ brass keeper | 5 SOLD | 3 | match boxes w/ matches | | 0.25/each |
| 1 | Scabbard | late war 7 rivet | 15 | 1 Pair | shoe tree | | 3 |
| 1 | Cartridge Box with Tin Inserts | w/ sling and brass and late war plate - tools, cone, etc. | 35 | 1 | Green Army Duffle Bag | | 3 |
| 1 | Gum Blanket | some cracking with oversized grommets | 20 | 1 | drawers for use as patches | | 1 |
| 1 | Grey Blanket | with US sewn | SOLD | 1 | large shite cotton sheeting | | 1 |
| 1 | Shelter Tent - Both Halves | heavy canvas with loops w/ mildew | 35 | 1 | sky blue patch material - 3 pcs | | SOLD |
| 1 | Bag of 7 wooden Tent Stakes | with rope | 3 | 2 | hankerchiefs - blue cotton | used | SOLD |
| 1 | Blue Cloth Bulls-Eye Canteen | w/ chain stopper needs new sling | 20 | | | | |
| 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 - due to covid, all events are tentative as of right now.

~~27-28 March - NR School of Instruction - Virtual~~

1-2 May - NR Camp of Instruction - Gruber Wagon Works (Reading) - **POSTPONED**

~~15-16 May - USAHEC Event - cancelled~~

~~31 May - Hummelstown Memorial Day Parade - CANCELLED~~

June - Company Picnic - Date/Location TBD

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

19-20 June - Ft. Mifflin (Philadelphia) - NR units are invited

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 - Spangler's Spring - Gettysburg NMP - CANCELLED~~

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 -

12-13 June - Newville (with 1st MN)

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



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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>

