



53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry

Company C

"The Sentinel" July 2021

Newsletter of The James Creek Guards



"Clubs Are Trump!"

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See Page 9 for important event info about our Landis Valley event moving to Gruber Wagon Works for this year!



THE DOG OR SHELTER TENT.

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

LIVING IN ATLANTA WITH THE LEGACY OF SHERMAN

By Steve Davis, June 5, 2020 blueandgrayeducation.org



Battle of Atlanta | by Kurz and Allison 1888

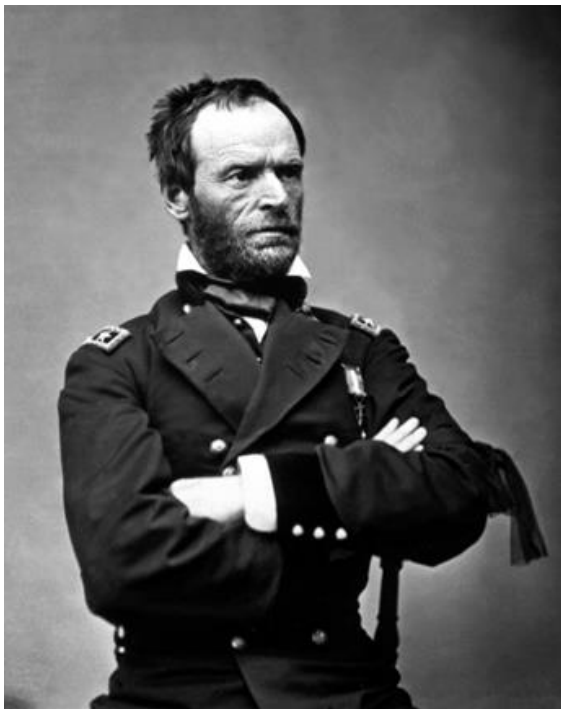
Big fires in American history spawn legends. Mrs. O'Leary's cow may not have started the Great Chicago Fire, but William T. Sherman is said to have burned down all of Atlanta.

The old legend has it that Sherman allowed his soldiers to burn the entire city. In front of the State Capitol today is a plaque declaring that before they left, the Federals "reduced the city to ashes." (It was placed there by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1920.)

Union forces occupied Atlanta from September 2 to November 16, 1864; most of the residents were kicked out by Sherman's order. During that

time, he got approval to lead 60,000 troops across Georgia to the sea. Before they left, the Northern commander ordered his engineers to tear down, blow up, or burn all shops, warehouses, railroad

roundhouses, and freight depots, plus pry up all track in the city. Sherman wanted nothing left for the Rebels to use when they returned



Gen. William T. Sherman | National Archives

The demolition began after the last northbound train left Atlanta on the morning of November 12. The big passenger depot was knocked down by big battering rams; a railroad freight depot was blown up with 700 pounds of powder. On the 13th, engineers started setting fires to designated facilities. “Of course the fires have spread considerably among the residences,” observed a Connecticut captain. This arson may have been accidental, but other fires were intentional. Whole blocks of the business district were marked for burning; these went up in smoke on the afternoon of November 15. That was when much of downtown was aflame. Seeing that “the pioneers were having all the fun,” Sherman’s men set their own blazes, especially in the residential suburbs.

Atlantans today can’t agree on how much of our city was burned by Sherman’s men, but a good estimate is around 40 percent. We got over it, as everyone knows, when citizens began returning to rebuild. “At present, all is life, and energy, and enterprise,” Atlanta’s Daily Intelligencer boasted in early April 1865; “Onward seems to be the motto of our people.”

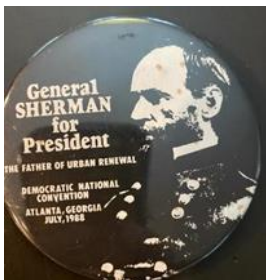
When Sherman visited Atlanta in January 1879, the Atlanta Constitution beamed that the general would find “a proud city, throbbing with vigor and growth.” During his three-day stay, Sherman warmed to the hospitality shown him by dignitaries and citizens. Atlantans could even joke about the fires of fifteen years before. “Ring the fire-bells!” someone cried when Sherman’s train rolled in; “the town will be gone in 40 minutes!”

Ruins of Atlanta's Union Depot after burning by Sherman, 1864 | unc.edu

The mood was different a few years later, when Sherman again visited Atlanta. While he was touring the International Cotton Exposition, the *Constitution* reprinted a wartime account of the Yankees’ extensive destruction of the city. It also reprinted a passage from Jefferson Davis’ memoir that criticized Sherman’s expulsion of the city’s residents. The newspaper went further, quoting Davis’ outrage over Sherman’s March: “the arson of the dwelling houses of noncombatants and the robbery of their property, extending even to the trinkets worn by women, made the devastation as relentless as savage instincts could suggest.”



Sherman got the hint, and left the city the next day. So Atlantans have had a love-hate thing for Cump. “Oh, that was the best thing that ever happened to us,” exclaimed one Atlantan several decades after the war. “Why, we’ve built a good deal better town, and if Sherman had not destroyed it as he did it’s likely the old dingy buildings would have been standing yet.” It was in this vein that in 1976 *Atlanta Magazine* put forth an article titled, “Thanks, ‘Cump’ for his encouraging start to the city’s urban renewal.



Which brings up the political button I bought in the summer of 1988 when the Democratic National Convention was held in downtown Atlanta.

But there's an obverse. In 2001 the Constitution printed a generally favorable article on Sherman by the historian Lee Kennett that sparked a lot of reader response. Boy, did it. "May you soon join your hero, Sherman, for eternity," snapped one reader; "burn with him, you hypocrites." "Lee Kennett's effort to sell Sherman as a nice guy is about as effective as selling a skunk as a perfume factory. After 157 years Sherman still smells!" The same reader added, "he was a terrorist, plain and simple." One Constitution reader offered that "if on Earth in 2001, Sherman would be on trial in The Hague and would make a great war criminal.

"Down here in Georgia, the discussion continues. ...



Sherman's march to the sea | 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 Regiment P. V.,
Falmouth, Virginia,
Thursday, Jan. 15th, 1863.

Messrs. Editors:—When we closed our last letter to you we had received orders from Grand Division Headquarters to prepare to move; but for some cause the contemplated move “fizzled” and here we are yet. Well, it is not very likely that we will get any better accommodations than those afforded by this knock-kneed antediluvian burg of Falmouth, so we are contented to stay here as long as the “powers that be” choose to permit us. We prefer sleeping in a cozy room with our feet towards a cheering fire on an ample Virginian hearth, to resting on the ground beneath the thin shelter tent. We have had abundant trial of both plans, and our personal feelings are

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strongly in favor of the first mentioned mode of enjoying our nightly “forty winks,” *ad infinitum*. For this as well as other reasons we are willing to adjourn in this place “until further orders.”

Col. Zook of the 57th N. Y. Vols. is Military Governor, and Capt. Arch. F. Jones of our regiment Provost Marshal. The 53d Pa., and 57th N. Y. alternately guard the town.—There are but few families living here. A great many of the masculines who are here were at one time in the rebel army; they have different reasons for being in town—desertions, &c., but some of them are no doubt rebel soldiers at home on leave, and all of them traitors at heart, and yet they skulk around where they please and enjoy more liberty than any Union soldier here. Prominent among these sheep-faced Falmouthians and the master spirit is a man by the name of Green—although the individual is only green by name, yet he seems to have the magic power of reflecting that grotesque and laughable color on others—perhaps for the purpose of making a “demonstration.” This thing may be very nice and all that for the parties interested, but as our lamented and gallant Major Yeager would say, “it is not according to Regulations.” This man Green, with his trouser legs in his boots and his small grey cape, *ala secesh militaire*, is an avowed rebel and enemy of our Union. He says he is no seceder. He makes a very pointed difference between secession and rebellion—a point so delicately nice that in these fierce war times we can’t see it, though we had on our nose the very best of our friend Andre’s silver mounted “spectacles.” He has considerable landed wealth here, and, as he answered a soldier who asked him why he was not in the rebel army, “he can be of more service to the Confederate Government here.” He had a brother (Colonel) killed at Malvern Hill, and another brother is an officer in the rebel hordes on the other side of the river. He rides through our camps unmolested, and keeps himself posted with regard to all our movements. He, without a doubt has means of communication with the rebels across the river. To bear out this assertion—a few days ago he exhibited a Richmond paper that was not eighteen hours from the press. And yet this man, who should be imprisoned, or at least, sent across the river to his friends, is petted, and his property, oh! so carefully guarded. *Vive la bagtelle!*

Several of the soldiers of our regiment wounded at the battle of Fredericksburg, have since died. Among them it pains us to notice the death of Acting Orderly Sergeant John R. Good of Coatesville, Chester co. He was a member of Capt. Eicholtz’s Company (B).—The Captain was wounded ere the regiment was fairly in the field, and there being no other commissioned officer, the command of the company devolved upon Sergt. Good. While bravely urging his comrades onward he was struck down by a ball in the thigh. As he was endeavoring to drag his wounded form off the field he was again pierced in the thigh by a minie ball. He was one of the first that was taken to the Washington hospital, and after lingering for a week in pain, he died, and one more noble life was offered up for our country. So far as we have opportunity of hearing of our wounded, scattered around in so many hospitals we find that they are doing well.

Our troops at Gen. Hancock’s Headquarters, have fixed themselves up very comfortably.—They have their A tents raised from the ground by means of logs, &c. Company K was recently ordered out, and Capt. Mintzer has now command of the three companies A, B, and K. Sergt. Geiger is the Acting Orderly of Company A.

In Capt. Auchenbach’s Company (68th Pa) the boys are pursuing the even tenor of everyday camp life. 1st Sergt. Benj. Guest has been appointed 2nd Lt., *vice* G. R. Clarke, resigned. Lt. Feger, who has been in ill health sometime is now home on sick leave. Geo. Reifsnnyder and Thomas Boyd have been honorably discharged from the service on account of disability.

We were agreeably surprised last Thursday by the entrance into the office, of our friend Wm. S. Hobart, who was first Lieutenant of C. company in the old 4th. He is a private in the 121st Pa. Regiment and has been transferred by order of Gen. Burnside to the Quartermaster’s Department at Acquia creek Landing. While the regiment was organizing at Philadelphia, Mr. Hobart was recruiting for a Lieutenancy, but failing to get the requisite number of men, and unwilling to leave the few that through his exertions had enlisted in a strange regiment, and to make good his promise to be with them, he enlisted as a private. Such examples of honesty and patriotism is refreshing when we consider how many officers smuggle themselves into the army by means of political and other *weighty* influences. Mr. Hobart fought gallantly in the bloody fight of Fredericksburg.

Yesterday morning, as we were going towards our breakfast, through the heavy mist that was hanging over the river, we dimly saw that the ever busy rebs were doing something more than usual. When the sun had dispelled the fog, we discovered that the enemy had during the night thrown up about half a mile of entrenchments along the river, several hundred yards back of the stream. It was of course presumed that our batteries would be ordered to open upon the bold foe, that had the impudence to construct earth works under our very noses as it were. But no notice whatever was taken of them, and undismayed by any of our shots or shells, they continuing their operations, like so many active beavers, during the whole day. It may be policy to permit the enemy to shovel up his parallels scarcely three hundred yards from the muzzles of our guns, but our narrow understanding can’t see it—even supposing that shelling these advanced works would bring on a fight, the advantage without doubt would be on our side. Though McClellan did a large amount of wise ditching, yet he never permitted the enemy to do any of it when he could reach him with his guns.

A number of our Regiment that are able to do duty, are absent. Many of them are in convalescent camps; they are perfectly well and write that they desire to re-join their comrades, but they cannot get away. The Government is very lax in this matter. Others are home on sick leave from hospital, and, if we are rightly informed, are sufficiently recovered to return to the regiment. A few are absent without leave, among these are numbered those paroled prisoners that were exchanged a month ago. Our ranks have been thinned by much hard fighting, and every man is wanted, especially those who have been having a good time of it month after month. We think it right that our sick and wounded soldiers should be taken home, where, to the community they are the pale living testimony of what Pennsylvania’s sons are suffering and doing for the nation, but those soldiers in rugged health, who for weeks and months, loiter about town, when they should be with their

Company, are neither honoring themselves or gaining much credit for their regiment.

Yours, &c.

L. J. F.

[*Montgomery Ledger*, January 20, 1863]

HONORING THE ORIGINAL 53RD PVI -

(provided by Marc Benedict)

Private George G. Outman - born in Dryden, NY on June 23, 1828. He enrolled on March 31, 1864 in Harrison, PA and mustered in on April 4, 1864 in Harrisburg, PA for 3 years in Co. D, 53rd PVI as a private. He was 35, stood 5' 10" with blue eyes, a light complexion and brown hair. He listed his occupation as a farmer. Bates has his name as "Oatman". There are two dates for his discharge - May, 18, 1865 and June 2, 1865. He died on Dec. 12, 1922 and is buried in Whites Corner Cemetery, Whitesville, PA.



SUTLERS IN THE CIVIL WAR -

(editor - This article was done as various screen-shots from the original article, so disregard the page numbers, formatting, etc. This was the easiest way for me to include it without literally re-typing out the whole article.)

"SAPPERS AND MINERS OF THE ARMY"

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SUTLERS IN THE CIVIL WAR

by Philip M. Zaret

CHAA member Phil Zaret has worked for many years as a volunteer at the University of Michigan Libraries—chiefly, developing an index of culinary references found in manuscripts at the William L. Clements Library. He used that index in compiling the article below, as well as his article "Coffee Cravings Among the Troops" in our Summer 2011 issue.

A sutler is, historically, a person who follows an army to sell food, liquor, and other items to its soldiers. The word is said to derive from *soeteler*, a Dutch term for a camp cook or other person performing dirty or menial work

An early informal system to supply goods to American troops was eventually replaced by a formal system operated by the armed forces themselves. During the Civil War, however, for soldiers who could afford it, the sutlers filled in the gaps between government issues and gifts from home.

What follows are quotes that I have selected describing the sutler experience from the buyer's and the seller's point of view during the Civil War. The quotes are drawn from the Manuscript Culinary Database, or "Food Index", at the University of Michigan's William L. Clements Library.

The Food Index is a computerized database of food-related passages drawn from the library's manuscript collections. It is the only such database in the world. The Clements contains on the order of 500,000 individual manuscript items: letters, diaries, and other bits and pieces from the lives of real people, mostly from 19th-Century America. A scholar who visits the library's reading room can use one of the laptop computers there to access the Food Index and locate significant quantities of specifics in a relatively short time. Everything has been done to appeal to the real and immediate needs of the history professional.

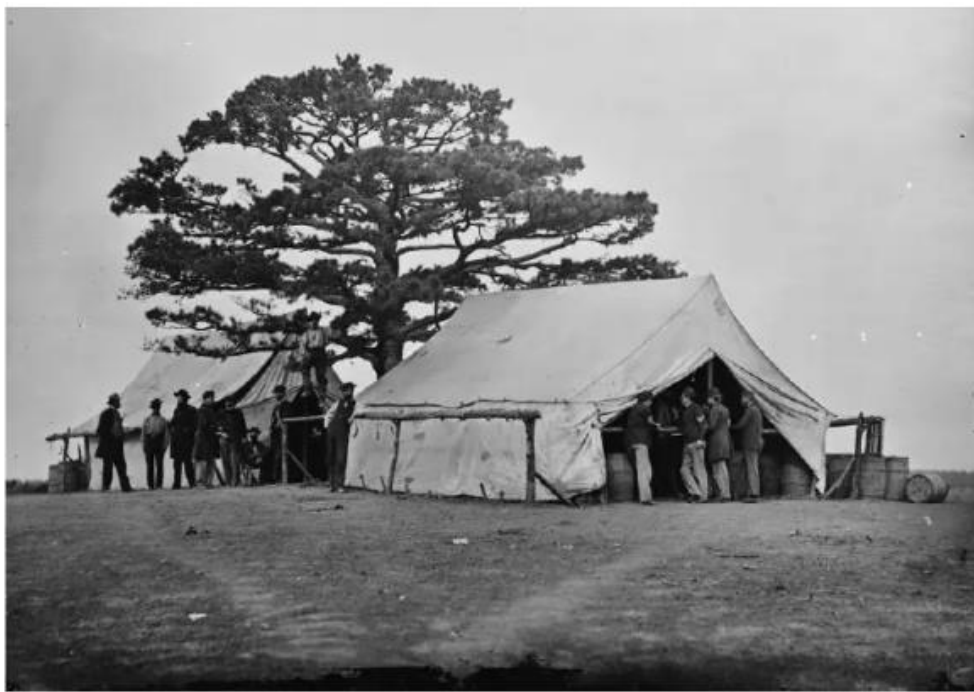
The Food Index includes nearly 10,000 records on the Civil War alone. The selected manuscript passages below, which I accessed via the Index, are located in the following Clements Library collections: Aplin Family; Aughinbaugh, William; Barnett, George A. C.; Boston, William; Boughton, Clement & Abner; Driver, George; Gilbert, Henry C.; Hacker, Philip & Rohloff; Hale, James K.; Hussey-Wadsworth; Hutchins, Daniel B.; Jackson, Isaac; Jones, William C.; Marshall, Henry Grimes; McKinney, David; Pippitt, Henry; Schoff Soldiers' Letters; Sherry, Robert; Starbird, George & Solomon; Taylor, Samuel; Tew, Charles F.; Willis, Thomas D.

Pricing and Gouging

There is nothing here but barracks and sutler shanties. The sutlers sell supplies quite cheaply.

We have plenty of sutlers here. Some of their prices are: butter 80 cents a pound, cheese 50 cents, potatoes 10 cents and milk 80 cents for a 1-pound can.

continued on next page



Sutler's tent attached to the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, in Bealeton, VA, August 1863, a month after its victory at Gettysburg under Gen. George Meade.

Library of Congress photo, digital ID cwpb 03891.

SUTLERS *continued from page 11*

This morning I did not feel like eating the salt horse [salted beef] and bread for breakfast, so I went to the sutler, who keeps oysters and got a stew, and that not quite satisfying my ravenous appetite, I took another bowl. They charge 20 cents a bowl and we get more than we do at home for 12 cents and good too they are at that. So you see my breakfast cost me 40 cents. I don't indulge, however, in that line only [i.e., except] when I don't feel well and can't go the regular rations.

We get soft bread here and there are lots of sutlers and plenty of competition, so things are much cheaper than anywhere we have been: apples 6, 8 & 10 for 25 cents; ginger cakes 20 for 25 cents; butter 40 cents per pound, etc.

We in the tent got a barrel of apples 2/3 full of a sutler who was going away and paid \$1 for it and so cost each one only 6 cents a piece. We think it quite a treat. We have pretty good bread and as long as we can get butter, we can get it and we mean to have butter too as long as the money holds out.

Our sutler whose name is Hale has commenced operations here and of course charges high for everything. I don't patronize him much.

The sutlers are doing good business now except ours, he is gone north for goods, so he isn't getting any of the boys' pay this time. It beats all how high they sell things & what big prices the boys will pay for something to eat that is a little extra, but they live so poor that when they can get anything to eat for money, they will have it.

Our sutler is open again. He's been at great cost and trouble to keep up and his prices are higher, but not quite outrageous, e.g., small cans of concentrated milk at New York about 25 cents, selling for 75 cents, cheese 50 cents per pound, matches 2 bunches for 5 cents, etc.

The boys have been so filled with luxuries from peddlers and sutler. Lager has been sold at sutler's very freely, but he shuts it off at times, so no bad cases of drunkenness occurred.

Our sutler, with so much shifting, didn't get to selling till yesterday about 3 PM. Had been closed, moving about 24 hours. It was astonishing how crazy all privates seemed to get rid of money for lager. Long ere he opened tent the guards, 4 men, kept bayonets crossed thus [diagram] at the door thereof to check the crowd of full 100 waiting in line, i.e., one before the other. In such case none are allowed to break into line, but must go in on rear. Well, that line began to go in at 3, I said, and it didn't stop its slow (of course) step inward till 9 (colonel's order). It began again at 7 this Sunday morning and at closing at 10 (regiment order) the line was just as long. All the time nearly all captains and lieutenants in camp with field officers were inside the sutler's tent to prevent possible disturbance. Such precaution has so far been sufficient to prevent any big quarreling among the rabid spendthrifts.

The sutler sells beer all the time and the boys drink till they act like a set of fools. He sells 6 or 8 barrels per day and so many get drunk that the guard house is full all the time. There are 20 in the guard house now.

I would rather write to relatives and friends than drink ardent spirits, as many of my fellow soldiers do— not to their credit, nor to the sutlers' either.

Just as I had got as far in my writing yesterday as you see above, some officers came in and insisted upon my immediately going to the theatre with them. I begged off very pleadingly so that we finally compromised the matter by my agreement to go up the street and play billiards with them. But before we arrived at the saloon we ran across somebody else who compelled us to stop in a sutler's shanty and drink some whiskey. I am not much of a tippler but when I am among men I can punish my share of hot stuff. Last night however, instead of my punishing the whiskey, it punished me.

All Manner of Goods for Sale

The sutler since has posted a bill on his door, Nothing to sell. But inside one finds all soldiers need. The luxuries, to wit, baked and fried apples, cakes, apples, lager, cigars have been coming since yester noon.

I heard a girl's voice in Company H., soldiers cry, apple dumplings. The brainless spendthrift of a piper boy darts over and now he's in again with two of 'em, each size of a three-penny apple on Broadway, the cost, 5 cents each, cold as ice and only half cooked, a good sample of soldier's folly in general.

The sutler had 21 little stoves yesterday and by noon today he had sold every one.

You have neglected me utterly, except for sending a 25 cent needle case I could have purchased of any sutler.

Especially Liquor

We went ahead to arrange camp, a full half of our company gloriously drunk with lager beer from sutler for most part.

I was induced to walk up a very high hill, near Department Headquarters, and to enter a large tent used by a vender of soldiers supplies, vulgarly called a sutler, and when there to partake very freely of much green seal (alias Jersey cider diluted with sulphuric acid to make it sparkle) and a decided muchness of Heidsieck [a brand of Champagne] which the old boy Heidsieck himself would never own. When I say I partook very freely of these beverages I wish you to understand that I gobbled down many goblets of it. In addition to this we made for to disappear a very great muchness of pickles and lobsters besides numerous other lunches too insignificant to mention.

Credit and Other Arrangements

My money has got down to the last dollar now, but I can get "tick" [ticket voucher] at the sutler's easy enough until pay day.

At this distance from payday, the boys are perfectly willing to get their checks cashed at a discount. The sutler gives the boys seven in cash and three in tickets, i.e. trade.

A person can't buy anything but from the sutler when he [i.e., the person] has no change.

Sutler's tent attached to the 2nd Division of the 9th Corps in November 1864, when it was supporting the Union siege of Petersburg, VA. This division, part of the Army of the Potomac, was commanded by Brig. Gen. Robert B. Potter of Schenectady, NY.



Library of Congress
photo, digital ID
cwpb 01730.

I assure you I am all out of money and the sutler stopped the credit system so we would completely ----[expletive?].

The sutler this morning began to take blanks [credit?]. I treated myself to some apples — first I have ate in long time.

Send a stamp on every envelope, then I can pull them off and trade them for cake at the sutler.

I can get paper and envelopes from the sutler by paying from 35 cents to 60 cents for paper per quire and from 20 to 30 cents for envelopes. Old Palmer has got a sutler for this regiment. We can get things on credit but I dislike to do it although I have got a little. I am going to get as little as possible.

I'm half afraid your credit at the sutler's was altogether too good. When my money gave out, I went six weeks without entering the sutler's tent. When I went in the other day, he wanted to know if I'd been off anywhere.

Monday morning & about money matters with me I don't need much. I am in debt to the sutler the enormous sum \$000.00 [i.e., the writer has avoided incurring a debt with the sutler]. I don't deal with him any only [i.e., except] when I want paper & can't get it anywhere else & then I pay money. I don't use money only [i.e., except] to buy writing material.

I have had no pay yet and am anxiously watching for Mr. Keighin, our sutler, on his return from Peoria, with whom I sent for money.... I have been looking out for Keighin the sutler by every boat for the past 3 weeks, hoping he would bring me some money, but I have seen nor heard nothing of him.... If Mr. Keighin the sutler is coming down soon, send by him a pair of boots made of calf skin, double soles and medium length in

legs.... I am anxious to pay Mr. Keighin, the sutler of the 77th, a little bill I owe him, but cannot ascertain the amount, or when I shall admit it.... My friend Keighin & his friends the mules have arrived in the land of cotton & [African epithets].

Recovery [of health] is impossible on government food, so I owe the sutler \$55.

My sutler's bill was larger this payday than any other. For when I worked on the fort, I had to buy bread and cheese for dinner.

We may get paid soon, but it may be a false alarm, but when you see the sutlers around, the paymaster is not far off.

They Followed the Armies

The brig Hope owned by Mr. Webster has been sent here to me by the Secretary of the Navy. Mr. Webster has on board goods, which will be of use to the troops. As you have no sutler at Newport News, it has occurred to me that it might be a convenience to have him and his goods there. If you will give him a place at your upper wharf, he and his goods will be under your control to be disposed of by your troops at fair prices, but not otherwise.

Sutler's wife sighted — she is no great shakes.

Tip has been keeping a sutler shop on a small scale and has made good wages (he sent home 100 dollars last week). He goes to Baltimore to buy his goods. He means to make money out of his imprisonment. Keep dark about his money. [Tip has been in Annapolis on parole, awaiting exchange.]

continued on next page

SUTLERS

continued from page 13



"Liver Hash" is from one of the watercolor sketchbooks created by Confederate soldier John Jacob Omenhauser while he was interned in the Federal Civil War Prison at Point Lookout, MD, between June 1864 and April 1865.

Starting at right, a sutler says, "Here's your hot liver hash only five cents a plate and bread to go with it." One rebel prisoner remarks hungrily, "Say here Mr. just dip me up a load of that stuff." A second prisoner says, "A fellow can get his money's worth here, it fills a fellow up."

Civil War Treasures from the New-York Historical Society, image ae00031.

[A P.O.W. writes:] At Guinea Station, guards allowed a sutler to sell to us. I bought \$1.30 worth of small sweet cakes, same number as often received for half a dime.

[A P.O.W. writes:] York and I went over to the gate to see if we could get anything off the sutler for we were very hungry and had nothing to eat, we did not succeed.... I went over to the gate to get my potatoes that I ordered by the sutler, but did not get them as he could not fill out all the orders before mine.... I went over to the gate to see if the sutler had come with the potatoes but he failed to connect.... I went over to the gate but did not get anything off the sutler.

The sutlers have all been ordered [to detach] from the army and the pontoons have gone to the front.

It seems the country back of us is full of guerrillas. They have taken some sutlers and, it is reported, some of our baggage train. I doubt the latter.

The Johnnies threw 5 or 6 shells in our camp this morning, one shell went right thru the top of the sutler's shop. You ought to seen the sutler run. You would have laughed. He grub the money box and dug out.

A Shot at Riches

They introduced me to a sutler named Wood. He has made a fortune following Ulysses S. Grant's army.

Mephram brought to the room a sutler named Corson. He is rich, is from Michigan and is considered a very smart businessman.

Uncle John is now the sutler of our regiment & I think he will

do well.

[A sutler writes:] I cannot write anymore. Business is lively. Customers are all round the shanty, waiting for me to finish this letter, so they can get some goods.

Had a council of administration convene to fix amount of sutler's tax.

Residents of Harper's Ferry sell food at reasonable costs; this is not true of sutlers.

We will be paid \$58 next May, unless the cheating sutler gets a part of our wages. But he can't get any off me, for I and two others pledged upon our honor not to trade with the cheating rascal.

You are down on the sutlers and reasonably so, the sappers and miners of the army. They cheat the poor family at home of 1/2 to 1/3 of the soldier's earnings.

Wretched sutlers, making fortunes out of our soldiers.

Court martial against Samuel Graham, Colonel of the 5th New York Volunteer Artillery, presided over by Lorenzo Thomas. Charge: Selling office of sutler for \$1000. Found guilty. Dismissed from service.

John has gone to Nashville. I will inform him of his good luck when he returns. He will feel very sore at paying the \$300, which I suppose he will do. His sutlership is not worth much to him. He has no capital & don't keep much to sell. He is cowardly too about taking any risk. ■

MONTEREY PASS BATTLEFIELD AND MUSEUM VIDEO-

The Adams County Historical Society (ACHS) presented a video a few months ago about the Battle of Monterey Pass and its related museum. The not-so-well-known battle took place southwest of Fairfield (close to Waynesboro) along the PA/MD border and dealt with the retreat of the Confederate army after Gettysburg and included Federal Cavalry and multiple men who earned the Medal Of Honor. The battle included night fighting in a thunderstorm (*editor – that must have been 'interesting'*). Watch this video to learn more about the battle and the relatively new museum:

<https://www.facebook.com/194838820631983/videos/284382353302034>

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT.....

Hello Pard:

*****This year's Landis Valley event is officially relocated to the Berks County Heritage Center (Gruber Wagon Works).*****

I received word from Landis Valley on Friday that they were still unable to host events and that approvals to do so were not coming down from Harrisburg as they had hoped. Also, they're functioning on a very limited staff at this point and logistically can't handle the demands of an event right now. Our hope was to be there even if it was "unofficially" on their schedule but the current staffing situation dictates otherwise. Tim is optimistic that we may get the green light to have a smaller event or even just our use of the site sometime in the Fall. If that opportunity presents itself, I'll let you know immediately if it works into our schedule.

Gruber called me earlier in the week and shared that they will be reopening fully (with no restrictions) this coming week and asked if we had an opening on the schedule to come to their site. My original

thought was to move our cancelled Spangler Spring event to Gruber but that changed with LV's decision. The event will still be July 17-18 with Friday evening arrival permitted. This will be a formal event for Gruber and they are going to announce through their marketing efforts that we'll be there. Given the fact that it's been well over a year since we held an official event and this date has remained on the schedule, I hope to have a decent turnout. Let's help the Heritage Center begin their recovery.

When the NR's Camp of Instruction was cancelled earlier in the Spring it was decided that our LV weekend would serve as a backup date for the Camp. However, with the later than expected decision from LV, Tom Downes has decided to scrap the Camp for '21 but he and I will still invite and encourage NR units to join us at Gruber for a traditional living history event

This wasn't the exact announcement that I was hoping to make but at least we're finally moving in the right direction. I'll share more details specific to the event in a week or so as I start getting some feedback in regards to numbers. Please let me ASAP if you will be attending.

Eric

53RD SUMMER PICNIC –

When: July 31st

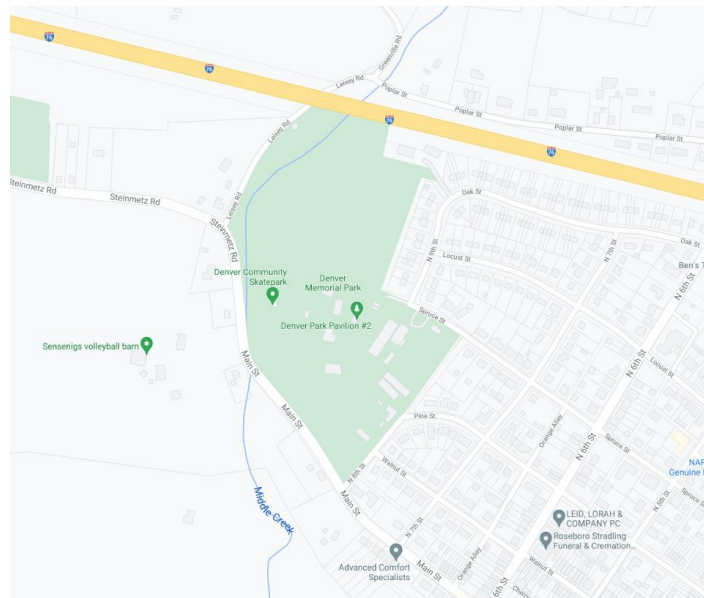
Where: Denver Memorial Park, 801 Main St. Denver, PA 1751

Time: 12PM Noon

BBQ style food will be provided as well as soft drinks and water from 1 PM to 3 PM. The facilities are available to us until 8PM.

RSVP by July 17th to Pete Zinkus at 570-527-6714 or zinkusp@gmail.com

Please bring your family for an afternoon of fun. A playground, skate park, ball field and koi fish pond for viewing are available to us. Please also bring a covered dish to share.



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							
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
Accountrements							
1	Cap Box with Caps w/ pick		20	6 1/2	Wax Candles		1/each
1	waist belt	53" long w/brass keeper	5 SOLD	1	pocket sharpenig stone	new	0.5
1	Scabbord	late war 7 rivet	15	1	box rifle cleaning kit	pads, steel wool, rags, etc	2
1	Cartiridge Box with Tin Inserts	w/ sling and brass and late war plate - tools, cone, etc.	35	3	match boxes w/ matches		0.25/each
1	Gum Blanket	some cracking with oversized grommets	20	1 Pair	shoe tree		3
1	Grey Blanket	with US sewn	SOLD	1	Green Army Duffle Bag		3
1	Shelter Tent - Both Halves	heavy canvas with loops w/ mildew	35	1	drawers for use as patches		1
1	Bag of 7 wooden Tent Stakes	with rope	3	1	large shite cotton sheeting		1
1	Blue Cloth Bulls-Eye Canteen	w/ chain stopper needs new sling	20	2	sky blue patch material - 3 pcs		SOLD
1	Grey Smooth Face Canteen	leather sling satinette cover w/ corded stopper with light wear	20		hankercchiefs - blue cotton	used	SOLD
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~~

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

~~19-20 June - Ft. Mifflin (Philadelphia)~~

~~17-18 July - Drill at Gruber Wagon Works (with ELF and NR)~~

~~31 July - Company Picnic - Denver Park~~

~~7-8 Aug. - Cedar Mountain Re-enactment - contact James Owens (1st MN) for more info.~~

~~28-29 August - 53rd PVI Living History w/ ELF - Spangler's Spring - Gettysburg NMP - CANCELLED~~

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

~~20 November - Remembrance Day Parade/NR Meeting - Gettysburg~~

~~4 December - Annual business meeting~~

Other events -

~~12 - Newville (with 1st MN) - CANCELLED~~

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



53rd PVI Contacts

President: Eric Ford (reenactor53@gmail.com)

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Treasurer/Secretary: Matthew Steger (n3ntj@comcast.net)

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Webmasters: Steve Dillon (steve@gofoxpro.com) and Matthew Steger
(n3ntj@comcast.net)

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)

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

