

53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Company C

"The Sentinel" October 2022

Newsletter of The James Creek Guards



"Clubs Are Trumps!"

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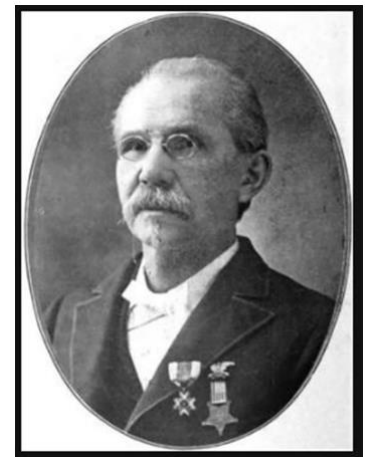
I am always looking for newsletter content, so please forward your articles, book reviews, event summaries/photos, stories, etc.) to me for inclusion in a future edition of "The Sentinel". – Matthew Steger, editor

MAPPING THE ATLANTA CAMPAIGN

By Tony Patton, September 2, 2022, blueandgrayeducation.org

Preparation for the upcoming campaign would begin immediately after March 18, 1864, when Gen. William T. Sherman became Commanding General of the Military Division of the Mississippi. With orders, "to move against Johnston's army, to break it up, and to get into the interior of the enemy's country as far as you can, inflicting all the damage you can against their war resources" from his commander Ulysses S. Grant, he would do just that and more. Maps for getting his three armies, Army of the Cumberland, Army of the Tennessee, and Army of the Ohio "into the interior of the enemy's country," would prove of vital importance.

From his "History of the Army of the Cumberland" (1875), Thomas B. Van Horne wrote, "The army was so far from Washington that it had to have a complete map establishment of its own." Printing presses and lithographic presses and of the time were very heavy and difficult to transport, so they would need to be in a secure area near the front line when possible.



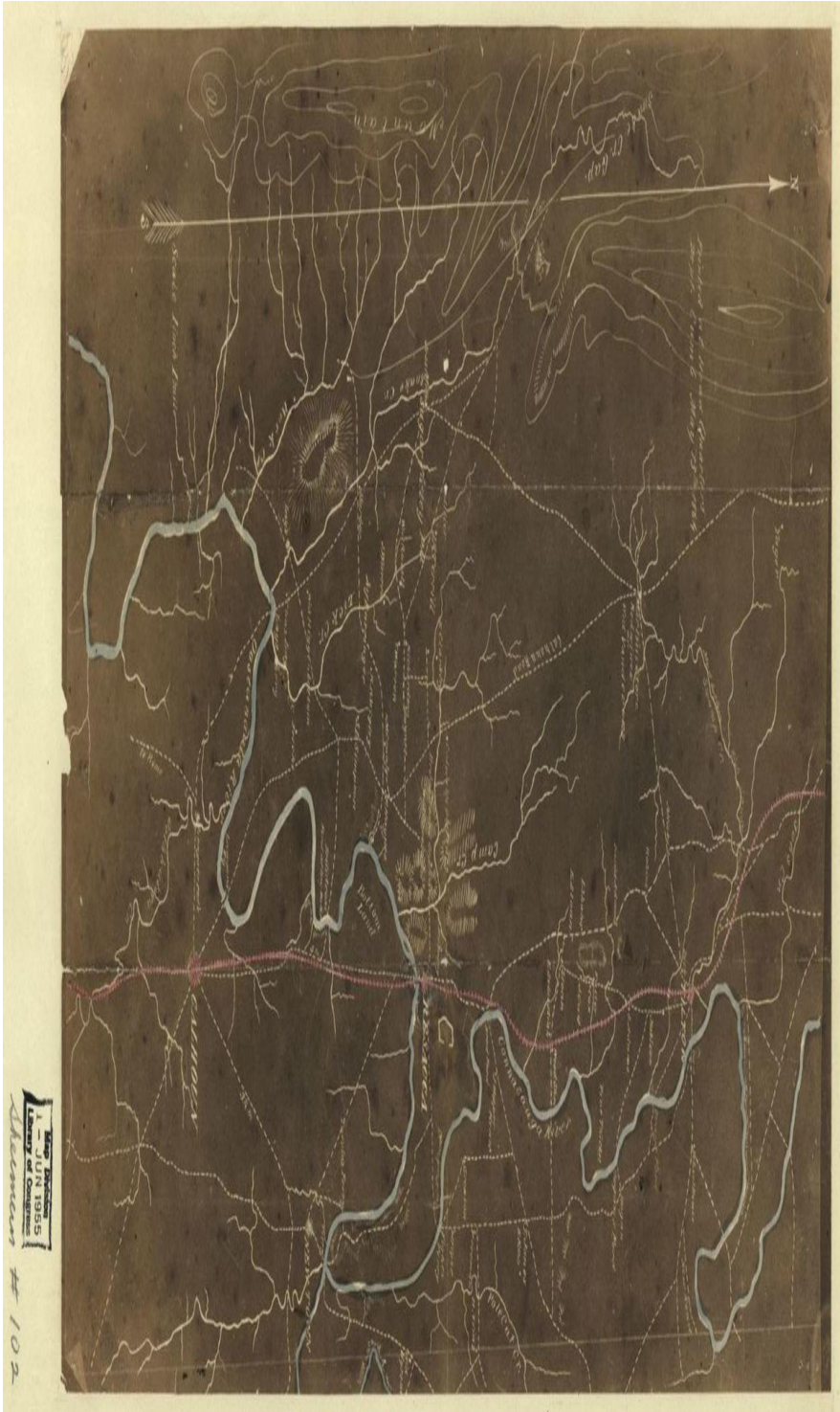
Capt. William C. Margedant

Valuable Cartographic Invention

Capt. William C. Margedant was a German American engineer, born in Dusseldorf, Germany (then Prussia), educated in Germany, and immigrated to the U.S. in 1854, who had volunteered in 1861 and organized a company for service in the Union army. This company then joined the 9th Ohio Volunteer infantry, and

Margedant was elected captain. He was later appointed to the topographical engineers on the staff of Gen. William Starke Rosecrans. It was while serving on Rosecrans' staff that he invented a method of duplicating maps in the field. It consisted of a light box containing several india-rubber baths, fitting into one another with the proper supply of chemicals. Printing was done by tracing the required map on thin paper and laying it over a sheet coated with nitrite of silver. The sunlight passing through the tissue paper blackened the prepared paper except under the ink lines, which produced a white map on black background. By this process, copies from the drawing-paper map could be made as new information was received, and there could be several updated editions during the same day. The process was expensive and did not allow printing of large quantities of copies; these were only issued to high-ranking commanders.

This map of the environs of Resaca, Georgia, is an example of one of these field maps made using the Margedant photo reproduction process. In the upper left corner, you can read "Printed at Head Quarters Dept. Cumb. May 13th, 1864," showing Snake Creek Gap, Resaca, Tilton, and Calhoun



Grant (center left) next to Lincoln with General Sherman (far left) and Admiral Porter (right) – The Peacemakers by Healy, 1868

The Making of a Map

A map of northern Georgia was being prepared by the Topographical Department. Van Horne states this was improved by "cross-questioning refugees, spies, prisoners, peddlers, any and all persons familiar with the country in front of us." He goes on to say, "The best illustration of the value of this method is the fact that Snake Creek Gap, through which our whole army turned the strong positions at Dalton and Buzzard Roost Gap, was not found on any printed map that we could get, and the knowledge of the existence of this gap was of immense importance to us."

Just two days before the campaign began, the Topographical Department was notified of the date of the advance. Van Horne explains the single copy of the map of northern Georgia "was immediately cut up into sixteen sections and divided among the draughtsmen, who were ordered to work night and day until all the sections had been traced on thin paper in autographic ink. As soon as four adjacent sections were finished, they were transferred to one large stone, and 200 copies were printed. When all the map had thus been lithographed, the map-mounters commenced their work. Being independent of sunlight, the work was soon done—the map-mounting requiring the greatest time. But before the commanding generals left Chattanooga, each had received a bound copy of the map, and before we struck the enemy, every brigade, division, and

corps commander in the three armies had a copy."

It was entitled “Map of Northern Georgia made under the direction of Capt. W.E. Merrill, Chief Topl. Engr.”



"Map of Northern Georgia made under the direction of Capt. W.E. Merrill, Chief Topl. Engr." | [LOC](#)

YORK CIVIL WAR TOUR

On 20 August, my wife and I took a Scott Mingus tour of some York Civil War-related sites. Scott is a well-known York-based author of numerous Civil War related books. We started at Prospect Hill Cemetery where numerous Federal dead from Gettysburg are buried in a circle in a small version of what we see at the Gettysburg National Cemetery. There are also a few Confederates buried nearby.



PROSPECT HILL SOLDIERS' LOT

Monuments at Alexandria National Cemetery, Virginia, c. 1863. After 1876, standard marble headstones replaced the wood headboards seen here. Miller, Photographic History of the Civil War (1910).

Civil War Dead

An estimated 700,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died in the Civil War (1861-1865). As the death toll rose, the U.S. government struggled with the urgent but unplanned need to bury fallen Union troops. This propelled the creation of a national cemetery system.

On September 11, 1861, the War Department directed officers to keep "accurate and permanent records of deceased soldiers." Federal authority to create military burial grounds came in an Omnibus Act of July 17, 1862. Cemetery sites were chosen where troops were concentrated: camps, hospitals, battlefields, railroad hubs. By 1872, 74 national cemeteries and several soldiers' lots contained 305,492 remains. About 45 percent were unknown.

The U.S. government established soldiers' lots at private cemeteries in northern states. National cemeteries, in contrast, were built throughout the South where most Civil War action occurred. While the army reported dozens of lots containing Union dead in the 1870s, the National Cemetery Administration maintains only fifteen. The number of graves ranges from less than ten to nearly 400 in these lots.

York at War

On April 23, 1861, less than two weeks after Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina, Gov. Andrew G. Curtin established Camp Scott at York, Pennsylvania. By early May, six regiments were lodged in the Odd Fellows Hall and buildings at the fairgrounds. The army recruited or trained all or portions of seventeen Pennsylvania regiments in York.

In June 1862, a U.S. General Hospital was established in the city. Barracks constructed on the public common were adapted to accommodate more than 1,000 beds. The hospital had treated 14,000 patients by the time it closed in summer 1863. Many of the 193 soldiers who died in York were buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery.

During the Gettysburg Campaign, in summer 1863, Confederate forces briefly captured York. Citizens met with Confederate Gen. John Gordon the day before he arrived. They agreed to surrender if Gordon would spare the city. The Confederates occupied York for two days, took money and supplies, but did no damage.

View of York in 1812. Top, left: Odd Fellows Hall used as a barracks in 1861. Inset right: Courthouse the Confederates used as a headquarters in 1863. Library of Congress.

December 1864 letter concerning the trustees' proposal to move the remains of U.S. soldiers to "one of the most attractive spots in Prospect Hill Cemetery. National Archives and Records Administration. Right: Scale model of Union soldier as sculptor, Hall, c. 1867. Library of Congress.

Soldiers' Lot

Prospect Hill Cemetery, a rural-style burial ground, was established in 1849. By 1870, some 163 Union soldiers were interred in a northwest-corner lot. All but two were known. Most graves were marked with wood headboards. A few had marble headstones purchased by family or friends. In 1873, the War Department authorized reinterment of these remains in a prominent lot near the cemetery entrance. Names of the dead were inscribed on two concentric granite curbs within the new soldiers' circle, rather than on standard government-issued headstones.

The Ladies Aid Society and citizens of York raised \$3,000 to build a memorial here. A. J. Brashears & Son of York installed it in 1874. The granite base supports a 15-foot-tall bronze soldier. Irish-born sculptor Martin Mjimore designed this and many other Civil War monuments found in northern states. The York soldiers' lot, with four cannon, is enclosed by a granite post-and-chain fence.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration

To learn more about benefits and programs for Veterans and Families, visit www.va.gov

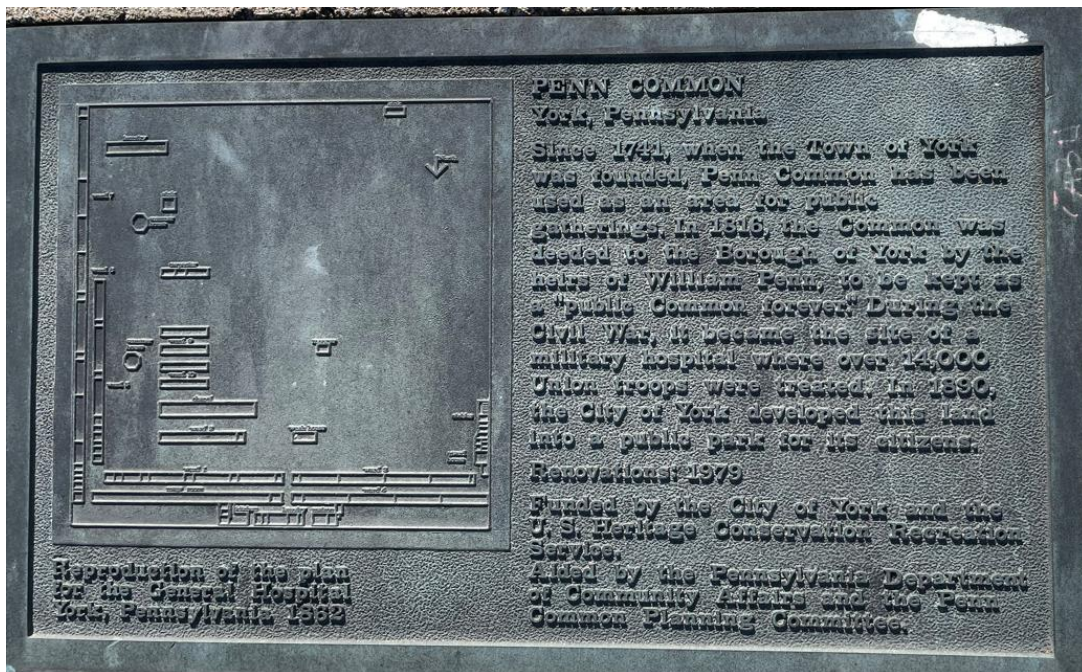
We next stopped at the former York train station where Lincoln was supposed to have visited on his way to Washington City in February 1861, but due to the Pinkertons advising Lincoln to avoid this area due to assassination reports, only portions of Lincoln's party actually came to York. Lincoln had proceeded to Philadelphia and then Baltimore instead. Lincoln's body, however, would finally make its way to this train station in April 1865 after the assassination on its way back to Springfield, IL.

Next, we visited Penn Park (originally called Penn Common) which was an area that was used as a U.S. Army General Hospital after starting in 1862. Many men from the Battle of Gettysburg were treated here. The park was an area specifically meant by William Penn to be used as a park, so it was named after him.

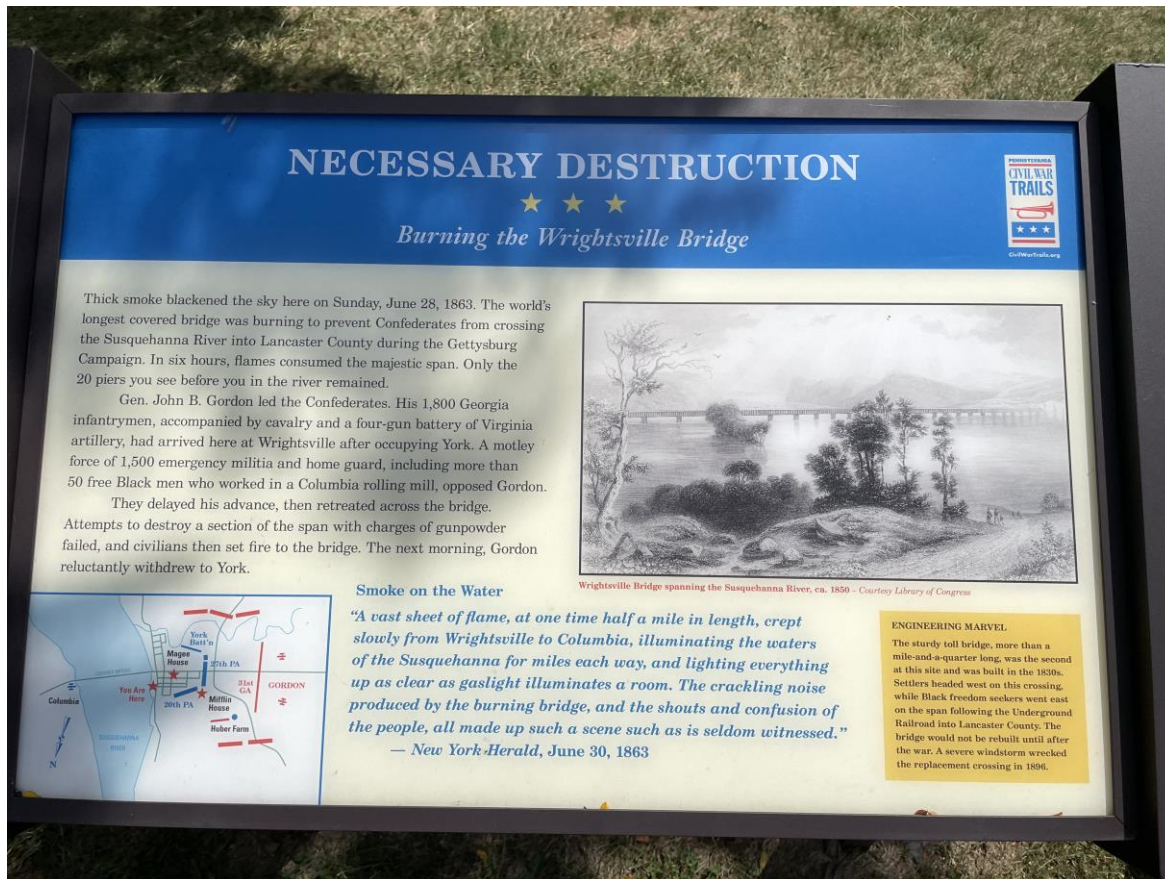


Statue in York's Penn Park marking the location of the Union hospital. Various photos exist showing the site and its original buildings.

Below shows a plaque in the park showing the layout of the buildings at the hospital.



Next, we proceeded to Wrightsville to cover the small battle there and what led to the burning of the Bridge.



Next, we visited Zion Hill Cemetery in Columbia which is the site of quite a few black Federal soldiers. Non-Civil War dead are also buried here. Much work has been done in the area as many bodies had to be moved when the current Rt. 30 was built through Columbia. It is known that some bodies still remain under the roadway. The cemetery is immediately north of the roadway. The story was covered on the news a few years ago when people started rediscovering the cemetery and efforts were made to spruce up and clean the site, including removal of various trees. Some of the dead buried here include members of the 54th Mass. (the "Glory" Regiment).





Sketch by Lewis Miller showing the Confederates taking down the Stars and Stripes in York Square in late June 1863.



The burning of the Wrightsville bridge. Painting by Bradley Schmehl.

NEW 53rd PVI YOUTUBE PAGE

The 53rd PVI now has a YouTube page where we can post and share videos in an effort to help attract new recruits, etc. The URL is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKAt9pYXfhT4QPshyGBb1LQ>



Please check it out and click "Subscribe". Right now, I only have the video of Corporal Espenshade's Memorial Day Parade speech posted but we will post more content as we move along. Since we couldn't hear his speech from where we were located in the cemetery, you can now watch it and find out what Mike said.

53RD PVI NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER (NCO) AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

At the Antietam 160th "A Perfect Homespun Waterloo" event on 17 Sept., a motion was passed by the membership present to make some changes to the unit's NCOs. Corporal Matt Steger was promoted to Sergeant (Probationary Sgt.) and Private Michael Brumbaugh was promoted to Corporal (Probationary Corporal).

Also, Brayden Thomas and Paul Parvis were officially voted in as members of the unit. Prior to that, they were each probationary members. All NCO and membership changes take effect immediately. Congrats to all!

ANTIETAM 160

The Homespun Waterloo (Antietam 160th) event was held 16~18 Sept. in Boonsboro, MD on the site of the original 2nd Corps field hospital. Our company (D) was led by Capt. McConnell and Lt. Parvis. Some photos from the event are shown below. More will be posted to the unit website and YouTube pages in due time. Stay tuned for more info.





FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

As we move into October it's time to start looking ahead to the final events of the year. First, I want to thank everyone who attended the 160th Antietam. It was a fantastic event! We captured a lot of great videos and photos which will be edited and uploaded to our Youtube channel and website in the near future. At the event, we voted Mike Espenshade's grandson, Brayden Thomas, and Paul Parvis into the unit as full members. We also promoted Matt Steger to probationary Sgt. and Mike Brumbaugh to probationary Cpl. Well deserved for all four of them!

Next up on the schedule will be the Millersville parade on October 8th and AHEC on the 15th & 16th. Remembrance Day is November 19th. Please let me know your intentions for each of these ASAP.

Nominations for Vice President and Treasurer are due for this year's election. For the record, Matt and Pete have each accepted my nomination for another term. If you wish to nominate someone, please speak with the individual to confirm they're interested and understand the expectations of the position BEFORE submitting the nomination to me. Nominations are due by November 1st.

Reminder; this year's business has been rescheduled to January 7th with a weather date of January 21st.

Thanks 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 are 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.) Dave Townsen, a fellow pard of mine in the old 83rd PVI, is selling off most of his CW gear. You can contact him directly at: grumpydave58@comcast.net with any inquiries about items, pricing, etc. He lives in Mechanicsburg and he has quality gear.

(3.) Kerry Williard is handling the selling of Dave Swigert items for Dave's wife. Marc and I met several months ago to look at the items, give them descriptions, and give approx. values. Several of the items have been sold yet some remain. The list is current as of 24 Jan. 2022. Contact Kerry directly with any and all inquiries: shamokin71@aol.com (see the updated list below)

Uniform Clothing	Item Description	Detailed Description	Price
1	Trouser - Steel Blue each with suspendors	34 min waist/27" inseam-avg. condx and a little dirt w/ braces no watch pck	\$25.00
1	DK Blue Vest Size 42	3 pockets - light wear	\$20.00
1	Colored Pattern Shirt	blue plaid with white china buttons - sun faded - good condx	\$10.00
1	White muslin Shirt	19" at shoulder 14" neck - very short in body length	\$5.00
1	White muslin Shirt	20" at shoulder 16" neck - very short in body length - cuffs are stained	\$5.00
1 pair	Woolen Grey Gloves	modern - right hand is fingerless	\$2.00
1	Underpants - Night Pants - White	36" waist - knee stains - 25" inseam white muslin - rear repair	\$3.00
1	Lt Brown Scarf - Acrylic - Modern		\$1.00
1	Havelock - White - VG condx		\$2.00
3 pairs	Grey Wool Socks - Modern		\$2.00/pr
2	Hats - Union & Confederate for cchildren		\$1.00
Accoutrements			
1	Scabbord - Late war 7 Rivet		\$15.00
1	Gum Blanket	some cracking with oversized grommets	\$20.00
1	Shelter Tent - Both Halves - Heavy Canvas w/Loops w/Mildew		\$35.00
1	Bag of 7 wooden Tent Stakes w/Rope		\$3.00
1	Grey Smooth Face Canteen - Leather Sling Satinette Cover w/ Corded Stopper		\$20.00
1	Haversack - Tarred Black - Brittle Strap w/opwn seam		\$5.00
1	Haversack - Tarred Black w/Liner- Paint peeling Holes @ Strap Connection		\$10.00
1	Grey Smooth Face Canteen - Leather Sling Satinette Cover w/ Corded Stopper		\$20.00
Misc. Items			
1 can	sno-seal (half full)		\$1.00
1	Wood Mirror - Haversack filler	sliding cover	\$3.00
1	Wood Comb - Haversack filler		\$1.00
1	Wooden button board		\$1.00
2	Coin Purses - Made from Tic Material		\$1.00/ea
1	Bag with Coffee	brown coffee	\$1.00/ea
1	shoe lace - undied		\$0.25/ea
2	Soap Bar		\$1.00/ea
6 1/2	Wax Candles		\$0.25/ea
1	pocket sharpenig stone	new	\$2.00
1	box rifle cleaning kit	pads, steel wool, rags, etc	\$5.00
3	match boxes w/ matches		\$0.25/ea
1 Pair	shoe tree		\$3.00
1	Green Army Duffle Bag		\$3.00
1	drawers for use as patches		\$1.00
Armaments			
1	1861 Springfield Rifle - Armi Sport		\$900.00

2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



15 January - Holiday Party - Gettysburg
5 February - Winter Drill - Landis Valley (ELF and Sykes Regulars invited)
26-27 February - NR School of Instruction (Gettysburg)
23 April - Robesonia
21 May - Cartridge Rolling Party (Kleinfeltersville)
30 May - Memorial Day Parade (Hummelstown)
11-12 June - Gruber Wagon Works Living History (Reading)
16-17 July - Landis Valley Civil War Days (Lancaster) - NR Camp of Instruction **MAX EFFORT**
16-18 September - 160th Antietam Reenactment (NR) **MAX EFFORT**
8 October - Millersville Parade
15-16 October - USAHEC Army Heritage Days - Carlisle **MAX EFFORT**
19 November - Remembrance Day (Gettysburg) - NR Annual Meeting and Parade
7 January - Annual Meeting (Kleinfeltersville) - NEW DATE!
14 January - Holiday Party/Dinner - Gettysburg

Secondary schedule -

1-3 April - Shiloh (as the 22nd LA) - Cancelled
21-22 May - Old Town, MD - ANV/USV
5-7 August - Slaughter on the Mountain (Culpepper, VA)
15-16 October - Cedar Creek Reenactment (NR)

For updated event info and other news, please check out the Facebook pages of the 53rd PVI and/or the National Regiment (links below).

53rd PVI Contacts

President: Eric Ford (reenactor53@gmail.com)
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53rd PVI Website: <http://www.53rdpvi.org>
2022 Field Officers - Sergeants: Mark Fasnacht, Marc Benedict, Matthew Steger. Corporals: Mike Espenshade & Michael Brumbaugh
53rd PVI Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/53rdPVI>
National Regiment Phone line: 800-777-1861 (code 61)
National Regiment Website: <https://www.thenationalregiment.com>
National Regiment Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/842904089142263>

