

53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry

Company C

"The Sentinel" February 2024

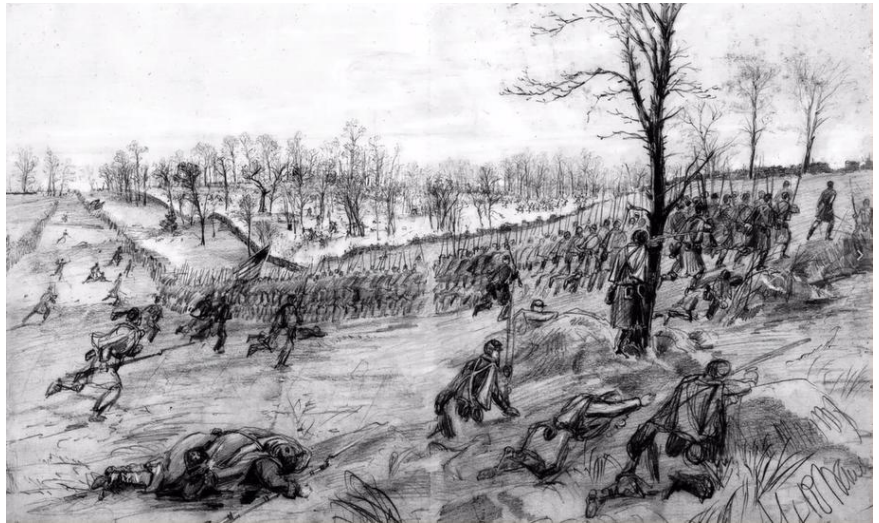
Newsletter of The James Creek Guards



"Clubs Are Trumps!"

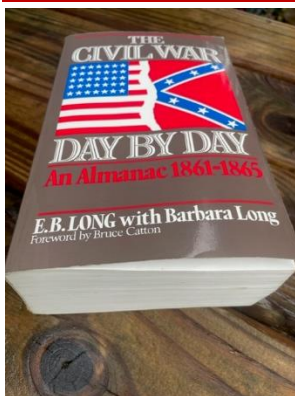
This Month:

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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

BOOK REVIEW: THE CIVIL WAR – DAY BY DAY – AN ALMANAC



Author: E. B. Long

Reviewed by: Michael Espenshade

Paperback; 1971; DA Capo Publications; total 1135 pp. (weighs 4 pounds); 0 pictures, 8 maps, 698 pages of day-by-day events [Nov 1, 1860 – May 31, 1865], 30 pp Special Studies, 110 pp Bibliography, 297 pp Index by dates and Index to the Special Studies. \$5 from a used book stand.

This almanac is the encyclopedia of the American Civil War. E. B. Long has labored to create, bless his heart, a serious comprehensive compilation of what happened from a military, political, and foreign relations standpoint relative to the conflict. 1135 pp (in small print).

Read this book if you wish to be humbled by the vast expanse of knowledge that the author has tapped to gather and present this information. He also had many of the prominent experts of his day contribute to and review this work for best data inclusion. I am impressed this is not a historians' reflection – as many books are - but an expertly arranged collection of facts that is most useful as reference tool.

The Special Studies section is especially valuable as a statistical summation/explanation of all key aspects of the war from military, social, demographic, economic, agricultural, and other aspects not usually covered in other sources. I did not realize that Missouri had the 3rd highest number of military actions (ranging from "battles" down to minor skirmishes) incidents with 1162, preceded by Virginia (#1 with 2154) and Tennessee (#2 with 1462). Most daily entries note of some kind of activity in Missouri, happenings in the western theatre, a comment on Lincoln or Davis correspondence, and the occasional news from the naval campaigns.

An example of the day-by-day here from a low-activity day:

“May 27, 1862 Tuesday

As Banks crossed the Potomac at Williamsport, Jackson began to push northward again, towards Harper’s Ferry. He skirmished at Loudan Heights. Near Richmond there was fighting at Slash Church, White Oaks, and Hanover Courthouse. Near Corinth, Miss., minor fighting continued, with skirmishing on Bridge Creek. In Missouri, there was a skirmish at Monagan Springs near Osceola, and in Arkansas at Indian Creek in White County. An expedition operated from Searcy Landing to West Point, Searcy, and Bayou des Arc, Ark. Excitement continued high in the North, particularly in New York, over Jackson’s successes in the Shenandoah.”

I offer this important book out for rent for the ridiculously low price of \$35.10/month, proceeds to be donated to the John Heiser retirement fund.

WINSLOW HOMER SOUVENIR CARD

Noted American artist Winslow Homer (1836 ~ 1910) created a series of drawings entitled “Life In Camp” originally published circa 1864 by L. Prang & Co. The series was exhibited in “The Civil War in America” at the Library of Congress in 2013. This image is entitled “Drummer”.



ABOUT UNION GENERAL WILLIAM ROSECRANS

Clay Hoffman, May 26, 2023, blueandgrayeducation.org



Portrait of Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans, officer of the Federal Army | LOC

The story of William Starke Rosecrans is a long and interesting one.

An 1842 graduate of West Point, William Starke Rosecrans returned to his alma mater a year later to serve as an engineering instructor. Although the academy was a bastion of Protestantism, he became a Roman Catholic in 1845, developing a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, as evidenced by his personal letters. Carrying a crucifix on his watch chain and a rosary in his pocket, Rosecrans readily professed his love of Catholicism, and enjoyed staying up at night, debating religious doctrine. His spiritual example inspired the conversion of his younger brother, Sylvester Rosecrans, who later became the first Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio.

After resigning from the Army in 1854, Rosecrans had success as an inventor and businessman, and just days after the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter in 1861, he offered his services to Ohio governor William Dennison. Assigned as aide-de-camp to Maj. Gen. George McClellan, he soon was promoted to colonel, and after briefly commanding the 23rd Ohio Infantry Regiment—whose members included Rutherford B Hayes and William McKinley—he was appointed a brigadier general in the regular Army. Following successful commands at the Battle of Rich Mountain and the Battle

of Corrick’s Ford in western Virginia during the summer of 1861, Rosecrans was credited with

outmaneuvering Confederate brigadier general John B. Floyd and his superior, Gen. Robert E. Lee, from recapturing the area. Despite assuming leadership of the Department of Western Virginia, Rosecrans became unpopular with General McClellan and Secretary of War Edward Stanton, leading to the removal of thousands of men from his command and temporarily stalling his career.



A romantic image of Rosecrans at Murfreesboro, January 2, 1863 | LOC

After being transferred in May 1862 to the Western Theater, he assumed leadership of two divisions of the Army of the Mississippi. Having been critical to the Union victory at the Siege of Corinth, Mississippi, in the spring of 1862, he was granted command of the entire Army of the Mississippi, as well as the District of Corinth, and, in these roles, became the subordinate of Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant.

In September 1862, while seeking to halt the advance of the Confederate Army of the West, Grant deployed two armies at Iuka, Mississippi—Rosecrans’s Army of the Mississippi and the Army of the Tennessee, commanded by Gen. Edward Ord. Although Ord planned to attack in conjunction with Rosecrans, a “purported” acoustic shadow suppressed the sound of war and prevented Ord’s men from realizing the battle had begun. After an afternoon of fierce fighting, entirely by Rosecrans’s forces, the enemy withdrew. A month later, at the Battle of Corinth, General Rosecrans defeated a Confederate army for the second time. Despite being portrayed as a hero in the Northern press, he was criticized by General Grant for perceived tactical errors.

Next, he was appointed leader of the Army of the

Cumberland and, in January 1863, at Battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, he commanded a hard-fought Union victory, with the highest percentage of casualties occurring on both sides of any major battle of the war. During the following summer, he led what is regarded by historians as a brilliant maneuver during the ten-day Tullahoma Campaign, driving the Confederates out of Middle Tennessee and threatening the strategic city of Chattanooga.

In September 1863, Rosecrans’s impressive string of successful commands came to a disastrous end at the Battle of Chickamauga, which was the first major battle fought in Georgia, and the most significant Union defeat in the Western Theater. Only the Battle of Gettysburg had more casualties.

Following his military career, General Rosecrans served as Minister to Mexico, and was elected U.S. Representative of California’s first Congressional district. He died on March 11, 1898, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



Rosecrans later in life | public domain

2024 ANNUAL DINNER/PARTY SUMMARY

On Saturday 13 January, the 53rd PVI held its annual dinner/party at the Dobbin House in Gettysburg. We were also joined by some of our fellow ELF parads and 53rd PVI alumni. We had 39 attendees which was the largest 53rd PVI party I have even been a part of. Grayson Mullen, guests of the 53rd PVI along with his wife, gave a presentation about how he found the 53rd PVI and why we were gifted the original 1864 Springfield which belonged to a member of the original 95th PVI. Mike Espenshade also gave a presentation on his research and work at the Hummelstown Cemetery and the Civil War burials there. After a fine evening in the Abigail Adams room, we then relocated down to the Spring Tavern for more camaraderie. Thanks to VP Pete Zinkus for, once again, organizing the annual dinner/party.

Some photos from the party (courtesy of Traci Ford and Jason McConnell):







ELECTION RESULTS

At the annual party/dinner, the election committee chairman (Pete Zinkus) announced the results of the recent election -

President: Eric Ford

1st Sgt: Matthew Steger

2nd Sgt: Marc Benedict

1st Corporal: Mike Espenshade

2nd Corporal: Mike Brumbaugh

UPCOMING EVENTS

10 February - Winter Drill - Our annual winter drill will be held at Landis Valley Museum [**note the new date!**]. Please arrive by 9AM. A fire will be going prior to that if you'd like a cup of hot coffee ahead of time. We plan on covering a wide range of topics to help get the rust off in preparation for the 2024 season. If there is a specific topic that you'd like covered, please let Matt or Eric know asap so that we can plan. We will be joined by some of our ELF pads. Bring lunch as well as your normal kit (leathers, rifle, etc.). No tentage or rounds needed. Dress warmly as some drill will be held outside, weather permitting; other parts of our training schedule will also be housed inside. Also, if your gear (knapsack, leathers, etc.) does not have your soldier number stenciled, we will also be doing that.

2~3 March – National Regiment School Of Instruction – Held at the Gettysburg Firehouse on N. Stratton Street. Open to all NR members. Numerous good training topics are covered each year. Stay tuned for the schedule as we get closer to the event. It will likely be posted to the NR Facebook page. 53rd PVI members who attend get their entrance fee paid by the unit. Please let Matt and Eric know ASAP if you plan on attending. Breakfast and lunch are provided on Saturday. Breakfast is provided on Sunday. After we are done at the firehouse on Sunday morning, our very own John Heiser will lead us on a tour of Culp's Hill.

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.) I have a C&D Jarnagin size 46 federal enlisted frock coat for sale. Still in great condition. Email me with any questions/inquiries: n3ntj@outlook.com

(2.) Kerry Williard is handling the sale of Dave Swigert items for Dave's wife. Marc and I assembled an inventory list with approximate values. Some items remain. The list is current as of 21 July 2023. 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

2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 13 January - Holiday Party - Dobbin House
- 10 February - Winter Drill - Landis Valley (note the new date!!)
- 2~3 March – NR School Of Instruction - Gettysburg
- 6~7 April - NR Camp of Instruction - Gruber Wagon Works (Federal Alliance)*
- 4~5 May - 160th Wilderness: Spotsylvania, VA*
- 4 May - POSA Living History - Robesonia, PA
- 18 May - Lancaster Cemetery Flag-in event
- 27 May - Hummelstown Memorial Day Parade
- 20~21 July - Landis Valley
- 14~15 Sept. - Gettysburg Living History - PA Monument
- 19~20 Oct. - 160th Cedar Creek - Middletown, VA*
- 16 Nov. - Remembrance Day – Gettysburg, PA



*NR max effort events

For updated event info and other news, please check out the Facebook pages of the 53rd PVI and/or the National Regiment (links below) and check your email on a regular basis

53rd PVI Contacts

President: Eric Ford (reenactor53@gmail.com)

Vice President: Pete Zinkus (zinkusp@gmail.com)

Treasurer/Secretary: Matthew Steger (n3ntj@outlook.com)

Newsletter Editor: Matthew Steger (n3ntj@outlook.com)

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

53rd PVI Website: <http://www.53rdpvi.org>

2024 Field Officers - Sergeants: Matthew Steger (1st) & Marc Benedict.

Corporals: Mike Espenshade (1st) & 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>

