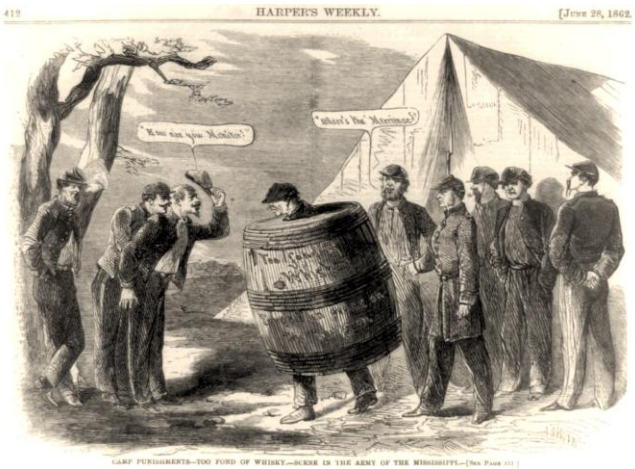
Company C
53rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry

"The Sentinel" November 2026

Newsletter of The James Creek Guards "Clubs Are Trumps!"

This Month:

1. The Andersonville Diary of Charles Wesley Homsher
2. Original Letter – 1863: Charles F. Smith to George and Maggie Smith
3. Book Review: All Hell Can't Stop Them
4. Benjamin Cushing Diary – October 1864
5. Seminary Ridge Living History
6. Unit Election
7. Bylaws Proposal
8. Upcoming Events
9. The Civil War Merchant
10. 2026 Calendar of Events
11. 53rd PVI Contact Info



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 futured edition of "The Sentinel". – Matthew Steger, editor

THE ANDERSONVILLE DIARY OF CHARLES WESLEY HOMSHER

Robert S. Davis | July 6, 2026 | Blue and Gray Education Society

The 5th Indiana Cavalry (90th Indiana Infantry) met an inglorious end. Over the course of the Civil War, the regiment fought and campaigned hard in twenty-two engagements against such Confederate notables as John Morgan and Nathan Bedford Forrest. On July 30–31, 1864, during the Stoneman Raid in central Georgia, it was ordered to hold Sunshine Church at all costs against General Joseph Wheeler's cavalry.

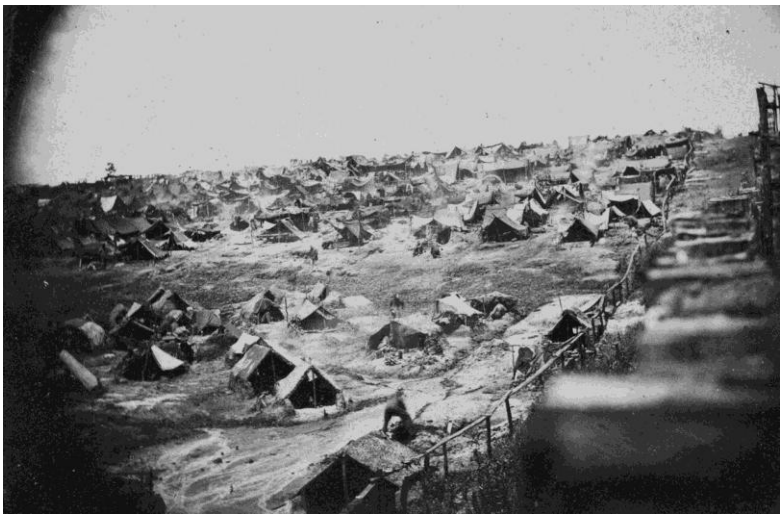
Surrounded and cut off, the 5th Indiana was surrendered. The 440 men who did not escape were sent to the infamous Camp Sumter prison at Andersonville, Georgia. Although they were supposed to be exchanged in September, General William T. Sherman's failure to provide enough Confederate prisoners for exchange sent hundreds of them back to Andersonville instead. Many diaries and memoirs survive from the Civil War prison experience, including that of Charles Wesley Homsher (February 27, 1839–September 23, 1893), a member of Company H, 5th Indiana Cavalry. Born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Homsher left behind a vivid account of captivity. Excerpts from his diary are preserved among the 3.6 million items in the collections of the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, whose holdings document the experiences of both Union and Confederate soldiers. A transcript is in the Library of Congress.

Homsher wrote that he and his fellow prisoners first marched four miles to confinement in a mule pen before being forced some twenty miles through the Clinton battlefield to Macon, surviving on whatever hardtack they had saved and ears of raw corn. In Macon, women lined the streets to jeer at the prisoners, while Confederate guards stripped them of anything valuable despite the terms of their surrender.

At Andersonville, Homsher wrote of getting by. The rations were insect-infested corn, meat, and peas, cooked in a makeshift pot fashioned from a piece of hammered tin and borrowed from a fellow prisoner. They robbed the dead of clothes, traded with the guards, and used the names of dead comrades to get extra rations.

Homsher and his comrades were later told they were finally being exchanged. Instead, they were transferred to Camp Lawton in Millen, Georgia, only to be sent back to Andersonville. When the war ended, they traveled by train to Savannah, then to Lake City, Florida. From there, they marched to nearby Jacksonville, Florida, where Homsher wrote of receiving food, clothing, and soap before taking a bath in the St. Johns River. He was officially paroled on April 28, 1865. Survivors took a ship to Annapolis, Maryland, then to Camp Chase, Ohio, and finally home.

One in every four soldiers of the 5th Indiana Cavalry captured at Sunshine Church did not survive captivity.



Andersonville Prison during the Civil War | NPS

ORIGINAL LETTER – 1863: CHARLES F. SMITH TO GEORGE & MAGGIE SMITH

(reprinted with permission)

The following letter was written by Charles F. Smith (1836-1928) who was enumerated in 1860 in the household of his brother George Smith (1828-1919) who had a farm near Unity, Westmoreland, Pennsylvania. George was married to Maggie M. Orr (1830-After 1900) of Limestone, Clarion County, Pennsylvania, in 1851.

A 1902 committee on pensions Senate Report claims that Charles entered the service on 9 September 1861 as 1st Sergeant of Co. K, 53rd Pennsylvania. He was subsequently promoted to 2nd Lieutenant and 1st Lieutenant. He mustered out in June 1865. He was wounded in the neck at Fredericksburg on 13 December 1862, and again in the lower jaw at Gettysburg on 2 July 1863. Readers are referred to the following articles pertaining to the 53rd Pennsylvania Infantry at Fredericksburg and at Gettysburg: "Our Men were Cut Down Like Grass: With the 53rd Pennsylvania at Marye's Heights" by Dan Masters, May 25, 2024 and "The 53rd Pennsylvania, Brooke's Brigade, and the Wheatfield," by Ty DeWitt.

This letter is from the personal collection of Greg Herr who made it available for transcription and publication on Spared & Shared by express consent.

Transcription

Headquarters 4th Brigade, 1st Division, 2nd Corps
[Warrenton Junction, Va.]
November 2nd 1863

Dear Brother & Sister,
Knowing that you are always anxious to hear from me although I do not or have not received a letter from you yet, knowing that our mails are very irregular and perhaps you have not received mine which I wrote long time ago soon after my return. Well, I am very well. Never felt better or more contented though plenty of work and frequent marching.

Our army seems destined to perform great marches, fight terrible battles with but little results apparently. In the Western Armies they have been more successful but why this is [is] the great question over which so many stumble, each writer giving a different answer. The opinion of our commanders and men generally on that question is that Lee commands the largest and best army of the South. He being without doubt the first General in America. Consequently the men are well handled, the fight terrible, the country—owing to its hills its river, and

natural fortifications to which is added all that modern engineering can produce, great minds are opposed to us. Generals of skill and energy which were they commanding our armies would make this war easy and soon closed.



I *could not find an image of Charles but here is a cdv of 1st Lt. Benjamin Jay Cushing of Co. G, 53rd Pennsylvania Infantry (Photo Sleuth)*

But we are confident that we have right on our side. Hence our confidence and determination. We all think that our General (Meade) will do wonders. He has proven himself to be a man for. the times. Since the organization of the Army of the Potomac, Gen. McClellan has been identified with it. As a Corps Commander, he [Meade] had no equals. And as for Gen. McClellan, I am done with him as far as Politics is concerned. The letter he wrote some time before the Pennsylvania Election will satisfy all men on the subject of right and wrong. He said he agreed with Mr. Woodward in every particular. Well now, Mr. Woodward is undoubtedly a Copperhead and the same conclusion we may make about our once favorite general. This is a hard pull for me, you know. The love I had for him as a man, not saying anything about him as a general for as the latter all the generals in this army think there is none better. His skill was unequal, we all firmly believe. But he was a young man and too much praise was lavished on him. This will ruin anyone and especially a young man. This is the hope we have of Gen. Meade. He is a man of 60, or nearly, very thoughtful and determined.

There is great excitement now about the old regiments enlisting for three years longer and as great many will enlist and have done so already, our regiment will go, you may be sure. I have put my name down. What do you think of it? Well, when we look at the matter cooly, we may as well enlist as go home and be drafted and then be obligated to come again in a much lower capacity and with not so much honor and respect. For my part, "My life for my country." I will sacrifice ease comfort and [ ] life if required. It's dear but this government must be preserved and ourlaws sustained. The opposition to our cause is great but the right must and will through the blessing of God be upheld.

We are now near Warrenton Junction. Our whole army is on a line with us and a forward movement is expected daily. We are ordered to have 15 days rations in haversack and wagon which will take us to the Rappahannock distance 25 miles. We have not the orders to march but no doubt will have by night. Yes, before this reaches you, we will be marching on the enemy but the probabilities of a battle is rather small from the fact that the Rebels will fall back as we approach and only attempt to defend their Capitol which they will succeed in doing for a time at least.

I have a good little horse—one that can jump anything in the shape of a fence and *stone walls* and such. You ought to see him. Then we have a roomy tent, only two of us. Capt. [Henry J.] Smith of our regiment is Act. A. D. C. at present. We live finely, have chicken, fresh pork, beef, mutton, &c. So you need not be anxious to our comfort in that respect. I must tell you that if our regiment enlists for three years longer, we will get home for 90 days to recruit to the number of 1,000 and if we do go, will start soon—say in two weeks or so.

I must close. Love to all the dear, cute children. Kiss them for me. How I do love them. How sorry I was to hear of the death of little Maggie. I hope your health and lives may be spared. Have you your corn husked yet? I know it must be good. Well, much love to all the friends. I am your brother, — Charles

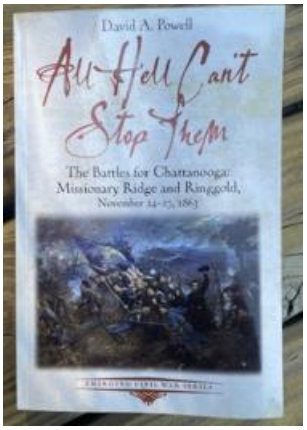
Remember me to Mr. and Mrs. Elan Nelson. B. is well and in fine spirits.

Address Lt. C. F. Smith, A. D. C., Col. [John R.] Brooke, Commanding 4th Brigade, 1st Division, 2nd Corps, Washington City, D. C.

BOOK REVIEW: ALL HELL CAN'T STOP THEM – THE BATTLES FOR CHATTANOOGA: MISSIONARY RIDGE AND RINGOLD – NOVEMBER 24-27, 1863

Emerging Civil War Series
Author – David A. Powell
Reviewed by Mike Espenshade

Paperback; 2018, 2023 Savas Beattie LLC; 160 pp text; 121 pictures, 8 maps, Driving Tour, 4 interesting Appendices, Order of Battle. Notes provided online. $16.95 from Amazon.



Grant started deploying his now-enlarged army facing east from Chattanooga against Bragg's defenses facing him from Missionary Ridge and adjacent Tunnel Hill to the north. In what began as a diversionary feint, Hooker's men took Lookout Mountain on November 24, 1863 forcing Bragg to consolidate his defensive position. That same morning Sherman's corps built a pontoon bridge and crossed the Tennessee river above Chattanooga to stage his assault on Tunnel Hill from the north the next day. Although surprising the Confederates, Sherman took most of the day (to Grants dismay) to array his troops before assaulting and taking Billy Goat Hill, mistakenly thinking it was Tunnel Hill. Giving the Rebels time to reinforce Tunnel hill, Sherman's men failed in a series of poorly coordinated and bloody assaults all day long on the 25th to take Tunnel Hill from CSA Gen Patrick Cleburne's men. By late afternoon, four divisions of Union infantry made their way eastward from the Orchard Knob area to assault the west face of Missionary Ridge.

Meanwhile, Hooker's men continued north from Lookout Mountain and pushed the Rebels northward past Rossville and well onto Missionary Ridge from the south. Bragg weakened his center to reinforce the southern and northern points of His Missionary Ridge Line just as Union Maj. Gen. George Thomas' infantry assaulted from the west against Bragg's center around 4:30 pm. Thomas pushed across the open fields to occupy the poorly defended trenches, along the foot of the ridge. "The impulse of victory" moved the men's hearts and without orders they "with one courage" scrambled up the steep slope with a loud cheer. Over 30 "V's" of blue infantry regiments followed their flags up the slope and took over the ridge top's incomplete breastworks, capturing thousands of Rebel prisoners and nearly 50 cannon. Pursuit of the completely routed Rebels down the eastern slope was called off due to darkness and disorganized (while jubilant!) Union formations. The Rebels on Tunnel Hill still held their positions and threatened a counterattack. Cleburne's men escaped eastward during the night towards Ringold Gap (12 miles to the southeast) to form a rearguard defense and buy enough time for Bragg's wrecked army to escape towards their railway center at Dalton Ga. On November 27, Hooker's men bravely assaulted Cleburne's well-planned Rebel defensive lines on wooded ridges and the Ringold Gap, but retreated after being unable to budge the Confederates. Cleburne had again saved Bragg.

The author does a very admirable job describing and condensing these battle actions - which are of course better detailed in heavier volumes done by other authors – but also including important, but less known actions. These include Union Cavalry Col. Eli Long's 1,500 man raid behind the lines November 24-27 that destroyed one of the Confederacy's last copper rolling mills at Cleveland, Tn. This caused serious stress on the Confederacy in their production of percussion caps and bronze field guns, limiting that production to a few mills located in North Carolina for the rest of the war.

The author also adds the nicely done Driving Tour into this handy volume in the ***Emerging Civil War Series***. The poorly preserved landscape all along Missionary Ridge, now nearly totally occupied by modern housing, is witnessed in this section of the book.

BENJAMIN CUSHING DIARY –

A few years back, I had started reprinting diary entries (month-by-month) of Benjamin Jay Cushing's diary. I am now picking it back up again in 1864. He was in Company G. [Note - Typos and other grammatical errors were left in place.]

Oct. 1 - Were called up at 4 oc this morning and went out on the line, laid til daylight when we were taken into Fort --- and the Paymaster came & we were paid. I recd. $94.00, Received of A.S.Orr 157,50 in payment of money lent him Feb. 23rd, 1864. Sent home by Express, or gave it to the paymaster to Exp. at W-n. Sent 867.00 for the Co. & 220.00 of my own money.

Oct. 2 - Nothing particular going on during the day, very rainy. Sunday Write to Emma & also to Henry Olmsted It is a very noisy day in camp for Sunday. Was assigned to the command of Co. H to date from Oct. 1st. `Had Co. inspection at 5 oc. Busy reading the Examiner when not writing. Reed. a letter from Henry 0-d containing 5.00 for R. Wood of Co. D.

Oct. 3 - Turned over a gun and equipments complete to Lieut Howel comdg. Co. E, by order of Lieut. Col. Mintrer Comdg, the Reg. Reading and writing during the day. Nothing particular going on today & very little picket firing. Have inspection of arms and ammunition every night at retreat.

Oct. 4 - Nothing particular going on during the day. A sharp fire commenced at dark and was kept up an hour or two. Artilery and mortars being used. No damage done us that I know of. The rebs cheered loudly. News is very scarce.

Oct. 5 - Nothing particular going on today. Hear that our forces are falling back to their old position on the left. Write home for Election Documents to enable me to vote at the coming Election. Co.

H. Drew clothing, Bis. 4, Pants 3 pr, Shoes 3 pr, Socks 6 pr, drawers 6,pr, tents 2 whole ones, One pr. Cav. pants. Write to Rmm a in the afternoon, Col. Brown came back but is General now.

Oct. 6 - Nothing particular going on today. Very quiet on the picketline. The Officers are busy making out their muster out papers. I receipted to Capt. Schreyer for the following camp and garrison equipage, 10 great coats straps, 19 knapsacks, 21 haversacks, 23 canteens, 2 drums complete, 1 batter head, 12* shelter tents, 1 clothing acct, book, 1 descriptive book, 1 order book.

Oct. 7 - Recd. a letter from Emma this morning. Busy reading or writing nearly all day. Have very pleasant times of late.

Oct. 8 - Busy In the forenoon bringing up things from the waggons. The afternoon passes away like all the rest reading or writing. All that we do is to drill one hour in the morning and nothing more.

Oct. 9 - Reed, a letter from Wilson & two from Ulysses. Busy reading,:, Sunday or writing during the day, had Sund. morning inspection. Very cold all day so that we needed a fire.

Oct. 10 - Got up early as usual at 4 oc and stand under arms til light, then drill from 6 until 7, then reading the news or writing.

Oct. 11 - Officer of the day this morning had charge of the daily police detail and had them clean up the camp as usual. Everything was got ready for Election. The polls were opened at 1 oc P.M. and kept open tit 4 oc:. Twenty five Potter men voted all Union. There has a grand exhibitiion of fireworks at dark, lasted about one hour. One shell struck on the fort°:d and several close by.

Oct. 12 - Get up as usual at 4 oc and get under arms. Stand til daylight then drill from 6 oc. til 74 The recruits drill from 10 oc: til 11 & also from 3 A.M, til 4. Nothing particular going on during; the day.

Oct. 13 -.Monthly inspection at 9 oc by a Corps Officer who was very strict in his inspection of arms & clothing. Get through about noon and inspect the books. We receive a few recruits occasionally. Made out the final statement & discharge of William L. Coston and sent away. Reading or singing in the evening. So passes, the soldier's life swiftly away and we can hardly see what it amounts to.

Oct. 14 - Drew a little clothing this morning, one for pants 2 blouses, Dr. 1 pr, one shirt, 2 pr shoes, 2 pr. socks, 1 piece tent. Reading-Tactics an& the News. Everything passes about as usual. Have a right down social time in the evening, singing etc. One of the Battery men wounded after dark by a stray ball. Got orders to pack up and get ready to move at once. After roll call went out on picket about 10 oc.

Oct. 15 - Busy writing and reading during the day. One of Co. G were wounded just at night and died a few hours after-. There had been no firing during the day of any amount & our boys thought they would not fire & young Goodwin exposed himself needlessly.

Oct. 16 - It is very quiet til 4 oc P.M. when four mules came in sight Sunday in the rear of us & the rebs commenced shooting at them whie:h started firing all along the lines. They wounded one of them. We could hear the bells= ringing in Petersburg for Church.

Oct. 17 - Busy reading or writing during the day. There is more firing than there has been before since we came on the line. Reed, a letter from Emma. Have very pleasant weather and beautiful moon light nights, Write to Emma in the afternoon. James Ryan had his leg broken by accident, sent to Hospt.

Oct 18 - Nothing particular going on. Slept nearly all the forenoon. We have to be up a good share of the night and make it up in the day time. Have a great deal of leisure time while on picket, which is devoted to reading when we can get anything to read.

Oct. 19 - Spend the forenoon sharpshooting with the rebbels, visiting in the afternoon with L. Merrill & Roger Whipple. Were relieved in the evening and came back to the Bombproofs and. staid all night.

Oct. 20 - Half the Reg. sent out on fatigue. Write to Emma in the forenoon. Reading in the afternoon & writing in the Co. books. Fill out;, a descriptive List. Receive notice in the evening that I am to go on fatigue at 5 oc tomorrow morning.

Oct. 21 - Got up at 3 oc and ate breakfast. Went with the fatigue party back about 3 miles. & cut 30 wagon loads of poles. Got back at Sundown. Ate supper and went to bed as soon as dark. Was waked at 9 oc & was notified that I would be on fatigue tomorrow.

Oct. 22 - Got up at 5 & went out with the detail. Went only to the Engineers and found that they did not want any more poles. Came back to camp and found a letter from Emma. Writing in the. forenoon. Received notice in evening that I was to report at 6 oc in the morning for fatigue.

Oct. 23 - Started at 6 oc for the woods, every man had to go from orderly Sunday Sergts, to cooks & drummers. Was out til sundown. Came in tired and hungary. Had a- good supper of Ham & excellent boiled potatoes. Could hardly make it seem like Sunday to myself.

Oct. 24 - Doing nothing in particular but reading all day. The Reg. all went out on fatigue again. Get orders to pack up and be ready to move at dark. Fell in and moved about 1* miles to the left and lay all night on the RR track.

Oct. 25 - Waked at 4 oc and moved into the main line of works and lay during the day. The Book boxes were brought up and I put a tent for myself. Got orders after dark to have the baggage carried back to the RR bridge at 4 oc in the morning so tore down and packed up.

Oct. 26 - Waked at 4 oc and stand under arms til light. Slept nearly all the forenoon. The Reg. was divided up and the companies stretched along the line for nearly a mile. Received my discharge from the Service as an enlisted man. Went on picket after dark. There was some firing during the night.

Oct. 27 - Lay in the pits all day, went out for-supper. The pickets do not fire in the day time at this point & the boys run in and out when they please. There is very sharp firing in the evening & nearly all night. There was an attack made by the 148th Reg. they captured a few prisoners but could not hold the works. Rained nearly all night and was very muddy.

Oct. 28 - It has cleared off and looks pleasant. Everything is all mud. Went over to the Capts. Hed. Qts. and got breakfast. Reed. a letter from Emma. Laying quiet nearly all day, a little picket firing in afternoon. Went after my supper at dark. Clear pleasant evening.

Oct. 29 - A new set of pickets came on & we could get no agreement out of them not to fire & could not go after watter or wood after day light. Kupp of Co. B was wounded & died in the afternoon.
One of Co. E shot his finger off, either purposely or accidently, We went out after dark for watter & wood, considerable firing,: after dark,,

Oct. 30 - Went out at 4 oc for my breakfast. We can have no truce today Sunday as the rebs will not stopp firing. Reed. two letters in the afternoon. Some picket firing going on during the day. The.= relief came around at 11 oc P.M. Marched back to the fort & the men packed up their tents and we marched back two or three miles, laid down and slept an hour or two & got up and traveled a little farther.

Oct. 31 - Were mustered today for two months pay. Moved in the afternoon a short distance & went into camp in regular order, and put up tents. Went to sleep very early and slept all night very sound, the first whole nights rest I've had in a long time.

Editor's Note: In the Oct. 5th entry above, you will notice a mention of "election documents". This would be the first time that PA service members in the field would be permitted to vote in state and national elections. Prior to 1864, PA did not permit those in the army and navy to vote in these elections unless they were in their home district. Of course, this requirement was very unlikely to be met for men in the army. PA Supreme Court Chief Justice George Woodward (also running on the Democrat side for PA Governor in 1864 against Republican Andrew Curtin) had ruled in 1863 (in *Chase v. Miller*) that service members had to be in their home districts for 10 days prior to an election in order to cast ballots. This ruling obviously was not popular amongst men in the service and others. Republicans quickly introduced a Constitutional Amendment in 1863 to address this issue and it passed in the 1862~1863 and 1864~1865 PA Legislative sessions. It then came up for a popular vote in August 1864 and easily passed by a 2-to-1 margin amongst PA voters. So, for the PA Governors race (held Oct. 11th, 1864), PA soldiers and sailors could finally vote. You will also notice that non-Federal elections were held the 2nd Tuesday of Oct. Many states held their elections on dates different than the '1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November' rule that was used for Federal elections and still used today. PA changed our election date in the 1870s. I cover these topics in my upcoming book about the Civil War.

SEMINARY RIDGE LIVING HISTORY EVENT SUMMARY

The unit held its first living history event at the Seminary Ridge Museum in Gettysburg on Oct. 3rd and 4th. Saturday's weather ended up being dry after a short early morning pre-sunrise spritz. We did multiple rounds of drill and firing for the crowd on Saturday including bayonet drill. We were also surprised to get a gift of apples, cheese, bread, hard-boiled eggs, and soft butter from Annette from the Seminary on Saturday. We had various groups of spectators come and see us including a Boy Scout troop. Sunday was somewhat damp with some light mist on and off during the day. However, we were visited by Garry Adelman (chief historian of the American Battlefield Trust) and his tour from the Center For Civil War Photography, of which, Garry is one of their leaders. They visited our camp and got to talk to quite a few of them including Garry (who posted photos with us on his 100k+ followers on his various Facebook pages) amongst them authors Carolyn Ivanoff (and her fellow-NR member husband Nick) and Ron Coddlington. We also had a visit from NR Lt. Colonel Mark Adler. The museum told me that their Saturday attendance numbers appeared to be higher than average, hopefully due to our event. Rusty and Kellen set up their medical display near the front of Schmucker Hall and had a good stream of visitors as well. We also got tours of the Seminary Cupola Saturday and Sunday.

Attending from the 53rd PVI were: Sgts. Steger and Benedict, Corporal Espenshade, Privates Thomas and Fasnacht, and the already-mentioned Surgeon Capt. Dicks and Hospital Steward Klee. We were also joined by our pards from the 1st MD, Sykes Regulars, 1st PA Reserves Co. K, and the 7th PA Reserves Co H. We were also visited by former member John Heiser and Annabelle as well as Russ Wunker who brought an impressive collection of original 95th PA items to show us. Photos by your author except for the last 2 which was taken by Garry Adelman and a member of the CCWP group member posted to Garry's FB pages. Also, Noel Kline from the Seminary took a large number of photos of us and posted them at his Facebook page… check them out here:
https://www.facebook.com/noelkline.teresakline/posts/pfbid03XyKJusaoGpNgKgXMrNxQUdRGRq2ZEribVD2cb38kEKCM7stuy9GbR8zuTHTNxLel

















UNIT ELECTION

This year, the civil officer positions of Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer are up for election. Last call…please submit your nominations via email to President Alec Bohnenblust (pntbll499@gmail.com) by Oct. 31st. Before submitting your nomination, please contact whomever you'd like to nominate and ensure that that person is willing to accept your nomination to help serve the unit. Per the by-laws, an election committee consisting of 3 members (not including any person on the ballot) will be formed at the annual meeting by the President and then ballots will be issued to members.

BY-LAWS CHANGE PROPOSAL

We have a new proposed change to the by-laws submitted by Eric Ford to consider. It falls under **Section 1 Membership** paragraph 5 and reads as follows (the proposed language change is in RED):

5. A new probationary member must serve a probationary period of, at least, six months. A former member rejoining the unit will be considered a probationary member. ~~New~~ Probationary members should be diligent on attending as many events as possible during their probationary period as a way of showing their commitment to the unit and the hobby in order to be given consideration for full membership status. During this time, new members should complete the purchase of a regulation Federal Infantryman's uniform and Accouterments.

Per the current by-laws, this proposal will be published in 3 consecutive editions of the unit newsletter (beginning in this edition) and then discussed and voted on by the membership at the annual meeting in December.

We also have various other by-laws change proposals to discuss that I (your secretary) submitted to the membership earlier this year and were already published 3 times with no comments or objections submitted. These proposals were not yet voted on by the membership; this will be done at the upcoming annual meeting in December.

UPCOMING EVENTS

14 November – National Regiment Annual Meeting/Remembrance Day Parade – Gettysburg – The NR's unit reps and the NR Board of Directors meet to discuss the 2026 season and the upcoming 2027 (and 2028) list of events, etc. Afterwards, the NR participates in the annual Remembrance Day Parade through town. If you plan on marching in the Parade, please let Eric or myself know ASAP. **The Parade is an NR Max Effort.**

5 December – 53rd PA Annual Meeting – Beginning promptly at 9:30 AM. Mark Fasnacht has once again agreed to host our meeting in Kleinfeltersville. Please arrive no later than 9:15AM. We will

discuss the 2026 season, 2027 events, a review of the NR's annual meeting (including the NR's 2027 schedule), treasurer's report, proposed by-laws changes, annual party/dinner, unit election (see below),

etc. Please plan on bringing an item to share for lunch after the meeting. Please RSVP with Mark so he knows how many are attending and what you plan to bring to share for lunch. Mark's home is on the corner of Heidelberg and Millbach Roads. Parking is in the rear lot of the Trinity United Methodist Church which is across Millbach Road just a little north of Mark's home. You can use the Kleinfeltersville post office address in your GPS if needed: 2657 Heidelberg Ave, Kleinfeltersville, PA 17039. Mark lives across the street from the post office. His home is a light-colored 2 story with red roof.

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. 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 April 2025. This is not the unit's quartermaster, but a separate list of items that Kerry is selling for the Swigart estate. Contact Kerry directly with all inquiries: shamokin71@aol.com (see the updated list below)

Quanity	Item Description	Detailed Description	Price
Uniform Clothing			
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	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
1 pairs	Grey Wool Socks -Modern		$2.00/pr
2	Hats - Union & Confederate for children		$1.00
Accoutrements			
1	Scabbord -Late war 7 Rivet		$15.00
1	Gum Blanket	some cracking with oversized grommets	$20.00
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
2	Soap Bar		$1.00/ea
1	box rifle cleaning kit	pads, steel wool, rags, etc	$5.00
1 Pair	shoe tree		$3.00
1	Green Army Duffle Bag		$3.00
1	drawers for use as patches		$1.00

2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

7 January – Annual Party/Banquet – Dobbin House (Gettysburg)
21~22 February – NR School of Instruction – Gettysburg – 53rd Max Effort
14 March – Cartridge Rolling Party – Kleinfeltersville
17~19 April – NR Camp of Instruction (Ft. McHenry) – 53rd Max Effort
15~17 May – Bull Run Re-enactment – Brandy Station (NR)
25 May – Hummelstown Memorial Day Parade
14 June – Hummelstown – America 250th Living History
8~9 August – Landis Valley "America 250 Celebration: Military Days" – 53rd Max Effort
29~30 Aug. – Altoona (Baker Mansion)
19 Sept. – 3rd MD Living History at Antietam
3~4 October – Seminary Ridge Museum Living History – 53rd Max Effort
7~11 October – Bulltown, WV. Organized by the 116th PA (NR)
17~18 October – Cedar Creek Re-enactment
14 November – NR Annual Meeting and Remembrance Day Parade (NR)
5 December – 53rd PVI Annual Meeting - Kleinfeltersville



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: Alec Bohnenblust **(pntbll499@gmail.com)**
Vice President: Jacob Dicks (**jdwarrior@yahoo.com**)
Treasurer/Secretary: Matthew Steger (**n3ntj@outlook.com)**
Newsletter Editor: Matthew Steger (**n3ntj@outlook.com**)
Webmasters: Matthew Steger (**n3ntj@outlook.com**) and Steve Dillon (**steve@gofoxpro.com)**
53rd PVI Website: **https://www.53rdpvi.org**
2026 Field Officers: Sergeants: Matthew Steger (1st Sgt.) & Marc Benedict
Corporals: Mike Espenshade & Mike Brumbaugh
53rd PVI Private Facebook Page: **https://www.facebook.com/groups/53rdPVI**
53rd PVI Public Facebook Page**:** **https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61586734625435**
National Regiment Website: **https://www.thenationalregiment.com**
National Regiment Facebook page: **https://www.facebook.com/groups/842904089142263**

