



## The Second NJ Brigade

New Jersey's Civil War Brigade

Spring, 2023  
Volume 9, Issue 1

The Second NJ Brigade is a 501c non profit organization. The board meets once a month and is represented by members of all Impressions. The Executive Board: President Mike Milling, Vice President Matt Belcastro, Treasurer Steff Poli-Zilinski, Secretary Abby Belcastro.

# THE ADVANCE



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# 2023 Schedule of Events

## **Training Camp – Morristown, NJ**

April 15 – 16

We're back at Fosterfields this year! Come shake the dust off and have a great week-end of camaraderie, easy drills, and an artillery tutorial for anyone who wants to learn how to work the cannon. Camp setup can start on Friday, April 14 after 2 pm.

Program Coordinator: Matt Belcastro – banshee1967@aol.com

## **East Jersey Old Town – Piscataway, NJ**

April 28 – 30

NEW! PAID EVENT! Hosted by the 3rd NJ, we've been invited to participate in a new living history event! Includes musket demonstrations, a tintype photographer on site, AND period baseball game for all reenactors to participate in. The Brigade will be using the money raised by this event to fund our scholarship account. Max participation by all impressions is encouraged.

Program Coordinator: Greg Belcastro – bel1865@aol.com

## **Milford Historical Society – Milford, PA**

May 20

We will be partnering with the 142nd PA again for a living history at the Columns Mansion in Milford. We will be showcasing the 114 PA Zouave impression for this event. If you don't have one, you're still welcome to come, but if you have a Zouave uniform, please come dressed in that impression.

Program Coordinator: Ron Syme – rsyme02@gmail.com

## **Memorial Day Parade – Jamesburg NJ**

May 31st

Annual parade in which we march with the artillery to thank Jamesburg for their continued loan of the cannon.

Program Coordinator: Tim Rack – timlin33@hotmail.com

## **Gettysburg Annual Reenactment – Gettysburg, PA**

June 24 – 26

This event is by reenactors for reenactors, with any surplus funds raised by the event to be donated to the Battlefield Trust. There will be spectators for this, as well as an authenticity Civilian camp. Anyone looking to go must make sure they have an authentic kit. More information can be found on their website: <https://www.thepcwa.org/reenactor-information/>

Program Coordinator: Matt Belcastro – banshee1967@aol.com

## **Randolph 4th of July Parade – Randolph, NJ**

July 2nd

PAID EVENT! Annual parade in which we march through the town of Randolph, followed by our annual 4th of July Picnic at the O'Grady's.

Program Coordinator: Greg Belcastro – bel1865@aol.com



# 2023 Schedule of Events, Cont.

## Milford Historical Canal Lock Day – Milford, PA

August 19

NEW! We'll be reenacting the skirmish of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal. The scenario will take place around the lock and across the river. More information to come as Ron receives it from the Historical Society.

Program Coordinator: Ron Syme – [rsyme02@gmail.com](mailto:rsyme02@gmail.com)

## Old Wall Historical Society – Wall Twp. NJ

October 21

This will be a one-day event this year, with a living history on the museum's lawn.

Program Coordinator: Abby Belcastro – [abbyale21@gmail.com](mailto:abbyale21@gmail.com)

## Fosterfields Reenactment – Morristown, NJ

November 4 – 5

We'll be reenacting the Battle of Coffee Hill. This program is open to all impressions and will be our biggest event of the year. We encourage everyone in the brigade to make this event a priority and to try to attend. This event is also open to other companies in all impressions. If you know of companies who would be interested in participating, please have them reach out to Captain Matt for more information.

Program Coordinator: Matt Belcastro – [banshee1967@aol.com](mailto:banshee1967@aol.com)

## Remembrance Day – Gettysburg, PA

November 18

Annual monument ceremony, followed by the Gettysburg parade. 2D will be marching as Veteran Reserve Corps.

Program Coordinator: Matt Belcastro – [banshee1967@aol.com](mailto:banshee1967@aol.com)

Other programs may be added as requests come in through the website. Stay tuned!



# Annual Dues Reminder

## Why Dues?

The Brigade provides insurance for all active members to participate in our programs, both the ones sponsored by us, and those sponsored by other organizations.

Essentially, dues allow our members to legally reenact on other organizations' properties, so it's very important to make sure your dues are up to date!

While dues don't completely cover the cost of our insurance policy, dues help offset it so the brigade can use the money we make from donations and programs to put towards things like new equipment, cooking demonstrations, and charitable donations to Civil War causes.

## What Constitutes a Household?

A household is any group of people residing in the same residence.

A friendly reminder to anyone who hasn't yet paid their dues, to pay them!

\$35 per household:

Checks can be made out to 2D NJ Brigade and sent to our Treasurer at:  
Steff Poli-Zilinski  
741 Limecrest Rd.  
Newton, NJ 07860

OR

Pay online via our paypal account: located on the website under "members only"

A Big Thank You to all our membership who attended the All-Hands Meeting in January and/or already paid their dues!



# Guest Scholar

## Ross Hetrick, President of the Thaddeus Stevens Society

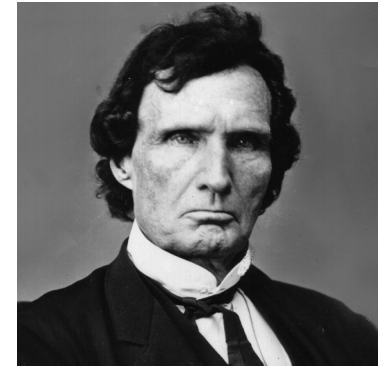
On January 7, a group of volunteers cut through a thicket of prickly bushes and vines in Brownsville, PA near Chambersburg to reveal a great historic treasure. A treasure that links Thaddeus Stevens to the Underground Railroad and the service of Black soldiers in the struggle against slavery. The treasure was a long neglected graveyard that contained several tombstones of members of the United States Colored Troops who fought in the Civil War. One of the most prominent of these markers was for Alexander Raimier, who died in 1898 at age 82 and served in Company C 25th U.S. Colored Troops. The headstone is very handsome with a floral engraving at the top. Delving more into his background, it was discovered that the place of his burial is the Raimier Family Cemetery.



Black soldiers had joined the military despite the Confederacy announcing they would not treat them like white soldiers. If they were captured, they would be enslaved or executed.

The soldiers probably lived in the surrounding area, which was a Black community known as Africa in the mid-nineteenth century and one of the chief occupations was strip mining iron ore for Thaddeus Stevens's Caledonia iron mill a few miles to the east. With their large Black populations, Africa and Caledonia were refuges for freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad.

Besides his participation in the Underground Railroad, Stevens was one of the earliest advocates of freeing the slaves in the South and using them in the military. "I am for sending the Army through the whole slave population of the South, and asking them to come from their masters, to take the weapons which we furnish, and to join us in this war of freedom against traitors and rebels," Stevens said in July 1862. "I view it as a means, and the only means, of putting down this rebellion; and if in doing that we extinguish the cause of the rebellion, I shall not mourn for it -- which is slavery."



Because of Stevens's efforts, congress did pass a law to use Black soldiers and recruitment started later in 1863. But in a cruel twist, the Black soldiers were paid half that of white soldiers even though they faced graver dangers. This was abhorrent to Stevens, who was successful in equalizing Black soldiers' pay in 1864. "Why should they [soldiers] not all be paid alike?" Stevens said in April 1864. "Why should they not all be clothed alike? Why should they not be armed alike? Why should they not all charge the rebels alike, and die alike in defense of the Union? . . . Indeed, sir, if any were to have a preference over others in pay and in inducements to join the service, it ought to be that class of men whose perils are greatest when they go into the army. The black man knows when he goes there that his dangers are greater than the white man's. He runs not only the risk of being killed in battle, but the certainty, if taken prisoner, of being slaughtered instead of being treated as a prisoner of war."

Stevens would be so pleased to know that the tombstones of Reamer's and other brave USCT soldiers buried in the small plot are now visible for all to see and admire.

Ross Hetrick is president of the Thaddeus Stevens Society, which is dedicated to promoting Stevens's important legacy. More information about the Great Commoner can be found at the society's website: <https://www.thaddeusstevenssociety.com/>

# Women Soldiers

## How Did They Hide?



Unidentified female soldiers



Photo Attributed to Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, who wrote about being a female soldier in her letters to her family



Over the years, we've had a few women in the Brigade who've portrayed soldiers, and visitors often question whether or not women actually dressed as men and went to war. The answer is unequivocally yes.

While there's no actual statistic for how many women did this, historians calculate that at least 400–750 soldiers during the Civil War were actually female. Against the full weight of enlistment, this is a very low number, but since women had to hide the fact that they were fighting, an accurate account is impossible to have. Regardless of how low the statistic might be, the reality is there were women who cut their hair and shouldered a gun at their country's call. Visitors' follow up questions are usually "But how??? How did no one notice?" And that's a much more complicated answer.

To start, we must first understand the culture and context in which this was taking place. The Civil War falls in the early-middle of the Victorian Age, in which society had clear-cut, material gender indicators; women wore skirts and men wore trousers. So as strange as it may seem for us today, a person signing up to enlist who was wearing men's clothes and had a man's haircut, would simply be seen as "male," without much scrutiny. There were also no identification papers necessary to enlist. One simply got in line and gave their name and age. It's not a far stretch to believe a Sarah could have enlisted as a Samuel and no one batted an eye. In addition to this, there was no physical examination to enlist. As long as a woman was young enough to resemble the myriad of teenaged boys in the signup line, recruiters were strictly interested in a soldier's ability to run and hold a musket. The physical exam usually only resulted in looking at the soldier's teeth, and whether or not they had all their limbs.

Personal hygiene also looked very different from the 21st century. The idea that one strips naked to stand under a shower every day would be incredibly foreign to a Victorian person. Access to running water wasn't available until almost a century later, and most Victorian people bathed partially clothed via a bowl, pitcher, and washcloth, or a hipbath. As military hygiene was particularly lackluster, especially once on the march, it's quite possible that soldiers went for days or weeks without any kind of washing. And even if they did, they didn't necessarily remove their clothing to do so. This all means that once a woman successfully enlisted, there were virtually no instances in which she would have to disrobe to such a level that anyone would biologically discover she was female.

On the subject of what they did about 'nature's call' and menstrual bleeding, there isn't much extant information as Victorians didn't write openly about bodily functions. But we can surmise that as long as a woman took care of nature's call away from her compatriots, most wouldn't be the wiser. As for women's periods, we can hypothesize that in many cases, the nutritional deficiencies and stress caused by a life at war probably would have ceased menses all together. In the off-chance it didn't, women probably did what they have always done: put on the equivalent of a cloth diaper and gone about their lives.

This doesn't mean they were never discovered. They often were. There is documentation of a girl named Sarah Collins who tried to enlist with her brother, but she had 'feminine habits' and was discovered and discharged immediately. Another documented a fourteen-year-old named Lizzie Compton who would simply re-enlist with a different unit under a new pseudonym every time her gender was identified. Compton actually holds the record for most re-enlistments during the Civil War. Most others tended to be identified after being wounded or falling ill, and many newspapers of the day were peppered with stories of women being discovered in military hospitals. But for every woman who was identified, there was another who remained undetected, and there are extant accounts of women who made it through several campaigns, or defected and simply changed their clothes when they were tired of fighting.

But the question remains, did their male compatriots know they were fighting alongside a woman? Like the “how,” this question is complicated and more open to hypothesis than fact. Some historians believe (and documentation proves) that some men did know women were among them. In several cases, women went to war specifically to be with husbands or lovers, or to stay close to a male family member, as in Sarah Collins’ case of enlisting with her brother. The male family member obviously knew his ‘friend’ or ‘brother’ was really his sister or his wife, but they helped hide their female compatriot’s identities, which often made the woman’s disguise more successful.

In other instances, male soldiers may have known there was a woman in the ranks and didn’t care, or they literally had no idea. For one of the most documented female soldiers, Sarah Emma Edmonds, her biography reveals that both instances happened to be true for her. While using her alias, Private Frank Thompson, Edmonds became incredibly good friends with a fellow soldier, so much so that she felt comfortable enough with him to share her secret identity, assuming he’d probably already figured it out. Much to her terror and his shock, her friend had never suspected Frank Thompson was a woman, and he abruptly ended their friendship and refused to talk to her again, though he never publicly outed her. Then, later on in Sarah’s enlistment, she had an affair with a married officer, and even after the affair fizzled, Sarah’s ex-lover never revealed her identity.

In a few documented cases, women who came forward after the war’s conclusion were often embraced by their male compatriots for their time served. This was particularly true for Sarah Edmonds as she applied (as Frank Thompson) for a soldier’s pension, and the government denied her. She had left the army for fear of being discovered when she contracted malaria, which put Frank Thompson on the books as a deserter, and therefore not eligible for a pension. When she provided evidence that she had fought and Frank was an alias, the rest of her regiment got behind her and petitioned the government on her behalf, proclaiming she’d been a “damn good soldier” and deserved the pension. It took eight years and an act of Congress, but Edmonds received her pension in 1884. She is still considered the only female Civil War veteran to have received a military pension for her service.

Another is the case of Albert Cashier, who served with the 95th Illinois. Born Jennie Hodgers, Cashier lived his entire adult life as a man, both before and after the war, and was only discovered to be biologically female in 1911, after Cashier was hit by a car and attended to by a physician. And though Cashier’s gender was not revealed at that time, a deterioration of the mind two years later forced him to move to a home for the infirm, where his biological sex was publicly published. He’d been collecting a veteran pension for forty-six years, but after the papers revealed he was female, the government tried to stop the payments. All the remaining 95th Illinois veterans petitioned the government to keep Cashier’s pension instated. Cashier’s comrades also testified to his bravery in the war and made sure he was buried in uniform with full military honors upon his death in 1915. They also made certain his grave stone was marked “Albert Cashier,” and not Jennie Hodgers.

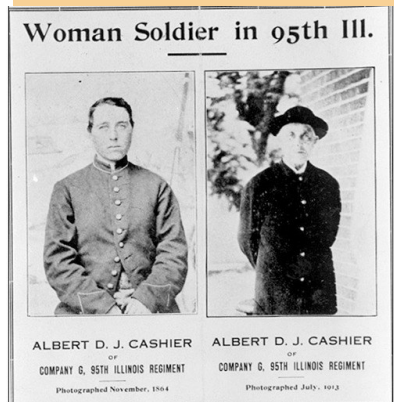
Other women who successfully navigated the precarious position of soldier and female were Frances Clayton, who enlisted under the name “Jack Williams” along with her husband, Catherine E. Davidson, who followed her lover to battle, Sophronia Smith Hunt who served with the 29th Iowa infantry, Mary Owens, who enlisted with her brother and stayed in even after her brother was killed in action, Sarah Roesetta Wakeman who’s letters home are the only female soldier account in existence, and Fanny Wilson who was wounded several times, but kept re-enlisting under different aliases to continue fighting.

We may never know the full story of how many women made it through without being detected. We may never know how many graves bearing a man’s name may in fact be a woman who was killed in action, or how many ‘deserters’ were really women fleeing discovery. But for those we do have names and stories for, we can keep their memories alive and honor their service.

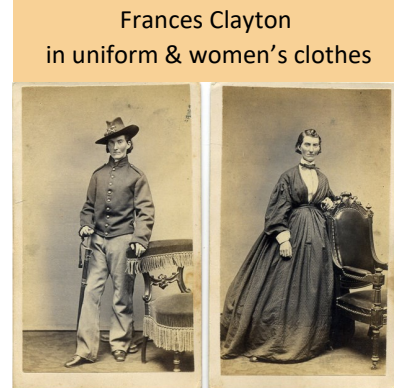
By Abby Belcastro, 2023



Sarah Edmonds in women’s clothes, vs her male alias, Frank Thompson



Albert Cashier, publicly outed as Jennie Hodgers, 1913



Frances Clayton in uniform & women’s clothes

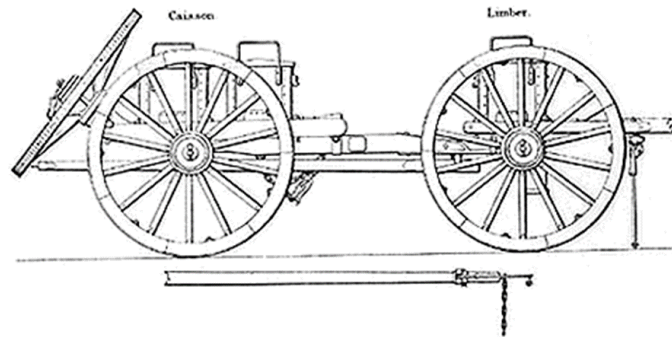
# The Overlooked Cannoneers

## Horses & Drivers



Artillery battery on the move

Civil War field artillery relied exclusively on horses to move artillery pieces, normally requiring six horses per gun. These horses were hitched to a limber, which is a two wheeled cart carrying an ammunition chest or limber box. The limber, in turn, was attached to either a gun or a caisson, a caisson being a cart that carries two ammunition chests and a spare wheel. Thus, every cannon had two limbers and one caisson for a total of four ammunition chests, each pulled by a team of six horses. A battery of six light guns, ideally, needed 110 horses to take the field and remember, with the exception of officers and drivers, cannoneers marched on foot. Only rarely would they ride when going into battle by sitting on the limber box or hanging onto the cannon, though it was probably safer to simply walk or run.



A battery riding on the cannon

### Horses:

Artillery horses were chosen based on a number of factors. General John Gibbon, who before the war served as an instructor at West Point, described the requirements for an artillery horse in his book The Artillerist's Manual.

*"The horse for artillery service should be from fifteen to sixteen hands high, should stand erect on his legs, be strongly built, but free in his movements; his shoulders should be large enough to give support to the collar but not too heavy; his body full, but not too long; the sides well rounded; the limbs solid with rather strong shanks, and the feet in good condition. To these qualities he should unite, as much as possible, the qualities of the saddle horse; should trot and gallop easily, have even gaits and not be skittish."*

The capacity of a healthy horse to pull a load was affected by a number of factors, among these the nature of the surface over which the load was being hauled. A single horse could pull 3,000 pounds 20 to 23 miles a day over a hard-paved road, a 1,900 pound load over a macadamized road, and 1,100 pounds over rough ground. The pulling ability was reduced by half if a horse carried a rider on its back. The goal was for each horse's share of the load to be no more than 700 pounds, as this was less than what a healthy horse, even carrying a rider, could pull, and furnished a built-in safety factor.

Artillery horses faced the same conditions as the men who served them, with disease, poor food, and the dangers of the battlefield as constant companions. When on the march or in battle, horses were hitched in pairs to the limber pole, a long wooden pole attached to the front of the limber, three horses to each side of the pole. Each pair of horses was controlled by a driver, who sat on the left side horse (looking from the limber forward) and controlled the horse he sat on as well as the horse directly across from him.



The hazards of war on horses



### Drivers:

Drivers were responsible for directing the horses attached to the limber, bringing the gun into line as directed, and then keeping the horses calm during battle. The drivers also had to be ready to quickly hitch up the team and move the gun from its position at a moment's notice. Each driver was also responsible for the care of his two horses and their harness, including the feeding, watering, and grooming of the team. Drivers were usually picked for this duty because of their knowledge or skill with the animals. They had stable duty right after reveille and roll call, and water call after breakfast, with the same routine repeated late in the afternoon. After morning and afternoon drill, the horses needed to be walked to cool down, curried, and probably watered again. Sick horses required care, and those that died needed to be buried.

Due to horses' large size, they were frequently targeted by the enemy, the idea being if you eliminate the horses the cannon cannot be removed from the field, increasing the potential for it to be captured. During battle, drivers would often lay down on the ground while holding the reins to try and avoid enemy bullets and cannon fire. They also might need to shoot a wounded horse and cut it out of the harness so that the thrashing horse would not injure the other horses or impede the movement of the rest of the team. If needed, drivers were also pressed into service on the guns. To that end, drivers had equipment not usually seen on the majority of their fellow cannoneers, and artillery reenactors, among these the leg guard, sidearm, belt knife, and saber.

### Leg Guard:

The leg guard is essentially an iron bar sewn into a leather piece which wraps around the driver's lower, right leg and is secured with four straps. It provides protection for the driver's right leg which would be between the horse he is riding and the limber pole. Without this iron guard, the limber pole could easily injure or break the leg. The leg guard was not unique to the Civil War, remaining unchanged from the 1830's for more than 100 years, and in reenacting, the leg guard sets the driver apart from the rest of the cannoneers.



### Weapons:

At the beginning of the war, most artillerymen were issued short swords and pistols. The short sword looked like a Roman broadsword and, being essentially useless, was soon disposed of by the men. Artillerymen were also originally issued pistols, but it was found that when the enemy got close, men often stopped using the gun in favor of their personal sidearm. So, in 1862 the artillery was ordered to turn in their sidearms, though the drivers were exempted from this as they needed their sidearms to quickly dispatch wounded horses.

In reenacting, belt or sheath knives are strongly discouraged as a safety hazard, but they were a necessary part of the artillery driver's equipment. While most soldiers (and probably reenactors) carried a folding, or pocket knife, it takes two hands to open it and the small blade is not able to chop or slash through thick harness leather to cut a horse free. The one-handed belt or "side" knife carried by drivers therefore became a necessity. As the drivers were considered mounted troops, they were issued sabers as well, though how much use they served is open to debate. The saber was usually the model 1840 artillery saber or the model 1850 cavalry saber, differing mainly in the shape of the hand guard.

As you can see, the men who served in the artillery had many different roles to play and unique equipment in order to perform their jobs. The artillery driver played an important part and is definitely under-represented on the reenacting field, though I hope to change that in the upcoming season.

By Tim Rack, 2023

Edited by Abby Belcastro, 2023

# WHO'S WHO?

## Showcasing Our Brigade Membership: Michelle Catona

Michelle Catona is a fixture in the Brigade. She has one of the highest attendance record for programs, only missing a few events over the course of her long tenure with the brigade, and her medical talks have been educating audiences on the real story of Civil War medicine for over two decades! She also always has the first-aid kit and our electrolyte tablets for those swelting hot summer programs. I sat down to talk to her about her time in the Brigade and some of her favorite medical knowledge!

**AB: How long have you been with the brigade and how did you find us?**

**MC:** I have been with the Brigade for 27 years. My journey started by visiting the Barnes & Nobles in West Paterson (now Woodlawn Park). Captain Lou, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Jim Malmo and their wives Lin and Cindy were there giving a talk on Civil War Reenacting and Period Clothing. My husband, Mark, and I were there to find books on 19<sup>th</sup> Century clothing to participate in the Canal Day at Waterloo Village. We took in the talk and spoke briefly with the group. After about two weeks of talking about joining, we contacted the group and officially joined at a meeting in April. The interesting thing is that the Zilinski family was there transferring from the 3<sup>rd</sup> NJ, at the same time.

**AB: You've been doing your nursing impression for a long time now; what are one or two things that you've found most impressive or interesting in your research?**

**MC:** First, the term nurse in the 1861 US Regulations was defined as a male medical attendant. It was not socially acceptable for a women to interact with any male outside of their immediate family. Those women bringing supplies to the camps saw the need for caring for all the soldiers. Second, is to dispel the lack of medical knowledge and use of anesthesia during surgery that surprisingly resulted in a 75% survival rate.

**AB: Were you always interested in Civil War History? If so, how did it start? If not, how did you become so interested?**

**MC:** No. It started with something that Mark and I could do together and because the people in the 7<sup>th</sup> NJ were so welcoming. I started to read about the women of the Civil War, Mary A. Livermore, Mary Ann "Mother" Bickerdyke, Doctor Mary Walker as well as other stories of women on the home front. I wanted to create a Sanitary Commission where the guys could rest and get some treats. That never materialized, but at one Fosterfields' event, Mark and I bought socks, wrapped them up and gave them out to the guys. It was a lot of fun, and the guys really appreciated them.

**AB: Do you have any hobbies/interests outside the brigade?**

**MC:** I am very active in my church, and I love music and traveling to Vermont and Pennsylvania to visit friends.

**AB: What's your favorite part of reeneacting?**

**MC:** I love talking to people about Civil War medicine and the roles of women during the war. When the hospital had a full staff, I really liked sitting around at night playing music with Doc and the others.



Meet Michelle!



Teaching Visitors about Minnie ball trajectories

Christmas at Speedwell



Michelle's War Widow Impression

**AB: Are there any challenges you've faced in reenacting?**

**MC:** It was hard to keep reenacting after Mark passed away. It is difficult to put on a proper hospital impression with a small number of members. With racial tensions, busy lives and financial challenges, most people are not interested in our hobby. I hope to maintain the hospital by doing as many events as possible in the coming years.

**AB: How did you decide on your hospital impression when starting out?**

**MC:** I first started off as a civilian. At the time, the Brigade did not have a civilian group, so I started the "Society of the Jersey Blues" and tried to get the families of the military units to come out, but the other outside obligations limited their participation. At the 135<sup>th</sup> Monocacy event, Doc and I saw a need for some type of medical to be available to the men. We asked Captain Lou if we could form a hospital impression. He agreed, so in 1998 the 7<sup>th</sup> NJ Field Hospital was born. I became a board member that same year. At the height, we had 20 members and the hospital rode around in a fifteen foot box truck. The biggest event we did was the 140<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg where we had a 50' X 150' lot filled with tents, flies and activities.

**AB: What is one thing you hope visitors take away from your presentations?**

**MC:** I hope visitors take away a better understanding of the realities of war and conflict. Most young people play video games and think that everything in life has a reset button. At the reenactments, TAPS is played, and all the guys rise from the battlefield. When Doc and I did the impression together, we tried to instill in the public that what we showed was the reality of war. I know that a lot of people did not like our medical demonstrations, but it was something that had to be seen to get the point across. Our camp included a "Soldier's Rest" area, medical instruments, pharmacology, as well as providing minor first aid. I also love to talk about the record keeping that is still in the National Archive, survival rates, prevalent diseases and the use of anesthesia.



Teaching at School



Civil War Fashion Show, Frelinghuysen Arboretum



Full Hospital Staff

Engaging the next generation!



# Reporting from Gettysburg

With Bruce Form

## Gettysburg Battlefield Discoveries

Over the years, many artifacts have been unearthed on Gettysburg's grounds. Here are some other finds:



Assorted bayonets, bullets, belt buckle, and shrapnel  
*Housed in the Smithsonian*



Tobacco pouch, found in the Yingling Farmhouse restoration, 2012



Leather cartridge bag, found in the Peach Orchard.

*Housed in the Gleason Library*

Unlike my usual reporting, where I have gone through extensive research to create articles of interest or curiosity, this issue's contribution deals with current events happening here in Gettysburg and on the battlefield itself. For several months now, the National Military Park has been working on a long overdue remodeling-renovation project of Little Round Top. The thirteen million dollar project involves remodeling and repair of the environs around the monuments, parking areas and pathways atop "LRT" (as it is dubbed) began in July 2022. The work there has created detours set up for pedestrian and vehicular traffic to "aid visitors" in transversing the battlefield. This was done for *the safety of all* during construction. Safety, yes definitely, as this article headline in the Gettysburg Times in February shows:

## Unexploded shell found at Little Round Top

On the morning in February 8, 2023, an unexploded artillery shell was discovered on the north side of Warren Avenue in the southwestern portion of the Little Round Top area. Nearby roads were immediately closed off after the reported find, and a two-person team from the U.S. Army 55<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Disposal Company (EOD) unit from Fort Belvoir, Virginia was called in. According to the *Gettysburg Times* article, Park Communications Specialist Jason Martz stated that the EOD Team "gently washed off the mud to allow park staff to photograph the shell" and "safely removed the shell before it was destroyed off-site". *Gettysburg Times* also indicated that the shell appeared to be from the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863 rather than from WWI era artillery training relating to the Army's nearby Camp Colt, which was commanded by a young Dwight Eisenhower.



*Gettysburg Times* image after the shell was dug up

Artillery experts on Civil War Ordnance believe this type of shell was for use in a Parrott Rifle during the battle.



Close up of the shell

While certainly the most dangerous, the shell is not the first artifact found since the LTR renovation began. Contract archaeologist, Steven Brann "has been tied at the hip to the construction contractor" Martz said. "Other finds have been Minie balls, percussion caps and other 'run-of-the-mill' infantry content which is what officials had largely expected."

Who would have thought that 160 years later, an ancient unexploded ordinance would be uncovered!

*The Gettysburg Times* article where this content was taken, was written by Times Staff Writer, Jim Hale, who I thank for bringing this topic of interest to light.

But before the unexploded shell escapade, I'd gone walking in a part of the battlefield not normally visited. Have you ever been out to the East Cavalry Field? It is one of those not often visited places on the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park property. Most people visiting Gettysburg don't even know there is such a place. But I hope this article gets you motivated to go out to the East Cavalry Field next time you are in Gettysburg. It is one of the most peaceful and serene locations of the National Military Park. You'll find a flagpole there with a plaque.

The pole is dedicated to the memory of Brevet Lieutenant Colonel William Brooke Rawle. Born in Philadelphia on August 29, 1843, his family had a long line of patriotic citizens that traces back to the pre-Revolutionary War. His ancestors were lawyers, engineers and surveyors for the Army and in Civilian life. His family had lived in Philadelphia prior to the American Revolution and his G-G-Grandfather, Benjamin Chew was Chief Justice of Pennsylvania before the Revolution.

William Rawle entered the University of Pennsylvania in the fall of 1859. While enrolled after his Junior year he requested a leave to join the Army. Rawle was allowed to complete his studies "in the field" as a soldier. He would complete all his required work and was granted a Bachelor of Arts degree, accepting it while in the field on July 3, 1863.

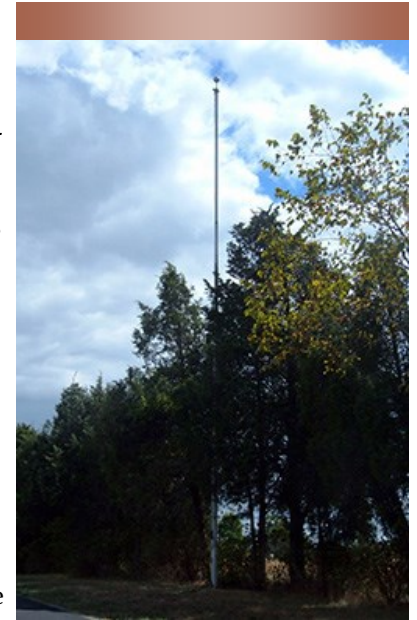


Photo from the author's collection  
GPS: 39 49.638 N 77 10.018 W



Rawle mustered in as a 2nd LT in the 3rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry and served continuously there, rising to the rank of Captain and breveted Major and Lieutenant Colonel of Volunteers for Gallant and Meritorious service at the Battle of Hatcher's Run and the Campaigns leading to Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House. During the July 3 battle at the Rummel Farm (also referred to as The Hoffman Farm), 2nd Lieutenant Rawle served up front with the Third Pennsylvania Cavalry. When his company commander, Captain William E. Miller, proposed disobeying orders to keep his troopers hidden in the Lott Woods to charge into a Confederate cavalry column attempting to get to the Union flank, Rawle enthusiastically agreed. This action forced the Confederate to retreat, and years later, Rawle's testimony helped Captain Miller receive the Medal of Honor for his bravery.

Rawle's memorial flagpole, one of two on the battlefield, was erected by the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS). It was dedicated in 1909 and the plaque added in 1915. The painted, sectional steel flagpole with bronze plaque is 55 feet tall, and is worth seeing.

William Rawle in cavalry attire  
Photo from USAHEC Library  
Carlisle, PA

#### Directions to the East Cavalry Field:

Entering from the Union Side, take US30 east out of the Gettysburg. At the fork where the Sunoco gas station is take the right fork which is Hanover Road. Stay on Hanover for approximately 3 miles and turn left at the National Park's sign for the East Cavalry Field. Follow the road around and tour the field.

Entering from the Confederate Side: US30 to the fork by the Sunoco gas station, take the left fork following US30 east. Follow US30 past US15 and at the 3<sup>rd</sup> traffic light (Harley Davidson dealership) turn right. Follow this road to enter the Cavalry Field.

*While on the East Cavalry Field, don't forget to stop by and pay your respects at the monument to the men of the 1<sup>st</sup> New Jersey Cavalry who fought here on July 3, 1863.*

By Bruce Form, 2023  
Edited by Abby Belcastro, 2023

Photo from the author's collection



## The 2D Board

Is there something you'd like to bring to the Board's attention? A new idea? A new impression? Something that can make the brigade better?

We'd love to hear what you have to say! Please contact your impression head and ask them to bring your idea to the Board's attention. Or, contact president Mike Milling, and ask if you can make a special presentation to the board at one of our meetings.

## COMMITTEES

We have created three committees as part of our Board:

### Advertising:

Abby Belcastro  
Paul Egbert  
Amery Vasso  
Brian Zilinski

### Recruiting:

Brian Zilinski  
Rich Walker  
Steff Poli-Zilinski

### Safety:

Matt Belcastro  
Hans Artz  
Michelle Catona  
Rich Walker

Have ideas for how we can advertise our programming better, recruit more members, or work on our safety? Please contact our committee members with your ideas!

# SEE YOU IN THE FIELD

