

# Company F Forward!

A Living History of Co. F, 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry



## Message from the President's Desk

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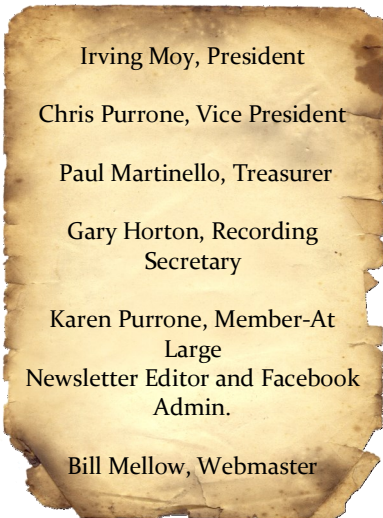
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Dear Friends of Co. F 14<sup>th</sup> CVI:

Company F as a member of the National Regiment was honored to be invited by the National Park Service of Gettysburg National Military Park to be one of the regiments on the battlefield on the very same days, July 1-3, as the original regiment was 150 years ago, to present living history events to the public that was estimated to be over 200,000 over the course of the week. This newsletter is devoted to the 150<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg and the recollections and experience felt by our members who represented Company F so well in honoring the men of the 14<sup>th</sup> Connecticut and Connecticut regiments that fought and gave their "last full measure of devotion" on that battlefield during those momentous three days 150 years ago. The Union victory and repulse of the Confederate invasion of the North led to a "new birth of freedom" that President Abraham Lincoln articulated so movingly in November of that year.

I thank you Paul Martinello, Chris Purrone, Carolyn and Nick Ivanoff, Mike, Roseann, Mike and Joe Adiletta, John and Kathy Morrison, Warren Stevens, Mark Marganski and Peter Garafalo for your participation and attendance at both the living history event and the battle re-enactment on July 6-7 and for sharing your thoughts and photographs in this special edition of our newsletter.

Your Obedient Servant,  
*Irving Moy*



Irving Moy, President

Chris Purrone, Vice President

Paul Martinello, Treasurer

Gary Horton, Recording Secretary

Karen Purrone, Member-At Large  
Newsletter Editor and Facebook Admin.

Bill Mellow, Webmaster

Dear Readers:

Please enjoy our special 150th Gettysburg Edition of our *Company F Forward* newsletter. This issue contains After Action Reports, photos and other related items about the living history/reenactment held this last July. I wish to thank everyone who took pictures to help illustrate the articles. Be sure to check out ALL the pictures; please visit our website [www.cof14thcvi.com](http://www.cof14thcvi.com) and link on the Photos link, or check them out on Facebook, *Company F 14th CVI*.

Thank you,  
*Karen Purrone*  
 Editor

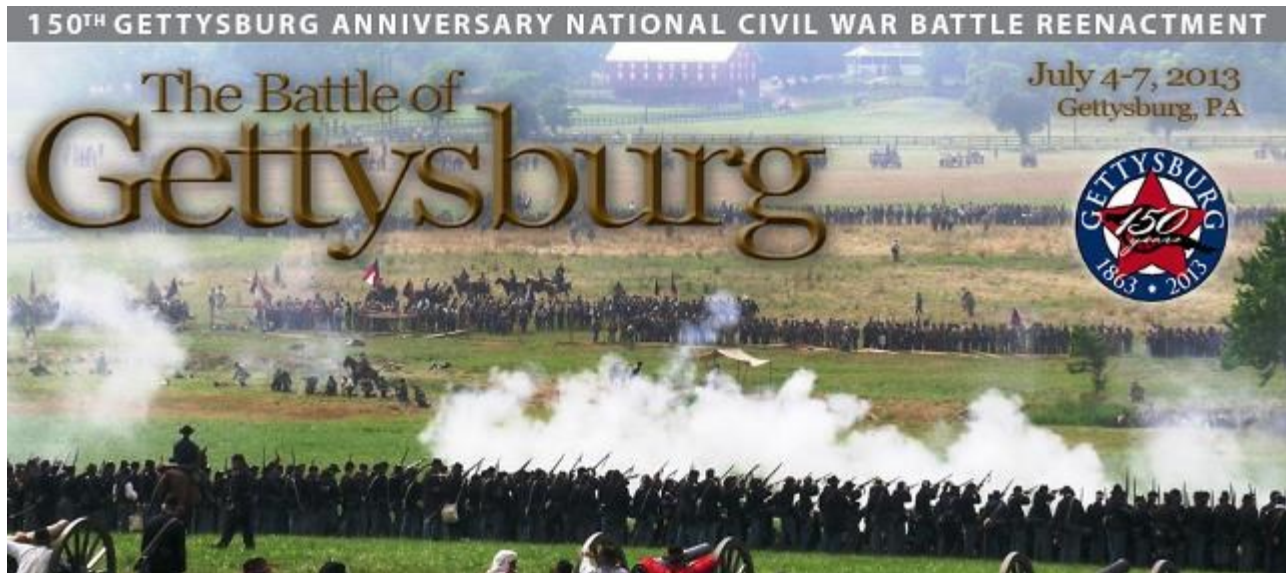


Photo courtesy of the Gettysburg Anniversary Commission



## After Action Reports

### The Gettysburg Experience

It took five days after the festivities for the 150th Gettysburg Commemoration began before I finally became a member of the Co. F 14th CVI chigger bite victims' group! The half-dozen red marks that eventually appeared on my ankles in support of my company comrades infected far worse (Sgt. Purrone, Pvt. Stevens, and Pvt. Ivanoff, just to name a few) served as a reminder of a week largely spent back in time. The once-in-a-lifetime opportunity was designed to be as realistic as possible; the bites and much more proved to be realistic indeed.

For the first time, I set up my own tent at a living history event and what a spot to do it - behind the Pennsylvania Monument actually *on* the Gettysburg battlefield a 150 years after the original Co. F 14th CVI helped change the course of history. Somehow though, the Fox News truck that arrived at 3:30 a.m. to wake up all the National Regiment soldiers trying to sleep and the "talent" who filed a 5 a.m. live report on that first morning failed to note such an auspicious occasion. At 5:30 a.m. on July 1, 2, and 3, the battalion musicians gathered and played revelry circa 1863. It was a melody that I came to despise by the end of the event not because it woke me up but rather it signaled the end of my many attempts to get any sleep. Intermittent showers each of those nights, some severe, combined with night-long choruses of loud snoring from every direction made sleeping in door-less dog tents nearly impossible for light sleepers like myself. At least by lying across the end of the tent covered by the gum blanket I was able to stay mostly dry, unlike many others.



The "sinks" near the camp were half in number of those near the mess hall and proportionally clean as well. Roll call at 6 a.m. preceded typical army chow, an experience that was all too realistic for me. Heavy on the starch and light on flavor, breakfasts during the three-day event unfortunately provided enough calories to offset those lost during drill and shooting demonstrations. Dinners were slightly better and the leftovers that became part of the next day's breakfast actually improved the first meal of those days.

Dress parade for the public began at 8 a.m., and we were assigned to 2nd Company with our frequent companions, the 6th NH (that somehow included two members from Hawaii!) and the 1st PA. During one dress parade, I learned a very valuable lesson: adjutants *really* don't like being corrected in front of the whole battalion. We were assigned picket duty to guard the camp in the late morning each day, and our shooting demonstrations were in the afternoons. During one picket stint, we captured a rebel spy and, on another,

## After Action Reports, con't.

I caught two Union soldiers without the required National Park Service badges (one was even an officer!). During breaks, the U.S. Sanitary Commission provided some of the best lemonade I've ever had, along with some fresh fruit and baked goods, all of which made the mess hall fare noticeably wanting.

Afternoons following drill and shooting were spent in camp cleaning equipment and interacting with the public. It was interesting to see which soldiers almost aggressively cornered tourists with an abundance of enthusiasm to share their knowledge and those who allowed the visitors to begin the interaction. I had my share of conversations, but the combined knowledge about the Battle of Gettysburg was inspiring.

During twilight, fireflies and headlights dotted the battlefield. Their number seemed to represent the rifled musket shots and cannon fire from the battle itself, though the volume couldn't possibly match the flashes of light from weapons some 15 decades earlier.



The highlight of the living history event, of course, was standing by the 14th CVI monument on Cemetery Ridge during the commemoration of Pickett's Charge on July 3. Marching from camp into position, we were greeted by three times the number of cameras and applause of the first two days. We told the tourists up against the wall they would be taking the first "shots" and thanked them for their sacrifice. While we stoically stood our ground, cameras clicked and rolled tape in our direction, some of which we later saw on NBC Nightly News.

Hygiene - or the lack thereof - proved to be an interesting experience. After the first day and night, it became clear I would need to dry out my newly-purchased long underwear by wearing it as pajamas the second night. With temperatures hovering around and above 90, the wool uniforms produced levels of sweat and smell unmatched. After just four days and two shirts, the stench reached a pungency never encountered in 27 years of wearing baseball umpiring equipment and a handful of seasons packing sweaty hockey equipment into aroma-retaining bags - combined. The three day event made me marvel at what the original Co. F 14th CVI had to endure. In addition to risking their lives, the weather, the uniforms, and the length of military campaigns without proper hygiene produced conditions that made me wonder how I would fare had I been born 150 years (OK, 180 years) earlier. I can't say for certain.

Following the event, I broke camp and moved to "Camp Ivanoff", the Gettysburg home of the Ivanoffs. I learned quickly while staying with our gracious hosts that what I know about the Battle of Gettysburg pales in comparison to Carolyn's expertise, which is not to slight Nick's knowledge in any way. Our instructions were that the National Regiment would reform at the battle re-enactment field on July 5th to set up camp and then go into action on the weekend, July 6-7. So I was blessed with two days to recharge my batteries, shop a little, and learn a little more simply by being attentive to Carolyn's every word. The Ivanoffs took us out to Rose Farm to an interesting program that compared the few pictures that exist of dead soldiers at Gettysburg with the actual locations of where the shots were taken. The experience was enhanced by 3-D pictures as well, which proved fascinating. Another treat provided by the Ivanoffs' awareness was a visit to Spangler's Farm, which served as a corps hospital during/after the battle.

On Friday, the intent was to simply set up our tents, but we were dragged into battle. Such scheduling changes without warning seemed frequent and made for an authentic army experience, complete with the frustration. However, our unit was largely held in reserve as I only fired a half-dozen shots that day. With temperatures well into the 90's on the weekend, I reported for duty long after revelry both days. The extra time out of the heat at "Camp Ivanoff" probably helped me survive the battle action with relatively little discomfort while some suffered from heat stroke.

On Saturday during the defense of "East Cemetery Hill," we fired mostly from the tree line out of the sun. However, my gun still got so hot from shooting that it became hard to handle. After firing 40 of the 42 cartridges I brought into that day's battle, anytime my hand slipped from the wood of my 1861 Springfield rifled musket onto the barrel risked second-degree burns. On Sunday, it appeared our company would once again be held in reserve; however, once the line of men along the stone wall atop "Cemetery Ridge" dressed to the colors, there was room for us. Though the majority of Pickett's Charge appropriately attacked the center of our line, a dozen or so rebels came at the right flank where we stood. Casualties were few for our side but progressively worse for the Confederates. After each engagement, we shared kind words with the rebel re-enactors for a job well done. The artillery and cavalry displays before the infantry fights were spectacular to watch and made great footage for my U.S. History students in the future.



## After Action Reports, con't.



As we rushed to beat the traffic of what one person said was from the 100,000 in attendance in that day, I was reminded of the week's mission to honor those whose bravery and sacrifice helped save this country and pay tribute to the 14th CVI. As a welcomed but belated rain that quickly dropped the temperature some 15-20 degrees fell, I prayed, not only for those souls but that our efforts would be acceptable to them as well.

- Pvt. John Morrison



### 150<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg

Our 10 day trip to Gettysburg began with John Morrison, Chris Purrone and I leaving Connecticut on Saturday morning, June 29<sup>th</sup>. We had 16 friends going, 10 as soldiers, 4 ladies dressed in civilian attire and 2 in t-shirts and shorts who were our “official photographers” for Co. F in Karen Purrone’s absence. Even Warren Stevens’ young daughter, Bridget, was dressed in period clothing for Gettysburg!



This year there were two competing 150<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg battle re-enactments, but first we conducted a living history event for the National Park Service (NPS) from July 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>. I am proud to say that while some groups were off recreating the capture of a flag in some nearby farm field, we were on the actual battlefield in uniform with our muskets with full local and national press coverage with all the satellite trucks, news reporters and photographers on the battlefield. Others, who claim to be hard core campaigners, didn’t experience firsthand camp life under period military order, courtesy and precision as we were doing. We did morning and evening dress parade learned our new positions in rank, and performed guard mount each day for the spectators as well as guarding our camp, all with a military bearing. Warren Stevens even got to be flag bearer for the three days, till he picked up his musket to help man the stone wall at the 14<sup>th</sup> CVI’s position at 1:00 p.m. on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We conducted firing demonstrations, ramming the charge (paper substituting for the minie ball) with our ram rods twice daily for the spectators and marched smartly wherever we went. We were all recognized for our efforts, including Joe Adiletta and Robert Sleeper, our runners, with a handsome commemorative medal on a ribbon that we will wear proudly at this coming November’s

Remembrance Day Parade. With the National Regiment (NR) being the one and only organization chosen for its military bearing and its ability to work well with the Gettysburg National Military Park Rangers, we were honored to be the only federal infantry to be allowed on the actual battlefield. What a thrill it was on July 3<sup>rd</sup> at the time of Pickett’s Charge, to be at the stone wall, in the sun, beside our monument where the original 14<sup>th</sup> Connecticut veterans were 150 years ago to the day! It was the climactic end to spending time on the battlefield with our friends in the National Regiment and our “Pards” of Company F 14<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteer Infantry during the actual three days, 150 years ago when the battle took place. It was all that we expected and then some. It was hot, wet, dry and busy. It was challenging and yet rewarding, but we all did it!



## After Action Reports, con't.

We still had our 150<sup>th</sup> battle reenactment to go to that extended our visit in Gettysburg. We all got to visit the Ivanoff's new home in Gettysburg with some of us getting to stay with them. I, myself, was fortunate enough to have my own private quarters and bathroom. Carolyn and Nick were gracious hosts and made the 7 guests staying with them feel right at home. It was a real treat, and I got a feel for what it might be like to actually live in Gettysburg.

Between the close of the living history event and the start of the battle re-enactment, we took in the photographic program tour at the Rose Farm by Licensed Gettysburg Guides, Gary Adelman and Tim Smith, who explained all about the composition and locations of the photographs taken there, using 3-D glasses. We also took the tour of Spangler's Farm where CSA General Armistead was taken after his wounding at the angle and died, as well as, the visitor's center, local shops and grocery store.



The battle re-enactment that took place from July 5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> was a bit different from what we just did at the living history event. The camp wasn't as well organized as the National Regiment camp, so with no help from our hosts, we did the best we could in limited space, but we were close to the sutlers. The parking was terrible, but we managed to get spots close to our camps. The battlefield used was the same stage for all 4 battles we participated in, but the bleachers were filled, and the water and ice angels were everywhere. We were reunited at this re-enactment with the 1<sup>st</sup> Pa Reserves, 6<sup>th</sup> NH, a few from the 8<sup>th</sup> Ohio, as well as Private Wade, the soldier from England, Private Adam and Sgt. Mueller from Hawaii and John Grant Griffin, our 74 year old re-enactor veteran and descendant of Lt. General U. S. Grant on his mother's side, who was a constant attraction for spectators. We had photos taken at Robert Szabo's studio, visited the sutlers, ate some vendor food and drank many a lemonade!

Once again we were the largest NR Company. But I must add that if it weren't for Joe Adiletta and Robert Sleeper, many a soldier in 2<sup>nd</sup> company wouldn't have physically made the battles due to the humidity and heat. They ran every time we stopped, filling canteens or getting the ice angels. Joe even acted as the Colonel's runner during the battles. To show our appreciation, Captain Sleeper, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Martinello and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Purrone chipped in, and in front of 2<sup>nd</sup> company, Colonel Hanson presented each of them a wood and glass candle box for their efforts. Something they'll both remember their 150<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg event by. Again Co. F 14<sup>th</sup> CVI was on the wall repulsing Pickett's Charge, with yours truly, commanding the company that day and did it proudly. Advancing through the command ranks throughout the week from 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt., to major on staff, to company captain, was challenging, but a great experience for me. Unfortunately, the only two bad things happened back to back after the final day of the re-enactment. First, Chris, Joe and I got caught in the rain, as did others, and then we sat motionless in traffic ten minutes shy of three hours, in wet clothes, till we got out of the field and onto the road. But the rain had a cooling effect, and amazingly, only one car horn was blown out of frustration.

Chris and I stayed over Sunday, leaving Gettysburg just before 3:00 p.m. the next day. What a trip! What a week! What an experience to have shared with all our "Pards" in Co. F and the NR! A shared experience we will all talk about for a very long time.

Paul Martinello



### Top 10 Reflections -- Gettysburg -- June 30-July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013

1. Joe walking from our hotel in town (he camped out the entire week) to the Pennsylvania monument dressed in uniform with his backpack. Some visitors stopped him to take his picture as he made his way to camp -- he was quietly beaming;
2. Seeing Trace Atkins sing the National Anthem and Doris Kearns Goodwin the author of "Team of Rivals" because I had just finishing reading that really great book and Charlie Gibson being the emcee was an unexpected surprise;
3. Shaking hands with John Grant Griffiths and chatting with him about Medal of Honor recipients and Italy while watching the troop's drill. Shaking hands with Chaplain Phil Pinckard from the Society of Civil War Surgeons and the Blue and Grey Hospital Association, who said I shook the hand of the hand that shook the last New England Civil War veteran from the 40<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts;



## After Action Reports, con't.

4. Walking up to the Union line at the High Water Mark during the Pickett's Charge commemoration and participating in a moment of history. Getting to the Wall and the 14<sup>th</sup> CT monument and my camera battery died—priceless! But I did get one good shot—say cheese 14<sup>th</sup> CT!
5. Early morning dropping Mike Jr. off before 5:30 a.m. reveille, I was watching the camp awoken to the early morning air and a low fog hung over the camp; it was so peaceful because all the tourists and cars were not out yet. I watched as the soldiers stepped out of their tents in their long johns... What a picture I could have taken—my camera battery was in charge mode from the day before;
6. Funny moments I have written down in my journal: Pete the spy story (he needs to tell his story), my exhausted camera battery at the Pickett's Charge commemoration and the heckling I got from the very hot 14<sup>th</sup> CT—and the spectators around me getting a good laugh too (I was e-mailed pictures from one of them), Warren Stevens' interpretations on the status of the latrines ("I wouldn't go bobbing for apples and bad Gatorade"), Joe going to town to buy a period toothbrush and coming back with just the wrapper. The one day I did dress up I was asked what I was wearing underneath and one man said I needed a hoop skirt to let the air up my dress! Where else but in Gettysburg can you dress up and walk down the street, shop, eat at restaurants in your 1860's clothing carry a parasol or a rifle or a sword or a bowie knife?;
7. Taking a tour with Pete Garafalo, the spy who was escorted out of the Union camp because of spy activity – luckily for me and Mike, Sr. (on a day furlough) – found us walking to Culp's Hill. We got the "Peter Tour" and saw parts of the battlefield we had not seen like John Burns Monument, Spangler's Spring, rock engraved by a soldier.....and Garryowen's Irish Pub (yum);
8. Mike Jr.'s video of the battle as he lay on the ground videotaping from the view of the soldier and his enjoyment of having taken part in the battles his favorite part because you just don't get that perspective as a spectator. In time, he will put together a video as he likes to video tape and edit film—maybe later this year he will put something out on the web;
9. My boys involved in a hobby together living the 1860's army life from the camping to the drills to the chores to the heat of the day in a wool uniform surrounded by a great group of people;
10. Getting a call from Chris Purrone when he and Paul Martinello and Joe finally got in the car all packed up after Pickett's Charge on Sunday that they were on their way wet and tired (stuck in traffic for 2.5 hours) to Carolyn and Nick Ivanoff's home and Joe and another boy were given a lantern by the group for their participation in the 150<sup>th</sup>. I know Joe and Mike too enjoyed their week participating in the 150<sup>th</sup>. A very special vacation week and Joe was spending another week and a half in history land thanks to Carolyn and Nick taking him to Harpers Ferry, Antietam, Confederate retreat tour and more. We needed to get back home as Mike Jr.'s first full-time job started on Monday as a HVAC apprentice. So getting that call from Chris that all went well and Joe's call later that night that he had a great time, especially, alongside Colonel Hanson as his runner in the battles, made the trip so worthwhile. Thank you Kathy for the pictures you took of Joe and the Colonel.



Mike and I want to thank Mark Marganski, Warren Stevens, Paul Martinello, Chris Purrone, Peter Garafalo, John Morrison, Nick and Carolyn Ivanoff for their time spent with Mike, Jr. and Joe during the event—many thanks to all.

Roseann and Mike Adiletta



## After Action Reports, con't.

### Gettysburg 150<sup>th</sup>

#### Living History (June 30th - July 3rd)

As we pulled into the Gettysburg battlefield, I was ready to begin my week in 1863. We all set up our canvas and began preparing for our Civil War experience. After exploring the battle field all day, I returned to my hotel to dress into uniform, threw on my knapsack and began my march back to the encampment. When I returned nearly all of the National Regiment (NR) had set up their tents, and the camp began to look like the real thing. That night my brother, Mike, and I camped out our first night with the battle field welcoming us with a midnight thunderstorm. The next day we were awoken at 5:30 a.m. by the drums and fifes, and ate our first meal by Combat Caterers that was anything but tasty. Throughout the day there were artillery and infantry demonstrations, and a confederate spy named Pete (Garafalo) was discovered and captured in our camp. Also that day I meet a person whose ancestors fought for both north and south in the civil war even in Connecticut regiments. I also met a man who was 14 years old when he re-enacted in the 100th anniversary of Gettysburg in 1963. That night it rained again as we spent another wet night in Gettysburg. On July 2nd I went over to the medical tent where I watched a recreation of a Civil War amputation and continued my water details filling canteens throughout the day. Also through Warren's help I started my first fire using flint and steel. All the re-enactors were offered a free meal down at the barn where Sickles was wounded and we got a well deserved break from Combat Caterers. During the afternoon I saw some amazing sights, the double rainbow in town, the sunset by the 14th CVI Monument on Cemetery Ridge, and a picture of our camp that appeared to have a cavalryman in the sky. July 3rd was the official end to our living history event ending with one of our most memorable events, the anniversary of Pickett's Charge. It was such an experience being able to stand at the exact spot the 14th did 150 years later. As the NR moved out Mark Marganski, Mike and I decided to stay one more night on the battlefield.



#### 150<sup>th</sup> Battle Reenactment (July 4th - July 7th)

July 4th we set up our tents in our new camp and prepared for 3 more days of reenacting. Mike decided to stay in town that night so I had the tent all to myself. By this time the camp was filled with thousands of tents. The night ended with the buglers playing taps that seemed to drift across the entire camp. The next day I experienced my first battle and was a runner for Col. Hanson. It was a whole different perspective of the battle from being with the officers. Throughout the following days, it was a struggle to keep cool. The next day we fought two battles, one in the morning and one in the evening. The first battle we saw little action and were mostly put in reserve, but the second battle made up for it as our unit fired away on the rebel troops. The last day we had our last battle of Pickett's Charge. As we awaited our battle throughout the day we struggled to keep cool and hydrated. Then by the afternoon the NR formed up and began marching towards the battlefield. After waiting some time beneath the artillery we heard the command to kneel down and open our mouths to avoid getting a concussion, soon after the artillery barrage began. As we watched rebel artillery in the distance, the federal guns began to fire above us. The cannons were so close you could feel the shock wave go through you as the field began to fill with smoke. When the artillery ended the Confederates came across the field and the musketry fire began. From where I stood with the Colonel I saw a remarkable view of the battlefield, it was a great way to end a great week.

Thanks to everyone who participated and helped to make the 150th a great event.

Private Joe Adiletta



*Editor's Note- Joe is much too modest but because of his efforts throughout the hot and humid days of the battles to provide water and ice to the soldiers, he and another young lad were presented with period lantern by the officers to huzzahs by the soldiers for their efforts and contributions. Joe, a real credit to Co. F, will march with the Colonel and soldiers during this November's Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade*

## After Action Reports, con't.

### *Gettysburg* **The Long Journey Back**

The first week of July 1963 found me on the Gettysburg Battlefield with my parents for a summer vacation that would forever change my life. We toured and walked places with the names, Little Round Top, Devil's Den, The Wheat Field, Peach Orchard, Spangler Spring, Cemetery Ridge, Lee's and Meade's Headquarters and all the usual places that tourists visited. Upon my return home, I made a Gettysburg diorama of sorts using a Marx Brothers Blue and Gray toy soldier set, pebbles, twigs and buildings made out of paper and cardboard. I enjoyed that for years in my parent's basement until times changed so I packed it up. I still have it though. The visit in 1963 started a lifelong passion within me for American Civil War History and the collecting of muskets and shooting black powder. Later in the 1970's when Connecticut started a muzzle loader season for deer, my first black powder deer was taken using an 1861 Eli Whitney contract musket.

Now, 50 years later I was returning to Gettysburg with both of my families, my wife and daughter and my friends in Co F, 14<sup>th</sup> C V I. Just before the event, Becky and I had made a donation, through Co F, to The Civil War Trust in my parent's memory. This seemed fitting and I am proud to have done this. In fact, the numbers of the days of the week were exactly on the same days in 1963 as they were in 2013! The stars seemed aligned for the event. On the drive down, I told stories to Becky and Bridget of the history of the original battle, the vacation with my parents and what to expect at both the living history event and the reenactment. I was deeply stirred inside the entire way down.



Sunday afternoon was hot for the arrival at the living history event. Paul had called me so I knew where to set up and check in. When I was set, Becky and Bridget left for the motel, and I settled in for what I thought would be a quite first night. The men of Co. F soon arrived with our Lieutenant. Paul returned from a meeting at the National Regiment (NR) headquarters' tent and asked for a "volunteer" for some kind of special duty. After no one else seemed interested, I volunteered to report to the Colonel. When I arrived, there were 8 men there; the Colonel asked if each one had volunteered. One man said he was ordered to report and was quickly dismissed by the Colonel, stating he wanted volunteers only. When 9 men had assembled, he announced we were going to be the color guard for the National Regiment for the next 3 days and ordered us to pick the color bearer between us. Sergeant Mueller, who flew in from Hawaii for the event, started the conversation on how we were connected to the Civil War. When it was my turn, I spoke of the 1963 trip, my folks and that I had a family member

killed at Antietam and Gettysburg. The men decided I would be the color bearer for the next 3 days. I felt honored at the privilege of doing this for the NR, Co F, my parents, and a little for myself.

The next 3 days were filled with camp life, assemblies, drilling, firing demonstrations and speaking with the public. The turn out from the public was really good every day. Joe Adiletta, Mike Adiletta, Jr. and I made fire with flint and steel wool. Co. F members spoke to many folks about all aspects of being a Civil War soldier. I was lucky enough to have an interview with National Public Radio (NPR) during that time. The temperature stayed in the 90s, and we were rained on every day and night. It was a challenge to dry out clothes and gear, keep the musket clean and serviceable and to cook. Joe and I managed to come up with some wonderful mid-day meals using vegetables, hardtack and whatever else we boiled up. We had mail call and issue of coffee beans. I remember reading the letters from Becky and Bridget while sitting on the ground and thinking what a joy it must have been for a soldier back then to get word from home from his loved ones.

On the second day of the living history event, it was determined that the National Color of the NR was too tattered for continued use. It was replaced with the flag of the Ohio regiment. It was much larger and had a longer pole. On top of this, the wind picked up which made the job challenging. Coupled with a torn right shoulder rotor cuff, I was about at the limit of my ability. Paul knew





## After Action Reports, con't.

this, but I kept this from the staff of the NR as I did not want to relinquish this place of honor. The last day of this event I was relieved as color bearer by a member of the Ohio Regiment who wanted to carry his own colors, understandably so, to Cemetery Ridge and the Angle. We marched to the 14<sup>th</sup> monument for the Pickett's Charge that had some re-enactors and watched as thousands of the public come across the actual mile wide field to replicate the "charge." I stood in wonder of that original charge, the men doing it were getting shelled from 3 sides and faced an almost certain slaughter with every step they took, but they came on none the less. When the living history event ended, I left for one night with Becky and Bridget to get straightened out. Mold had begun to grow inside my shirt, long drawers and around my socks!

After washing my clothes by hand and drying them out, I proceeded on Thursday to the Gettysburg Anniversary Committee (GAC) reenactment site. I was in awe by the sheer size of this event. Thousands of re-enactors and hundreds of cavalry and field guns were there along with just about every sutler in the hobby. The spectators were in the tens of thousands daily. The weather was very hot the next few days, averaging 95 to 100 or more during the day although cooler at night. This was a good time to enjoy large scale army camp life, shop at the sutlers and watch some pretty spectacular demonstrations. I went with Sergeant Mueller and his Corporal, Adam, also from Hawaii, to the Calvary demonstration on Friday. There were in excess of 400 mounted men in the battle, complete with charges, saber and pistol fights and cannon. The ground literally shook when the Union forces charged on horseback; it was a sight to see. Mark Marganski, Mike Adiletta, Jr., Joe Adiletta and I concocted some pretty good campfire meals during this time using vegetables, some meat and whatever else we threw in the frying pan and cups. The great, great, grandson of U.S. Grant visited us daily as well. We did some battles and took a group photo. I think the most stirring thing for me at this event was the sound of "TAPS" every night by three different buglers just after sunset. It was apparent that a week of campaigning had worn us down a little physically but the spirit of the members of Co F remained excellent. We paced ourselves for the big battle on Sunday, Pickett's Charge. We were marched over to the wall by the Lt. Colonel and positioned on the right flank. I remember saying to Sergeant Purrone that we were at the wall again, 150 years later. The artillery barrage that followed lasted about 30 minutes and involved approximately 140 guns. It was deafening! When it stopped, there was



an eerie silence and smoke hung in the air. Then, thousands of Confederates stepped off to recreate Pickett's Charge. They came forward, step by step, straight toward our lines. Skirmishers were deployed and recalled. When they were within range, thousands of muskets opened fire on them. Their numbers withered until a few hundred made the ill-fated dash to the wall and were cut down. Half of the NR made the flanking maneuver on the right and began to fire into them from the side. The gallant charge was broken and as the shattered Confederate forces retreated, the men at the wall began to chant "FREDERICKSBURG, FREDERICKSBURG". For a moment in my mind's eye, it was July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1863. We formed up quickly and dismissed. The rain then started, it seemed to hold off until the minute the battle ended. After some quick goodbyes to old and new friends, I made my way to the car. Becky had it already running and I jumped in and we managed to beat the crowd and made it to the room, a shower and a steak dinner afterwards.

That night I fell asleep to the sound of bugles, cannon fire and many memories of a journey that took 50 years to complete. I really enjoyed the NR living history event and the GAC Battle. Both offered unique sights and sounds and complemented each other in a way that made the entire week complete.

I must say a few things at this point about Co. F. The leadership by Paul Martinello, as our Lieutenant, and later Captain of the company and the dedication of Chris Purrone, as Sergeant is something that sets us apart from other groups. Paul is a good field commander, always concerned about the men. Chris is an excellent Sergeant and his commitment to training us regarding the proper drill went above what most groups do. This coupled with the team spirit and cooperation of the members is a winning combination.

## After Action Reports, con't.

The next morning after we had breakfast, I told Becky and Bridget I wanted to go back to Little Round Top. That place has magic for me, I remember it from the 1963 trip and that is where my Dad found a minie ball. We walked around a bit and Becky took photos. It was obvious to see the importance of that high ground. You could look straight down the battlefield to where we had camped with the NR. Whoever held that hill, would win the battle. We walked a bit and then visited the position of the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine where Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain made his heroic bayonet charge. There was a family there of several couples and grown kids. We spoke a bit about the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine and the father asked me if I had seen the battle reenactment the day before. When I told him I was in it and a member of Co. F, he became genuinely excited. He then explained to me that he and his family owned 86 acres of land, privately, that was the site of one of the Confederate field hospitals during the original battle. They had been trying to find a reenactment group to do a living history encampment on their property. I exchanged contact information with him immediately. Turns out he is the president of the Dole Mushroom Co! What a lucky chance encounter. So ended the first chapter of Gettysburg in my life and the second chapter seems to have opened right behind it. I don't know where this will lead but I have a feeling it will be good for Co. F and myself.

Respectfully submitted,  
Private Warren Stevens



Warren Stevens, who served as the color bearer for the July 1-3 National Regiment Living history Event on the Gettysburg Battlefield, was interviewed by NPR at the end of a program on the 150th Gettysburg. Warren's parents introduced him to Gettysburg on the 100th anniversary of the battle, and here he is 50 years later back on the battlefield as a Union soldier. In honor and memory of his parents for doing so Warren and Becky Stevens made a substantial donation towards The Civil War Trust's preservation efforts at Gettysburg. Listen to the program and Warren's interview.

<http://www.npr.org/2013/07/03/198388728/gettysburg-swells-as-throngs-mark-civil-wars-turning-point>





## Noteworthy



### 150<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Illumination



**Soldiers' National Cemetery**  
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania  
June 30, 2013  
9:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Co. F made a contribution towards the luminaries that were placed at the gravesites in the Gettysburg National Cemetery on June 30, 2013, as one of the special events commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.



**Margaret Stemler**  
In memory of Robert Stemler

**Scott Stemler**  
In memory of Robert Stemler  
In memory of Lt. Alonso H. Cushing,  
4th U.S., Battery A  
In memory of Lt. Bayard Wilkeson,  
4th U.S., Battery G

**Sharon Stemler**  
In memory of Col. Augustus Van  
Horne Ellis, 124th New York Infantry

**Francis L. Stouter**  
In honor of those who bravely fought  
here

**Alyce M. Suereth**  
In memory of Lori "Suereth" Canevari  
--Katie Canevari

**Jessica Jones Teel**  
In honor of Richard H. Jones, Jr.  
In memory of Evelyn S. Jones

**Richard Thorsen**

**Stephen T. Walsh**  
In memory of John M. Walsh

**William and Phyllis Warner**  
In memory of Douglas (Duke)  
Warner, Margie Fisher, Crosby  
Gobrecht, and Rodney Gobrecht

**Janet Weeks**  
In memory of Jim Weeks  
In memory of Martin Hower, 132nd  
PA Vol.

**Gerald Weller**

**Leonard Wienczkowski**  
In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard  
Wienczkowski and Kyle Alt  
In memory of deceased Wienczkowski,  
Kranz, and Dunkle Family

**Dave Wilkins**  
In honor of Benjamin F. Crankill,  
Company F, 25th Ohio Volunteer  
Infantry

**Guy and Connie Varcasia**

**Marty Volpicelli**  
In memory of Stephen L. Volpicelli

**Bill Youells**  
In memory of Val Youells

#### GROUPS/ORGANIZATIONS:

*The Gettysburg Foundation is grateful to the following organizations for their sponsorships:*

**Auxiliary to SUVCW**  
In memory of all departed members of  
Auxiliary #20, Connecticut Depart-  
ment

**Company F, 14th Connecticut  
Volunteer Infantry**  
In memory of those men from  
Company F, 14th CT Vol. Infantry,  
who fought and died during the Battle  
of Gettysburg and their heroism at the  
Bliss Barn and Farmhouse July 3rd,  
1863

In memory of all the soldiers in the  
14th CT Volunteer Infantry, who  
fought and died during the Battle of  
Gettysburg

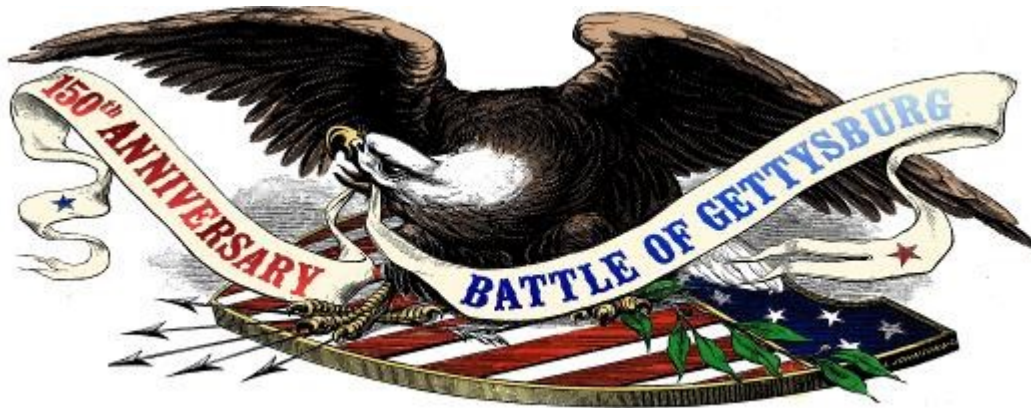
**Connecticut Dept. Aux. to Sons  
of Union Veterans of the Civil  
War**  
In honor of all Connecticut Veterans  
who served in the Civil War

**Cooper's Battery B 1st PA  
Artillery Inc.**  
In memory of Private Alexander P.  
Alcorn, Battery B 1st PA Artillery  
In memory of Private Peter G. Hoag-  
land, Battery B 1st PA Artillery  
In memory of Private James H.  
McCleary, Battery B 1st PA Artillery

**Cushings Battery/ Taylors  
Battery**  
In memory of Cushings Battery/  
Taylors Battery



**Noteworthy, con't.**



General Order Number Two  
July 9,, 2013  
Subject: Gettysburg Living History, July 1, 2, 3, 2013

Gentlemen,  
This past week has been one of the most memorable experiences of my life.

The sense of brotherhood and professionalism shown by the Officers and men of the National Regiment was a joy to behold.

In fairness, I should list the names of each and every one of you because everyone worked so very hard to insure the Gettysburg Living History would be the most remarkable event we've ever been involved with.

Every single one of you is, in my opinion, a true hero and a credit to the hobby we so passionately embrace.

As was evidenced by the fact that everything went so smoothly, as well as the weather, as well as that incredible rainbow on Tuesday evening, I have to believe "The Old Boys" approved of our efforts.

Each of you is to be congratulated, but I have to make special mention of some individuals who went above and beyond the call of duty to make this event go so well.

Space constricts me from mentioning their individual contributions, but just know that without their efforts, this past week would not have been nearly as special as it was.

In no particular order of importance, because they are ALL equally important, they are,

From Gettysburg National Park:  
John Heiser  
Tom Holbrook

From the Artillery:  
Chris Sedlak  
Greg Cocco

Combat Caterers:  
Pat Callahan and Crew  
James Owens

## Noteworthy, con't.

The Christian Commission:  
The Mcgrane Family

and of course, my incomparable staff:

Lt. Col.: Steve Hanson  
Major: Butch Diamond  
Adjutant: Lt. Bill Podszus  
Quartermaster/Ordinance: Lt. Jim Mcelhinney  
Commissary: Lt. Tim Viezer  
ADC: Lt. Mark Adler  
ADC: Lt. Jack Foley  
ADC: Lt. Will Hutchison  
ADC: Lt. Guy Smith  
Sgt. Maj.: Chip Smith  
Principle Musician: Tim Ertel

If I've left anyone out, please believe it is not from lack of appreciation, but there are just too many people to thank individually; but know your efforts are appreciated by all involved with the Living History and the National Regiment.

God Bless you all, and God Bless the National Regiment.

Tom Downes,  
Colonel, National Regiment

The 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, the American Civil War's bloody turning point will be commemorated this week and, thanks to a small band of dedicated historians, the involvement of a handful of Chinese combatants- as well as their treatment afterwards- is also being remembered. **Stuart Heaver**, South China Morning Post Magazine, goes in search of long-lost heroes in "Gettysburg-redress."

[www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/article/1270170/gettysburg-redress](http://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/article/1270170/gettysburg-redress)

