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GBPA's 46th Annual Gettysburg Civil War Collector's Show

GETTYSBURG, Penn.— The Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association held its 46th Annual Gettysburg Civil War Collector's Show on June 29-30 at the Allstar Expo Complex in Gettysburg. This year's show was the largest yet with 355 tables of vendors and exhibitors. They displayed artifacts from the Revolutionary War through the Civil War including buttons, belt buckles, uniforms, accoutrements and gear, documents, photographs, rifles and muskets, swords, personal items, and much more.

Attendance also broke records with over 875 in attendance on Saturday and Sunday. Early VIP tickets allowing the holders to visit the show on Friday and an hour before general admission on Saturday and Sunday also sold a record number. "Some of the best deals are made when the vendor and buyer have time to talk without a lot of distractions" said show organizer Brendan Synnamon.

Brendan's father, Bill Synnamon, has been running the Collector's Show for the past 14 years. This year he passed the torch to his son, owner of Union Drummer Boy and the current President of the GBPA. "He has done a great job. Things ran

extremely smoothly this year" Bill said of Brendan. Brendan returned the compliment, "The show grew and flourished under my dad. He made it possible."

Brendan credits the seemingly effortless flow of the show to his support staff. His brother William, wife Jamie, and mother Janine worked behind the scenes all year. Various volunteers involved with the GBPA worked the front lines together to make the show a success for both vendor and visitor. Kirk Davis, GBPA Vice President of Operations, commented, "Even if you aren't a collector, this is one of the best museums you can possibly visit in Gettysburg. You have a very knowledgeable teacher behind every table, and they love to pass that knowledge on to whoever is interested."

Charles Petrillo was kind enough to sponsor the awards program again this year. After careful review of the various displays, Mr. Petrillo announced the winners:

- Jay Reid of Quakertown, Penn., received the GBPA's Best of Show award for his display centered on the sword presented to Captain Digman.
- The People's Choice Award was given to Chris Foard of Magnolia, Del., again this year for his display on Civil War Nursing.
- Elizabeth Topping was awarded the Best Photographic Exhibit titled "The Mystique of Death."
- Best Union Exhibit award went to James Crane for his display featuring the 15th New York Cavalry.

Appreciation awards were awarded to:

- Buck Zaidel, "Connecticut Civil War Images."
 - Michael Fisher for his display of Civil War corps badges.
 - Jeff Mattix for his display titled "Thru the Valley of Death."
 - Paul Loane, "The Civil War Haversack."
 - Alan Genetti for displaying General Ambrose Burnside's sword.
 - The Renfrew Museum.
- The 47th Annual Civil War



The Pennsylvania monument, the largest at Gettysburg, is one of the most visited places on the battlefield. In the foreground is Hexamer's New Jersey Battery's monument with a U.S. 3-inch Parrott rifle (left) and a U.S. 10-pounder Parrott rifle (right). (Peggy Melton)



Collector's Show is set for June 27-28, 2020. More information about this show, the Historic Daniel Lady Farm, and other GBPA events can be found at www.gbpa.org.

The Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association is a 501c3 nonprofit organization under the Internal Revenue Code and is registered as a charitable organization with the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations. Contributions are tax deductible.

Left: Union Brigadier General Lansing B. Swan's uniform coat, and accoutrements, along with daguerreotypes of him in civilian clothing, and items related to his wife, etc., from Rochester, New York. From the collection of James and Jean Mountain.

★ **Gettysburg**
..... see page 4

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BY JACK MELTON

FROM THE LOWCOUNTRY



Peggy and I attended the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association's 46th annual Civil War Show the last weekend of June. Thank you to everyone who came by and visited us at our table. We always appreciate meeting our subscribers and visiting with our advertisers to receive their input. While in Gettysburg, we visited the battlefield and stayed at the Farnsworth House Inn Bed & Breakfast.

There, we received excellent service, whether we were dining at Sweeneys Tavern, being treated to a delicious complimentary freshly cooked breakfast each morning, or enjoying a snack or beverage in the Beer Garden. A must see is the wall of birdhouses near the coy pond. It is mesmerizing. And don't miss a chance to visit Camp Tiger next to the rear parking lot for an opportunity to go back in time and envision what it would have been like to camp with Civil War soldiers.

We wish to extend a special "Thank you" to Jean and Loring Schultz for taking the time to share a meal with us and for their exceptional hospitality.

Due to our deadline for this issue, the September issue will cover the Gettysburg Anniversary Committee's 156th reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Civil War News Military Recognition

For the November issue, we will recognize subscribers that are currently in the military and those that have served their country. Please send in your name, branch of service, rank, position, and if you were in a war, conflict, years served, etc.

For example:

Carson Jenkins

U.S. Army, E-6, Fire Control Supervisor, Vietnam War era, (1969-1974)

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By Bruce W. Miller

The North-South Skirmish Association prides itself on its motto of "History, Competition and Camaraderie." One of the many ways the Association does this is through youth competition.

Dependents and guests of N-SSA members who are under the age of 15 and not members of the Association (minimum age for regular membership is 14) are eligible to participate in individual and team matches with pellet rifles or BB guns. The objectives of these matches are to promote education in the history of the Civil War; to learn the fundamentals of firearms safety and marksmanship, and to develop a sense of fair play and personal achievement while providing family entertainment during skirmish weekends. The N-SSA has held matches for young people at the nationals since 1975 and even earlier on a regional level.

Youth Competition has two classifications: Juniors, aged four through ten years, and Seniors, aged 11 through 14. All matches are fired at 25 feet with individual competition at paper targets; team competitions are shot at breakable targets such as clay pigeons and clay pot silhouettes. As with all N-SSA matches, safety rules are strictly enforced. These "skirmishers in training" have at least one adult coach immediately behind the firing line for a team

Young Skirmishers Join the Fun at N-SSA 139th Nationals

event. Any competitor who needs individual assistance is allowed one adult coach. During individual competition, each competitor must have an adult accompany them. Safety glasses must be worn by both the competitors and the coaches.

Awards are given to each member of the top three teams in each age classification. For individual awards, Juniors have six places for BB guns while Seniors have three places for pellet rifles and six places for BB guns. Awards are presented at Saturday evening's ceremony in the Memorial Park.

Nine-year old Alexander Noyalas was the top Junior individual with a score of 82-1x. The top Senior was 14 year old Lucas Jenkins with a wonderful score of 91-1x; the first place Senior Pellet gun was Joseph Laskas, Jr.

The kids didn't have all the fun at the N-SSA 139th National Competition held May 15-19, 2019, at Fort Shenandoah, the Association's home range, just north of Winchester, Va. Member units competed in live-fire

matches with original or authentic reproduction Civil War period muskets, carbines, breech-loading rifles, revolvers, mortars, and cannon. It is the largest Civil War event of its kind.

Members who had pre-registered for individual match targets competed on Wednesday and Thursday. Competitors can order one paper bulls-eye target for each firearm at regulation distances as well as an aggregate score. The stat house staff was kept very busy as they scored over 2,250 individual match targets. Nine team matches were held over the three-day weekend. The weather bordered on perfection and the 16 units whose turn it was to host the affair did a masterful job. McNeill's Rangers contributed both the Skirmish Director Ken Spence and the Adjutant John Zebelean for the nationals.

As with the very first match in 1950, the Rifle-Musket Team match remains the N-SSA's signature event. All targets are breakable and the pieces certainly flew as clay pigeons, ceramic tiles, and pot silhouettes were



Members and talented seamstresses of the costume committee meet at a National Skirmish for various events and workshops. They compete for technical and presentation awards for clothing in the styles worn during the Civil War era. (Niki Bethke)



Forty breech-loader teams competed in the 139th National Skirmish. Competitors start the match with a full magazine, but must single load after the magazine is emptied. (Niki Bethke)



Competitors ranging from age 4 to 13 shoot their BB and pellet guns in two classes, Junior and Senior, in both individual and team matches. (Lis Cole)



Participants in the N-SSA Tenderfoot matches are "skirmishers in training" as they compete in BB and pellet gun matches under close adult supervision. (Lis Cole)



The distance may be short, but the targets are really small for these BB and pellet gun tenderfeet. (Lis Cole)



These "skirmishers in training" have at least one adult coach immediately behind the firing line for a team event. Any competitor who needs individual assistance is allowed one adult coach. (Bruce Miller)

blasted by Minié balls at ranges of 50 and 100 yards. The consistently excellent 110th Ohio Volunteer Infantry (OVI) took gold medals again. They won the musket match with a time of 485.7 seconds for the five-event program. However, it wasn't easy as the 9th Virginia Cavalry were hot on their heels and finished only 1.3 seconds behind the winners. A total of 168 eight-member teams participated in this classic competition.

The 8th Virginia Infantry won the Carbine Team match with a time of 387.7 seconds, edging out the 9th Virginia Cavalry by just 3.4 seconds. You have to feel for the 9th Virginia Cavalry; two second place finishes in the two largest team matches by less than five total seconds! One hundred forty-one teams competed in this match of speed and accuracy.

The 110th OVI took another championship as they also triumphed in the Smoothbore Musket Team match, beating 127 other units to finish first with a terrific time of 168.8 seconds and a 17.3 second lead over the second place unit. This exciting match has become increasingly popular and, as you can imagine, is a really great test of skill. Three events are shot at 25 yards and a fourth event at 50 yards. Competitors participate with many different firearms, including the U.S. M1842, Confederate Macon Arsenal conversions of the M1842, the Hewes & Philips conversion of the U.S. M1816 (which features a rear sight), and the occasional European Potsdam in .72 caliber.

Eighty four-member teams participated in the Revolver Team match of four 25 yard events: 12 clay pigeons on a cardboard backer; eight hanging 6 x 6 inch ceramic tiles; eight hanging clay pigeons, and eight hanging 4 x 4 inch ceramic tiles. The 21st Virginia Infantry finished first and claimed the gold with a time of 151.4 seconds.

Three additional shoulder arm team matches were held. In the Single-Shot Rifle Team match, the 149th Pennsylvania Infantry won gold medals with a time of 194.4 seconds, a whopping 75.3 seconds better than the runner up. Most rifles in this match are Sharps' or Ballard's.

In the Breech-Loading Rifle Team match, the 2nd Maryland Artillery won, besting 39 other teams with a time of 159.4 seconds. This match is shot primarily with Henry rifles. Competitors start the match with a full magazine, but must single load after the magazine is emptied.

Some members want to compete with much slower Spencer



Members of the 118th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry and the 3rd U.S. Infantry fire a memorial salute for the late Howard (Ken) Kortman with Roger Hipple's 12-pounder Napoleon that Kortman had crewed for many years with the 3rd U.S. (Hipple). (Tambi Dudley and Schuetzen Powder Energetics Inc.)



A crew member of the 2nd Maryland Baltimore Light Artillery (CSA) sponges their 3-inch ordnance rifle. For safety reasons, in N-SSA competitions, teams must wait one full minute after firing before reloading their artillery pieces again. (Ericka Hoffmann)



Forty-six cannons and howitzers competed in the 139th N-SSA National Skirmish Artillery matches. As during the Civil War, 3-inch ordnance rifles are reliable and accurate artillery pieces, and a favorite of many N-SSA units. (Ericka Hoffmann)



Rob Bethke of the 3rd Maryland Cavalry watches their mortar ball fly toward the target stake while the crewman on the next firing position readies to pull a lanyard and fire their mortar. (Niki Bethke)



One of the 3rd U.S. Infantry gun crews prepares to fire their 3-inch ordnance rifle. (Ericka Hoffmann)



The position #4 crewman of the 3rd Maryland Artillery pulls the lanyard to fire their M1841 6-pounder gun as teammates watch the projectile fly down range toward its mark. (Ericka Hoffmann)



The 3rd U.S. Infantry mortar team members pass implements to each other while the loading of their 24-pounder Coehorn mortar. (Niki Bethke)



At the end of the mortar match members of Dulany Troop help score the shots fired by the Hazelwood Volunteers. The distance is measured from each ball to the target stake, and the five best shots are added together to determine the team's score. (Ericka Hoffmann)

magazine-fed arms so they have their own match. The 11th Pennsylvania Infantry won it with a time of 1,072.2 seconds... just a bit slower than the Henry's!

Forty-five pieces competed in the Mortar Team match. It is always great fun to watch this match because you can follow the projectile's flight due to its low muzzle velocity. The mortar teams fire seven shots at a stake 100 yards down range. Officials then carefully measure the distance from the stake and tally the best five shots for score. The overall winner was the 7th Tennessee Infantry with a five shot aggregate score of 24 feet, 25 inches.

The cannon matches are a spectator favorite and 46 guns participated in the beautiful spring weather. The range is reconfigured so the cannon fire perpendicular to the regular firing line. Target frames and their paper targets are set at a range of 200 yards for rifled guns and 100 yards for smoothbores and howitzers. Each cannon fires solid shot (smoothbore) or bolts (rifled) at two targets, a bull's eye and a silhouette of a cannon facing them that represents counter battery fire. A maximum of seven shots are fired on either target with a maximum point count of 25 per target. A perfect score is 50 points. The guns are classified by type: Smoothbore, Rifled, Howitzer, and Rifled Howitzer.

In the Smoothbore class, the 1st Virginia Cavalry (gun #1) won the gold medal with a 43-2V ("V represents dead center.") In the Rifled class, the 3rd U.S. Infantry won with an almost perfect score of 50-4V. In the Howitzer class, the 3rd U.S. Infantry won again, shooting a spectacular 50-7V. The Rifled Howitzer class winner was the Rowan Artillery with a 49-1V. The accuracy of these Civil War cannon is truly amazing and N-SSA gun crews know how to get the most out of them.

The N-SSA is the country's oldest and largest Civil War shooting sports organization with more than 3,000 individuals who make up its 200 member units. Each represents a particular unit or regiment and proudly wears reproductions of the uniform the original unit wore over 150 years ago.

At the 139th National, five members were recognized for 50 years of membership in the Association; quite an accomplishment.

The 140th National Competition is scheduled for October 4-6, 2019, at Fort Shenandoah, just north of Winchester, Va. For more information about the N-SSA visit the web site at www.n-ssa.org.



At the 139th National, Grant Ostner (on the right, loading his musket) of the 9th Virginia Cavalry was the recipient of the first place Young Skirmisher Award, presented to the shooter aged 18 or younger with the highest musket aggregate individual score. (Ericka Hoffmann)



The 110th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Company A claimed the gold medals in the musket team match, beating 168 other competing teams. (Ericka Hoffmann)



Men, women, young and old, love to compete in the musket team matches, the N-SSA's signature event. (Lis Cole)



A left-handed young lady takes careful aim at 4 x 4 inch ceramic tiles with her U.S. M1861 rifle musket. (Lis Cole)



Black powder smoke hangs in the morning air as revolver teams fire at targets placed 25 yards from the firing line. (Lis Cole)



Two shooters with the 1st Florida Cavalry compete in the Single-shot Rifle Team match with their Sharps and Ballard rifles. (Ericka Hoffmann)



Members of the 13th Confederate infantry carefully load, aim, and fire at hanging 4-inch tile targets during the Smoothbore Musket Team match. The smoothbore matches include events with a variety of breakable targets set at 25 and 50 yards from the firing line. (Ericka Hoffmann)



Music of the fifes and drums cuts through the warm Sunday afternoon air as the musicians march to the range during the break between the two phases of the Musket Team matches. (Ericka Hoffmann)

Sometimes Readers Send Us Research Questions....

By Stephen Davis

Special to *Civil War News*

Publisher's note:

From time to time one of our regular columnists receives an e-mail from a reader who writes, "Hey, I liked your recent article, and it prompts me to ask if you know anything about...?"

Sometimes the query is of interest to our writers, as happened last month when Dave Langford of Hollywood, Md., wrote, "I have an ancestor who was in the 24th Wisconsin. He was killed in the fight at Adairsville, Ga. I have a copy of his officer's report of how he was killed. But when I visited there several years ago, the marker did not lend itself to understanding the skirmish action. Do you know someone in Georgia who is knowledgeable about that battle?"

Well, we referred Mr. Langford's question to our Book Review Editor, who cobbled together the following response from books at his home ("The Brigadier General Clement Anselm Evans Memorial Research Library," as he calls it.)

Here's Steve's answer to Dave:

Dear Mr. Langford:

You are so right about the Georgia Historical Commission's marker, placed in the 1950s in Bartow County, northwest of Atlanta. The county was renamed from Cass County during the war, to honor Col. Francis Bartow, slain at Manassas; the county seat, Cassville, was even renamed Manassas for a while.

Actually, there are three markers in the area: "Johnston's Army at Adairsville," "Federal Armies at Adairsville," and "McPherson's Troops to Barnsley's." Their texts, probably written by the renowned Wilbur G. Kurtz, refer only to Federal troop movements on May 18, 1864, the day after the skirmish at Adairsville, fought on May 17.

Sherman's armies were pressing south from Calhoun toward

Cassville that day. As Albert Castel relates in *Decision in the West* (1992), Col. Frank Sherman's First Brigade of Newton's Second Division, was in the advance of Oliver O. Howard's IV Corps. The 24th Wisconsin, your ancestor's regiment, was part of Sherman's brigade. It encountered Wheeler's cavalry and the infantry of Frank Cheatham's Division, which was dug in and ready for them. Howard ordered them to move forward anyway, and in a sharp skirmish the Federals got nowhere. That night Johnston's army retreated toward Cassville. In their forward movement, as Castel writes, Sherman's troops "suffer a large number of unnecessary casualties" (page 193).

Colonel Sherman recorded in his diary for May 17: "Resumed the march at 6 A.M.; 1st Brigade in advance. Skirmished and drove rear guard of rebs back to Adairsville where they made stand. My brig. heavily engaged until night. Loss 167 men." (C. Knight Aldrich, ed., *Quest for a Star: The Civil War Letters and Diaries of Colonel Francis T. Sherman of the 88th Illinois* [1993], page 114). By the way, I do not see a campaign report in the *Official Records* from Colonel Sherman; he was captured on July 7, and exchanged on Oct. 7, 1864.

From Christopher Losson, *Tennessee's Forgotten Warriors: Frank Cheatham and His Confederate Division* (1989): On the afternoon of May 17, Wheeler's cavalry were falling back slowly before the enemy advance. Cheatham's troops formed a line to help cover the retreating horsemen. "Some of Cheatham's men were cooking supper, while others were just stretching out their blankets for the night," Losson writes, "when the Yankees made their appearance. Confederate cavalry screened the Union advance, and Cheatham's men at first were 'thrown into a kind of hollow square or ambuscade' to help defend the

cavalry as they fell back." Men of Col. Hume R. Feild's First and Twenty-seventh Tennessee occupied all three levels of a tall octagon-shaped house and fired from its windows (page 147). By the way, Dave, you might have seen my article in the May 2019 *Civil War News*, in which I wrote about the Sons of Confederate Veterans having recently bestowed its Confederate Medal of Honor on Colonel Feild.

Lt. Thomas Mackall kept a diary during the campaign; his cousin, Brig. Gen. William Mackall, was Johnston's chief of staff and the lieutenant served on the general's staff. The diary entry for May 17: "by 5 p.m. Cheatham, who was one mile in advance, was skirmishing. Pack up and saddle. Troops who had not been in line, but massed in bivouac, quickly formed, while firing going on" (Mackall diary typescript at William and Mary, copy courtesy of Richard McMurry).

Interestingly, as I have said, in the 1950s Wilbur Kurtz did not devote a roadside marker to the fight at Adairsville, which further entitles it to rank as a skirmish, not a "battle." Still, Kurtz

was evidently captivated by the Octagon House, as he made a color painting of Confederates fighting around it on May 17 (*Atlanta and the Old South: Paintings & Drawings by Wilbur G. Kurtz* [1969], page 34). You might be interested in knowing that Atlanta E. Joseph Seguin has just published an appreciative history, *Wilbur G. Kurtz: A Most Remarkable Life*. I wrote the Foreword, in which I term W.G.K. (as he signed himself) "the guardian angel of our city's Civil War history."

Sam Watkins, of course, was in the 1st Tennessee, and in one of the editions of *Co. "Aytch"* that I have here (ed. by Ruth McAllister, Franklin TN., 2007), he writes of the fight at the Octagon House. His regiment lost some thirty men that afternoon, but he describes more of the damage to the house: "Fine chairs, sofas, settees, pianos, and Brussels carpeting," he recalled, "being made the death-bed of brave and noble boys, all saturated with blood. Fine lace and damask curtains, all blackened by the smoke of battle. Fine bureaus and looking-glasses and furniture riddled by the

rude missiles of war. Beautiful pictures in gilt frames, and a library of valuable books, all shot and torn by musket and cannon balls. Such is war. When we first got into the house, the papering on the walls was white. When we came out, it had the look of an old wall begrimed with soot. The fine lace had all been torn down and trodden under foot" (pages 166-67).

Well, Dave, I hope this adds context to your research into your forefather's service with the 24th Wisconsin, and his tragic death at Adairsville. Best wishes in your continued journey.

Sincerely,
Steve Davis

Publisher's note: we can't promise this kind of response to all research inquiries, but when we receive an interesting one, such as Mr. Langford's, we'll occasionally turn to our expert staff writers to see if they can add any informational answer.

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