

THE UNION MESSENGER



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CAMPAIGN REPORT

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The 54th Pennsylvania mustered at Bedford to meet and discuss this years schedule and any other business. Following the meeting the company received orders to make with all haste toward New Market, VA. There the company set up a campsite just up the hill from the Bushong family farm. The company was joined by their brothers in arms from the 142nd PA. They spent the weekend meeting with spectators, demonstrating the life of a soldier and firing demonstrations. The highlight of the event is Sunday's memorial ceremony at the 54th PA Monument. This year was extra special as Major Baran shared that his book has been officially published.

Afterward, the event ended with the soldiers giving leave to return to Johnstown for Decoration Day. The 54th PA marched out on the foggy morning towards the grave of Col. Campbell. The company saluted and fired for the good Colonel. After the firing, the fog began to lift and sun appeared over the cemetery as the soldiers visited many graves of Cambria Counties Civil War veterans. The day ended with Sandyvale Memorial where the 54th PA fired a salute and then listened to keynote speaker, Jeff Pounding. After speaking to the public for a bit, the company went home to spend time with loved ones, knowing the war will heat up soon.

Respectfully,

Captain Darren Gallaher



TREASURER'S REPORT

Finances of the 54th PA as of 6/21/2025

Checking - \$1,541.69

Savings – \$1,570.67

Sgt. Beam



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Unit membership is cyclical. There are years we have enough members to take the field as our own company. There are years where only a handful of members attend events. We're currently at one of our low points, but I've been around long enough to know it's only a matter of time until we start to see new members joining, and, consequently, our rise back to full company strength at reenactments.

Thanks to the efforts of our recruitment committee, we're on the verge of seeing the turnaround begin. Like I said, I'm old, and have seen this happen numerous times. It's about to happen again. Since winter, we have been in discussion with several potential members, both civilian and military. There's still an interest in Civil War reenacting. It isn't a dying hobby, and they're interested in the 54th.

But this is where we need your help. I want you to think back to when you first started reenacting. What were your concerns as you made your way to your first event? What were your first impressions the first time you met the 54th? We have an opportunity to grow, but we need to ensure when our potential recruits join us for the first time they see us as a group they want to belong to. We don't need to change how we operate. Many of the recruits were attracted by our family-first group. What we do need is for the group to show up. We need people at events, plain and simple. If there's no leader, if there's only one or two rifles, would that be a group you'd want to join?

Gettysburg is approaching. Not only do we have the chance to stand side by side with our brother in the 142nd to reenact their scenario, but we have several new recruits already registered to join us for the first time.

Let's show them what the 54th is about. We need you there, all of you.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Baran



SAVORING HISTORY: RECIPES FROM THE CIVIL WAR

CAMPS

During the Civil War, baked apples were a rare comfort that brought a taste of home to soldiers on both sides of the conflict. Apples were one of the few fruits that could be stored for long periods without spoiling, making them a cherished find in camp or on the march. When soldiers foraged near orchards—or "liberated" supplies from surrounding farms—they often tried to recreate simple recipes they remembered from their mothers' kitchens.

Ingredients (per person):

- 1 large apple (firm variety like Rome, Winesap, or Granny Smith)
- 1–2 tsp brown sugar (or molasses for more authenticity)
- ¼ tsp ground cinnamon (optional but period-accurate)
- A pat of butter (or a drizzle of lard for authenticity)
- Small handful of raisins or currants (optional, but common in period baking)
- Dutch oven



Cooking Instructions:

- Build a fire and let it burn down to hot coals.
- Core apples, removing the center but leaving about ½ inch at the bottom intact to hold the filling.
- Stuff with brown sugar or molasses, a pat of butter (or lard), raisins, cinnamon, and a strip of lemon peel if available.
- Place in a greased Dutch oven, cover, and set on hot coals. Shovel coals on top of the lid.
- Bake 25–35 minutes, until soft and bubbling.
- Serve warm in a tin dish—just like the soldiers might've done by the fire.

Sgt. Beam

“LIVING HISTORY ONLINE: CHRIS BARAN’S ‘IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE 54TH’”

When Major Baran launched his YouTube series “In the Footsteps of the 54th”, he aimed to bring the story of Pennsylvania’s famed Civil War infantry—officially the 54th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry—to modern audiences with authenticity and passion. Each episode blends period cooking, camp life, battle drills, and first-person interpretation. “Episode 23: New Market Battlefield – 54th PA’s Advance,” released just last week, offers viewers a vivid on-field experience, complete with equipment setups and tactical briefings. Baran’s mix of practical demo and historical context has brought the 54th’s story vividly to life. If you’re a Civil War reenactor seeking deeper immersion, an educator wanting dynamic history tools, or just someone intrigued by life in the 1860s, this channel delivers. It’s particularly helpful for anyone portraying the 54th PA or similar Civil War units. Search YouTube for “Chris Baran 54th PA” or visit his channel, where recent episodes explore regimental marches, camp cooking, battlefield maneuvers, and more. Be sure to “Like and Subscribe for more 54th content. - *Sgt. Beam*

Click here to visit [“In the Footsteps of the 54th”](#)

CIVILIAN COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Two civilians accompanied the 54th to both New Market, Va and to the Strausburg railroad. The 54th is always looking for new members to in the civilian role. - Karen Largent



WHAT ARE CHATELAINES?

During the mid-1860s, chatelaines were both practical tools and elegant fashion accessories, reflecting the domestic responsibilities and social status of the women who wore them. Originating centuries earlier, the chatelaine evolved into a prominent item of Victorian dress by the 19th century, reaching a peak of popularity during the 1860s.

A chatelaine consisted of a decorative clasp or hook worn at the waist, from which various chains were suspended.

These chains held essential household tools such as keys, scissors, thimbles, watches, needle cases, and small notebooks. For the lady of the house or a head servant, the chatelaine was a mobile toolkit, allowing her to manage daily affairs with efficiency.

In the 1860s, chatelaines were crafted from a variety of materials—silver, steel, brass, and even gold for wealthier women. Designs ranged from simple and functional to ornate and highly personalized, often reflecting Gothic Revival and Rococo Revival styles popular during the era. Some pieces were engraved or adorned with semi-precious stones, serving as status symbols that communicated both authority and refinement.

Though originally tied to domestic utility, by the mid-1860s the chatelaine had begun to shift toward a more fashionable accessory for middle- and upper-class women. Its function increasingly blurred with ornament, aligning with the elaborate dress styles of the Victorian period.

Today, antique chatelaines are valued by collectors and historians alike, offering a glimpse into the intersection of gender roles, design, and domestic life in the 19th century.

Mrs. Kristen Beam



SUTLER



Munitions Contact Maj. Baran 1 lb. Black Powder-\$25 each
Percussion Caps: 100 ct.-\$15 each For Sale!

For sale:

-Sack Coat-sz 48-50-\$40

-Sky blue pants, sz 40w x 30 L

-\$40-Dyed navy blue pants, sz 40w x 30L

-\$35-2 xl shirts-\$15 each

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

July 4-6

Battle of Gettysburg

Gettysburg, PA

Registration

October 18-19

Battle of Cedar Creek

Middletown, VA

Registration

August 16th

Fort Mulligan Day

Petersburg, WV

November 15th

Remembrance Day Parade

Gettysburg, PA

September 20-21

Flax Scutching Festival

Stahlstown, PA

December 6-7

Harper's Ferry Christmas

Harper's Ferry, WV

Whether you've shouldered a musket for decades, recently stepped away from the ranks, or are simply curious about life as a Civil War soldier, the 54th Pennsylvania wants you in the line!



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PARTING SHOTS

NEW MARKET, VA



GRANDVIEW &
SNADYVALE



STRASBURG RAILROAD

