
THE FUGELMAN

The Newsletter of the Second Wisconsin
Volunteer Infantry

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FLAG DAY, JUNE 14TH, 2008

*F*lag Day celebrates the American flag and those who had a role in its design and creation. The flag initially represented our national independence and by 1865 it would come to reflect one unified nation. Men and women have fought and died beneath the flag we call Old Glory, The Star Spangled Banner. And it led the men of the Second Wisconsin into the fray as President Lincoln's instruments of Union and freedom! This flag represents the pride we take in our nation. It also is a symbol of our people and of the promise of freedom throughout the world. Who can see the flag pass without a sense of pride and admiration?

*Unfurled in the breeze with her
blood red stripes*

*Symbolizing the sacrifice required by
freedom's call.*

*White stripes signifying the purity
of the promise*

*Of the American creed handed to us
by the Founders.*

*A field of blue calls forth the clear
new day undaunted*

*For a nation conceived in Liberty
and dedicated to*

*A proposition that all men are
created by God as equals.*

*Stars suggest the nights of
wondrous hopes and dreams*

*Of a shining future and a simple
land of peace and freedom!*

*Long may it waive over the land of the free
and the home of the brave.*

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE JUNE ISSUE OF THE FUGELMAN

The newsletter expresses its
gratitude to the following reporters who

have submitted articles for inclusion in this month's newsletter:

Terry Arliskes

Charles Bagneski / David Sielski

Mike Connery

Tom Klas

Gary VanKauwenbergh

OPENING OF THE GETTYSBURG MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.

By William Connery – Special to the Civil War
Courier – April 2008

This year we commemorate the 145th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. The opening of the Gettysburg Museum of the American Civil War puts what many consider the most important battle fought on American soil in perspective, using exhibits, sound, video and setting to give visitors a deeper understanding of the war and its impact.

This museum will open on April 14, 2008. Appropriately, the themes of its 11 permanent galleries are based on phrases within Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Gallery 1 — "Impact of War: In a Larger Sense" presents the good and the bad consequences of the Civil War: Death and Destruction, Emancipation and Union. This gallery serves as a steppingstone to the overall museum experience.

Gallery 2 — "Causes of War 1776 – 1861: Conceived in Liberty?" features exhibits as well as the three-screen video presentation, Causes of War. In this gallery, you can begin to absorb the impressions of two conflicting realities:

human freedom versus human bondage, from the birth of the nation to the brink of the Civil War.

Gallery 3 — "Approach to War: A New Nation" outlines the major issues and rifts that tore the country apart. You will also "meet" Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, and encounter their differences and similarities. An interactive display, Secession or Union, helps pinpoint the results of the country's fragmentation.

Gallery 4 — "Civil War 1861 – 1863:

Now We Are Engaged in a Great Civil War" covers the Civil War from 1861 to June 1863, the point where Lee began his Gettysburg Campaign. Recruitment, training, the life of a soldier, scenes from the war's battlefields and other displays are accompanied by quotes from those who fought on both sides. Within this gallery, the first of two large projected maps illustrates the course of the war during its first years.

Gallery 5 — "Campaign to Pennsylvania: Testing Whether that Nation Can Long Endure" examines more closely Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and the Union's Army of the Potomac. Here, a replica of an officer's field camp includes Lee's actual stove, cot, medical chest and field chest.

An enlisted man's field camp has also been recreated. Exhibits and panels explore the life of the soldier on campaign, and interactive experiences will teach you how to recognize bugle calls and pack their gear for a march.

Gallery 6 — "Battle of Gettysburg: Now We Are Met on a Great

Battlefield of That War" is the heart of the museum, as it focuses on the Battle of Gettysburg. The gallery is divided into five sections:

Into the Battle, which covers troop movements at the end of June 1863; Days 1, 2 and 3 of the Battle; and Out of Battle. Using interactive computers in each section, you can pull up any regiment of interest and see where those men fought on that day. Films, interactive maps, exhibits and even the sound of cannon fire can be experienced throughout.

Gallery 7 — "The Aftermath of Battle: The Brave Men Living and Dead" discusses the aftermath of this enormous battle, its impact on the town of Gettysburg, the experience of the wounded men, Civil War medicine, what happened to the men who died, the task of burial and the fate of prisoners.

Gallery 8 — "The Gettysburg Address: A New Birth of Freedom" is solely focused on the monumental importance of the Gettysburg Address, as a two-minute audio presentation of the speech is presented in a dedicated listening space. An interactive computer will help you

interpret the text of the Gettysburg Address.

Gallery 9 — "Civil War 1863 – 1865: The Great Task Remaining Before Us" covers the period between Gettysburg and Appomattox, with a large projected map showing troop movements and exhibits that detail the story of the final years of the war.

Gallery 10 — "Results of War: That These Dead Shall Not Have Died in Vain" includes a seven- to ten-minute film that gives you an

understanding of what the war settled -- the end of slavery and the preservation of the Union -- and what it did not -- the full rights of citizenship for all Americans.

Gallery 11 — "Preservation of the Battlefield: Never Forget What They Did Here" focuses on the preservation of the battlefield, discussing how land was set aside almost immediately, and describing the journey toward designation as a National Military Park.

Gilder Lehrman Institute Special Exhibits Gallery — This space is filled with temporary and traveling exhibits, broadening the number and variety of topics that are covered in the museum.

With some 300,000 historic artifacts and 700,000 text documents, maps and photographs, the Civil War collection at Gettysburg National Military Park is one of the most extensive in the world. Each object and every document in this collection tells a story: of duty, of sacrifice, of patriotism and of reconciliation.

Visit the new Museum and Visitor Center at Gettysburg National Military Park, and let these pieces tell

you their stories. For more

information, check the website www.gettysburgfoundation.org

UPDATE ON TRANS- MISSISSIPPI DEPOT PURVEYOR OF QUALITY GOODS

The newsletter received this update to information received from the Regimental Quartermaster, Tom Klas,

which appears below.

Greetings Association Leadership
and Company Quartermasters,

I have another update regarding one of our fine merchants, Don Smith of Trans-Mississippi Depot Company. For those considering a new purchase from Don you will have to check his In stock Section at this time as he is not taking any additional orders until December 1st, 2008. Please read the follow post from Don Smith:

New Changes To Better T.M.D.Co.

Dear Valued Customers,

In an effort to get the back log of existing orders completed for those of you who have been, and continue to be, so patient while your order is in the line up of items to be made, and put T. M. D. Co. back to its original short production time of 6-10 weeks.

We are announcing that [until December 1st, Trans-Mississippi Depot Company will be going to a temporary "In Stock Only" mode of business.](#)

We are doing this in order to:

- + Get outstanding orders completed.
- + Streamline the process of making our wide range of products for our customers.
- + Shorten the production time for orders back to 6-10 weeks.

Until December 1st, I will solely

concentrate on the existing and outstanding orders that customers are waiting to receive so patiently, to get them completed as soon as I can.

This means that if you have an order with us currently, I am solely concentrating on getting your order completed and to you with the level of attention and detail you deserve.

Once I have the current orders completed. [Trans-Mississippi Depot Company will resume taking orders on December 1st, with a reduced wait time of 10 weeks or less.](#)

Renee and I sincerely appreciate our patrons; we value your business and are getting things back to an original short wait time to serve you better. We appreciate your continued patience.

[If you have any questions or concerns, Please give me a call or drop me an email.](#)

All the very best,

Don & Renee Smith
Trans-Mississippi Depot Company

Don F Smith

Trans-Mississippi Depot Co.
www.trans-Mississippi.com

E C V

The Company of Military Historians
since 1995

1st CA Inf Regt. Co. "F"

<http://www.manifest-history.org/1st...ated/index.htm>
"CARLETON'S CANNIBALS"

If you have any questions on the above changes, please let me know.

Tom Klas

Regimental Quartermaster

2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association,
Inc.

JUNE EVENTS INVOLVING ASSOCIATION COMPANIES

On June 14th and 15th there will be a wonderful little event in Sauk City organized by Skip McCutchin from Battery B. A drill competition between the 23rd Tennessee and Company K will take place during the event. There will also be a skirmish between the johnnies and the boys in blue.

This event is an excellent opportunity to recruit for the Company. Frank Medina reported that he was there last year and there was a goodly number of men looking to participate in reenacting. The newsletter can guarantee that the troops will be well fed as well. The meal is a catered affair and first rate!

The site of the event is wonderful and the amenities are excellent. Water, straw and firewood will be provided. The host community really backs this event and they go out of their way to make the reenactors feel welcomed.

The event will be held in August Derleth Park located just off Water

Street. Reenactors can register and move into camp beginning at 12:00 noon on Friday (yes this is correct) the 13th!

Camps will open to the public on Saturday and Sunday beginning at 9:00 a.m. The camps will close at 4:30 on Saturday and 3:30 on Sunday. On both Saturday and Sunday there will be a skirmish at 2:00 or 2:30 p.m.

On Saturday, at 5:00 p.m. there will be a memorial service for comrades in the hobby who have passed away during the last year. The editor encourages our fellas to join in for this memorial in honor of those who are no longer with us. As an added incentive, there is a \$150.00 bounty for each unit that attends the event.

Please join us in Sauk City and support a great event sponsored by one of our own. Uphold the honor of the good old Second. This event is a short distance from Madison and if you would like to join others from the Association the newsletter is sure you would indeed be welcomed! Please contact Skip McCutchin from Battery B if your unit would be interested in attending. As an individual who would like to attend and fall in with others please contact Skip as well so that numbers can be computed for the Saturday evening meal.

Greetings Association Leadership and Company Quartermasters,

I am pleased to announce an additional item to our Suggested Uniform & Equipage List by Dan Waumbaugh of W,W, & Company, Schuylkill Arsenal Trowser Kits. For those than can sew or are willing to try, Dan will have step by step directions on how to complete assembling this very accurate kit. The kit costs \$100.00 post paid and comes with all the materials necessary to have a very accurate pair of trowsers for your 2nd Wisconsin Impression.

Here is the link to Dan's new offering on his Website:

<http://www.wwandcompany.com/satrouserkit.html> Once again with cost always a consideration, this will give you a great pair of trowsers if your willing to spend some time on a project. I recently talked to Daryl Koehn about this for Company "C" and he is going to purchase a pair for himself. And as a plug for a high quality seamstress to put these together, try Daryl's better half Aneta if you hate the prospect of sewing. To contact Aneta to put a kit together for you (you will need to purchase the kit and send it to her), try anetakoehn@hotmail.com for more information.

To see all of W,W, & Company's fine array of products please visit:

<http://www.wwandcompany.com/>

Thank you all for your attention,

Tom Klas

Regimental Quartermaster

2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association, Inc.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Attached is a recent photo of 56th VA member Mark Bowman. Mark is the Command Sergeant Major of the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and is kneeling on the far right of the photo. Mark is Task Force Sergeant Major of the 3,000 person contingent of Illinois National Guard soldiers deploying to Afganistan in about five months.

Deployments are usually for a year, so we won't see Mark until at least next shooting season. As the top enlisted man in the entire task force, Mark has been one busy soldier, and is about to get busier. Thanks for your service Mark!

Yr. Obt. Srvt.,
Gary Van Kauwenbergh
ACWSA Adjutant



Ladies and Gentlemen, This information comes through a post on the N-SSA bulletin board by Terry Arliskas:

"I'm sure most everyone knows Bill Osborne,... proprietor of Lodgewood Mfg. Bill's daughter, Jessica, was involved in a terrible bicycle accident last month, where she was struck by a car while riding near her home in Portland, Oregon, and left for dead. The collision left Jessica in the hospital with three cracked vertebrae, collapsed lungs, scrapes and bruises, and a ruptured spleen (that was later removed). The injuries will keep her out of work for eight weeks and the hospital bill is close to \$100,000. Jessica is a recent college graduate, and is currently living in Portland while studying to take the LSAT's and preparing for law school. The good news is that Jessica is doing very well and should make a 100% recovery. The bad news is that this wonderful young woman is now deep in debt and the person that hit her is still on the loose.

Joy Melcher of Civil War Lady will be setting out donation cans for Jessica at various locations on Sutler's Row during the [N-SSA] Spring Nationals. I know times are getting tough, but please find it in your heart to give a little to help this phenomenal young lady.

Donations can also be made at the Lodgewood Tent to either Becky Baird or Bill, or at the Civil War Lady sutlery. Checks may be written to "Help Jess Osborne" and sent to Lodgewood Mfg P.O. Box 611 Whitewater, WI 53190.

Thanks much.

Terry Arliskas"



David Sielski, president of Company E passed on some important information to his unit in their May, 2008, newsletter. The tip is an important one and *The Fugelman* would appreciate passing it along to all the members of the Association who are headed out to Gettysburg in July. President Sielski wrote: "We're less than 2 months away from the National in Gettysburg, if you're attending the event please get in some extra walking around the grounds." The editor attended the 140th Anniversary event in 2003, which was located on the same grounds. The field where we will conduct the battles is huge. Marching from camp onto the battlefield and getting into line took roughly an hour for each scenario (except Pickett's charge). Once the fight starts you will be moving around the field and you will cover a great deal of space during the fight. And then there is the waiting until your unit can retire from the field and the march back to camp. And Dave Sielski is right about the heat! It exceeded 90 degrees all three days in 2003. There are shuttles from the camps to the sutlers area (tractors pulling hay wagons), but the sutlers area covers nearly an acre so to walk through the tents and peruse all the goodies takes a healthy constitution. We thank President Sielski for the important reminder and Charles Bagneski for passing it along!

ARTILLERY AT GETTYSBURG

By Jim Dumke – Editor
(Part 2 of 3)

As the morning had passed, the I Corps infantry and especially the men who composed the Iron Brigade had done well. Rising numbers of rebel infantry were arriving on the field, however. An even larger concern was the concentration of superior numbers of rebel batteries, especially on Herr Ridge facing the I Corps. And it wasn't only the batteries west of town facing the I Corps, but also on the right flank of Doubleday's troops (Doubleday had succeeded to command with the death of Reynolds) on McPherson's Ridge. The rebel artillery were also occupying Oak Hill (the site of the current Peace Monument at Gettysburg) and were able to enfilade the right flank. The arrival of General Howard's XI Corps on the field were deployed facing north on Doubleday's right flank which would alleviate some of the terrible pressure on the

infantry posted on McPherson's Ridge.

On I Corps' left the conflict was going better for the Union. The valiant Iron Brigade hit the Southerners hard, rocked them back, outflanked them. Reynolds, one of the foremost of the war's front-line generals, rode forward into the smoke of battle, looming above it on his charger. It was then that the Rebel sharpshooter in the old stone barn found his target. His rifle spoke, and Reynolds toppled from his horse, a bullet through his head. Furiously the Iron Brigade renewed its onslaught, capturing Confederate General Archer and hundreds of his men. North of the turnpike the Blue ranks, reinforced, caught the contagion of victory and surged forward, also taking prisoners by the hundred.* (Downey, pps. 29-30)

It was about 11:00 a. m. when the remainder of the I Corps artillery found their way to Seminary Ridge. Throughout the morning, rebel and Union troops arriving on the field had been sent directly into the fight. The ebb and flow of the battle had left the units of both forces disorganized. Doubleday was in the process of trying to reorganize the infantry west of town along the Chambersburg Pike. Part of this effort was getting artillery units in place to counter the concentration of rebel cannon and as anti-personnel weapons against the mounting number of rebel troops. In order to accomplish this task Doubleday met with the chief of the I Corps artillery, Colonel Charles Wainwright. Over the next hour Doubleday and the commander of the First Division of the I Corps, James Wadsworth, would be frustrated with Wainwright who was reluctant to put in batteries without adequate infantry support, a problem that had resulted in the devastation Calef's and Hall's batteries at the hands of rebel infantry.

Stewart's veteran command, often call the "Iron Brigade Battery," had arrived on the field in the forenoon and was at first held in a reserve position to the north of the Seminary. After about an hour in this location, it was moved at about noon or shortly thereafter about 300 yards to the right at the orders of Colonel Wainwright. Wainwright was having difficulty maintaining an artillery presence on McPherson's Ridge, where Hall's battery had taken a pounding that morning and Reynolds' battery was soon to do the same. Wainwright hoped that Stewart would at least be able to give defensive covering fire to the right flank of Doubleday's forward line, even if he were not able to engage in counter battery fire against the massive buildup of Confederate artillery on Herr Ridge, a little over a mile to the west. At this new position, Stewart's guns were the farthest north of Any I Corps battery this day. (Martin, p. 429)

Stewart's guns did not become heavily engaged in the action for over two hours after they deployed. As already noted, they were out of range of the Confederate cannons on Herr Ridge, and Rode's guns on Oak Hill apparently could not see Stewart's men because of the intervening woods. All the Confederate guns were

concentrating their firepower on Doubleday's forward line posted on McPherson's Ridge, particularly Stone's brigade. The first action Stewart's guns did partake in was to help repel Daniel's troops who were attacking Stone, and would cause him severe problems for almost two hours. While they waited, Stewart's men saw some 200 or 300 Rebel prisoners (a "tough set") being sent to the rear from the right, no doubt from Iverson's and Daniel's brigades.

Wainwright was correct in his position of not putting in artillery units without the proper infantry support, at least as far as theory went. One of the leading artillerists at West Point and in the pre-war military, John Gibbon, dealt with this concern in his *Artillerist's Manual*. Gibbon felt that support for the guns was necessary and even offered a view of how that support should be arrayed.

Regardless of where the artillery was placed, doctrine called for officers to take a number of precautions for its defense. Attacked frontally, a battery could repulse most assaults. Artillery, however, was especially vulnerable to attack from the flank and the rear, and whenever possible batteries had to be protected by either infantry or cavalry "supports". While at West Point, Gibbon, in his course on artillery tactics, taught that in open terrain artillery support was best provided by cavalry. Placed on either side of the battery, at the propitious moment the cavalry could charge the advancing enemy. However, if the battery was very large or likely to receive a "hot and lively" fire, it was better to place the cavalry about 100 yards behind the battery and, if possible, in a protected position. When fighting over broken terrain, cavalry would no longer prove useful. Then it was the infantry's turn to support the artillery, instead. Gibbon suggested that such infantry be kept in squares on both flanks of the artillery and to the rear of its center.

Officers also had to make certain the guns were never placed directly in front of or behind friendly infantry, since this doubled the target and needlessly increased casualties. The exception was when the intention was to initially mask the batteries from the opponent's view so that they could be sprung upon the unsuspecting foe at the crisis of the engagement and inflict maximum carnage and mayhem. (Nosworthy, p. 423)

Doubleday's problem was that he needed Buford's division out on the army's flanks as more and more rebel units arrived on the field in order to inform the infantry commanders of the arrival of those troops and to force them to take the time to deploy before engaging with the infantry. Thus it was not possible to use the cavalry to support the guns, first on McPherson's Ridge and then on Seminary Ridge. In regards to infantry support, the enemy's artillery fire was having good effect among the Union troops. Also, Doubleday had to thin the battle lines in order to cover his front. So

while Wainwright was correct in his concern over unsupported artillery so close to the front lines, it wasn't possible to provide that support considering the dictates of the unfolding fight.

While Pender was deploying his command [a little before 11:00 a. m.] behind Herr Ridge, Major Davis McIntosh brought up his artillery battalion and formed it where needed along the front. He found Pegram's battalion, which had already been in action for almost two hours, had deployed along the crest of the ridge with its center on the Pike. Eleven guns (six Napoleons and five rifles) of McGraw's, Zimmerman's and Brander's batteries were on the left of the Pike, and six guns (four Napoleons and two rifles) of Marye's and Johnson's batteries were on the right of the road. McIntosh placed 10 of his guns (six Napoleons and two rifles from Rice's and Wallace's batteries, plus two Whitworth rifles from Hurt's battery) on Pegram's right along the ridge crest, and after a while sent six rifles from Johnson's and Hurt's batteries 5/8 mile to the right to support Pettigrew's and Archer's brigades in the first line. Those six guns formed on what McIntosh termed a "commanding hill" near the Fairfield Road; they were actually posted on the edge of a woods 1/4 mile west of the Harman farm. (Martin, pps 189-90)

This concentration of rebel artillery was wreaking havoc on the infantry lines of the I Corps! The 33 guns in place were causing "considerable discomfort" on the line of infantry troops. (Martin, p. 190) Despite the early success of the Iron Brigade and the Pennsylvania and New York boys around 10:00 a.m. and after, the buildup of the rebel guns threatened the line making it virtually untenable by 11:00 or shortly afterward.

Sometime after 11:00 a. m. Doubleday went to Wainwright to request that artillery be placed on McPherson's Ridge where Stone's troops were being battered by rebel artillery. Wainwright initially sent in Reynolds' battery to form up there, but when he saw the forward position and lack of infantry support for the battery he took steps to withdraw Reynolds almost immediately. The battery was withdrawn, but not until it had suffered terribly while posted to the front. A short time later Wadsworth went to Wainwright and asked him to post some guns along Chambersburg Pike where Calef's and Hall's batteries had been posted earlier in the morning. Again Wainwright declined to send a battery to that position as he viewed it as too exposed and the position lacked infantry support. Between 11:00 and 11:30 a. m. Doubleday had no artillery support on his line of battle.

A little before noon Wainwright finally got one of his batteries into action. Cooper's battery was formed up on the left of the I Corps line with Biddle's brigade. (Martin, p. 191) It was at this time that Doubleday began withdrawing some of his infantry to positions on Seminary Ridge as a result of mounting pressure from the increasing numbers of rebel infantry and artillery.

Wainwright still had two fresh batteries in reserve south of the Seminary (Stewart's and Stevens'), but chose not to deploy them, probably because of the intensity of Confederate fire that had ravaged Calef's, Hall's and Reynolds' batteries. Wadsworth, however, did not hesitate to bring forward additional infantry support on the right. Towards noon he directed Cutler to advance his regiments [56th Pennsylvania, 14th Brooklyn, 76th New York, 95th New York and the 147th New York--Ed.] from the woods on northern Seminary Ridge where they had reformed and move to the support of the artillery posted one half mile to the west. (Martin, p. 194)

The 6th Wisconsin and 14th Brooklyn, which had been supporting Calef's guns, were pulled back to the eastern railroad cut. Here they formed to support Stewart's battery of regular artillery, which was called up from its reserve position near the Seminary. Stewart formed with three of his guns on each side of the railroad cut through Seminary Ridge. Lieutenant Davidson commanded the left half-battery, which covered about half the space between the pike and the railroad near the Thompson house. The right half-battery extended from the railroad cut to the edge of the grove in which Cutler's brigade had reformed earlier. (Martin, p. 208)

Despite sending a large portion of his command to support Iverson, Daniel directed the remainder of his brigade to continue moving due south towards Stone's line along the Chambersburg Pike, some 1/4 mile distant. This attack was spearheaded by the 45th North Carolina and the 2nd North Carolina Battalion, which had originally been on the left flank before the 45th and 43rd were moved to the left.

Daniel's troops had arrived with Ewell's command, Early's division, in the area of Oak Hill. As General Early sent those troops moving against the line of the XI Corps, Daniel's men found that they were too far to the right to hit the flank of Howard's troops and simply continued to march south towards the flank of the I Corps' line on McPherson's Ridge.

The 45th and 2nd Battalion suffered severely during their lengthy advance from the fire of Union guns of Cooper's and Reynolds' batteries to their front, and Stewart's battery on the ridge to their left. . . . (Martin, p. 240)

Daniel's command made a tragic mistake when they were subjected to the merciless pounding from the Union artillery. As bad as the artillery fire was, it was far more devastating when the temptation to use the railroad cut as a ready made trench to shelter them from the impact of the shot and shell that greeted them as they advanced from the north. Battery B gave them a warm reception!

A number of Daniel's men rushed to the railroad cut to their front, and scrambled down its steep bank. When they were unable to scale the opposing bank, they found themselves in quite a fix because of the terrible effect of Stewart's enfilading fire from the left; Union canister was sweeping through the cut with terrible effect. (Martin, p. 241)

Before reaching the railroad cut, the regiments of the brigade were rallied by General Robinson and moved to the support of Stewart's battery, which was deployed astride the deep eastern railroad cut in Seminary Ridge. Here they joined the 6th Wisconsin, and were soon reinforced by three of Cutler's regiments, the 14th Brooklyn, 76th New York and 147th New York. (Martin, p. 254)

Union General Abner Doubleday, commander of the I Corps, had only three brigades with about 4000 men with which to oppose the six the six fresh brigades, some 10,000 men total, the Heth and Pender were preparing for the attack. The strong point of Doubleday's position, Herbst Woods, was held by his best unit, the Iron Brigade. Meredith's command had not been engaged particularly heavily in its morning attack, except for the 2nd Wisconsin, which had suffered 30% casualties. For this reason Meredith had shifted the 7th Wisconsin to the right of his line and put the 2nd to its left, followed by the 24th Michigan and the 19th Indiana. The Iron Brigade's fifth regiment, the 6th Wisconsin, had been detached that morning before its attack on Davis' troops at the middle railroad cut, and was still absent, supporting Stewart's battery at the eastern railroad cut, some 1600 yards east and somewhat north of Herbst Woods. (Martin, p. 342)

Wainwright's confusion about the orders to hold Cemetery Hill at all costs caused him to shift Stevens' 5th Maine battery to northern Seminary Ridge to replace Stewart's battery when they were moved to the eastern railroad cut. This weakened Doubleday's front line, but it did beef up the Corps' secondary line on Seminary Ridge.

Ramseur, after a lull in the fighting while both sides reformed their lines, renewed the fight west of Gettysburg. Robinson's small brigade had been left out on the right of the I Corps' line. It was soon overlapped and facing fire from front and flank and forced to withdraw. This allowed Pender's troops to focus their attack on the left of Doubleday's line at the eastern Seminary Ridge line at around 4:15 or 4:30 p.m. It was there that Battery B [Stewart's battery] and its support were located.

The backbone of Doubleday's line was formed by 15 guns of Wainwright's artillery battalion. As already noted, Stevens' six Napoleons had already been posted north of the Seminary near the Chambersburg Pike; it had been in reserve all day and never left the Seminary Ridge line except to move to this location from its earlier

position farther to the left on the ridge at about 1400 [2:00 p.m.]. Cooper's three 3-inch rifles were posted at the center of the line, on the front and right of the main Seminary building, after they were pulled back from Biddle's line on southern McPherson's Ridge. Lieutenant Wilber's two guns of Breck's battery, which had been briefly posted on Stone's line, pulled back with Wadsworth's troops and formed on the Chambersburg Pike. Breck's other four guns, which fell back after being just a few lines on Biddle's front in order to escape capture, were formed about 100 yards south of the Seminary "in rear of the belt of timber to the left of that building." Doubleday's defensive line near the Seminary was also aided by the six Napoleons of Stewart's battery, which was deployed astride the eastern railroad cut on the northern side of the Chambersburg Pike. . . . This line of guns (21 including Stewart's) was by far the most effective concentration of Union artillery yet drawn up that day. The cannons were so closely deployed from the Seminary north to the Pike that they were in places only five yards apart. (Martin, pps. 396-

97)



Figure 5 photo from Lyle Laufenberg

When Stewart's battery was sent off to the area of the Chambersburg Pike to provide counterbattery support near Herbst Woods and the position maintained by the Iron Brigade, it found its ability to post the guns hampered by the terrain.

When the battery moved to its right, it found its advance impeded by the eastern railroad cut, which was by far the longest and deepest on the field, being some 40 feet deep at the center of Seminary Ridge. The battery commander, 2nd Lieutenant James Stewart, decided the best way to handle this situation was to deploy astride the shallow western end of the cut, where it was only a few feet deep. There he formed up his guns in a somewhat unusual formation with three to the right of the cut and three to the left; usually batteries functioned in three two-gun sections. (Martin, p. 430)

Stewart's formation was described as follows by a member of the battery: "The battery . . . proceeded at once to form 'by half battery' on both sides of the Railroad cut, on the ridge nearest the town, and abreast of the Thopson house. The formation of the left half battery was open order, and the three guns fronted about half the space between the turnpike and the railroad, the caissons taking cover of the buildings and the rear slope of the ground. Lt. Davison commanded the left half battery, and had with him Ord. Sgt. John Mitchell, Sgts. Thorpe and Moore, Lance Sgt. McDougall, and about 42 corporals, drivers and cannoneers. Our guns pointed due west, taking the Chambersburg Pike en escharpe. The right half battery was in line with us on the north side of the cut. Its right gun rested on the edge of a little grove, which extended some distance farther to the right As Stewart commanded the right half battery in person, he did not have much to do with us, directly, during the action that followed."

As noted above, Daniel had been coordinating his attack with that of Iverson on the defensive lines of the XI Corps. As part of that advance Daniel directed the 45th North Carolina and the 2nd North Carolina Battalion south for about a quarter mile to attack Stones' position along the Chambersburg Pike. [1:30 p.m.] Stone's brigade held the far right of Doubleday's line on McPherson's Ridge at that point.

Despite sending a large portion of his command to support Iverson, Daniel directed the remainder of his brigade to continue moving due south towards Stone's line along the Chambersburg Pike, some 1/4 mile distant. This attack was spearheaded by the 45th North Carolina and 2nd North Carolina Battalion, which had originally been on the brigade's left flank before the 45th and 43rd were moved to the left.

The 45th and 2nd Battalion suffered severely during their lengthy advance from the fire of Union guns of Cooper's and Reynolds' batteries to their front, and Stewart's battery on the ridge to their left. (Martin, p. 240)

Battery B was thus able to assist in smashing a significant threat to the position of the I Corps. And in doing so the battery and the units of the I Corps did such damage to these units that they would be rendered incapable of participating in the subsequent days of battle at Gettysburg. In the following excerpt David Martin describes the end result of Daniel's assault on the right flank of Doubleday's line.

A number of Daniel's men rushed to the railroad cut to their front, and scrambled down its steep bank. When they were unable to scale the opposing bank, they found themselves in quite a fix because of the terrible effect of Stewart's enfilading fire from the left; Union canister was sweeping through the cut with terrible effect. At this point Lieutenant Colonel Wharton J. Green of Daniel's staff suggested to

Colonel E. C. Brabble that he should order his men in the cut "to face to the left and clear the gap." (Martin, p. 241)

After the collapse of Robinson's brigade [from the XI Corps-ed.] which had been flanked by rebel troops, this left only Paul's brigade [of the I Corps-ed.] on the right. They were in an untenable position without artillery support. They too were flanked and being hit by rebel artillery fire.

The success of Ramseurs attack and the rapid collapse of Robinson's command encouraged Rodes' right center regiments--Iverson's 12th North Carolina and Daniel's 43rd and 53rd North Carolina--to press their attack, also. Colonel William Owens of the 53rd reported that he fronted, moved forward to the Will's Woods, and there joined the 12th North Carolina for an advance on the eastern railroad cut. This attack readily pushed back the few Union troops there and was soon threatening the right flank of Stewart's battery and its supporting troops posted at the eastern railroad cut. (Martin, p. 393)

The final climax of the fight on McPherson's and Seminary Ridges was underway. Heth's exhausted troops would be reinforced with the fresh division under General Pender. These new and fresh troops would be no match for the tired, hungry and fought out Union troops on McPherson's Ridge. Initially the entire I Corps line would fall back to a new line on Seminary Ridge. Some were orderly in their withdrawal, some were not! As the infantry formed up on their new defensive line the artillery was also pulled back to form a strongly posted new position for a last stand. The artillery line along Seminary Ridge would wreak havoc on Scales' rebel line as it attacked Doubleday's line facing west:

Captain Robert Beecham of the 2nd Wisconsin, which was stationed alongside Stevens' guns, was also overwhelmed by the destruction he saw: "These guns were brimmed with shell or double shotted with canister; they were carefully posted by the best field artillerymen in the army; every man was at his station; and they were awaiting this very opportunity. The charging Confederates were brave men--in fact, no braver ever faced death in any case, and none ever faced a more certain death! Almost at the same moment, as if every lanyard was pulled by the same hand, this line of artillery opened, and Seminary Ridge blazed with a solid sheet of flame, and the missiles of death that swept its western slopes no human beings could endure. After a few moments of the belching artillery, the blinding smoke shut out the sun and obstructed the view". (Martin, p. 403)

The last organized Union unit to stand on Seminary Ridge on 1 July was probably Stewart's Battery B, 4th U. S. artillery, which was posted astride the eastern

railroad cut just to the north of the Chambersburg Pike, some 300 yards north of the Seminary. The battery, supported by a smattering of regiments from Wadsworth's and Robinson's divisions, was able to resist frontal attack from Daniel's and Scales' brigades because of the devastating fire it and the batteries to its left were able to pour forth across the open fields. This enabled the battery to hold on until it was forced to retreat by the successful Confederate infantry that advanced on its rear from both flanks at virtually the same time, Ramseur's from the right and Perrin's from the left.

Stewart's guns began to play an even more critical role in the battle after about 1515 [3:15 P. M.], when the Union troops on McPherson's Ridge were at last pushed back to Seminary Ridge. Since all these units reformed in the Seminary area south of the Chambersburg Pike, the guns of Battery B were given a relatively open field of fire against Heth's advancing troops that were pursuing the retreating Unionists. The only fire that the battery's men were under at this time was stray musketry whose shots "began to zip and whistle around our ears with unpleasant frequency."

The intervening hours between 1130 and 1430 [11:30 a. m. to 2:30 p. m.--Ed.] weighed heavily on the troops of both armies posted on each side of Willoughby Run. It was the heat of the day and the constant artillery fire and rattle of the skirmishers gave no rest to anyone. In addition, the dead and wounded from the morning's engagement lay along both lines, a grim reminder of the day's business at hand. But most disconcerting to the Union troops was the sight and sound of more Confederate troops continually filing on to the field. Major Thomas Chamberlin of the 150th Pennsylvania noted that "during the temporary lull which prevailed on the field, there was abundant opportunity to observe the numbers and disposition of the enemy to the west, consisting, as we have since learned, of Heth's and Pender's divisions of Hill's corps--some of the brigades of Pender's command arriving later than our own and defiling in plain view into position south of the Chambersburg Pike. While our own line was but a skeleton, with noticeable gaps between the several brigades, as well as between the regiments, and with no visible reserves, the enemy seemed to be formed in continuous double lines of battle, extending southward as far as the accidents of ground permitted the eye to reach, with ample supports in column in rear. As a spectacle it was striking, but their preponderance in view was so obvious that we might have despaired of the result of the coming engagement, if we had not supposed that additional troops of our own would be up in line to lend us a hand." (Martin, p. 345)

The Union artillery was not handled nearly as well as the Confederates' during this stage of the battle. As already noted, Wainright refused to cooperate with Doubleday in trying to establish a counter battery to face the Confederate strength

on Herr and Oak Ridges. As a result, the Union batteries that attempted to deploy in the Union center were chewed up individually as they came forward--first Calef's, then Hall's then Calef's again in the morning, and then G. Reynolds' at noon (when the captain was mortally wounded). The best that the Union batteries could do was withdraw slightly to their left in order to use the McPherson barn and Herbst Woods as a shield against Pegram's and McInosh's battalions. (Martin, p. 347)

While both sides reformed their lines in preparation for the final fatal clash south of the Chambersburg Pike, affairs came to a sudden climax on the Corps right posted on the northern end of Seminary Ridge. As already noted, Baxter's exhausted brigade withdrew from the right around 1500 [3:00 p.m.] and moved southward to seek fresh ammunition, eventually deploying in support of Stewart's battery at the eastern railroad cut. (Martin, p. 386)

The battery's first true test came at about 1600 [4:00 P. M.] when Pender's fresh division took up the attack from Heth's by now exhausted command. The left flank of Pender's left brigade, Scale's, proceeded directly into Stewart's line of fire. Indeed, Pender's extreme left regiment, the 38th North Carolina, which had its right on the Chambersburg Pike, was heading straight for the battery's position. (Martin, pps. 430-31)

Union cannoneers had a clear view of Pender's attack by his fresh division:

"First we could see the tips of their color staffs coming up over the little ridge, then the points of their bayonets, and then the Johnnies themselves, coming up with a steady tramp, tramp and with loud yells." There was no question who was going to win the coming conflict between iron and flesh. Stewart's guns opened up with canister, shell and shrapnel and totally decimated the 38th North Carolina on its front. The fire of the Union guns was so devastating that the surviving Confederate infantry had to hug the ground in order to survive. (Martin, p. 431)

The slaughter was unimaginable, but the sheer pressure of numbers resulted in the rebel troops nearly encircling the Union positions on Seminary Ridge. It was becoming increasingly clear that the Union troops could not maintain their positions on Seminary Ridge. Next month this series of articles will come to an end as the artillery exacted a terrible price on the rebel troops driving the Union troops off Seminary Ridge. It was due to the dramatic stand by the I Corps batteries that allowed many of the I Corps infantry to withdraw without capture.

*The theory that a sharpshooter posted in a barn or in a tree nearby has been questioned by historians. These theories are based mostly on post war claims by men claiming to

have fired the shot that killed General Reynolds. Many contemporary historians now believe that Reynolds was hit by an overshoot from the rebel battle line to his front.

Downey, Fairfax. *The Guns At Gettysburg*, David McKay Comp., Inc.: New York, N.Y., (1958)

Martin, David G. *Gettysburg July 1*, De Capo Press: Cambridge, Mass. (1996)

Nosworthy, Brent. *The Bloody Crucible of Courage: Fighting Methods and Combat Experience of the Civil War*, Carroll & Graf Publishers: New York, N.Y. (2003).

The rebels met a rain of iron at the hands of Stewart's battery on July 1, 1863! Now the guns stand silent a memorial to those intrepid gunners who stood to their work in the face of certain destruction.



Photo from Lyle
Laufenberg a member of
Battery B

BATTERY B, 4TH UNITED STATES ARTILLERY





Figure 8 Ted Gardner is the second from the left in the second row



Figure 9 Ted is the second from the left, standing from photo taken at Wade House

As the Newsletter prepared to publish this morning it received distressing news from our comrades in Battery B! The newsletter had prepared to ask our members to join in prayer for Ted Gardner, a member of the Battery B, who was struggling with cancer. That request comes to late to help Mr. Gardner. The newsletter was informed by Lyle Laufenberg that on the morning of May 28th, 2008, Ted Gardner had been called home by his Father in Heaven. Let us all remember Ted's family and his mates in the battery in our prayers beginning this day. May God lighten the load of Ted's family and all his friends in reenacting, especially the boys in the battery. The sincerest condolences from the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association to Ted's family and friends in this time of sorrow.



Figure 10 Ted Gardner (leaning on the fence) and Lyle Laufenberg at Tall Ships event.

