

Gettysburg postponed until Aug. 7-9th!

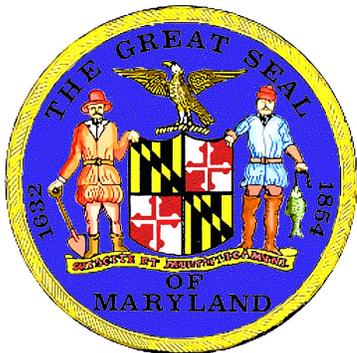
OUR CAMP JOURNAL



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We are but few in number but formidable. -Pvt. James Shelton, 7th Md. Co. B

July 2015



1st Regiment Federal Volunteer Brigade

The weather at Gettysburg

By Samantha-Rae Tuthill, AccuWeather.com

The Battle of Gettysburg is said to be the bloodiest battle of the American Civil War. Fought in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 1 through 3 in 1863, historians put the number of casualties and missing Union and Confederate soldiers at 46,286. Death tolls mounted even in the days following the battle as wounded left on the fields succumbed to their injuries and the elements. Bayonets, rifled muskets, cannons and infections all contributed to the carnage that took place 151 years ago today. The weather, however, created some casualties as well.

A Gettysburg man by the name of Rev. Dr. Michael Jacobs, a math pro-

fessor at what was then called Pennsylvania College, had a strong interest in weather and recorded his observations three times a day, every day, even during the battle. As a result, the "Meteorology of the Battle", (see page 3) was published, and it gives very specific details on the weather at the Battle of Gettysburg and the role it may have played in battle.

Ben Neely, Executive Director at the Adams County Historical Society, emphasized that the most damaging aspect of the weather for this event actually occurred on July 4, the day after the battle had ended. Rain fell across the area for most of the day; Rev. Dr. Jacobs put the total at 1.39

inches. While wounded still lay on the field, some may have felt welcomed by the break in action. Some wounded soldiers had still not been moved from low-lying areas by the Plum Run Creek, however, which overflowed its banks. Those stranded near the flood waters, reportedly all Confederates, drowned.

According to AccuWeather's former Vice President of Marketing and Civil War historian Dr. Lee Rainey, an even larger issue that was faced as a result of the rain was the retreat attempts made by the Confederate Army on July 4. "They had to move a 17-mile-long train of wagons filled with wounded sol-

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**The 152nd
Gettysburg
Has been
POSTPONED
Until
August 7- 9th**

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Upcoming Campaigns

JULY

July 3-5th:
152nd Gettysburg,

POSTPONED!

Pumping Station Rd.,
Gettysburg, PA
(COMPANY) (AOP/FVB Event)

July 17-19:
Funkstown, MD,
(COMPANY)

AUGUST

August 8-9:
Renfrew Museum,
Waynesboro (139th PA)
(First Regiment Event)
(COMPANY)

August 21-23:

25th Annual 93rd PA event
Old Union Canal Tunnel
(First Regiment Event)
(Individual)

SEPTEMBER

September 12-13th:
Fall Muster at St. Thomas,
Chambersburg, PA
Cavalry Sponsored,

7th Maryland Soiree,
Date / location TBA
(COMPANY)

OCTOBER

October 3-4:
Maryland Brigade Event,
Baltimore, MD
(Individual)

October 17-18:
151st Cedar Creek,
Middletown, VA
(COMPANY) (AOP/FVB Event)

NOVEMBER

November 21-22:
FVB Annual Meeting,
Remembrance Day
(COMPANY) (AOP/FVB Event)

Brigade Notes

The controversy involving the Confederate flag has gotten out of control. Granted, that flag, nor any element of it, should be flown over any government buildings, now 150 years after America has reunited.

Folks have lost sight of the meaning of the flag. CSA stands for "Confederate States of America". Even though the southern states attempted secession, they still considered themselves "Americans".

The Confederacy did not consist of all slave owners, any more than the Union consisted entirely of abolitionists.

The Confederate flag was appropriated after the Civil War by racist and hate groups. The flag appropriated for those groups is the rectangular version, not the CSA battle standard. Historical photographs show members of the Klu

Klux Klan marching on the streets of the nations capital carrying the Stars and Stripes. Does this mean that we now must banish the US flag, or by the same logic, prohibit the sale of white bedsheets? And now the call for abolishing statues of all Confederate leaders is lunacy. Renaming parks, streets, etc., for famous CSA military leaders and officers is dangerous and unprecedented.

As a member of the media, I may be part of the problem. But, what if....just what if, the photo of the deranged lunatic, the killer holding the Confederate flag, had been cropped to EXCLUDE the flag, where would the nations focus of fury lie? I can't answer that question, but I know that the ire is misdirected at the flag and not the criminal.

As reenactors, both North and South, we consider ourselves teachers. We



**Gen. Jay Henson
FVB Commander**

teach history to those who are willing to listen and want to learn. In all my years in reenacting I have never once heard the message of hate or racism, from soldiers or civilians on either side. Only of heritage.

This is by far, I think, the hardest column I have ever had to write. With the end of the 150th cycle of events and now this controversy, our future in reenacting is on the brink.

With the postponement of Gettysburg, we're facing yet another pause in reenacting. And decisions lie ahead. I have urged the GAC organizers to consider rolling the event fees over to next year for those who cannot make the new dates in August. That weekend, 7-9th, is the same weekend that the Renfrew event in Waynesboro is scheduled.

Weather at Gettysburg

diers over the dissolving dirt roads back to Virginia," he said. "And the rains caused the Potomac River--easily fordable on the march north--to flow so high that the army was trapped on the north side with the Union forces in pursuit. The Confederates dug in for a desperate battle, but in the end were able to escape across the river on the 13th, the day before Meade's planned attack."

The days leading up to that point were not without tragedy as fighting consumed the fields of the Pennsylvania town. For its part, the weather was more cooperative at the battle's start. July 1, the first day fighting began, had a sky covered by cumulostratus clouds all day, according to Rev. Dr. Jacobs' detailed reports. The breeze was typically southerly at only 2 mph; the afternoon temperature was a comfortable 76 degrees. The second day started with similar cloud cover, but Rev. Dr. Jacobs wrote that the sky was three-tenths clear by the afternoon, when temperatures went up to 81. Likewise, the cloud cover started the third day and cleared considerably by the afternoon. The cloud cover that remained, however, was the "massive thunder-cloud of summer." A thunderstorm started around 6 p.m. EDT. "The thunder seemed tame, after the artillery firing of the afternoon," Rev. Dr. Jacobs wrote.

The temperatures were not as severe as they could have been. Current records from 1981 to 2010 put the average high for the area at 87 every day in July, but most of the Battle of Gettysburg was fought in the 70s. The cloud cover also offered a break from direct sunlight. Had these conditions been less favorable, there may have been even more

casualties.

Lee Houser of the Civil War Heritage Foundation, Inc., said that heat stroke and heat exhaustion would likely have affected many soldiers, particularly Union soldiers. Union blue uniforms were primarily wool, but the Confederate's gray uniforms may have used some cotton, which is lighter. After marching, some for over 30 miles, even in lower-than-average temperatures, it would have taken a physical toll on soldiers. Add in the thick uniforms, supplies, heavy machinery and weapons that had to be carried along, and it would have been a lot of strain on their bodies. When the temperatures did climb, some succumbed to the heat.

Dr. Rainey, who spent years as a Civil War re-enactor, expressed the discomfort of authentic Civil War uniforms worn in Gettysburg with July's heat and humidity. He added, however, that it was something the soldiers in 1863 would have been more used to.

Neely contends that while heat would have been damaging, conditions may not have been as bad as they seem from a modern-day perspective.

"They wore wool clothes every day," he said. "This was something they would have been accustomed to."

Records do indicate that the heat played a factor in the war by exhausting soldiers and causing heat stroke, but perhaps the hot conditions were not as damaging as they had the potential to be; not as damaging as the heavy rain that followed.

METEOROLOGY OF THE BATTLE

NOTES BY REV. DR. JACOBS.

MR. EDITOR:

While reading, yesterday, the Comte de Paris' thorough account of the battle of Gettysburg, the reference which he makes to the increased heat on the third day, suggested the examination of my father's meteorological records. The results are such that they seem worthy of preservation, as affording data that should be considered in connection with the ever increasing attention given to the topography and incidents of those days. The entire period of the invasion is remarkable for being one of clouds, and, for that season of the year, of low temperature. From June 15th until July 22nd, 1863, there was not an entirely clear day. On the evening before the entrance into our town of Gen. Gordon's division, viz: June 25th, at 8 p. m., a rain began, which some may remember in connection with the arrival of the advance guard of the 25th Pa. militia, under Lieut. Hinkle, of the college company. This rain continued at intervals until Saturday, June 27th, at 7 a. m., the precipitation being in inches 1, - 280. At all the observations made on Saturday and Sunday, and until the nine o'clock observation of Monday night, the entire sky was covered with clouds. On the day before the battle, both at 7 a. m., and 2 p. m., the obscuration was again complete, with cumulo-stratus clouds moving from S.S.E. At 9 p. m., only four-tenths of the heavens were covered. During these days of sombre suspense, the records of the wind are those of almost an entire calm. The thermometer registers as follows during this period:

	7 A.M.	2 P.M.	9 P.M.
June 25th,	59	51	63
" 26th,	60	63	62
" 27th	61	63	67
" 28th	63	67	68
" 29th	66	72	69
" 30	68	79	71

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The Ladies' Knapsack.



Miss Sarah Harris
Civilian
Coordinator

I'm going to talk about underwear; men's underwear to be exact. I'm giving you fair warning so that you can avert your eyes while you scroll past the rest of this article if you are upset about this topic. In the mean time, I'm going to talk about underwear.

Let me start off by saying that I greatly enjoy sewing; it's a source of relaxation and stress relief, and it is quite useful. I work on both modern and Civil War era pieces of clothing, depending on my mood or current need. However, there are some parts of sewing that I truly dislike. For example, I hate setting sleeves into arm holes. For some reason, no matter how precisely I follow the patterns and instructions, sleeves never set easily into arm holes for me. So much frustration. And zippers (only in modern clothes, of course); zippers can be difficult even with a zipper presser foot for the sewing machine.

But the latest challenge I faced was in making a pair of men's drawers to replace a pair of torn drawers (which, I might add, I made to replace another pair of torn drawers). The challenge that lies in the drawers is constructing them so that they won't tear, and it is proving to be a difficult challenge. The first pair was torn in the back and the buttons kept tearing out of the front. So, to remedy that, I reinforced the waist line and front pieces of the drawers with wool and tried to reinforce some of the seams with some extra stitching. In the back, instead of using a clasp to tighten the drawers, I only sewed part of the back seam and left the rest of it open. Then, I laced the back with a leather strap and hoped that would help tighten the drawers but keep everything from tearing.

Well, all of the areas that were reinforced with the wool stayed pretty much intact; there was some pulling at the points of the buttons, but no major tears. But it was the giant horizontal

tear across the back of the drawers that I could just not figure out. Apparently, when drawers sag, that increases the chances of tearing them. So this time, I used the same reinforcements in the front and waistline, but I attempted a different style of tightening the drawers in the back. I used one strap that would have been used for the buckle, but sewed a button hole into it. I then placed two buttons further along the waistline so that the size of the waistband could be adjusted in the back, depending on sag.

Only time will tell if this new style of reinforcement will work, the first true test will be Gettysburg. However, it is more than likely that a tear will develop somewhere, and the challenge that is men's drawers will continue to flaunt itself.

Letters from Annapolis

Some women, including Matilda "Tillie" Sterling, accompanied their husbands to Civil War military installations, rather than staying at home or living with family. One such military installation was the Maryland state capital of Annapolis, which was permanently under the control of Federal troops during the war. Annapolis and environs served as a training center for Union troops and as a camp for paroled Union soldiers.

Matilda "Tillie" Louise Farquhar (1841-1920) married William Henry



Matilda "Tillie" Louise Sterling, circa 1875. *Sterling Family Papers, Special Collections, University of Maryland Libraries*

Sterling (1828-1918) on October 1, 1861, in Philadelphia at the home of her mother, Anna Virginia Farquhar. William had enlisted in the Union Army six months before their marriage and was assigned to recruiting service. During his military career, William lived in various places throughout the country. From February 1863 to February 1864, he was stationed in Annapolis, Maryland, and Tillie accompanied him to his post there. During her stay in Annapolis, Tillie had the opportunity to witness and comment on everyday life in Annapolis, especially the city's social scene.

Tillie wrote numerous letters to her mother in Philadelphia that con-

tribute to our understanding of Maryland's divided loyalties and the various ways that women in Maryland reacted to the war.

Readers will note that Tillie was staunchly pro-Union in her letters. She compared women's rebellious actions in Annapolis to those of Baltimore women and used the familiar term "secesh" to refer to persons with secessionist sentiments. Her most interesting news tidbit for her mother concerns the engagements of two women who are sisters, but have chosen beaux from opposite sides of the conflict.

Annapolis, March 18th [1863]

"The secession feeling prevails here, there being but a small number of Unionists. I hear that secessionists are very bitter in their feelings, but they keep quiet because they are obliged to. They hate all Federal officers and soldiers, especially as their presence here obliges them to behave

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Letters from Annapolis



**Civil War Re-enactors;
Americas Living Historians.**

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themselves. Still I hear that the women of Annapolis (although so bitter) have never acted in the unladylike and outrageous manner that the women of Baltimore and the Southern cities have done. There are some thousands of troops here, a large number being paroled men. Almost every day I see a soldier's funeral pass, the coffin in a wagon, followed by an officer and a small number of men. It is a sad sight, and to think of these poor fellows dying in this way away from home and friends makes one heart sick. A few days ago a funeral passed, and in the wagon near the coffin was seated a poor old woman, whom we concluded must be the mother of the dead

soldier."

"I tried the piano here yesterday, it is considerably out of tune and therefore not pleasant to sing with, but it is better than none - I sang a little for Mrs. Green last evening. She is quite a pleasant woman but I am not inclined to like any one who is the least - 'secesh' - However she is very quiet about it, and I think too lady-like to express any offensive sentiments, whatever she may feel. One of her daughters (Miss Alice Green) professes to be a Unionist; and Mrs. Waite tells me she is engaged to a Federal officer. The other one is engaged to a rebel officer, so you can judge what her sentiments are. I do not think that their feelings can be very violent, for differing in opinions as they profess to, they seem to be perfectly friendly to each other; and such would scarcely be the case if they felt very bitterly."

Weather at Gettysburg

(Continued from page 3)

FIRST DAY.-All through the first day, the entire sky was covered with clouds, viz: cumulo-stratus at 7 a. m. and 2 p. m.; and cirro-stratus at 9 p. m. A very gentle southern breeze, (2 miles per hour). Thermometer:

7 A.M.	2 P.M.	9 P.M.
72	76	74

SECOND DAY.-At 8 a. m., sky still covered, (cumulo-stratus). At 2 p. m., three-tenths are clear. At 9 p. m., there are cirrus clouds; wind as on preceding day. Thermometer:

7 A.M.	2 P.M.	9 P.M.
74	81	76

THIRD DAY.-At 8 a. m., sky again completely covered with cumulo-stratus clouds; at 2 p. m., only four-tenths of the heavens are covered, but with cumulus or the massive thunder-cloud of summer; at 9 p. m., seven-tenths cumulus. Wind S. S. W., very gentle. Thunder storm in neighborhood at 6 p. m. The thunder seemed tame, after the artillery firing of the afternoon. Thermometer:

7 A.M.	2 P.M.	9 P.M.
73	87	76

SATURDAY, THE FOURTH.-Rain in showers at 6 a. m., from 2:15 to 4 p. m., and at 4 a. m. of the 5th, aggregating 1.390. Thermometer:

7 A.M.	2 P.M.	9 P.M.
69	72	70

There were slight showers on the 5th and 7th; and on the 8th, a rain from 3 a. m. to 11:30 a. m., which measured 1.300.

The maximum temperature for the month of July 1863, was 87°, at the time of Pickett's charge. Eleven days of the month, the maximum was in the seventies, and on one day (17th) it was but sixty-two.

The low temperature was undoubtedly a great blessing to the wounded, as well as to all in both armies, in protecting them, in their forced marches, from dangers as fatal as bullets. The frequent rains cleansed the fields of much that would have caused disease. It is, however, for military men to determine what effect the atmospheric conditions had upon the conflict, and to conjecture what result might have followed had we had that year an average July, not to say one of such extreme heat as that through which we have just passed.

H. E. J.
 GETTYSBURG,
 July 30, 1885.

