
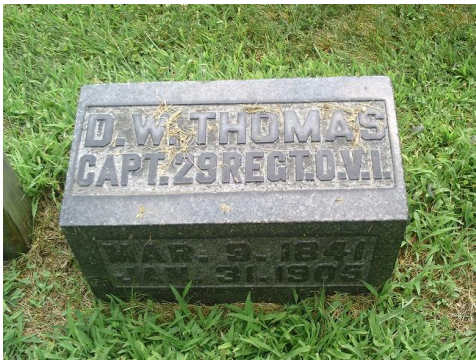

WHITE STAR  **JOURNAL**
 The Official Newsletter of the 29th OVI Co. G Living History Association

Captain David W. Thomas

Born in Millersburg, David came to Akron with his father in 1845. He went to Tallmadge to learn the Blacksmithing and Carriage trade. He enlisted in Co. G, 19th Ohio Volunteer Infantry for three months in April of 1861. He fought in the battles of Winchester, Port Republic, Cedar Mountain, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. He re-enlisted as a private in Company H, 29th O.V.I. (3 years) August 26, 1861. He was appointed Third Corporal then Promoted to Sergeant. Thomas was slightly wounded by a shell fragment at the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863. He re-enlisted in the 29th O.V.I. at Wauhatchie, Tennessee in December 1863. He was promoted to Regimental Sergeant Major on December 18, 1864. Thomas was promoted to 1st Lieutenant of Co. H on January 6, 1865. He was then promoted to Captain of Co. A on April 10, 1865. Thomas mustered out with the regiment at Louisville, Kentucky July 13, 1865.

After his return home to Akron, David joined his father in the lumber business. He organized the Thomas Lumber Co. in 1887. He Married twice, first to Alice Hale, who died in 1880. They had four children together: George, James, Frank and Elizabeth. After Alice's death, he married Isabella Gage in 1884.



Men of the 29th



David W. Thomas

Birth: Mar. 9, 1841
Millersburg, Holmes County, Ohio

Death: Jan. 31, 1905
Baltimore, Maryland

Age of entering: 19
Date of entering: Aug. 26, 1861.

Promoted to: 1st Lt. Co. H from
Sgt.- Major, Jan 6, 1865.
Captain Co A., April 16, 1865.

Mustered out: with Company July
13, 1865.

Burial: Glendale Cemetery
Akron, Summit County
Ohio, USA

Plot: Sec. 14, family plot, by road

From the diary of Hartsgrove Soldier, Franklin Potter, 29th

OVI, Company A <http://www.gazettenews.com/>

Monday, 08 April 2013

By: Barbara J. Hamilton, Gazette Newspapers

From the Front Porch Swing

In continuing to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War of 1861-1865, I include diary excerpts from another Ashtabula county soldier, Hartsgrove man, Franklin Potter.

Potter served with the 29th Ohio volunteer infantry, Company A. The 29th was organized and trained at Camp Giddings, now the site of the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds.

Joshua Reed Giddings was the driving force behind the organization of the northeastern soldiers with Colonel Lewis P. Buckley as the first Regimental Commander.

The 29th OVI participated in the battles at Port Republic, Cedar Mountain, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Davis' Cross Roads, New Hope Church, Dallas, Pine Know, Peachtree Creek and the Carolina Campaigns.

Of the 1, 529 men of the 29th OVI, 540 were killed, wounded or listed as missing in action. That figure shows that 1/3 of the men suffered or died from injuries or disease and many other suffered from mental distress.

In 1885, twenty years after the conclusion of the Civil War, the state of Ohio erected a stone monument at Gettysburg on the battlefield at Culp's Hill in honor of the 29th OVI.

The 29th OVI regimental flag was recovered and on display for many years at the Henderson Memorial Library in Jefferson. During renovation of the library in 2013, the flag was put on permanent display at the Jefferson Historical Society, located next door to the library. The history of the flag and how it was captured at the Battle of Fort Republic by Confederate soldiers and then removed from a room in the Lynchburg, Virginia prison in a successful Yankee escape is fascinating. The blood stained, bullet torn and tattered flag was then mounted upon a hickory pole and used to lead the 29th back into battle. You can discover the "rest of the story" and how it was brought into the Citizen's Library and by whom by stopping by or calling the historical society on East Jefferson Street, 576-5333. The society website will be up and running soon and you will be able to access this story and many others starting about May 1. More details on the website later.

A copy of the Civil War diary of Franklin Potter is recorded and kept at the Jefferson Historical Society along with others that have been donated from Ashtabula County persons.

Potter begins recording on January 1, 1862. He mentions that the 29th had been at the Battle of Culpepper, Virginia in which nine of the infantry had been wounded. The seriously wounded were: Lieutenant Hulbert, MM. Canfield, L.M. Coon, Daniel Thatcher and Corporal Loomis. The slightly wounded were: N. Wilder, R.W. Graham, Sergeant Grant and Sargent Elliot. (cont. next column)

One man, Corporal Hoyt, was listed as missing.

In the 29th OVI were Chaplain, R.H. Hubert, Hartsgrove; Surgeon A.K. Fifield, Conneaut, Adjutant, C.T. Chaffee, Jefferson; and Captain, William Fitch, Jefferson

By January 7, 1862, the infantry was passing through the villages of Falmouth and Fredericksburg, Virginia. Potter noted that the rebels had left both towns with serious damage. The wagon bridge and the railroad bridge along with 18 vessels had been burned. A rebel placed torpedo had exploded within the village of Fredericksburg doing a great deal of damage.

Just as summer approached, General Fremont had a battle with Jackson and beat him; the rebel troops whipped the 29th OVI on June 8th and drove them into the mountains. On March 9, 1862, Potter and his infantry arrived at Rock Creek, North Carolina to find the bridge had been blown up and were unable to proceed further. The troops laid rails all day and then proceeded to march 17 miles in one day.

They arrived at Camp Shields where they camped for several days without tents. By March 18th, they were within 3 miles of Strasburg after marching 19 miles in one day. The men could hear firing in the morning and into the afternoon. They were drawn into the line of battle and using their artillery successfully drove the rebels into retreat.

It is amazing that Potter's words have survived and here we are 152 years later and almost on the same day as Potter wrote these words that early spring day of April 7, 1862:

"In the afternoon our side throwed Shell at the rebels, Built ovens to bake bread, it rained and snowed in the afternoon. in evening signed part of pay rolls."

Potter's continues to report on skirmishes and battles, injuries and deaths and the hardships of long marches, sleeping on the ground and repairing rail lines during the spring of 1862.

As more diaries and information is uncovered about local soldiers, I will include them in this series.

During the spring of 1862, major battles occurred in several places. The Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee took place when the Confederate army attacked the Union forces over April 6-7. This battle is often referred to as the Battle of Pittsburg Landing. The Union army was nearly defeated, but in the night, reinforcements arrived and the Rebels retreated. The Yankees were too exhausted to pursue them.

The horrific death totals included 13,000 out of 63,000 Union soldiers killed. The Confederate death toll was 11,000 out of 40,000 killed.

Civil War Fun Facts

<http://www.legendsofamerica>

- More than three million men fought in the Civil War about 900,000 for the Confederacy and 2.1 million for the Union.
- An estimated 300 women disguised themselves as men and fought in the ranks.
- More than 620,000 people, or two percent of the population, died in the Civil War.
- Approximately 6,000 battles, skirmishes, and engagements were fought during the Civil War.
- There were over 2,000 boys who were 14 years-old or younger in the Union ranks. Three hundred were 13 years or less, while there were 200,000 no older than 16 years.
- At the Battle of Shiloh, on the banks of the Tennessee River, more Americans fell than in all previous American wars combined. There were 23,700 casualties.
- At Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1862, the Confederate trenches stretched for a distance of seven miles. The troop density was 11,000 per mile, or six men to the yard.
- 3,530 Native Americans fought for the Union, of which, 1,018 were killed.
- The greatest cavalry battle ever fought in the Western hemisphere was at Brandy Station, Virginia, on June 9, 1863. Nearly 20,000 cavalymen were engaged on a relatively confined terrain for more than 12 hours.
- An Iowa regiment had a rule that any man who uttered an oath should read a chapter in the Bible. Several of them got nearly through the Old Testament.
- There were more Northern-born Confederate generals than Southern-born Union generals.
- The famous Confederate blockade-runner, the *C.S.S. Alabama*, never entered a Confederate port during the length of her service.
- During the Battle of Antietam, Clara Barton tended the wounded so close to the fighting that a bullet went through her sleeve and killed a man she was treating.
- In March 1862, "new" ironclad war ships, the *Monitor* and the *Merrimac* battled off Hampton Roads, Virginia. From then on, every other wooden navy ship on earth was obsolete.
- Not fond of ceremonies or military music, Ulysses S. Grant said he could only recognize two tunes. "One was Yankee Doodle, the other one wasn't."

Clemet L Vallandigham



"[This is] a wicked, cruel and unnecessary war... a war for the purpose of crushing our liberty and erecting a despotism; a war for the freedom of the blacks, and the enslavement of the whites."

Ohio Democrat Clemet L. Vallandigham in a speech delivered in Mount Vernon, Ohio, on May 1 1863, reacting to General Ambrose Burnside's recently issued General Order No. 38, which warned that persons "declaring sympathy for the enemy" would be arrested.

Among the most prominent Northern "Peace Democrats," or "Copperheads" (those favoring a negotiated peace, even one that permanently dismembered the Union and perpetuated slavery), Vallandigham regarded Burnside's military order as a "base usurpation of arbitrary authority"- and promptly tested it by speaking forcefully against the war. His ensuing nighttime arrest caused a fiery riot. His trial before a military tribunal, rather than a civilian court, was condemned as an assault on civil liberties. And the tribunal's decision to imprison Vallandigham for the duration of the war generated storms of protest- much of it directed at President Lincoln, though the president had not ordered Vallandigham's arrest. Troubled by the case, its outcome and its implications, Lincoln commuted Vallandigham's sentence to exile in the Confederacy. (The Ohioan traveled from there to Canada and returned home unmolested later in the war.)

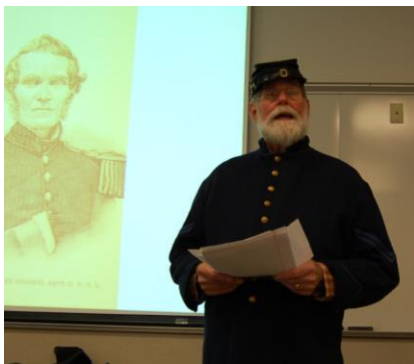
Civil War voices: A quick deck of quotations knowledge cards www.pomegranate.com

ON THE HOMEFRONT

The 29th Ohio Co. G had a great day at the Akron Library in Nov. celebrating the re-dedication of the regimental flag of the 29th Ohio. It was awesome to see that original flag conserved and ready to be displayed for the public. Thanks to everyone who helped to make that day a success. Special Thanks to Judy James at the Akron Library, G Paul Huff (for publicity), Cliff and The Ohio History Connection, and Beth Rock and crew (for the wonderful refreshments). I thought I would just share a few pictures of the day, because like they say, "A picture is worth a thousand words."



← Descendants of the 29th Ohio ↓

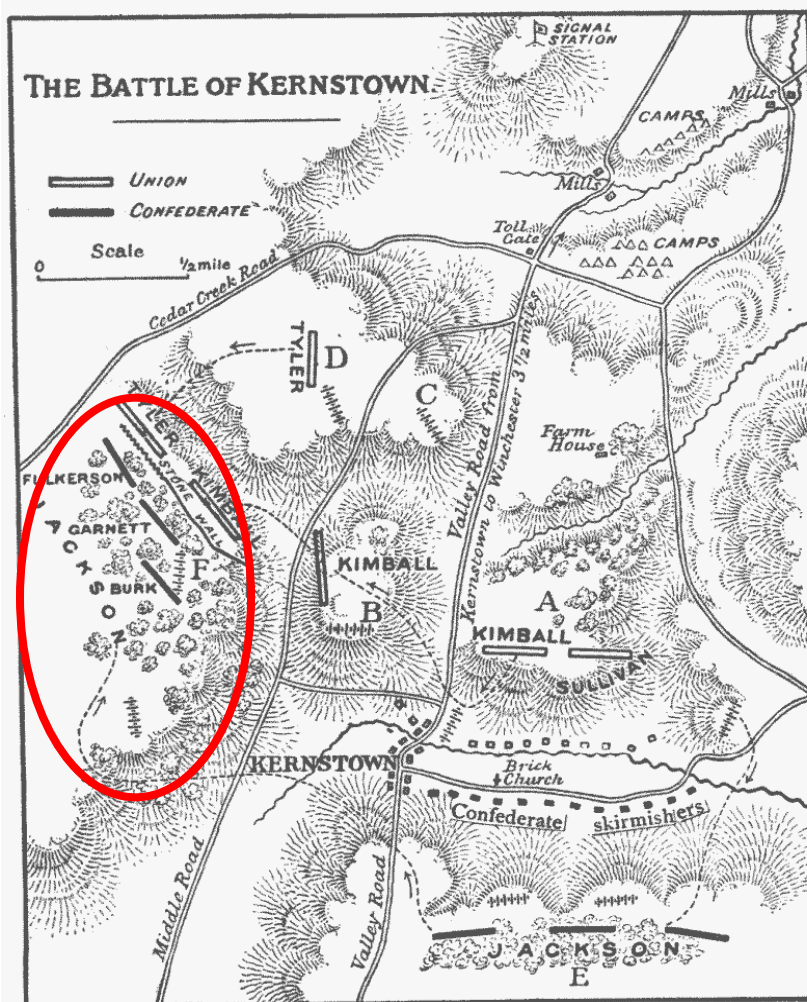


CW PRESERVATION NEWS

The **First Battle of Kernstown** was fought on March 23, 1862, in Frederick County and Winchester, Virginia, the opening battle of Confederate Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's campaign through the Shenandoah Valley during the American Civil War.

Attempting to tie down the Union forces in the Valley, under the overall command of Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks, Jackson received incorrect intelligence that a small detachment under Col. Nathan Kimball was vulnerable, but it was in fact a full infantry division more than twice the size of Jackson's force. His initial cavalry attack was forced back and he immediately reinforced it with a small infantry brigade. With his other two brigades, Jackson sought to envelop the Union right by way of Sandy Ridge. But Col. Erastus B. Tyler's brigade countered this movement, and, when Kimball's brigade moved to his assistance, the Confederates were driven from the field. There was no effective Union pursuit.

Although the battle was a Confederate tactical defeat, it represented a strategic victory for the South by preventing the Union from transferring forces from the Shenandoah Valley to reinforce the Peninsula Campaign against the Confederate capital, Richmond. Following the earlier Battle of Hoke's Run, the First Battle of Kernstown may be considered the second among Jackson's rare defeats.



PRESERVING HISTORY

Kernstown Battlefield Preservation

Kernstown is looking to add a 37-acre parcel of land atop Sandy Ridge where the First Battle of Kernstown took place. From here, Confederate artillery countered the Union artillery atop Pritchard's Hill to the east. It is the spot where Jackson's retreating forces were overwhelmed and the fate of First Kernstown was sealed. This area is outlined in red on the map to the left. The KBA has committed to raising \$50,000 for this purchase. At our February meeting the 29th Ohio voted to send \$100 from our preservation fund to KBA for this project.

COMPANY NEWS

Upcoming Meetings: March 8, 2016 7 pm @ Ellet Grace Brethren Church 530 Stetler Ave. Akron, Ohio 44312 April 12, 2016, and May 10, 2016

In Feb. the unit voted for **events and officers**. Below are the results of those votes. Please try your best to support the living history and reenactment events of the unit.

2016 Living History events.

May 7 – Library, N. Fairfield, Ohio – Military only 1 pm

May 14 – Company Drill – Location to be confirmed

May 29 – Hayes Presidential Center, (Color Guard)

May 30 – Memorial Day Parade, New Franklin, Ohio.

Visit the Ohio Vet Memorial Park in Clinton after the parade.

Oct. 1&2 - Dumfries, Va. (1862-63 Winter camp of the 29th Ohio)

Oct. 29 – Oakwood Cemetery, Cuya Fall, Ohio (150th Anniv. of CW monument)

Program @ 10 am Tour by John Gurnish @ 11 am

Nov. 11 – Veterans Day Program. Honor family members of Rick Frye, Judy Ankeny, Jolena Boyett, Mark Holland, and 29th OVI soldiers.

Nov. 17-19 - Remembrance Day, Gettysburg, Pa. (Monument Guard 8pm Saturday.)

Officers for 2016

Capt. Robert Rock, 1st Sgt. Bill Ankeny, Corp. Mark Holland

2016 Maximum Effort Events.

June 25-25 Lyme Village, Bellevue, Ohio

\$5 per participant.

Registration will be mailed May 1

August 13-14 Hale Farm and Village, Bath, Ohio

\$10 age 18 & up, Ball @ 8pm Sat., Breakfast rations

Registration will be mailed July 15.

Sept. 9-11 Beaver Creek, East Liverpool, Ohio

\$6 Adults \$3 Childern over 12 Sat eve dance

Registration will be mailed Aug. 1

2016 Dues

Membership dues for
2016 due in March

Dues and insurance are
\$28 per family.

\$8 extra insurance for
each additional member
who takes the field in
your family.