

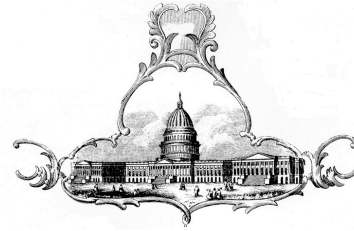


Gen. Philip Kearney

# The Light

NEWSLETTER OF COMPANY K  
Fifth Michigan Infantry

“Saginaw City Light Infantry”  
Proud Member of the Cumberland Guard



July/August 2012 Edition

## From the Chairman

Miss all of you boys of the Fighting Fifth. I hope everyone is looking forward to our schedule picking up soon. I know I am looking forward to putting on the wool and seeing you all. We need to get back out there to have fun, be a role model to other groups on how to “do it right”, and most importantly honor the men who fought 150 years ago.

Events - Please let Scott, Will or I know which events you are planning on attending this fall. We have Antietam, Perryville, and Wolcott Mill coming up. Your response will help determine if we are going to try and support all of the above or which ones we drop off our radar.

Annual Meeting – If any of you have ideas where we can get together to have our elections, discuss next year’s schedule and just get to see each other please let us know. We should start planning now to get together early November, so we don’t end up waiting too long as we did this past year.

Your pard, Jeremy Buschlen

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## Commander’s Column

Boys,

It seems like forever since we have all been together. I know most of you are biding your time and saving up time off for this fall when we will be quite busy. I am very much looking forward to seeing you all soon. August 17<sup>th</sup> I have a cartridge party planned. Please let me know if you can attend. This is a Friday and I hope it doesn’t cut into your summer weekend plans.

## FUTURE EVENTS

### **August 17th - CARTRIDGE MAKING PARTY**

At my house 400 N Sheridan Bay City MI @7:00 pm until whenever in the early morn. Bring the usual stuff...can of FFF gun powder, tin of four wing caps, cotton balls, string and glue sticks. Out of towners can stay the night if they wish. I will have soft drinks and if everyone could

bring a snack.

### **September 8-9 Mustering the 21st:**

The 150th anniversary of the formation of the original 21st Michigan is this September. In celebration, there will be a weekend living history event in Ionia on Sep 8-9, where the 21st MI first mustered into Federal service. The local historical society is just tickled to have us there. The event is co-organized by the 21st Michigan and the 3rd Michigan Co F. The 3rd has been very gracious and given the 21st the spotlight. JR Schroeder is the event commander and is the current point of contact. Good on both of your groups for working together so well – you set a good example for all of us! Robert May has also said he will be going to this with his cook's impression.

### **September 14-16 Living History 150th Antietam MD**

We will be camping on the actual battlefield as close to the 150th Anniversary as possible portraying the Iron Brigade- like we did in the fall of 2010. Boys we have 32 in the company (I will be commanding) so far. Everyone must have a Hardee hat. I will be commanding the progressive company this year. Robert May will be on site to serve as our cook. Rations - We will do rations as a company again this year. Given how busy we will be, this will help us as we will be out of camp some. It will also help as the numbers of fires we are allowed will be very limited due to NPS fire rules. Robert May of the 5th MI will serve as our cook. Rations will be \$20.00 for those only staying the weekend and \$25.00 for anyone who plans to stay through Monday. We'll begin collecting money for rations very soon (like at our cartridge party). Weekend or the Anniversary too? - This will be a special opportunity for all of us no matter what your schedule allows. However, now is the time to look at your schedule and see if you can stay through Monday, September 17. We have been invited to stay through the anniversary day. Our last scheduled event as a battalion will be a firing demonstration at 2:30pm on the 17th. We should be able to get moving home by about 3pm. Can you stay? BTW- you will need a Hardee Hat for this event.

### **October 5-7 Perryville KY 150th Anniversary**

We will be portraying the 21st Michigan. Will is our Colonel. This event is held on the actual battlefield. Boys...this is the closest battlefield to us. Please use this link to register. When you register you will want to say Cumberland Guard, Will Eichler's Battalion.  
[http://www.perryvillereenactment.org/html/registration\\_2012.html](http://www.perryvillereenactment.org/html/registration_2012.html)  
Registration Fees: registration is open until September 15, 2012 to all participants over the age of 12 are \$20.00 NO WALK ONS. After you register please let me know that you are going. Robert May is planning on being our cook...more details on that to follow.

### **October 19-21 Wolcott Mill MI**

Will Eichler in command. We all had a great time last year. Robert May is planning on being our cook.

## **2013**

**Gettysburg 2013 - 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** Boys, this is our Mecca. Everyone in Civil War reenacting will be at these events. The mainstream event in 1988, for the 125<sup>th</sup>, saw over 12,000 participants. You don't want to miss this celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There are two

events planned; one progressive and the other mainstream. June 28-30 will be the progressive event known as BGA and the mainstream will be known as GAC is July 4-7. Many of us are planning on doing both and making a family vacation out of it between since they are a week apart. Will Eichler is to command a battalion at the progressive event and a brigade at the mainstream event. More details to follow.

**Chickamauga GA 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of this event in the fall will be another opportunity to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary too.

That is about all I have to say this time around. I am looking forward to seeing you soon. I sure do miss you all.

Your servant,

Scott Cummings

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## **From Will –**

### **Dexter**

Dexter was a great small event. We were well hosted by the boys in the 4<sup>th</sup> Michigan. Five of us attended: me, Robby Cook, Kyle Neveau, Chris Buzzard and Jeremy Buschlen. I had a great time portraying a regimental Sutler with Jeremy Bevard and also got to cook a bean stew supper. We raised quite a bit of money to help pay off the mortgage of Gordon Hall, the local historic site. It was probably my favorite laid back event in a long time. We should consider this one for next year!

### **Website**

There have been many new changes in the past few weeks on the website. Most noticeable is the website's banner. I've made some modifications to it and I think it looks quite a bit better. Check it out.

Jeremy Bevard gave us his article on Company A's formation and it's time at Fort Wayne and I've made a page out of the article. You can find it in the History section.

We learned of a new blog about the 5<sup>th</sup> Michigan. Find it in the links page. All the content on the blog is original newspaper articles of the 5<sup>th</sup> from wartime. Be sure to check it out! Find the website at [www.unionreenactor.com](http://www.unionreenactor.com).

### **Gettysburg 2013**

I'm completely convinced that the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gettysburg will be the biggest time in this hobby in any of our lives! There are two events shaping up and we have great opportunities in each. I'll take them one at a time.

**BGA Gettysburg, June 27-30, 2013 - <http://bluegraygettysburg.com/index.html>**

This event was just announced. It is being hosted by the Blue Gray Alliance, the same national re-enacting organization that put on the Shiloh we went to. My very good friend Bob Minton, who commands the Army of the Ohio and has marched with us several times at Wolcott Mill, will be the Army commander. Yes, a mid-west commander at a national event!

This will likely be a slightly smaller event than the one the following weekend, called GAC. However, it will take place on the land where the 135<sup>th</sup> event happened. This site is fantastic as I remember. We will have over 500 acres for the event, plus 500 acres for parking and other amenities.

This event we will have a progressive event. For the first time, we will assemble an entire brigade of progressives! I've been selected senior regimental commander. Andy Roscoe from the 24<sup>th</sup> Michigan is one of the organizers. General Minton is very friendly to the progressive ideals, having attended several events himself.

I have asked Scott Cummings to raise one of the companies for this event. You'll hear more from him on that.

The details of whom we are to portray are still being worked out. I can say rations will be issued at the Brigade level and distributed. Ammunition will be better handled than Shiloh as we learned a lot as a community there.

Firm registration cost will be announced as soon as we work out the cost of the progressive expenses (food, etc.). The event itself is \$20.00 per person. More very soon.

**GAC Gettysburg – July 4-7, 2013 - <http://www.gettysburgreenactment.com/>**

The following weekend will be GAC (Gettysburg Anniversary Committee). It will be on the same land as we attended the 145<sup>th</sup> GAC at. It will certainly be slightly larger. The Cumberland Guard has voted to go here. We've been honored with General Shackelford again being offered a division command. Yes – a mid-western commander being given a division out east – very good for us. Army commander General Baldwin is supportive of our division and helpful.

I hope we can advocate making the battlefield scenarios better than they were at the 145<sup>th</sup>. We are already working to that end. General Shackelford has offered me a brigade command in his division. After speaking with Scott, I've accepted. I've recommended Scott command the Michigan Battalion in my brigade and I'm waiting for a decision.

We will be VERY BUSY in the field at this weekend. I already know your battalion will portray the 4<sup>th</sup> Michigan in the Wheatfield. I expect you to get a Wisconsin designation when we portray the Iron Brigade on the 1<sup>st</sup> day. The other battalion in my brigade is from Indiana and I expect them to play 19<sup>th</sup> IN at that scenario.

Our camp was great at this event last time and we will ask for it again. We were in trees while the easterners with their big tents wanted the open plain. Robby May – we were on

the edge of the tree line so you'll have clear room if you want to bring the cook set up – no worries.

Registration for this event is \$25.00 until December 31. I'm not sure how much or if it will go up after that. We should work to get ready by the annual meeting.

Gents – if you can make both of these events, I HIGHLY recommend you do it. I'm working very hard to make sure we have excellent experiences both weekends while we celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> of the high water mark of the Confederacy!

### **Dues**

As members in the 5<sup>th</sup>, we have yearly dues of \$15.00 per man. I've acted as treasurer for the unit since we got the organization going. We don't yet have an account in the unit name. I have a separate savings account in my credit union that we use. Please pay your \$15.00 dues as soon as possible. You can send me a check. Make it out to Will Eichler and please but 5<sup>th</sup> MI in the memo.

If you need to mail it – send it to:

Will Eichler

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Washington, MI 48094

Paid for 2012:

Will Eichler, Mike Golden