

**Online Post by Ken Sullivan, California**

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In perusing the Tri-County Military Records it was noted that eight Burlington men--Amos Green, James McKean, Norman C. McKean, Davis McKean, Joseph Rockwell, Cornelius Sullivan, Edwin Vosburg, and Charles Williams were all sworn into Company B, 26th Pa Militia on June 19, 1863 as privates and mustered out of service on July 30, 1863.

Subsequent research indicates that the 26th Pa Emergency Militia Infantry was mobilized on June 19 as a result of President Lincoln's order of June 15, 1863 to call up 5,000 militia in order to repel the Confederates northward move..

The unit was organized at Harrisburg on June 22, 1863 for the protection of Pennsylvania against General Lee's invasion for duty in the Department of Susquehanna near Gettysburg.

They were issued brand new uniforms and Springfield .58 caliber rifles on June 22, 1863. With only three days training they were dispatched to Gettysburg on June 25 under the command of Colonel William Jennings. Arriving in Gettysburg on Sunday, June 28th these emergency troops--farmers, shop keepers, and students were no match for the advancing Rebels. Confederate General Jubel Early's, an 1837 West Point graduate, battle tested 1st Division routed the Pennsylvania 26th Emergency Militia composed of approximately 600 men with only minor skirmishes at Marsh Creek and Witmer's Farm. Early's forces were estimated at 2,500 to 4,000 men.

Union Colonel Jennings, realizing he had 600 mostly untrained troops, gave the order to withdraw after only two minor skirmishes thus averting heavy casualties.

The Confederates captured between 150 and 200 of the Emergency Militia with the South's General Early admonishing the citizen soldiers to return to their farms, wives and mothers and give up the cause--paroling them in order that they might return to their homes after first parading them through Gettysburg.

The Gettysburg Star and Sentinel of June 27, 1863 mentions that "At about 3 O'clock, sure enough, the rebel advance(cavalry) entered Gettysburg, charging up Chambersburg Street at a rapid rate, in pursuit of a number of persons on horseback who were hurrying off down York street. They fired a few shots, and the pursued were halted. In a few moments they had entire possession of the town and their guards around it."

The emergency militiamen were discharged on July 30, 1863 after only six weeks of active duty.