

**Chapter 00679    1862**

**FAIRFIELD DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH  
(FDRC)**

**The Civil War started 4/12/1861.**




11/24/2024

FDRC 2019



Sentinel of Freedom. Newspaper, Tuesday, 6/25/1861

The Civil War was nearly 3 months old. Preserving the Union was foremost in the minds of the Fairfield citizens.

 The Fourth of July will be celebrated by the patriotic residents of Caldwell at the **Reformed Dutch Church in Fairfield**. The oration will be delivered by John P. Jackson, Jr., Esq., of this city, and the Declaration will be read by E. S. Ely, Esq., of Caldwell. There will be good singing by the choir. During the day salutes will be fired, and other patriotic demonstrations take place. 

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1861 Fairfield NJ  
"Union Pic-Nic" Picnic

On Thursday 9/5/1861 at 9 am, Fairfield (Dutch Reformed) and Clinton (Fairfield Methodist) NJ celebrated a "Union Pic-Nic".

The site was Cornelius Dey's (age 21) land with music by the Baldwin's band. The 8- member committee was Theodore S. Pearce (age 27), brother William H. Pearce (25), G. Nichols jr., A. A. Sigler, J. S. Burnett, F. Van Ness, W. M. Van Ness and treasurer H. H. Van Ness. Tickets cost 50 cents.



The 1861 ticket is shown below.



Ticket source: Caldwell Progress Newspaper, 1/27/1973, Mrs Adelia Van Ness Collerd.

T. S. Pearce is our **Theodore Sanford Pearce** (1839—1916, 77) who was age 21 at this time. Theodore was a **4th generation Pearce, Branch 2**. His parents were Henry Harrison Pearce (the 3rd Henry) and Maria Bush.

W. H. Pearce is our **William Henry Pearce** (1838—1910, 71) age 22. He was Theodore's brother. William is buried at Rosedale Cemetery at Montclair NJ. Theodore at Woodmere Cemetery at Detroit Michigan.

W. M Van Ness is likely our **William Munson Van Ness** (1837-1907, 69), son of Henry Van Ness and Phoebe Speer. He is in the Pearce tree. William rests at FDRC.



**Battle of Gettysburg PA** July 1-3, 1863 in the Sherfy Peach Orchard.

**NJ 1st Artillery Battery B.**

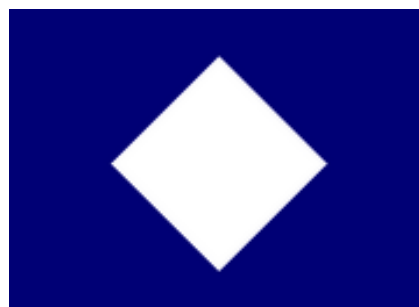
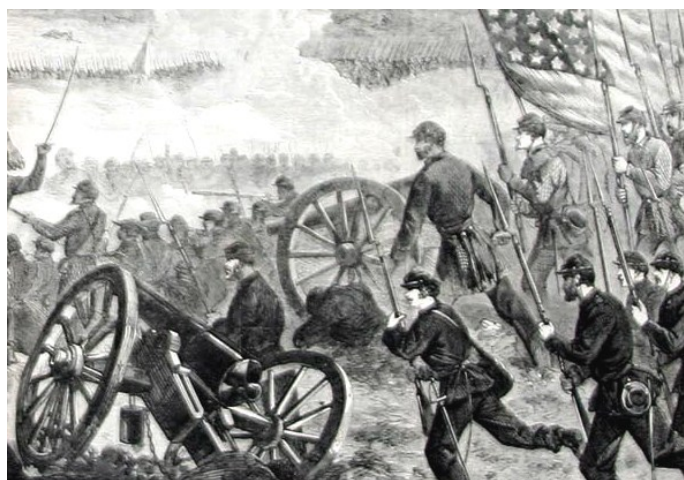
Supported by infantry including men from the **NJ 7<sup>th</sup> Company C.**

The Fairfield 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps NJ 7<sup>th</sup> regiment company C and New Hampshire 2<sup>nd</sup> were detached to General Charles Graham at 4:45 pm on 7/2/1863 to protect Clark's "B" artillery. The men had been in the Peach Orchard since 9:30 am. It was a warm day.



The Union infantry fought hand to hand with Confederate South Carolina 7<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> regiments in the Stony Hill section of the Peach Orchard. Confederate General Barksdale's Mississippi 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> rebel regiments followed the assault on the Graham group.

Several Fairfield men were badly wounded.



White Diamond patch worn by the NJ1B artillery and NJ7 Infantry.







Cornelius Van Ness Bush, age 22, was wounded at Gettysburg yet stayed with his NJ1B artillery unit till the end or 13 more months.

He hoped to marry Sarah E. Van Ness after the war.



Charles E. Bush, age 21, was also wounded at Gettysburg. He was a cousin to Cornelius. I believe they are both buried at the FDRC.

**Charles E. BUSH**





You can see the diamond badge on the left shirt pocket in the following picture of Corporal Reuben Pearce.

Seven weeks after Gettysburg, There was devastating war news for the Fairfield people.



The Monday 8/29/1864 Newark Daily Advertiser (NDA) reported the NJ 1st artillery Battery B was captured:

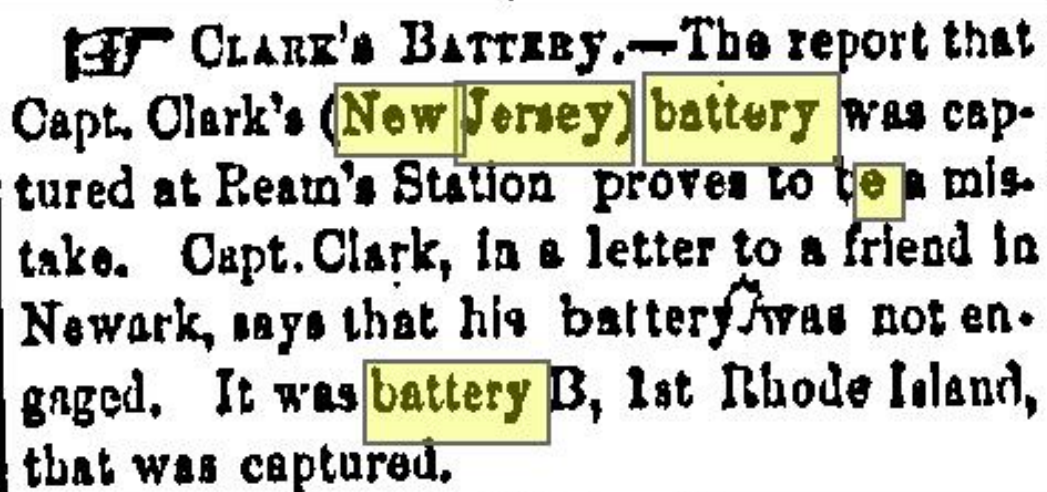
“Clark’s battery lost its guns with most artillery men and horses shot. The local families are in a great state of anxiety as to their loved ones fate.”

The Fairfield locals hoped for internment for their soldier, but everyone knew this most likely a death sentence to go to a notorious Andersonville Georgia type of Confederate prison.

Prayers must have been said Monday and Tuesday at the FDRC because the Wednesday 9/1/1864 newspaper reported a different story:

“It is now said that Clark’s battery was not engaged in the action at Ream’s Station on last Aug 25, 1864. It was the Rhode Island 1<sup>st</sup> artillery battery “B”. This greatly relieved the local citizen. A Captain said it was a fierce fight, worse than Spotsylvania (Virginia) Court House.”

The Rhode Island fellows were the same artillerymen who had fought along with the New Jersey Clark men at Gettysburg.

A black and white photograph of a newspaper clipping. The text is from a 19th-century newspaper, with some words highlighted in yellow. The clipping is titled "CLARK'S BATTERY." and discusses a report about a captured battery. The text is enclosed in a rectangular border.

**CLARK'S BATTERY.**—The report that Capt. Clark's (New Jersey) battery was captured at Ream's Station proves to be a mistake. Capt. Clark, in a letter to a friend in Newark, says that his battery was not engaged. It was battery B, 1st Rhode Island, that was captured.

Five days later, the newspaper reported:

“Clark’s battery B, which left Newark 3 years ago under Captain Beam, reached Newark NJ at 3 pm today, having left Washington DC last evening.

Of the 150 men who left in 1861, 64 men returned.

A reception is anticipated at Trenton in a few days. The Newark Hook and Ladder House #1 met the 64 men at the depot and guided them down the Newark streets to the new City Hall where a music band awaited them.



Newark Mayor Runyon gave a speech and the men went to the fire house for an evening of fun and food.”

It had been 3 long years. The 5 or so FDRC Fairfield men of NJ1B could come home for good. FDRC member Sarah Van Ness anticipated seeing her sweetheart, flag bearer Cornelius V. Bush.

They would marry 3 months later on New Year’s eve 12/31/1864. They were married 14 years; Sarah died age 38 in 1880. Cornelius died 1934. They had 3 children.

The Civil War would go on for 7 more months, officially ending 4/9/1865.

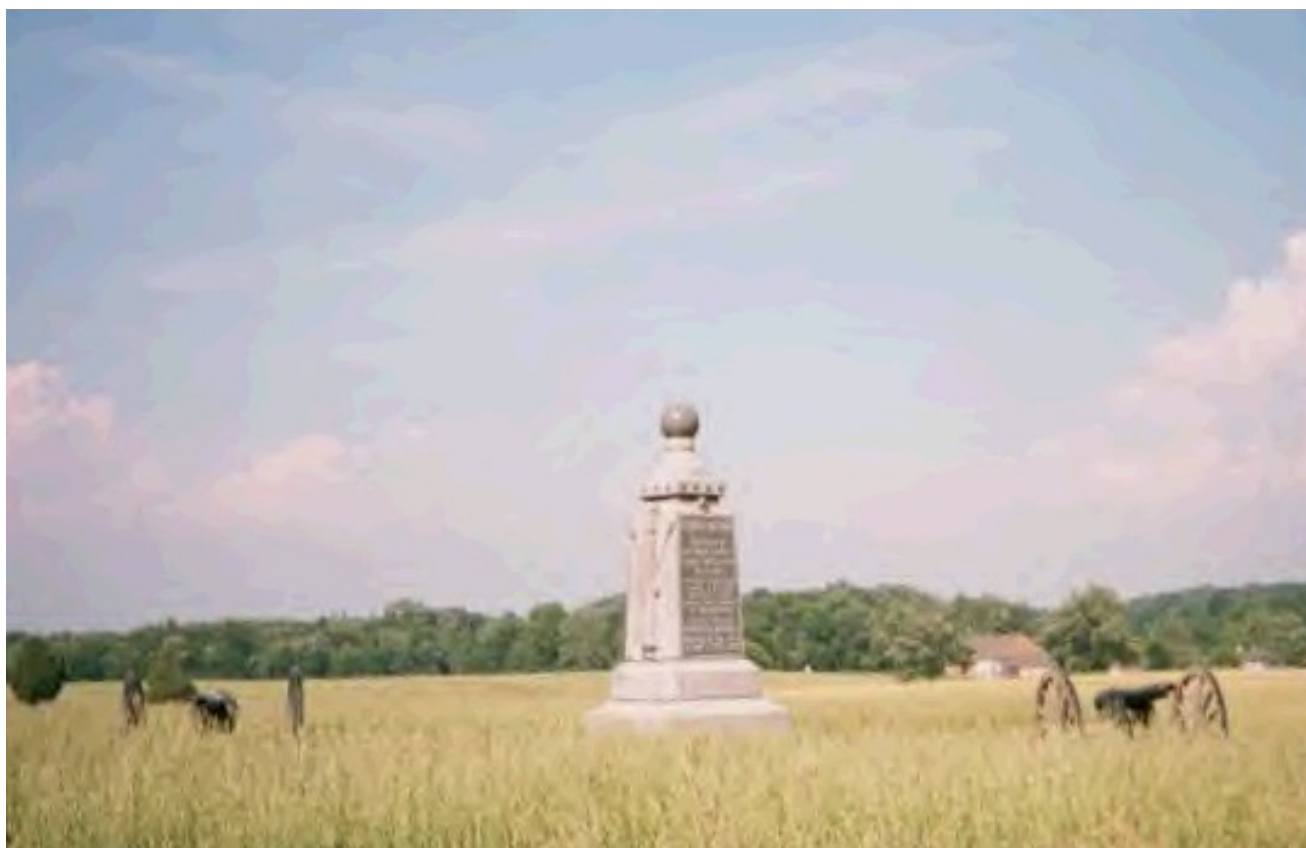


TO BE DONE

Say something about NJ 7th and NJ 26th men from the FDRC.



GETTYSBURG PA PEACH ORCHARD AFTER THE 1863 BATTLE



NJ1B artillery monument in Peach Orchard at Gettysburg PA



NJ1B artillery monument in Peach Orchard at Gettysburg PA







36 stars in 1865

## 89th Independence Day

**THE FOURTH OF JULY IN CALDWELL.**—The citizens of Caldwell township will celebrate the Fourth of July in the **Reformed Dutch** Church at **Fairfield**, where an oration will be delivered in the morning by Rev. Dr. Van Cleef, of Jersey City, and a dinner provided on the green at noon. In the afternoon, a dinner will be provided for all the returned soldiers in the township, and addresses made by Revs. J. N. Sprague and Wm. H. McCormick, the latter of whom was formerly Chaplain of the First New Jersey Regiment.

Monday, June 26, 1865

Paper: Newark Daily Advertiser (Newark, NJ)

Caldwell Township (1962 renamed to Fairfield), Essex County, NJ