History of the Middle Atlantic Region from 1956 to 1996
North-South Skirmish Association
Forty Years of Growth

Edited by
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Preface

The following summarizes the notes, letters and activities of the Middle Atlantic Region of the North South Skirmish Association. Events on the National Level were not totally eliminated. Many milestones of the parent N-SSA are included, especially if there is a connection between the two groups. The growth of the Middle Atlantic Region and the parent N-SSA are parallel in many ways. Every attempt was made to place the history of the Region in chronological order from a variety of sources. In many cases the minutes of the regional meeting were simply summarized and condensed. This type of reporting lends itself to “dry” reading. In many cases the minutes read disjointed, absent of emotion and lacked the element of transition between topics. In a few cases I added my own conjecture and insight as I felt the emotion and feelings leap out from the sacred scrolls that are the archives of the Middle Atlantic region. I was privileged to view handwritten notes scribed in fountain pen reminiscent of the old Civil War style. The members that were there at the meeting will remember the attitude and tone in voices of the members making the statements. For the new members, we can only imagine the mind set.

My thanks go out to Joe Reese of the First Pennsylvania Artillery (retired), Chris Litvanis of Harlan’s Light Calvary, and George Lomas of the Third U.S. Regular Infantry for lending me valuable archive material. Many thanks go out to my lovely bride of twenty five years, Judene M. Gaul, who proof read the manuscript and makes me look good on many occasions. As always, thanks to Charles Smithgall for his dedication to this hobby, giving freely of himself and his range, Fort Ross in Lancaster County, and to the 400 plus members of the Middle Atlantic Region.
Chapter One: In the Fifties

In the late fifties skirmishing and target shooting were an important part of the N-SSA. In addition to the shooting part, the centennial of the Civil War or the War of the Rebellion was just on the horizon. There was a need to remember what our fore fathers had done and accomplished. It is possible that many of those members could remember family stories and conversations from family members dealing with the contributions of their grandfather or great grandfather. The last reunion, the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, was held a mere 13 years before the parent organization, N-SSA, was founded. We were also a nation of veterans with the close of World War II and the Korean Conflict. Shooting has always been part of the American scene. In fact our Constitution guarantees the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. It was with this mind set that the N-SSA and the Middle Atlantic were formed.

During those early years, correspondence flowed between Joe Reese and the National leaders. According to Charlie Smithgall of the Third U.S. Regular Infantry, Joe Reese and Joe Rawls were friends and shared a fondness for shooting. In a hand written letter in the summer of 1951, John Rawls wrote to Joe Reese that he, John, will be in New York for some unknown reason. John informed Joe that he would be coming to Philadelphia for just one night. While John was in the area, he would like to talk to Joe Reese about muzzleloading. John Rawls had connections to the Philadelphia area. In the letter to Joe, John talked about looking for a house. John had a Philadelphia telephone number and mentioned a small group of friends with interest in muzzleloading. It would appear that John Rawls traveled during the week but he could be reached on weekends in the Philadelphia area. John mentioned that he was looking for volunteer outfit to travel with him to Richmond in October. It was through this relationship that Joe Rawls encouraged Joe Reese to start a new region for the N-SSA. In a post script of this letter dated Summer of 1951, John enclosed a copy of the “Skirmish” Rules for the North - South events. John continued, “We want Philly and N. J. represented next time.” Joe Reese and others started the First Pennsylvania Artillery. The backbone of the First Pennsylvania Artillery was the Philadelphia Muzzle Loaders. This group was active because the archives contain a certificate from M.G. VanWay of the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association citing them for promoting the sport of muzzleloading. The certificate officially chartered the Philadelphia Muzzle Loaders on the eighth of October, 1952. Looking down the list of names on the certificate, the names of Joseph Reese and John Rawls are listed. John Rawls must have been a terrific salesman when it came to the N-SSA and Civil War style shooting. As John moved from city to city, regional teams would get started.

This may or may not be considered an official skirmish. In 1953, the Philadelphia Muzzleloading Club held black powder shoots using round balls. The date for this shoot was December 13, 1953. According to the flyer, the shooting was done at paper targets. Nothing breakable was mentioned.

The activities and events between 1952 and 1956 are unclear at this time. I am speculating here based on the minutes from the first meeting of the Middle Atlantic Region and other archival material. It appeared that John Rawls was busy organizing N-SSA teams before the Middle Atlantic Region was formed. It also appears that Joe and the Philadelphia group operated as a reenacting group for the Centennial. This group was known as the 81st Pennsylvania Infantry. The 81st paid their dues on January 13, 1857. Sometime after the 1956 meeting, the group must have changed their name or Joe Reese and others split off to become the First
Pennsylvania Artillery. With the name change or split, the First Pennsylvania Artillery came on line as the seventh chartered member of the N-SSA in 1959. The First Pennsylvania Artillery paid their dues on January 11, 1959. In the By-Laws of the First Pennsylvania Artillery, it is stated that charter members are anyone in good standings before March of 1959. Interesting to note that in the By-Laws of the group, there were two fee schedules. The dues for the Philadelphia group was four dollars and the Harrisburg group paid three dollars a year. The Harrisburg group later became Knap's Battery, Battery E. This would help explain why the group split up into the Knap' Battery group and others. The reason for the group splitting up was probably more geographical rather than philosophical.

The record showed that a group met on December 16, 1956 to discuss plans for the region. The first group must have passed the hat for donations. The group donated $4.95. The hall rental was $3.00. At the end of 1956, there was $1.95 in the Treasury. For this meeting there was a working copy of the notes taken at the meeting and also a revised shorter version. The revised short version was dated Jan. 22, 1957. I have printed the revised version in its entirety.

In any event in December of 1956, the Middle Atlantic region was formed. The first regular meeting of the Middle Atlantic Region was held at the Lambs Terrace Fire Hall, Sicklerville, N.J. on Dec. 16, 1956. A summary of that meeting follows.

The following officers were elected:

- Commander - Joseph Reese (81st Penna Inf.)
- Deputy Commander - Edward Turner (Union Valley Vol.)
- Adjutant - Edwin Smith (81st Penna Inf.)

The following temporary rules were adopted to be valid until such time that permanent By-Laws can be set up:

I. The geographical boundaries of the region shall be the boundaries of the states of Delaware, New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania (west to Gettysburg).

II. There shall be a regular regional meeting called during the month immediately prior to each National Semi-Annual skirmish. Emergency meetings may be called at any time with at least three weeks notice.

III. In regional meetings, the voting shall be by organizations. Each organization shall have as many votes as it had companies in the last preceding semi-annual skirmish.

IV. Regional dues shall be $2.00 per organization per year to cover mailing, postage, etc.

V. The regional commander shall be authorized to request standardization on type and range of targets not over 100 yards to be used at semi-annual meets.

The minutes were submitted by Edwin Smith, Adjutant, Middle Atlantic Region.

One could sense the growing pains of this fledging organization not only on the National level but the regional level as well. In this letter from Earnest Peterkin to Edwin Smith, one can imagine a comical side to the whole situation. The topic of discussion was cartridge tubes. In the early years, late 50's and early 60's, there were many requests of Ernest "Pete" Peterkin for tubes. Orders were placed for tubes in the range of 7,500 to
100,000 tubes at a time. In those early days the tubes were made of cardboard. In a letter from Ernest W. Peterkin to Edwin Smith of the Middle Atlantic Region, "Pete" Peterkin talks about the trials and tribulations of ordering cartridge tubes and distributing the tubes to the "Gang" as he states it. Ernest Peterkin's last line says quite a bit about the event. "You should see the basement when they deliver the tubes. Boxes, Boxes, Boxes!"


The early financial records are here. The records were recopied into the "official" ledger at a later date. The last two pages of the original ledger contained the names of the National Officers. The top of the page says, "for 58 + 59 dues". As you precede down the page, the following names appear: Isodorc Dilorio, 44 Ewingville Rd., Trenton 8; Cdr Waters; Adj, James F. Harding, 604 Truman Circle; S.W., Vienna, Va.; paymaster Eliot Parkman, Rt. 2, Oyster Point Rd., Denbigh, Va.; and Inspector General John Rawls. The last page of this book contained the names of the national officers. Reading from top of the page down, the list of names are as follows:

National Commander:

Deputy Commander:

Adjutant:
Private Robert C. Siegfried
(1st Richmond Rifles) 1810 Aisquite Rd. Skipwith Farms, Richmond 26 Va.

Paymaster:
Sergeant Elliot Parkman
(3rd Virg Cavary) Rt. 2 - Oyster Point Rd. Denbigh, Va.

Inspector General;
Sgt John Rawls (1st Va Greys) Box 114, Vienna, Va.

On January 13, 1957, the 81st Pennsylvania paid their dues. Hampton's Legion paid on February of '57. At the end of 1957 there were five teams in the new region. They were the 81st Pennsylvania, Hampton Legion, Union Valley Cav., 3rd New Jersey Cav., and the Union Valley Volunteers. The treasury mushroomed to $7.80 at the end of 1957.

On April 6, 1957, a meeting was held at Lambs Terrace fire hall in Sicklerville, New Jersey. There were five teams in attendance. They were the First Pennsylvania Artillery, Union Valley Volunteers, Union Valley Cavalry, 3rd New Jersey Cavalry and Hampton Legion. Joe Reese made a condensed reading of the National
Rules. The points included proposed incorporation of the N-SSA, Uniforms, Number of Events and Artillery crew requirements just to name a few. Next came a discussion of the coming shoot at Fort Dix. Ed Turner demonstrated a target frame made from two electric fence posts.

In April of 1957, there were five teams in the Middle Atlantic that year or at least five teams were present for roll call at a Regional Meeting. The five Teams were 1st Pennsylvania Artillery, Co. C. and H., 3rd New Jersey Cav., Union Valley, Hampton's Legion, and Union Valley Cavalry. March of 1958, Forney's Battalion and 2nd New Jersey Cavalry first appeared on the Roll Call. January of 1959 was the first vote for the 150th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. July of 1961, saw the appearance of the 3rd U.S. Regular Infantry, 56 Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, 118th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, 149 Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Delaware Blues, 1st Pennsylvania Artillery Co. E (Knap's Battery), and 6th Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves.

I found a flyer for a Regional skirmish to be held at the Bucks County Fish and Games Association in Doylestown, Pennsylvania on June 23, 1957. According to the flyer, the teams in those days shot silhouettes, clays, 2 by 6 pine stakes and balloons. One or two men from each were asked to volunteer to erect targets. Skirmishers were encouraged to bring non-shooters to act as line judges. There were no individual matches and no team fees were anticipated. Ed Smith, Adjutant.

The results of that skirmish showed that Union Valley Volunteers won three out of the four events and was declared the skirmish winner. It was noted that the First Stuart Horse Artillery and the First Virginia Greys from outside the Region also participated. Paul Nichols of the First Pennsylvania Artillery was the Skirmish Director.

March 2, 1958 meeting was a special meeting. National news was discussed. The N-SSA was growing and the leaders were feeling the pains of growth. I can not tell if they are talking about regional or national skirmishes, but a fall skirmish was probably be held at Gettysburg. Teams were to bring their own target material patterned after National specifications. There was a man hurt at the Quantico shoot and that injury generated a discussion for the need of insurance. It was suggested that a shoot be held at the Union Valley Gun Club in April.

In a flyer for a regional skirmish dated May 26, 1958, the Middle Atlantic Region was conducting Regional skirmishes at the Bucks County Fish and Game Association in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. "Following the pattern of the past two years, the Bucks County Fish and Game Association of Doylestown, Pa. has again invited the teams of our region to put on a demonstration skirmish on Sunday, June 15." If that statement is true, then the first skirmish of the Middle Atlantic Region occurred sometime in 1956 at the Bucks County Fish and Game Association in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. The Skirmish director for the skirmish was in June, 1958, was Paul Nichols of the First Pennsylvania Artillery. For this skirmish the team captain's meeting was held at 11:45 am and the skirmish started at 1:00 pm. The hand written notes for this skirmish were written on the back of a roster for the 1957 Philadelphia Muzzle Loaders. As I looked over the list of names, I saw many N-SSA names including Joseph "Flintlock" Reese.

At the June 15, 1958 meeting, topics of discussion ranged from cannons being too close together when firing as occurred at Fort Lee to insurance for skirmishes. One item of note is that Reese proposed and I quote ".....special police officers be assigned to watch the 13th Confederate Infantry." The topic of discussion for this quote was cross firing. Commander in charge gave a brief report on the Fall shoot at Gettysburg.
December 15, 1958 meeting contained a letter from the Board of Directors and was not a regional meeting. The main discussion of the meeting focused on the organization of the N-SSA. The National Officers saw a real need for responsible financial operation and took positive steps toward the purchase of property for a home range.

From a folder marked, Hampton Legion, there are a series of letters and correspondence dealing with an accident that happened to Paul Boich of the Legion. The time period was March 4, 1958. Paul and the Legion were participating in a skirmish at Quantico, Virginia. From the description of event, Paul experienced a "cook off" although that term is not used. Paul was in Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia for five weeks, and he lost work for three months. Most of the hospital bills were covered but not all. The Legion solicited the parent N-SSA to take up a collection for Paul to help meet expenses. Mr. John Gilmer, the National Commander at the time, responded with a letter indicating that the other member organizations will be contacted to help raise funds for Paul.

In 1959, the search was on for a Home Range in the parent N-SSA. In a letter written by J.W. Waters, National Commander, to Joe Reese, J.W. Waters outlined his plans for a home range. The description of the range was very similar to the present day Fort Shenandoah. J.W. Waters recommended that Deep Creek Lake of Western Maryland would be an ideal spot for the National Home Range. His ideas and proposal were given to the Board at the Pittsburgh skirmish by Milt Ford of the Washington Blue Rifles. In those days J.W. Waters envisioned the entire range and improvements to cost approximately ten thousand dollars. The letter was dated July 25, 1959.

There was an undated letter found on file; a letter from Ashley Halsey, Jr. to a person named Jim. I suspect that Jim was a member of the National Board. The context of the letter dealt with Gettysburg being considered as a permanent site for the N-SSA. The members of the Middle Atlantic Region were shocked that the site at Gettysburg was not considered at the Board meeting. There was strong support from the Gettysburg community for the home range of the N-SSA to be based in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Based on second hand reports about the Gettysburg proposal, it was implied by unknown sources to Ashley Halsey that the reason Gettysburg was not considered a permanent site was "because the Southerners didn't want to go back to a place where the Confederacy was defeated."

At a Regional meeting held January 11, 1959, the center of discussion was on the site of a permanent range. The top choice at the meeting was Teeter Quarry in Gettysburg, Pa. The Middle Atlantic Region shot down the idea from the National Board that a new office be created called the Judge Advocate General. Nominations for the Regional Board members took place with Joe Reese running unopposed for Commander; Ed Smith ran unopposed for Deputy Commander and Adjutant; and Paul Nichols ran unopposed for Regional Inspector. The term of office lasted two years.

At the February 22, 1959 meeting, the finances from the National Board meeting were the topic of discussion. Money was an issue. The National officers recognized a need for funds if the organization was to continue to grow. Yearly dues of two dollars per man were proposed. There was a general discussion of tardy fees, late fees, and charter fees for new teams. A proper site for Regional competition was discussed. The region was committed to run one skirmish per year. Government land was suggested as a possible suitable spot for
skirmishes. Fred Hoffman reported that he was negotiating a skirmish at West Point. Barrel length generated some discussion with Paul Nichols reporting. Barrel length for rifle was 31 to 34 inches and 38 to 40 inches for rifle musket with 3, 5, and 7 grooves.

In May 19, 1959 the North-South Skirmish Association held its annual event at Fort Dix on Range number 12. Some of the interesting events were Volley fire at 100 yards at one-half silhouette, 16 clays on the cardboard, and an artillery event where cannons endeavored to blow up five mock houses. I wonder, "How big were the houses?"

Joe Reese
First Pennsylvania Artillery
and young friend in 1960
Chapter 2: The Sixties

At the regional meeting held March 6, 1960, "Harry Wagner and Al Hardin made a report on the planned invitational skirmish at Lakehurst." The Spring National was held at Fort Lee on May 21 and 22 in 1961. No significant results were reported on the acquisition of a permanent range in Gettysburg. Fred Huffman reported that he was negotiating a skirmish at West Point for Spring of '61. Items of general discussion included cheating at skirmishes. There was evidence of buck shot used at a skirmish. An electronic timing device and drinking on the firing line were hot topics of discussion. The region decided to hold three regional meeting per year.

The October 30, 1960 meeting brought on a discussion on the proposed invitational skirmish at Indiantown Gap. It appeared that the logistics of securing target material and preparation of the target material for skirmishes caused some concern for a few members in the Region. This single line indicated that the membership was heading in a new direction concerning target material. The minutes reflected this feeling and it states "Includes a deviation from the traditional method of target handling."

It must have been a long meeting based on the number of topics entertained. "Drinking, esp. on firing line" made a reappearance at the October meeting. The membership suggested the following items: Every organization should have a man trained in first aid; the Region should practice marching in battalion; we should send men to the New Jersey Teachers convention in Atlantic City for show purposes; the Region should not participate in reenactments for any profit making concern; and we should demand seats for all of our families at Bull Run.

Centennial of the Civil War was in full swing. Interest in the Civil War and our heritage was growing. Soldiers returned from the Wars. Babies and small children were everywhere. Elvis Presley wiggled his hips and Rock and Roll was here to stay. Life magazine saw the interest in the Civil War growing. In the March 17, 1961 issue, the First Pennsylvania Artillery, N-SSA, made the cover of Life Magazine. The cover showed the First Pennsylvania Artillery with four artillery pieces and thirty four members. Later this unit would split into Knap's Battery and Clark's Battery of the N-SSA.

In 1961, the Region gave G. Walmsley $30.00 towards expenses to represent the Region at the National Board meeting of the N-SSA.

The Region on July 12, 1961, took a tough stand on members that break the rules. The Region said, "...that the Mid-Atlantic Region not allow any person to be reinstated after being dropped by any organization for disciplinary reasons and that the N-SSA be requested to take similar action." The question of 'legality' of women marching with an organization was raised. The group had trouble defining the word participation so no resolution was reached. In early days it appeared the N-SSA teams participated at reenactments. Bull Run was mentioned in the minutes but does not say if Bull Run was a skirmish or reenactment. In light of the previous statement a report was given on the Manassas reenactment at this meeting. There was a short discussion on the shoot at Indiantown Gap. In July of 1961, there were 19 member organizations and 9 probationary groups. It was estimated that the region consisted of 397 men.

At the December 3, 1961 meeting, the following teams were voted into the Middle Atlantic Region. In July of 1961, the 15th New Jersey and 56yh Pennsylvania were voted full membership. In October of 1961, the 5th New York; 72nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry; 67 New York; 118th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry; Delaware Blues; and 3rd U.S. Regular Infantry became members. Topic of discussion centered on
accouterments. Here are two quotes from that meeting, "No open type cartridge boxes (McKeever type)" and "...on cart boxes and cap boxes- one cover must always be down." Artillery became an official part of skirmish. Wheeldan of Forney's Battalion was responsible for the satisfactory design and standardization of target frames. Each region was to have one representative at Centennial Activities as Regional Representatives. Volunteers were requested from the group. Weapons, malfunctioning on the skirmish line, were inspected by the Regional Inspector before the next skirmish. There were problems scheduling the Spring Regional at Fort Dix, but no details were given. Gettysburg Travel Council gave the Region permission to use the quarry near town for a Regional skirmish. The tentative list of targets for the Spring Regional were 12-3 inch clay pots; 2 x 6 stake; 100 yard silk (bulls eye type); 32 clays; 24 clays black out; 16 suspended clays and demonstrations.

In 1961, the National Skirmishes must have been a crowded affair. In this meeting a discussion was held to send selected individuals and teams from the region to the National Skirmish. In the early days the region suggested that the National skirmishes be two weekend affairs. One weekend would be for team shooting and the second weekend be held for individuals and artillery competition. The vote was 9 to 4 in favor of the two day team shooting. Zippller complained about the Saratoga shoot that no patches were received ( @ $2 per patch ) from 9th New York Cavalry. It would appear that this regional skirmish was a Northeast Region affair. There was a discussion on "undesirable" groups gaining membership in N-SSA. Discussion ended.

In 1961, the following teams were active and on the Rolls. The list of teams are:

1st Pennsylvania Artillery, Co C and H
1st Pennsylvania Artillery, Co E
1st Regiment U.S. Hussars ( 3rd New Jersey Cav.)
1st Pennsylvania Rifles ( Bucktails )
2nd Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves
6th Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves
3rd U.S. Regular Infantry
56th Pennsylvania Volunteers Infantry
72nd Pennsylvania Volunteers Infantry
118th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry
149th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry
150th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry
Delaware Blues Rifles
Union Valley Volunteers
Hampton Legion
Forney' Battalion, USMC.
2nd New Jersey Cavalry

At the February 25, 1962, meeting of the Middle Atlantic Region, Keystone Battery and Garibaldi Guards, were brought into the Region. "Cdr. Walmsley held a short discussion on the coming Fort Dix Regional- May 12-13- 1962. The Spring National in 1962 was held at Kirtland, Ohio on June 9-10. The elapsed time system and standard targets were adopted as "official" for all National and Regional shoots. Commander Walmsley read a letter from the National Board giving the Middle Atlantic Region permission to split the region in half because
of size. Because metropolitan areas lack of available range facilities, Doc Macleod of the 2nd New Jersey raised the question whether the Northern teams could hold Regional skirmishes outside the region. The group agreed.

At this meeting there were 30 teams listed on the roster. Here is a list of teams active in 1962, they were:

- Co K, 1st Pa Reserves
- 2nd NJ Volunteers
- 3rd NJ Cavalry (US Hussars)
- 9th NY Volunteers
- 2nd NJ Light Artillery
- 13th NJ Volunteers
- 9th Cameron Highlanders
- 6th Regiment Pa. Reserves
- 13th Pa. Reserves
- 2nd Pa. Reserves
- 5th Independent Battery
- NY Light Artillery
- Delaware Blues
- 2nd North Carolina Troops
- 1st NY Cav
- Keystone Battery

The treasury had a balance of $118.94.

In a letter dated February 26, 1962, from Metropolitan Region, William Anderson to Middle Atlantic Region, Edwin Smith, he asked the Middle Atlantic Region for help getting started. The Metropolitan Region was formed in 1962.

In a letter May 10, 1962 from Frederick W. Jago Jr. to Commander George P. Walmsley, a discussion developed on a Regional Skirmish held on May 12 and 13 at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

The September 9, 1962 meeting of the Middle Atlantic Region talked about items on the National level. At the National level, they were firing artillery and carbine competition at the National Skirmishes. There was discussion on lost time due to fouled muskets. On December 9, 1962, the region had a balance of $62.30.

In a letter from T. A. McMullen, Commander of Hampton's Legion, to Robert A. Boehmler, Adjutant of the Legion, listed the teams that participated in the Regional Skirmish held in May of 1963. The list contained the following teams:

- 2nd New Jersey Cavalry with Co A, B, C, D.
- Forney's Battalion with Co A and B
- 72nd Pennsylvania Volunteers
- 56th Pennsylvania Volunteers
- 1st Pennsylvania Artillery
- 150th Pennsylvania Bucktails
- 149th Pennsylvania
There is a letter in the folder marked "Pre 1965 correspondence" that contained information to all commanders of the Middle Atlantic region. The letter is not dated but must be before 1963. Since the letter referred to the Spring National being held at Fort A. P. Hill and the Fall National held at Fort Indiantown Gap, I concluded the letter is of pre-1963 origin. The information in the letter was interesting. One item of particular note dealt with "pre-loading" and "pre-capping" on the firing line. In those days the skirmishers must have loaded the muskets behind the firing line and then walked to the firing line with a loaded and capped musket. To stop this problem, the commands on the line would be as follows: Order Arms; Load and come to the ready; thirty second pause; and a whistle sounds. At the sound of the whistle, the firing will commence.

By 1963, the Region had grown. It had grown to the point where the leadership felt it necessary to open a saving account. Money changed hands on Jan. 31, 1963 from Edwin Smith, Past Adjutant, to Robert Boehmler, Adjutant. The record showed that on February 8, 1963, the group deposited the sum of $ 38.82 in the Girard Trust Corn Exchange Bank, saving account No. 012-081415, under the name of Middle Atlantic Region, N.S.S.A., C/o Robert A. Boehmler, Regional Adjutant. The bank book showed regular deposits from February 8, 1963 to its closing on April 27, 1966 with a balance of $ 187.67.

In 1963, the March issue of Science and Mechanics magazine carried an article written by Ken Gilmore. The focus of the article was Civil War Artillery. In that article Joe Reese of the first Pennsylvania Artillery, John Rawls, and an unnamed confederate unit printed pictures of their units in battery firing or loading their cannons.


In the 1960's and 70's, the number and names of teams surged and waned depending on the interest at the time. A description of this ebb and flow of teams in the Middle Atlantic Region reads like a revolving door. The Regional meeting took place in January, 1964. In attendance for the first time was the 72nd PVI and 13th North Carolina, CSA. Williamsport Rifles and 13th North Carolina, CSA. paid their dues in the Spring of 1964. 1st Penna. Reserves, Co K was dropped from the records in the Fall of 1963, and Union Valley Cavalry followed suit in 1965. Third New Jersey Cavalry was dropped in 1967. In 1970, the following teams transferred to the Allegheny Region. They are 1st Pennsylvania Artillery, Co E (Knap's Battery); 2nd Pennsylvania Reserves; 11th Pennsylvania Volunteers (Williamsport Rifles); and the 6th Pennsylvania Reserves. The 15th New Jersey joined the Middle Atlantic Region in 1969, and the Lancaster Fencibles joined in 1971. On September 17, 1971, the 46th Pa. Vol. Infantry cast a vote at the Fall meeting. In 1972, Thompson Independent Battery C was on the scene. The record showed that in 1971 to 75, the Delaware Blues dropped out and 87th P.V.I., Co E was inserted. The 46th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry entered in 1974.
The Regional meeting was held on January 26, 1964. The Commander of the Region was Ed Smith. The minutes were routine except for the last note and I quote "A lengthy discussion was held on the handling and hosting of a regional skirmish." An entry found in the original ledger from the 1960's showed that the first skirmish was held at Fort Dix, New Jersey, probably in the Fall of 1964. The record showed that, "Received this day of 9/25/64 - the check (#3-8,310-41881) for $87.00 from the Middle Atlantic Reg. R.W. Klineburger TRS Russell Swift (sic) for Hampton's Legion C.S.A. Account closed." This entry is probably not true. There are flyers and reports to claim otherwise. In 1997, I attended an auction for the family of John DeWalt. John was a long time member of Knap's Battery. From his personal effects I managed to purchase a participation ribbon indicating that a regional skirmish was held in 1961.

Charles Smithgall remembers going to his first skirmish in 1964 at Fort Dix, New Jersey. He can remember a demonstration between the winning musket team and a 30 caliber air-cooled machine gun. The musket team won but he vividly remembers that the tracers bullets from the machine gun started grass fires.

An example of a Middle Atlantic Participation ribbon possibly from a Regional Skirmish held at Indiantown Gap in April of 1961. The ribbon came from the John Dewalt collection. John was a member of the First Pennsylvania Artillery and Knap's Battery, Company E.

In the early days the targets for the musket competition consisted of pigeons on a backer and a special "T" made from 2x6x8 placed in the ground and a 1x3x8 nailed to the top to form the crossbar. From this crossbar the hanging events were hung. Near the bottom of the 2x6x8 was painted a white bar followed by a black line and then another white line. After the breakables were done, the 2x6x8 became the stake event. In the early days there was a special event at the end of most skirmishes. The host team would erect two small telephone poles in the ground. At the end of the regular skirmish, the men in those days would form up in 'Brigades'. The idea was to see which side could "cut off" the pole in the least amount of time. I can remember shooting this event at Fort Dix into the early 1980's. Charles Smithgall can remember shooting one-eighth sticks of dynamite in an event called the "Stake and Egg" event.

In the early days patches were a big item. Just about every skirmish had a patch made up to commemorate the skirmish. When I joined the N-SSA in 1978, I was impressed by the N-SSA veterans walking around with all the patches sewed to a special jacket for skirmishing. It would be nice to see that a few of these jackets from the sixties and seventies make it to the Museum. In those days with patches the rage, the host teams would order patches at the cheapest price. Even in those days overseas labor was cheap. Charles Smithgall recalled a skirmish hosted by the 118th PVI at Meshoppen, Pennsylvania in the late sixties. The
patch for this skirmish was supposed to be a beer can with crossed cannons. Either the instructions were wrong or the person reading the message was not knowledgeable in the Civil war. In any event the patches were made with a beer can and crossed canoes.

Meeting of March 28th, 1964, was held at Blackwood Town Hall in New Jersey. The topics of discussion centered on Certificates of indebtedness and the dusty road at Fort Shenandoah. The minutes from a March 28, 1964, meeting showed a diagram of wire position and layout for cutting cardboard for regional skirmishes. There was even a copy of early by-laws for Second New Jersey Cavalry, Company K.

Meeting of March 14, 1965, was held at Blackwood Municipal Hall in Blackwood, New Jersey. The following highlights were summarized from the minutes. At the meeting they showed a movie, "Life of Stonewall Jackson" that contained many N-SSA members Al Hardin and Ed Smith gave a talk on the "New " Electronic Timing System that they designed and used at Fort Shenandoah in 1965. This folder contained a complete financial statement and balance sheet for the parent organization of the N-SSA. In December of 1964, the N-SSA were 1,816 members strong. I found a National Directory of National Officers and Commanders from every team in every Region for 1964, except the information for the Middle Atlantic region was missing. On the National level, the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting held on August 20, 1963, spoke of Fort Shenandoah as the home range. Under Old Business, it was noted that "drinking" was flagrant on the firing line on Saturday but hidden on Sunday during the National Skirmish. Smoking was a problem in the ready area behind the line. There were 35 fouled muskets and two musket accidents recorded that weekend.

On April 2, 1965, Certificates of Indebtedness Nos. 664 to 673 inclusive were issued in the name of Middle Atlantic Region N-SSA. The first notation about an award was May 19, 1966. The region bought a plaque and gave it to Forney's. The first record of receiving income from a skirmish was on 12/19/66. The skirmish was held on 9/15 - 16/66.

The time period is 1968. In a letter marked January 5, 1968, Gerald Berghold, Adjutant, notified Walt Taylor that the 15th New Jersey wanted to join the Middle Atlantic Region. In the folder marked 15th New Jersey, there was a letter dated December 6, 1968 from Robert W, Thayer, Jr. of the 15th New Jersey to Walt Taylor requesting a transfer from the Metropolitan Region to the Middle Atlantic Region. Included in the folder is a roster of the 15th New Jersey, but it is not dated.

From a meeting held March 2, 1969, the hot topic at the meeting was insurance. Essentially, the topic of insurance focused on proper procedures in case someone became injured, and the insurance did not cover non-N-SSA members. The Turnersville shoot in 1969, was the first place to use the three-quarter inch chip board for the stake event.
Chapter 3: The Seventies

The seventies opened with a Regional meeting held in Runnemede, New Jersey at the Monticello Motor Lodge with the Commander Arthur Johnson presiding. There were seven Middle Atlantic teams in attendance. There were enough teams for a quorum, and voting could take place. With $322.17 in the treasury, the topic of discussion was money. It appeared that there was not enough money in the treasury to cover expenses. The discussion centered on the possibility of using surplus money from host teams' treasury if they were successful after hosting a Regional or Invitational skirmish. Except for first time "host" teams, it was moved and seconded for the host team to donate $30.00 dollars from their treasury to the Regional treasury to help defray costs on a Regional level. The Commander reminded everyone in attendance that Regional skirmishes could not be held during weekends that the N-SSA Board had its meeting. It was at this meeting that a Regional Championship Award was established to be given annually on the basis of competitive shooting. Partly by design, the "Award" would extend the Regional Skirmish season past the Fall National into November. A committee was formed and asked to report at the next meeting. Beyond the formal meeting, Commander Johnson asked the team Commanders and Ordinance Officers of each team to continue to inspect the weapons to make sure that the weapons were legal and within limits.

1971 was not a calm year for the Middle Atlantic Region. Like warring factions one hundred and ten years before, North and South ideologies did not always mesh. At the January 17, 1971, meeting held in Runnemede, New Jersey at the Monticello Motor Lodge, the idea of Regional championship awards was proposed and sent to committee. The idea of Handicapping lower scoring teams was proposed. A committee was formed to contact the Northeast Region to determine how they conducted the handicapping system. J. Maxson asked for a discussion on the subject of a Regional identification patch, but there was little interest. The matter was dropped. The 72nd Pennsylvania lost a piece of their camp site at Fort Shenandoah at the 42nd National. Someone at the National level forgot to put the 72nd PVI on the camping map. The status of the range at Turnersville was uncertain because the ground was sold. C. Harrington resigned as Deputy Commander because he was moving out of the region Chris Johnson was elected Deputy Commander in his place. In a summary of the minutes for January 17, 1971, section XII and the legal problems raised their ugly heads. It appeared that Chris Johnson fired a cannon owned by the 4th Michigan at the fall Regional Skirmish held at Meshoppen, Pennsylvania. This was a violation of some N-SSA rule or in violation of the insurance carrier. In any event Chris Johnson says "In opening discussion, C. Johnson stated he felt he had been deprived of his constitutional rights under the laws of both the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States in that he was never notified in advance of the charges nor allowed to testify in his own behalf, and that he was suspended before the hearing was held." The charges were filed by P. Marziale. A member of the cannon team must have been a National Board member or ran for an elected office in the Fall of 1970.

This cannon incident casted an air of discontent through the Region. "D. Smith then moved that the election of national officers last October 3 be declared null and void and that new election be held in the spring. After extended discussion, Commander Johnston refused the motion and declared the election null and void on what he felt were legal grounds. D. Smith, seconded by W. Thomas, then proposed that the Commander
express the dissatisfaction of the Middle Atlantic Region with the holding of the election in the atmosphere in which it was conducted. The vote was six for the motion and six against, and the Commander abstained from casting the tie-breaking vote." The discord continued into the meeting of July 25, 1971. According to the By-laws, section 1. Article VIII, ten day reminders for all meetings must be mailed to announce the time and place for regional meetings. That mailing did not occur, but the meeting was held anyway with eight teams present. The National Board meeting that year must have been productive. Out of this meeting came eighteen important decisions relating to N-SSA business. Many of these decisions are still in effect today. Commander Johnston commended Chris Johnson on his conduct as he stood before the National Board to answer charges against him for the Artillery incident at Meshoppen, Pennsylvania. Commander Johnson appointed Darryl Fischer of the 56th PVI as the Regional Artillery Officer. Regional officers were elected for the next term. The meeting of July 25th lasted over four hours!

In an addendum to the minutes of the July 25, 1971 meeting, the meeting of the 25th July were declared void because not enough of the teams had copies of the by-laws. In some cases the by-laws were not in agreement with the Nation by-laws. The by-laws of the Region had to be brought into line with the National by-laws before Regional business could be conducted. Another meeting was scheduled for August 29, 1971, for the purpose setting a straight course for the Middle Atlantic Region. The minutes of this meeting read as an addendum to the meeting of July 25, 1971. One of the problems of the July 25th meeting dealt with voting procedures. The number of votes per team was determined by the number of 8-man companies per team. Some teams who could vote more only voted once, hence the problem according to some people. Robert's Rules of Order got plenty of air time to decide the course of action for the next step. The next step was to make sure every team received a set of the Regional By-Laws and to bring the Regional By-Laws in line with the National By-Laws. In any event the Summer turned to Fall and the October, 1971 meeting was held. Tension must have filled the air. The election of officers for the Middle Atlantic Region from July 25, 1971 came into question by members of the 2nd New Jersey Cavalry. Tempers must have flared because the minutes reflect, and I quote, "the team representative of the 13th North Carolina Infantry was forced to leave today's meeting before the elections were opened....." Another vote was taken and Jack Peters was elected Commander. Arthur Johnson was elected Duty Commander. Jack Maxson continued on as Adjutant/Paymaster. George Ferguson was elected Inspector General and Safety Officer. Charles Smithgall was elected Provost Marshall, and rounding out the field was Arthur Cohan for Parade Marshall. Mercifully, Deputy Commander Johnson asked that a committee be formed to overhaul the Regional By-Laws. A few brave souls stepped forward and the meeting ended shortly after that decision.

Additional excerpts from the October 17th meeting noted that in the Spring of 1971, the Lancaster Fencibles was judged to be best uniformed company present at the Spring Nationals. The three day National skirmish is now official. Individual matches will be fired on Friday and Saturday, and Carbine team events on Saturday. It was not clear from the minutes whether this was a proposal advanced by the Middle Atlantic Region as away to solve the four relay problem on Sunday.

Eleven months went by before the next meeting of the Middle Atlantic Region was held on September 17th, 1972 at the Warrington Motor Lodge, in Warrington, Pennsylvania. The revised By-Laws were read and
the membership agreed to accept the changes. The reminder of the meeting centered on issues on the National level and beyond the scope of the Regional history.

The group in the early seventies must have felt the pressure of a busy schedule at the National Skirmishes. This sentiment was reflected by William Thomas of the 118th PVI, "The proposal was that these events be spread over two weekends with half the Association participating each time. The winners were to be established by taking the top scores of the combined two weekend shoots. After a discussion of such variables as weather and other factors, the proposal was amended to suggest a third shoot between the top teams of the previous two weekend as a run-off, but objections were raised that distant teams could be required to make two trips in order to establish a winner. Charles Harrington proposed separating individual competitions from the Skirmishes and holding them in July possibly in place of the Muzzle Loaders Rendezvous, and conducting team competitions on both Saturday and Sunday.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION

John R. Peters

2nd New Jersey Cavalry

1972
and distribution of the changed By-Laws to every team in the Region. The membership voted down a dues increase. In 1973, the dues for each member in the Middle Atlantic region was .50 cents. In 1973, the members voted down a 50 cents increase that would have made the dues one dollar. The next order of business was to vote a one dollar assessment per man to cover anticipated expenses for the balance of 1973. In the next breath, the member voted to increase the dues to two dollars per man for 1974. Unrelated to dues increases and money discussions members were alerted to the fact that Philadelphia representatives to the state legislature would shortly propose a bill which would outlaw the possession of black powder in Pennsylvania, and members should rally to help defeat such an act. The minutes of the National meeting took center stage. The meeting became a dissemination of information from the National Board to the Regional level. As I reviewed this material I found it interesting as to the size and types of target material available. It appeared the skirmishes in the sixties and seventies shot diamond event. They shot clay pigeons at 100 yards and charcoal briquettes at 50 yards. They shot a 40" by 20" inch diamond target with a 40" diagonal running vertically. No more information is available from the minutes. There was a "Stop Sign" event but the target was changed in the name of "good taste". Several new CO2 devices were purchased to clear fouled weapons.

The next meeting of the Region was held in October of 1973. It was noted that the Delaware blues were moving out of the Region and into the newly formed Chesapeake Region. Arthur Cohan died since the last Regional meeting, and his death was recognized. A memorial was sent to his widow expressing deep appreciation for his service to the Region. Commander Peters reminded all the team commanders to send a copy of the Unit's By-Laws to Jack Rawls for legal purposes. The two phase system for musket competition at Nationals appeared to work. The minutes reflected that the parent organization, N-SSA, owned a fire truck. What ever happened to the fire truck? The illegal drug problem continued at the National Skirmished. The use of modern and personal weapons caused problems on the National level. It was reported that an irresponsible skirmisher had discharged a weapon in or around his campsite. Was it a Middle Atlantic member? Hampton Legion held a turkey shoot at Huntington Valley on November 4 of that year. No report was mentioned on the success or failure of the shoot. Elections for 1974-75 were held. Peters was reelected. Timlin was elected Deputy Commander by a close vote. Maxson was reelected for Adjutant/Paymaster. Al Gibson was elected for Inspector General. Charles Smithgall received a unanimous vote for Provost Marshall.

In an article written in 1974 for the Monthly Bugle, a magazine for the Pennsylvania Antique Gun Collectors Association, Joe Reese described the sport of Skirmishing and the beginnings of the First Pennsylvania Artillery. In that article Joe stated that the Philadelphia Muzzleloading Club, chartered in 1952, was the backbone for the Pennsylvania Artillery. He mentioned a list of PAGCA members that belonged to the First Pennsylvania Artillery. A name that I recognized was Larry Beyer. In the article Joe continued to say that the First Pennsylvania Artillery took first place in the 150 yard Original Cannon Competition in the October of 1973. The artillery piece that the First Pennsylvania Artillery used to win that competition was a 1864 three inch Ordnance rifle made by the Phoenix Iron Company in Phoenixville, Pa. He went on to say, "that the tube and carriage are all original and were carefully restored in 1960 to fine shooting condition. the tube was converted by the U.S. Government in 1880 to a breech-loader by the addition of a steel breech block and was rebored and re-rifled from three inches to 3.2 inches"

In March 31, 1974, the balance in the treasury for the Middle Atlantic Region was $915.59. This meeting
at Warrington Motor Lodge was a gathering for eight out of the fifteen units in the Middle Atlantic Region. The National Board minutes reflected that holes may be drilled in the rear leaf sight on muskets and still be legal. There were many comments that dealt with the National Board. A survey of these comments indicated that toilets, large spectator crowds, money and safety issues dominated the minutes. Adjutant Maxson requested that each unit send him a Unit history so that a history of the Middle Atlantic Region may be published in the next Skirmish Line. Al Gibson wanted a list of all weapons used by all members for Individual and team competition. The list was needed for safety purposes.

I found a letter dated, May 16, 1975, in files from the Honorable Richard S. Schweiker to Norman Lockten sharing his ideas for support against legislation of gun control. The signature of Senator Richard Schweiker appeared to be real.

The minutes from the November 2, 1975 meeting showed a discussion was held regarding the participation of woman and children in skirmish shooting events. Air rifle competition for children occurred at several invitation shoots in the area. The balance in the treasury was $994.81 dollars. The turkey shoot hosted by Hampton's legion was held on November 23, 1975 on the range of Joel Pitcairn on Buck Road, in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania. Chris Johnson reported that the Black Powder plant of Gerhart and Owens in Moosic, Pennsylvania exploded but no shortage of black powder was anticipated. Regional skirmishes were springing up all over the place, and Chris Johnson coordinated the different regional skirmishes for the Middle Atlantic Region. If choice was an option, he suggested that the teams of the Middle Atlantic region owed an alliance to attend Middle Atlantic skirmished. At this time, three skirmished within the Region was the rule more or less. At this meeting Regional officers were elected for 1976-77. The results were John McGinness for Commander. Walt Taylor was elected for Deputy Commander George Lomas was elected over Jack Maxson by the slimmest of margins for Adjutant/Paymaster. Will Ellis was picked for Inspector General/Safety Officer. Charles Smithgall by unanimous vote was selected for Provost Marshall. Ed Mason was retained as PIO for the region.

On February 15, 1976 the meeting was held in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania at the Holiday Inn. The minutes were read and approved. Commander McGinness appointed John Gottschall as the Regional PIO. Two regional skirmishes were held in July and September at Camp Union. Carl Hulshart reported that Columbia Fish and Game was improved and could serve as a site for future skirmishes. On the National level Robert McCleary of the 13th North Carolina was appointed as National PIO. In those days the maximum number of musket teams was 250 and the maximum number of carbine teams was 100. On the National level, each unit voted on the proposal to participate in three official skirmishes per year. At this time, members of the Middle Atlantic region held prominent positions on the National level. Al Hardin was editor of the Skirmish Line. Walt Hullings of the 13th North Carolina was the advertising manager for the Skirmish Line. Dale Smith of the same unit was the Marksmanship Classification Officer. The Board considered reducing the number of clay pigeons on the backer and reducing the time from six minutes to four. In this year the four inch ceramic tile became an official target. It was at this meeting that the motion passed to assess a $10.00 penalty fee for any team that did not pay its dues on time. This was the meeting that the Region decided to have its very own checks printed to pay bills. Even though the National Board owned special equipment to clear fouled weapons, the Middle Atlantic felt a need to acquire its own piece or pieces of musket-clearing equipment.

March 28, 1976 found the Region at the Holiday Inn in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania. The regional letter was approved. I assumed the letter head came from Al Bumford, Jr. He was mentioned as the chairman of that committee from previous meeting. Due to the lateness of the hour from the previous meeting, Al's report was
tabled until this meeting. George Lomas proposed three regional trophies to recognize the top three teams in the region. The proposal was tabled until the details could be worked out. Will Ellis was appointed Regional Artillery Officer.

The Fall meeting was held in November at the same Holiday Inn. The usual reports were given such as the reading of the minutes and treasurers' report. Hosting regional commanders gave their reports on regional skirmishes from 1976. All was well. A group was coming in called Company 'E", 87th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. The first item on the agenda was the Regional trophies. Wayne Shaw chaired the committee to work out the details. It was at this meeting that the Regional Dance or Banquet was conceived. John McGinness indicated that the V.F.W. Post 676 in Ardsley Pa. had decent facilities for such a function. With the blessing of the assembled group, the Regional Dance was approved. The 3rd U.S. Regular infantry was served notice that the unit did not attend the mandatory three skirmishes per year. The topic of rules came up. The rule of shouldering arms during target change and "thumbing the ball" was discussed. The dump and flow of trash at Fort Shenandoah was causing some problems for Hampton's Legion camp site. People in attendance raised a few questions about dogs at Fort Shenandoah. Results of this discussion are unknown. The balance in the treasury at the end of 1976 was $954.96.

In 1977, there were 17 teams in the Region. There were three teams that lost active status, and they were Thompson's Independent Battery, 46th PVI, and 87th PVI.

From 1976 to 1978, I found early newsletters from John McGinness. The letterhead started out as, "A little bull from from John McGinness" The newsletters were designed to convey news and information to the membership. A hot topic on the National level was the issue of pet dogs roaming free at the Nationals. In 1976, John issued a stern warning about the use of fireworks at Regional skirmishes. The folder contained the results of the "A" company and "B" company Regional results. In the Newsletter under General News appeared this paragraph, "I understand that Chris Johnson has one-slightly used Yeck-Smith carbine for sale, trade, give-away for the asking. The only thing wrong with it is a chipped stock and the fact that it won't go off. Oh yes, the flash hole screw won't stay in." This sounds like my kind of gun. Many of John's newsletters are dotted with humor. Here was an excerpt of his humor. While speaking with Carl Adams, 46th PVI, he mentioned one of his team mates broke a fan belt going to the National. He made the necessary repairs by using his wife's panty hose. It worked....He failed to mention if she was wearing them or not".

In those days the top team in the Region was 2nd New Jersey Calvary, Company K. In the middle '70's the most frequently used ranges were Meshoppen, Columbia, and Revere.

The Spring Regional meeting found us at the Holiday Inn, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania with Commander McGinness presiding. Wayne Shaw gave his report on the Regional Trophies, and on this day, the Regional trophy was born. Due to poor attendance, the Regional Dance was in jeopardy of being canceled. John Gottshaw was replaces as Regional PIO for health reasons and Bob Peterson of the 56th PVI took his place. The majority of the meeting dealt with National business.

The Fall Regional meeting was held at the previous location. Commander McGinness gave his report on the National and Regional level. The dog issue at the National level appeared to be an ongoing topic. The Region acquired a gun clearing device that would be available to any host team in the Region. The Regional Trophies and medals were awarded at the Regional dinner dance. The National board recommended to the Middle
Atlantic Region that we drop the on safety glasses for legal reasons. Deputy Commander Walt Taylor reports that all was fine in the Region. The election of officers was conducted by election of officers was conducted by election committee chaired by Carl Hulshart. The results of that election indicated that John McGinness returned as Commander. George Lomas was elected as Deputy Commander and Alan Dorn was selected for Adjutant/Paymaster. Will Ellis remained as regional inspector general. After a short break, the topic of discussion turned to the National level. As usual, the topic of toilets found its way into the conversation as well insurance policy. In the same sentence the minutes reported two topics that seem like strange "bed fellows"--recycling of beer cans and a safer way to clear guns. With a shift back to the regional level, rules and guidelines were given to teams hosting a regional skirmish concerning publicity and response cards. The Dinner Dance was scheduled for sometime in March or April. Raffle tickets made an appearance in the minutes. It does not say what was being raffled. The profit from the raffle was put in the Regional treasury. Meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.

Minutes from the February 19, 1978 meeting held at VFW Post in Roslyn, Pennsylvania recorded that the 69th New York group was accepted into the Middle Atlantic Region. A motion on the floor was defeated to accept padded shooting jackets for any type of competition. The Middle Atlantic region was asked to participate in a Memorial Day ceremony and the location was unknown. The region purchased a large coffee pot,
and secured a carbon dioxide tank and ball puller. The ball puller was provided compliments of R. Stambaugh and W. Shaw.

February 25, 1979 meeting were held and here are the highlights. Carl Hulshart was the Skirmish Director for the 60th National Skirmish. The Woman's Skirmish Association had formed and began doing demonstrations. The group was insured and this insurance notation appeared in the minutes. Tennessee Volunteer Infantry and Texas Battery were probationary units. Dues were increased from $1.00 to $1.50. A guide book outlining Regional Skirmish procedures was in committee and scheduled for distribution at a later date.

The October 28, 1979 meeting had the Regional Inspector General reminding the Team Commanders to warn their members about thumbing the bullet down the muzzle of the barrel. On the National level, the report contained a proposal for teams to dress in complete uniforms for carbine competition. The Northwest territory had standardized the practice of using plastic keylocks for mounting pigeons on cardboard backers. The Deep South region was scheduled to come into existence on January 1, 1980. Election results for Regional Officers were as follows: Commander Rich Stambaugh, Deputy Commander Eric Fritz, Adjutant/Paymaster Wayne Schmidt and Regional Inspector Wayne Shaw. The Dinner Dance was held on March 22 at a cost of 13.50 per person. W. Shaw suggested that "B" team awards for Regional skirmishes be given and left to the discretion of the individual teams.

There was a treasury report from the October, 1979 meeting. Alan T. Dorn Adjutant/Paymaster reported that as of February 24, 1979, there was a balance of $1053.31.

The Archives of the Middle Atlantic Region contained the Regional Skirmish Manual. The manual was a three page document outlining the necessary steps to conduct a successful skirmish. The subtitle for the Manual was entitled, "How to Run a Successful Skirmish in 1,832,686 easy steps". The manual was not dated, and there was no author. This could be the manual referred to in the February 25th meeting minutes.

The Archives of the Middle Atlantic Region contained a set of By-Laws and skirmish rules for the N-SSA Revised June 1, 1997.
Middle Atlantic guns share the Pelham Trophy — 150th PVI (Class C winner) and 3rd U.S. Regular Infantry (Class A winner).

150th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry gun crew with spectacular 50-5V target.
72nd Pennsylvania Inf. Regt.

Baxter’s Zouaves was assigned to Sedgwick’s Division after 1861 organization in Philadelphia. Fought with heavy losses at Savage Station, Antietam and Gettysburg. Other major engagements included Fredericksburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor and Petersburg where unit mustered out August, 1864.

Walt Taylor
72nd Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment

Dale Smith
13th North Carolina Infantry Regiment
Lancaster Fencibles

By Charles Youtz

Ladies Morning—Rosaleen Hulshart

Best Uniformed Regiment
N-SSA Teams... "Then & Now"
15th New Jersey Volunteer Inf.
by John W. Kuhl

Forney's Battalion U.S.M.C.
Albert N. Hardin, Jr.
Photo credit: C.E. Petrone
Chapter 4: The Eighties

February 17, 1980, the meeting in Ardskey, Pa. had Commander R. Stambaugh at the helm. The minutes showed that Thompson's Independent Battery had been dissolved. A long time member and leader, Art Johnson of the 2nd New Jersey, Co K had died and a moment of silence was observed. Co K donated a traveling trophy in the name of Art Johnson that was to be given to the top team for Musket/Carbine Aggregate score. Tom Boyer accepted the post of Provost Marshall for the year, and Al Brinkman, J.r. was the new PIO. Al's goal was to publish a newsletter, and his idea was supported by the membership. The boxes of archival material did not contain any of his newsletters and are possibly lost forever. Finding teams to host regional skirmishes appeared to be a recurring problem. A committee was appointed to determine a rotating schedule listing the teams and the order to host regional skirmishes.

Meeting November, 1980 at Ardsley, Pennsylvania was held without a major problem. The topics of discussion centered on muskets that did not pass inspection. Light trigger pull was the main problem. Larry Willard was appointed the new Provost Guard for 1981, and the PIO post was vacant. A motion was made and passed that teams will be in uniform for Carbine team competition. A motion was made and passed that Musket team commanders meeting be held Sunday morning. This was a change from the usual Saturday night commander’s meeting.

In an undated letter to the teams, Duty Commander Eric Fritz sent out a letter encouraging all teams to be the best that they can be. The letter included helpful hints on how to improve their scores. Wayne Shaw, the Inspector General in 1980, sent a letter to all teams outlining the objectives for the 1980 skirmishing season. The letter reviewed the basic rules of safety. On October 10, 1980 Adjutant/Paymaster Wayne Schmidt felt it was very important that teams send him copies of canceled checks from the teams. The copies were needed to determine the financial stability of the parent organization. Throughout the late seventies and early eighties, the raffle ticket was a legitimate and well used means to raise money.

March of 1981, had the group back in session at the VFW Post in Ardsley, Pennsylvania with Duty Commander Eric Fritz presiding. I.G. Wayne Shaw reported that team uniforms were not consistent and should be in the future. The National Provost Guard was back in action and contained an all volunteer group. Bill Machinsky was the newly appointed PIO. Wayne Schmidt distributed a booklet on the guidelines on ‘How to Run a Skirmish’. A lottery was conducted by the Regional Skirmish Committee to determine the order for teams to host skirmishes. Lancaster Fencibles was picked first and Tenth Virginia was selected last. A dues increase was defeated and the meeting shortly ended after that decision.

In November of 1981, the Middle Atlantic Region held a regional meeting at the VFW Post in Ardsley, Pennsylvania with Commander Richard Stambaugh presiding. The meeting was basically cut and dry. The major topic of discussion were rules governing the selection of the Region’s All-Star team that would compete at the upcoming Nationals. Regional election of officers was held and Wayne Schmidt was elected Commander unanimously. A proposal of rules for selecting participants to the Regional All-Star team were included in the minutes of this meeting.

On March 4, 1982, Larry Willard, then Deputy Commander, sent to all teams a copy of the rules and
guidelines for the Region Individual Championship. The basic format were the rules as set in March of 1977, but revised in March of 1981. The Spring Meeting of the Middle Atlantic Region was held on March 7, 1982 at the VFW Post in Ardsley, Pennsylvania, Commander Wayne Schmidt presiding. The membership was asked to support the McClure/Volkmer Firearms Owner Protection Act, Senate Bill S-1030. The Region was having trouble finding host teams to host regional skirmishes. Three skirmishes were not a problem, but to run five skirmishes in a single season were a problem. The Dinner Dance was held on April 3, 1982. Packets of raffle tickets to benefit the proposed National Skirmish Museum at Fort Shenandoah was distributed to the members. In January of 1982, the National Board voted to replace the six inch flower pot with the six inch ceramic tile. Firewood was no longer free at the National Skirmish. At the National Skirmish there were non-members shooting on teams. As a result, all skirmishers were to wear their membership cards on their person while the skirmisher was shooting. At the time there was a Regional rule that stated the starting time for a Regional Skirmish would be 10:00 am. It was moved and seconded that the starting time for Regional Skirmishes be at the discretion of the host team and the Regional Commander. The problem of toilet facilities at Revere was discussed. Walt Taylor volunteered to look into the feasibility and cost of permanent toilet facilities at revere.

The Fall Meeting was held on October 24, 1982 with Commander Wayne Schmidt presiding. The topic of discussion was the profits from the September shoot at Revere. The profits from the shoot were to be directed toward the buying of toilets at Revere. What did we do before we bought the toilets? The Regional Dinner Dance was discussed, and there was be Anniversary Ball in March or April of 1983. Ken Kortman reported that someone on positions 40 to 42 at a recent Nationals was shooting round balls indicating that cheating was taking place by a team using these positions.
The Spring meeting was held on March 6, 1983 with Wayne Schmidt commanding. Larry Willard reported that the plaques for Regional Championships were ordered and will be ready for presentation at the Regional Dance to be held later that year. National business was a big concern and information outlining disqualification, penalty times, "B" team clarification, and the proper way to hang targets was disseminated and discussed. Under Old Business, the topic of discussion turned to a recurring problem of traveling Regional trophies not being returned to the Deputy Commander for safe keeping. Toilets at Revere recycled its way back on the agenda. Regional medals were discussed and the logo for the medal needed to be identified. Eric Fritz volunteered to chair that committee and it reported at the next meeting. It was proposed that the Region sponsor a skirmish patterned after the National Veteran's Skirmish. The regional skirmish would be held in September with all participating teams bringing their own target material. Co. K, 2nd New Jersey was offering to hold a BB gun skirmish for the children at their regional skirmish in 1983. November 6, 1983, the meeting was held at the VFW in Ardsley, Pennsylvania with Commander Schmidt presiding. Eric Fritz and committee were responsible for determining the "Regional Seal" to be used on Regional medals. Toilets returned to the minutes again but in a favorable light. The skirmish season was a good one with the exception of the skirmish hosted by Forney's Battalion. No reason was given.

There was no record of the March 4, 1984 meeting but there was a financial report. The treasury showed
a balance of $319.27. The minutes of the November 18, 1984, alluded to the possibility that not much happened at the March 4th meeting. The minutes say, "The minutes (such as they were) were read by Adjutant/Paymaster and were approved as read." The membership authorized Eric Fritz and committee to purchase a die to stamp regional medallions to be used as awards. Wayne Shaw informed the membership that the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry was a bonafide member of the N-SSA. He again cautioned the membership to be "Caveat Emptor" when buying weapons from any source.

The Fun Shoot in 1984 broke even and another Fun Shoot was being planned for 1985. Raffles were a big item in the 1980's and the big winner was Wayne Shaw with a prize of $250.00. Charlie Smithgall offered Fort Ross as a possible sight to hold regional Skirmishes. He informed the membership that electricity had finally reached Southern Lancaster County. The Regional Dance was scheduled at the VFW Post 676 similar to the previous year.

February 24, 1985 the Spring meeting of the Middle Atlantic Region was held at VFW Post 676 with Commander Schmidt presiding. Nothing significant was noted from the minutes with one exception. It was noted that Carl Hulshart was ill and get-well cards would be appreciated. Eric Fritz of Co K was appointed as Skirmish Director for the Fall Nationals 1985. The Fun Shoot was tentative for sometime in July, 1985. Enthusiasm for the Regional Dance appeared to have worn thin. There was a discussion of both pros and cons about the Dinner Dance, but the discussion was tabled to a later time.
The meeting place changed to the American Legion Post 798, in Warminster, Pennsylvania. There was no reason for the switch.

November 10, 1985, at the American Legion in Warminster, the representatives of the respective teams met to discuss Middle Atlantic Regional business with Commander Wayne Schmidt presiding. The regional shoots went very smoothly in 1985. There was nothing earth shaking to report at the regional level. On the National level, there must have been an artillery accident in Virginia that year. That impact filtered down to the regional level. The National Board issued General Order number 31 which prohibits Artillery demonstration from regional skirmishes for insurance purposes. Elections were held and Wayne Schmidt was reelected as Commander. Ray Smutko of the First New Jersey Light Artillery gave a report on the gun laws found in the state of New Jersey. To be blunt, the laws were very restrictive and unreasonable. Ken Kortman bought up the general condition of the camping area at Revere, Pennsylvania and inquired as to who would pay for general maintenance and improvements. In 1986, the Middle Atlantic region met and the March 23rd meeting was uneventful. By scanning the minutes, it appeared that the Dinner Dance idea was dying. A discussion was held to find ways to stimulate interest. At the end of the meeting it was suggested that a Regional picnic replace the Regional Dinner Dance. The discussion on this topic 'died in rhetoric'. In an addendum to the minutes, it was easy to see why the Dinner Dance was waning. In a letter by Norm Lochten, he speculated on the cost of a person lodging for one night at the motel and attending the Dinner Dance. Norm proposed that it would cost on average $52.50 per person to attend the Dinner Dance. A report was given on the National Inspector General's meeting, and the contents of that meeting were distributed. Will Yerkes, the PIO, shared his thoughts on the Skirmish Line not printing regional news. Will indicated that all the material is prepared, but the information is not getting printed. He was left speechless. Minutes reflected that Walt Taylor of the 72nd PVI had died recently. It was moved and seconded that the Fun Shoot be renamed the Walt Taylor Memorial Fun Shoot in his honor. The 69th New York donated a traveling trophy in his name to be given to the best uniformed outfit at a regional skirmish. The 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry, Rush's Lancers, won the best uniformed outfit at the Fall National that year.

That Fall on November 16, 1986 the group met to discuss Middle Atlantic Regional business. Rich Gould, the Inspector General for the Region, gave a report that indicated the National Board wanted the uniform policy
strictly enforced, including the penalties. The Dinner Dance was held on February 28, 1987 at the Warrington Motor Lodge. A committee was formed to determine the rules and regulations for the Walt Taylor Memorial Trophy for best uniformed unit in the region. Additional gun ranges were suggested for regional skirmishes. Members volunteered to check out the new ranges. Someone from the Revere range assured the membership that there was nothing to worry about with the range at Revere.

It was Spring, March 15, 1987, and the group met once again to discuss Regional business at the American Legion Post in Warrington, Pennsylvania. For the most part the minutes of the meeting were standard. Ken Kortman strongly voiced his concerns of a safety violation that he observed at the Marriottsville skirmish in the Spring. It appeared that the host team cleared a weapon behind the line and in back of the block house during both the carbine and musket phases of the skirmish. There was one rule change of note. It was determined that the host team may participate in their own skirmish if there were less than twelve teams participating in the musket team competition. The 118th PVI and the 3rd US Regulars were informed that their campsites would be changed at Fort Shenandoah.

In the Fall, the meeting was held November 15, 1987 at Post 787 in Warminster. Commander Wayne Schmidt presided over the meeting. Elections were held and Wayne Shaw, Ken Kortman, N. Lochten, and J. Sheller ran unopposed for their respective positions. First New Jersey Light Artillery transferred to the New England Region. There was trouble finding host teams for the Regional skirmishes. The region indicated that five skirmishes were to be held each year. A lottery system was suggested and the teams were lined up. In the end the region reduced the number of regional skirmishes from five to three. The topic of regulations concerning uniforms was discussed and the idea was confirmed that the teams were to be dressed in the cut and style of the Civil War era. Goodbye, J.C. Penney pants! The musket team competition on Sunday was getting longer and longer, and it was suggested that the opening ceremony for the second phase be eliminated. In essence, there would be one opening ceremony before the first phase. There was talk among the rank and file that a mortar demonstration was to be held immediately after the All Star competition on Friday afternoon.

The minutes from the Spring meeting of March 20, 1988 were not available, but I found a treasury report. The treasury contained a balance of $128.23.
The November 13, 1988 meeting was held at the Post in Warminster, Will Yerkes asked to be replaced, and Al Bumford, Jr. took over the position of Public Information Officer. The issue of regional skirmishes once again surfaced, and after much debate, the membership voted to reinstate the number of skirmishes from three to five. Membership was on the verge of being politically correct. It was moved and seconded that Smoking be banned from the Regional meeting. The motion passed. The funds in the treasury were low for a number of years. It was suggested that the Region hold a raffle to help raise money for the Region. After much debated it was moved and seconded that a "basket of cheer" be raffled with the proceeds going to the Region. Each member would be responsible for selling ten one dollar chances, and each team would be asked to donate one bottle of liquor. After some discussion, the motion was reworked to state that each team will donate $10.00 dollars or one bottle of liquor. The Regional Individual competition was in the "Red" and a shortage of competitors was given as the reason. The Deputy Commander was given the challenge to turn the program
around.

The Spring meeting of the Middle Atlantic Region, February 26, 1989 was business as usual. A major portion of the meeting dealt with the rules that the Region used to score targets for individual competition. A committee of Ken Kortman, Wayne Schmidt, and Al Bumford volunteered to develop guidelines for the scoring system for Individual Competition. Motion was made, seconded and carried that the 141st PVI and the 86th New York be dropped from the rolls. Hampton Legion voted at their team meeting to oppose any raffle that awarded alcohol as a prize. Instead of selling their raffle tickets, they offered to pay an assessment, per man, per ticket.

The Fall meeting of November 5, 1989 showed twenty regional teams in attendance. The Commander was Wayne Shaw at the time. The parent N-SSA was in negotiations to purchase land adjacent to Fort Shenandoah. There was a discussion on the National level of a National Raffle and an assessment of one hundred and twenty five dollars per person to help cover the cost of the new land purchase. A motion was made to raise the regional dues to three dollars per person but the motion did not pass.
Chapter 5: The Nineties

In 1990, someone made a list of Middle Atlantic members by numerical order. In 1990, Larry Beyer was 061. He had the lowest number followed by Joe Reese with 0162. Joe Reese goes back to the late fifties, and he was one of the founding fathers of the Middle Atlantic Region. In 1990, the last person on the list was J. Mainfort with competitor number 7399 of the First Tenessesse.

In January of 1990, the Deputy Commander reported that the N-SSA will buy 111.7 acres that border Fort Shenandoah.

In March 25, 1990 meeting, Commander Smithgall called the meeting to order. It was reported in the minutes that individuals of a Host team that compete in individual competition during the skirmish season should have the average of their individual scores inserted in the host team spot for Regional Individual competition. The Anti-Assault bill was coming up in Washington, and all members were encouraged to write or call their congressman. The range at Revere was in trouble. Alcohol could not be served or sold by the Host team at an Regional Skirmish for insurance purposes. The same idea applied to the Regional Dinner Dance.

On April 21, 1990 a Dinner Dance was held at the Fort Washington American Legion Post, number 10, in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania. The cost was $17.50 per person or $20.00 after April 13th deadline.
The meeting of November 4, 1990 was held and presided by Commander Smithgall. At the meeting it was decided that results from the Nationals in Musket and Carbine teams events be included in the Regional Musket and Carbine team results. At this meeting it was recognized that the range in Revere, Pennsylvania was in trouble. Houses were going up in the area around the range and the range was in danger of being shut down. There was attempt to make additions to the range at Revere to make it safer. Commander Smithgall proposed a handicap system for Musket team competition to be used in conjunction with our regional shoots. Medals would be awarded to the team that posted the lowest Musket score after the Handicap was applied. This special medal would be awarded in addition to the usual Musket awards. The Handicap medal could only be won by a Middle Atlantic team. In all probably, the last communication written by Norm Lockten was a notice to the Company commanders of the regional meeting to be held on November 4, 1990. In the sense of true irony, Norm died on November 4, 1990. He had served ten years as the adjutant/paymaster for the Middle Atlantic Region. In April of 1991, Chris Litvinas was appointed Adjutant/Paymaster due to the sudden death of Norman Lockten. The Regional Dues in 1991 were $1.50 per person.

At the meeting held on April 28, 1991, Commander Smithgall reported that a woman from the Middle Atlantic Region attempted to register for the Spring National and was denied under present national By-laws. Commander Smithgall shared his thoughts on the matter and implied that any attempt to block the request was fruitless and a waste of legal fees. Unknowingly, the family members of Norm Lockten disposed of Middle Atlantic records and memorabilia compiled by Norm over the years. In an addendum to the April meeting minutes, Adjutant Chris Litvinas reported that Al Bumford, Sr. saved valuable notes and records of the Middle Atlantic Region. He also implied that some records may have been disposed of by the Lockten family after the death of Norman Lockten. He made a plea for the membership to search for records, trophies, and patches among the rank and file of the Middle Atlantic region. Literally, Al Bumford Sr. snatched important material and records from the jaws of the trash truck.

The meeting in August of 1991 was held at Fort Ross. It was at this meeting that Commander Smithgall announced that a vote was scheduled at the October board meeting to grant women full and equal membership in the N-SSA.

The meeting on November 10, 1991, was conducted at Post 798, in Warminster, Pennsylvania. The Minutes indicated a business as usual atmosphere with one notable exception. Commander Smithgall reported that women were granted an equal status in the N-SSA with men. There were to be no separate events for women, and women must wear the standard uniform of the unit to which they belong. Larry Beyer of the First Pennsylvania Artillery had died that year and a moment of silence was requested. Under old business, Ray Morgenweck’s name was omitted from the Regional Individual competition by mistake. He won the First place medal in the Striker division. The Eleventh New Jersey had been given full membership status. The Regional picnic was a big success and was to be continued. Officers were elected for the 1992 and 1993 season and Commander Smithgall was reelected. Under the New Business section, Wayne Schmidt, a member on the National Awards Committee was looking for the names of members who might be eligible for the National Award of Merit. At the last National Skirmish, there was a disputed carbine clayboard event. The results counted pending further protest. The Board heard arguments at the January board meeting on this protest.
Asking for items to be taken to the National Board meeting, Commander Smithgall heard from Wayne Shaw concerning teams not performing range clean up. Alvin Bunford Jr. maintained that protest time for individual targets was too short especially for teams shooting in the first phase. The NRA was asked to visit and comment on the Range at Revere, Pa. Although the NRA did not visit the range, they indicated that almost any range could be saved with considerable cost. The Treasury had a balance of $145.91. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.

In a letter sent to all teams commanders, Adjutant/Paymaster Chris Litvinas notified the commanders of the meeting scheduled for April 26, 1992. The letter also contained information that the Second New Jersey Cavalry, Company K had split. The offshoot team is Harlan's Light Cavalry.

On April 26, 1992 the Middle Atlantic Region held a meeting at the Holmesburg Gun Club. the treasury had a balance of $1,240.69. Under old business, the Region was searching for the traveling regional trophies. Spectators and guests at the regional skirmish would not be charged a fee as had been previously announced. Andy Black of the 72nd PVI was asked to serve as the Region's new recruitment officer. The region voted to spend $80.00 for the artwork for the new regional medals. The meeting was over by 1:30 pm.

In a letter, the Adjutant/Paymaster Chris Litvinas informed the team Commanders that a meeting would take place on Sunday, November 15, 1992 at the American Legion Post #798 in Warminster, Pennsylvania at 12 noon. The topic of discussion would be the by-law changes at the National level. He informed the team commanders that there was a new team in the region. The new team was Winslow's Battery D, 1st New York Artillery. Directions to the Legion Post were also included.

On Sunday, April 25, 1993 the Spring meeting of the Middle Atlantic Region took place at Holmesburg Gun Club. The treasury showed a balance of $1,582.85. A survey of the minutes showed a few interesting highlights. Carl Hulshart was protesting that the regional meeting was being held in April instead of March. He
felt that the April meeting was in violations of the By-laws. His protest came too late to change the meeting date, and the meeting was held as scheduled. The land-use-swap deal with Venskoskes' was proceeding in the area around Fort Shenandoah.

Mark Corrigan was in the process of suing the N-SSA. The 54th Massachusetts reenacting group withdrew their application for membership to the N-SSA. Colonel Oliver North of the President Ronald Reagan era was invited to the Spring Nationals. The Board wanted to put the Association's records on computer disks and store them in a safe deposit box. Commander Smithgall reminded the membership that there existed an open forum at National Board meeting at certain times. Any member may address the Board at that time. Chuck Pudulese requested that regional carbine matches be scheduled one hour earlier from 4 o'clock to 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Steve Levitsky asked if there was support for the return of the All-Star matches. The outcome of that request goes unrecorded. Ken Kortman related an incident that happened at the Snowball Skirmish. Apparently, the hat of a competitor blew off during team competition. While the hat was on the ground, a mere four feet in front of the firing line, someone shot at the hat. Ken was concerned that the Skirmish staff was not outraged about the incident. The meeting was adjourned about 2:00 pm. The minutes were submitted by Chris Litvinas who was the Adjutant/Paymaster at the time.

The violation of the By-laws concerning the scheduling of the meeting must have weighed heavily on the Leadership's minds. In a letter sent to teams dated August 1, 1993, team commanders received notice that a meeting would be held at Fort Ross on Sunday July 25, 1993. At this meeting all regional teams were represented either by actual vote or by proxy. Under Old Business, the proposed by-law changes were read and discussed. The membership voted to change the wording in the proposed changes. Fred Behrens introduced a motion to reduce to three the number of required skirmishes per year. No action was noted on the motion. Fred explained his proposal to bring electricity to individual campsites at Fort Shenandoah.

A letter dated from the National Commander, Earl Coates, recommended that the Region take the necessary steps to correct the situation as it pertained to any violation in the By-Laws for the Region. In light of this letter, Commander Smithgall called for an emergency meeting to be held after the musket competition of the Regional skirmish of September 19, 1993. I quote a paragraph from that letter, "Under advisement from the National commander and the N-SSA legal council, Charlie Smithgall will not call for a vote on the By-Laws amendments. He will call for the motions to be reintroduced, and the motions to be voted on at the fall meeting".
The regular Fall meeting was held at the usual place in Warminster on November 19th, 1993. There was a minor discussion about the By-Laws changes, but the topic was smoothed out and the meeting proceeded as normal.

Elections were held and the following men were elected. Charles Smithgall for Commander, Jim Haag for Deputy Commander, Chris Litvinas for Adjutant/Paymaster and John Kevin for Inspector General were elected for a two year term. Harry Gaul and Andy Black were asked to continue in their respective positions. The methodology of handicapping musket scores in the Regional Musket team competition was fine tuned so that nonparticipating teams were not penalized nor given an advantage at the next skirmish. There were some problems at the Fall National that year. There was a foul up on a Carbine competition. In the area of Individual competition, Al Bumford Jr. felt that his target should have been handled differently. The region moved and seconded a proposal for the National Board to consider Al Bumford's concerns at the next Board meeting. The movie, Gettysburg was in the planning stages and ESPN was planning to air a segment on the N-SSA in the near future. "Stay tuned for details" was the buzz phrase during the meeting. The Treasury had a balance of $612.66 at the end of the year.

The Spring meeting was held after the Holmesburg Regional shoot on April 24, 1994. The First Pennsylvania Cavalry was voted to full membership status and the Seventh New Jersey was a new probationary team. The National Board saw merit in the Bumford proposal, and they changed the rules dealing with "targets remaining attached the backer during the protest period." The in-ground timing system at Fort Shenandoah needed repair and running electricity to individual campsites was to be considered. The Corrigan trial against the N-SSA had completed two days of testimony and the verdict was still out. Membership cards had to be worn in order to participate in shooting activities during the Nationals. Members were encouraged to be on guard, look out for anti-gun legislation and to make every vote count.

The Fall meeting took place on November 20, 1994. The minutes and treasury reports were approved as read. Commander Smithgall reported that the trigger pull for revolvers can be reduced to two pounds and still be legal in competition. Mark Corrigan had dropped his appeal against the N-SSA, and the lawsuit ended. Rules as to team participation on the National level were revised. To qualify as participant in a National Skirmish, the region took the position that a team needed to participate in either musket, carbine, or artillery. The participation in team revolver or mortar competition did not qualify. Toilets once again returned to the minutes as new or used portable toilets needed to be purchased. Permanent Revolver benches needed to be purchased or built. It was decided that during the stake event if a wire was cut, the team continued shooting to try to cut the stake. The region wanted the National Board to consider lowering the minimum age for joining the N-SSA. Space at the range and campsites was a premium at Fort Shenandoah. The region wanted the Board to consider a fair and equitable rule change to accommodate little used or vacant campsites.
The Spring meeting was held after the Holmesburg shoot on April 29, 1996. Two new organizations added to the Middle Atlantic Region were the Washington Artillery and the First New Jersey Volunteers. Bill Goble announced that he was running for National Commander. Less than a year later, Bill died due to a heart attack. Some regional trophies were still missing. Trophy, Trophy, who has the Trophies? If the trophies could not be found, they would be replaced and permanently displayed in the Museum at Fort Shenandoah. As the organization approached the 100th National, the parent organization looked for early records to compile a history.

The October 26, 1996 meeting reported that the Region was in good shape and the attendance was the largest ever. BB-gun competition for the little skirmishers was well received and growing. The interest in the BB-gun competition by other Regions showed that this was an area for future growth. There was a terrible flood
at Fort Shenandoah that year. Campers and semi permanent structures became flooding battering rams and caused significant damage to the lower camping area and bridge over Back Creek. Due to the flooding at Fort Shenandoah, campers parked there needed to be anchored securely. There was too much damage to the bridge and land due to floating campers and debris. Wayne Shaw alluded to possibility that there may be a spring time work party. Meeting adjourned.

That brings us to the end of forty years of History for the Middle Atlantic Region. From the humble beginnings and efforts of five men in a New Jersey firehouse, the region can boast with pride a stable and growing membership of around 425 skirmishers. No one knows what the future may bring. No one knows when we will join that regiment of departed Civil War veterans. We all look forward to those familiar phrases in the Spring when we hear the announcer say "Skirmishers, you have one minute to the line" or "Load and come to the Ready." Let us not forget the clang of ramrods and the clicking of the musket's hammers; the sight and smell of white smoke that hangs in the air; the boom and roar of artillery fire rings true with each shot. Keep your powder dry and your caps loose. Keep pouring those minies. True Blue.
Miscellaneous Information

This area contains a plethora of miscellaneous information about the Middle Atlantic Region. Most of this material came from the files of Norm Leckton who served as Adjutant/Paymaster for a long time. After Norm died in April of 1990 the family decided to throw out the Middle Atlantic collection. Mr. Alvin Bumford Sr. got wind of this information and literary snatched the information from the jaws of the trash man's truck. Sources indicate that some information was lost, but life must go on. The material is listed here in chronological order for the general good of order.

A folder containing the rosters and miscellaneous correspondence from Second New Jersey Calvary from 1960 to 1993.

A folder containing the rosters and miscellaneous correspondence from First Pennsylvania Reserves, Company K from 1961 to 1968.

On file is the roster for the First Regiment United States Hussars formerly the 3rd New Jersey Calvary years 1961 and 1964.

A folder containing the rosters and miscellaneous correspondence from the 56th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry from 1961 to 1975.

A folder containing the rosters and miscellaneous correspondence from Forney's Battalion from 1961 to 1967.

A folder containing the rosters and miscellaneous correspondence from 118th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry from 1961 to 1968.

Miscellaneous stationery, correspondence, and letterheads for various teams. The letterheads show artistic value. The dates run from 1962 to 1991.

A folder containing the rosters and miscellaneous correspondence from the First Pennsylvania Artillery from 1962 to 1966.

Four copies of the Camping Bivouac and Camping rules for the Middle Atlantic Region. No date

A folder containing the rosters and miscellaneous correspondence from the Union Valley Volunteers from 1963 to 1966.

Laying loose in the box are the July 1, 1963 by-laws of the Philadelphia Muzzleloaders. I was informed that this group was the forerunner of the First Pennsylvania Artillery.

A folder containing the roster and miscellaneous from the 2nd Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves from 1963 to 1967.

A folder containing the rosters and miscellaneous correspondence from the 6th Pennsylvania Reserves from Chambersburg, Pa. from 1963 to 1967.

A folder containing the rosters of the membership for 1965

A folder containing miscellaneous letters and early by-laws circa 1965 - 1967

There is a roster for the 11th Regiment Pa. Volunteers circa 1966 and ditto for 13th North Carolina Regiment.
A folder containing the rosters for the Delaware Blues from 1966 - 1968

A folder containing the rosters and miscellaneous correspondence from 72nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry from 1966 to 1967.

A folder containing the rosters and miscellaneous correspondence from Knap's Battery E from 1966 to 1969.

A folder containing the rosters and miscellaneous correspondence from the 3rd U.S. Regular Infantry from 1966 to 1968.

A folder containing the rosters of the membership for 1968.

There are a loose pack of bank statements from the Continental Bank of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from 1976 to 1981.

A folder containing the rosters of the membership for 1976.

The 1977 folder contains the roster of the Region.

A folder containing the rosters of the membership for 1978.

A folder containing correspondence for a Regional Dinner Dance in 1978.

A folder containing the rosters of the membership for 1979.

A folder containing miscellaneous letters and correspondence about extra members and last minutes dues from late members from 1978 and 1979.

By 1980 Thompson's Independent Battery "C" was defunct N-SSA 162 MA.

A folder marked, Bucktail Skirmish, contains letters advertising the Regional Dinner Dance on March 22, 1980 and the Regional Meeting to be held on February 17, 1980 but no Bucktail Skirmish.

A folder containing the rosters of the membership for 1980.

A folder containing receipts for bills in 1980.

The End.
Regional Officers for the Middle Atlantic Region from 1956 to 1998

1956
Joe Reese Commander
Edward Turner Deputy Commander
Edwin Smith Adjutant

1957
Joe Reese Commander
Ed Smith Adjutant

1958
Joe Reese Commander
Ed Smith Regional Adjutant

1959
Joe Reese Commander
Ed Smith Deputy Commander and Adjutant
Paul Nichols Regional Inspector

1960
Joe Reese Commander
Brooks Provost Marshall (resigned)
Rick Davis Provost Marshall (appointed)
E.B. Smith Adjutant

1961
George Walmsley Commander
Don Watton Deputy Commander
Edwin Smith Adjutant
Joe Reese Inspector General
Jack Peters Provost Marshall (appointed)

Feb 62 Officers presiding
George Walmsley Commander
Nominations for 2/62 meeting

Fred Hoffman
Doc. Macleod
William Anderson
Bulwicky

1963

Edwin Smith
Thomas A. McMullen
Robert A. Boehmler
Walter J. Taylor
Harlan Kellerman
Karl A. Esler
George Kusel

1964

Edwin B. Smith
T. A. McMullen
Robert A. Boehmler
Walter J. Taylor
Harlan Kellerman
Karl A. Esler
George Kusel

1965

George Walmsley
Chris Johnson
Robert A. Boehmler
Walter J. Taylor
Arthur Sage
Karl A. Esler
Walter J. Taylor

1966 - 67
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walter J. Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. C. Gerow III</td>
<td>Deputy Commander</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gerry J. Berghold</td>
<td>Adjutant &amp; Paymaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Johnson</td>
<td>Inspector General</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul E. Nichols</td>
<td>Safety Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Cancelmo</td>
<td>Provost Marshall</td>
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**1967 - 68**

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<td>Walt Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arthur Johnston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gerry J. Berghold</td>
<td>Adjutant / Paymaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Peters</td>
<td>Inspector General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darryl Fischer</td>
<td>Safety Officer</td>
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<td>Thomas Cancelmo</td>
<td>Provost Marshall</td>
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**1968 - 69**

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<tr>
<td>Arthur Johnston</td>
<td>Deputy Commander</td>
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<td>Gerry J. Berghold</td>
<td>Adjutant / Paymaster</td>
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<td>Jack Peters</td>
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**1970 - 71**

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<tr>
<td>Arthur R. Johnston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles N. Harrington</td>
<td>Deputy Commander (resigned 1/17/71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Johnson</td>
<td>Deputy Commander</td>
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<tr>
<td>John W. Maxson Jr.</td>
<td>Adjutant / Paymaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jack Peters</td>
<td>Inspector General</td>
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<td>Jack Peters</td>
<td>Safety Officer</td>
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**1972 - 73**

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<td>John R. Peters J.r.</td>
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<td>Arthur R. Johnston</td>
<td>Deputy Commander</td>
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<tr>
<td>John W. Maxson J.r.</td>
<td>Adjutant / Paymaster</td>
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<td>George Ferguson</td>
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<td>George Ferguson</td>
<td>Safety Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Smithgall</td>
<td>Provost Marshall</td>
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<td>Arthur Cohan</td>
<td>Parade Marshall</td>
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1974 - 75

John R. Peters Jr. Commander
Edward Timlin Deputy Commander
John W. Maxson J r. Adjutant / Paymaster
Albert Gibson Inspector General / Safety Officer
Charles Smithgall Provost Marshall
Arthur Cohan Parade Marshall

1976 - 77

John McGinness Commander
Walter Taylor Deputy Commander
George Lomas Adjutant / Paymaster
Will Ellis Inspector General
Charles Smithgall Provost Marshall
John Gottschall PIO (resigned due to poor health)
Bob Peterson Public Information Officer

1978

John McGinness Commander
George Lomas Deputy Commander
Alan Dorn Adjutant / Paymaster
Tom Boyer Provost Marshall ( appointed )
Will Ellis Inspector General

1979

Rich Stambaugh Commander
Eric Fritz Deputy Commander
Wayne Schmidt Adjutant / Paymaster
Alan Dorn Adjutant / Paymaster ?
Wayne Shaw Regional Inspector General

1980
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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Public Information Officer</th>
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<td>1982</td>
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<td>Larry Willard</td>
<td>Norman Lochten</td>
<td>John Gottshall</td>
<td>John Uzdan</td>
<td>Bill Machinsky</td>
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<td>1983</td>
<td>Wayne Schmidt</td>
<td>Larry Willard</td>
<td>Norman Lochten</td>
<td>John Gottshall</td>
<td>John Uzdan</td>
<td>Bill Machinsky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Wayne Schmidt</td>
<td></td>
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Larry Willard  Deputy Commander
Norman Lochten  Adjutant / Paymaster
Wayne Shaw  Inspector General
John Uzdan  Provost Marshall
Will Yerkes  Public Information Officer

1985
Wayne Schmidt  Commander
Wayne Shaw  Deputy Commander
Norman Lochten  Adjutant / Paymaster
Richard Gould  Inspector General
John Uzdan  Provost Marshall
Will Yerkes  Public Information Officer

1986
Wayne Schmidt  Commander
Wayne Shaw  Deputy Commander
Norman Lochten  Adjutant / Paymaster
Richard Gould  Inspector General
John Uzdan  Provost Marshall
Will Yerkes  Public Information Officer

1987
Wayne Schmidt  Commander
Wayne Shaw  Deputy Commander
Norman Lochten  Adjutant / Paymaster
Richard Gould  Inspector General
John Uzdan  Provost Marshall
Will Yerkes
Public Information Officer

1988
Wayne Shaw Commander
Ken Kortman Deputy Commander
Norm Lochten Adjutant / Paymaster
Jack Sheller Inspector General
John Uzdan Provost Marshall
Al Bumford Jr. Public Information Officer

1989
Wayne Shaw Commander
Ken Kortman Deputy Commander
Norm Lochten Adjutant / Paymaster
Al Bumford Jr. Public Information Officer

1990
Charles Smithgall Commander
George Lomas Deputy Commander
Norm Lochten Adjutant / Paymaster
Wayne Shaw Inspector General
John Uzdan Provost Marshall
Harry Gaul Public Information Officer

1991
Charles Smithgall Commander
George Lomas Deputy Commander
Christopher Litvinas Adjutant / Paymaster
Wayne Shaw Inspector General
John Uzdan Provost Marshall
Harry Gaul Public Information Officer

1992
Charles Smithgall Commander
James Haag Deputy Commander
Christopher Litvinas Adjutant / Paymaster
Albert Ludwig Jr. Inspector General
John Uzdan Provost Marshall
Harry Gaul Public Information Officer

1993
Charles Smithgall Commander
James Haag Deputy Commander
Christopher Litvinas Adjutant / Paymaster
Albert Ludwig Jr. Inspector General
John Uzdan Provost Marshall
Andy Black Regional Recruitment Officer
Harry Gaul Public Information Officer

1994
Charles Smithgall Commander
James Haag Deputy Commander
Christopher Litvinas Adjutant / Paymaster
John M. Kevin Jr. Inspector General
John Uzdan Provost Marshall
Andy Black Regional Recruitment Officer
Harry Gaul Public Information Officer
1995
Charles Smithgall Commander
James Haag Deputy Commander
Christopher Adjutant / Paymaster
Litvinas Inspector General
John M. Kevin Jr. Provost Marshall
John Uzdan Regional Recruitment Officer
Andy Black Public Information Officer
Harry Gaul

1996
Charles Smithgall Commander
Wayne Shaw Deputy Commander
Christopher Adjutant / Paymaster
Litvinas Inspector General
John B. Person Provost Marshall
John Uzdan Regional Recruitment Officer
Andy Black Public Information Officer
Harry Gaul

1997
Charles Smithgall Commander
Wayne Shaw Deputy Commander
Christopher Adjutant / Paymaster
Litvinas Inspector General
John B. Person Provost Marshall
John Uzdan Regional Recruitment Officer
Andy Black Public Information Officer
Harry Gaul
1998

Charles Smithgall Commander
Wayne Shaw Deputy Commander
William Duncan Adjutant / Paymaster
John B. Person Inspector General
John Uzdan Provost Marshall
Andy Black Regional Recruitment Officer
Harry Gaul Public Information Officer