

## Union County Kline Family and the Civil War

Union County Star and Lewisburg Chronicle, October 18, 1861, "Let no man enlist unless he seriously thinks he can endure this to the end."

In the Civil War, many Union County men served in Companies E, H and K of the 51st Regiment PA volunteers. Over the course of 3 1/2 years, the 51st fought in 20 battles, travelled over 3000 miles by train, almost 5400 miles by ship, and more than 1700 miles on foot.

In the early years of the Civil War, enlistments were for 3, 6 or 9 months. Many men would enlist for short terms and return home to attend to their farms, businesses and families. Many re-enlisted, thereby serving in several regiments during the war.

The Union County Star and Lewisburg Chronicle newspaper, in its October 18, 1861 edition, detailed the pay for men who enlisted "to put down a most heinous attempt at revolution for a bad purpose." A private's pay for one year was \$12 per month. In addition he received \$3.50 per month for clothes, and \$12 per month for rations. He also received pay to and from his place of enrollment to his place of muster at 50 cents per 20 miles. Sometimes a married man's family received payments in his absence, allotted from county funds. If wounded and disabled in service, the soldier received a pension for life. If killed, his widow or heirs received his accrued pay and \$100.

Officers were, of course, better recompensed. But as the Star and Chronicle point out, "It is Privates who are wanted - common soldiers who can stand hard labor, occasional privations, and some rough usage, with fortitude and good humor. Let no man enlist unless he seriously thinks he can endure this to the end."

Seven sons of Jacob and Mary (Ingelhart) Kline of West Buffalo Township enlisted.

Daniel and Joel (wounded at Cold Harbor) enlisted in Company E, 51st PA Vet. Volunteers. Reuben first joined the 20th Cavalry and later Company E, 51st PA Vet. Volunteers; he lost a leg from wounds at Cold Harbor. George and Charles first served in the 131st PA Volunteers and later in Company E, 51st PA; both were wounded in the battle of the Wilderness. Jacob L. enlisted in Company E, 51st PA; he died during the war of service-related illness. John enlisted in Company E, 142nd PA Volunteers; he was killed in the battle of the Wilderness.

Stan Zellers will give a closer look at these brave sons in his program "Leaves Driven Before the Storm: the Civil War Service of the Seven Kline Brothers of Union County and Its Effect on Their Lives" at the Union County Historical Society's annual dinner/program on Thursday, November 10 at the Carriage Corner Restaurant in Mifflinburg. Civil War artifacts, photos and music will accompany the program. For reservations, contact the Society at 524-8666 or [hstorici@ptd.net](mailto:hstorici@ptd.net).



Grave Marker Stone for Ruben Kline