

Portville’s Bent Brass Band to Perform Today



SCHEDULE of EVENTS

8:00-9:30: Breakfast w/ Thomas Leiper Kane
Breakfast at site of former Bennett House Hotel (Court of Angels Restaurant) across from the McKean County Courthouse. The public is invited to attend; there will be a charge for the meal.

9:30 Welcome/ Introduction to Bucktail Ceremony -

9:30-10PM: Enlistment muster
Bent Brass Band- chairs/ portico

Enlistment of volunteers on the steps of the Courthouse, Drill instruction for volunteers beside the Courthouse. The Bent Brass will play during this time, musical selections of the Band’s choosing. There will be a brief interruption (2-5 minutes) at about 9:40 for the reenactment of the adoption of the Bucktail as the insignia of the McKean County Rifles.

James Landregan cuts deer tail & attaches to hat
Thomas Leiper Kane announces bucktail symbol.

10:00 AM – Oath of Enlistment to be given to the recruits by Thomas Kane.

Immediately Following – The National Anthem to be played by the Bent Brass Band

Drill of recruits William T. Blanchard (with Kane)

Drill Demonstration, review of the recruits. (est. 10-15 minutes)

followed by: Byron Hamlin speech

followed by: Honorable N.E. Eldred speech

10:25 Bent Brass Band- *Children of the Battlefield*

followed by: Three cheers & a tiger yell: William T. Blanchard

3 Cheers for the McKean County Rifles

3 Cheers for Thomas Kane

3 Cheers for the Stars and Stripes

Tiger Yell to be given by the Regiment

followed by: Thomas Leiper Kane gives “forward march”

Band plays *Battle Hymn of the Republic*

New recruits march from courthouse to Mechanic Street Veterans Bridge

William T. Blanchard & Thomas Leiper Kane

Once the procession reaches the Veteran’s Memorial Bridge, there will be a brief invocation given by Reverend John Wesley.

At Veterans Bridge: Three cheers & a tiger yell: James Landregan

Closing Remarks: - Bucktail author William Robertson

TO:

McKean County Rifles: Bucktail Regiment Company “I”
13th Pennsylvania Reserves
Forty-Second Pennsylvania Volunteers
PO Box 427 famous Smethport, Pennsylvania 16749

VOLUNTEER RIFLES!
MARKSMEN WANTED!

By Authority of Governor Curtin, a Com-
pany will be formed this week of citizens of McKean and Elk Counties, who
are prepared to take up arms immediately, to support the Constitution of the
United States and defend the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I am autho-
rized to accept at once for service, any man who will bring in with him to my
head quarters a Rifle which he knows how to use.
Come forward Americans, who are not degenerate from the spirit of '76!
Come forward in time to save the city of Washington from capture—in time to
save the flag of the Union there from being humbled as it has been at Fort
Sumter.

THOMAS L. KANE.
Smethport, April 17, 1861.
Head quarters at the Bennett House, Smethport. Muster Roll at the same place, and questions an-
swered. Apply without further notice.

SMETHPORT: BIRTHPLACE of the Civil War BUCKTAILS

Sat. April 23, 2011 Bucktail Departure Celebration

JOIN COMPANY “I” & MARCH OUT OF TOWN WITH US!

SOUVENIR PROGRAM OF SMETHPORT, PA

WELCOME to SMETHPORT APRIL 25, 1861

JOIN COMPANY “I” & MARCH OUT OF TOWN WITH US!

Sat. April 23, 2011 Bucktail Departure Celebration

On Thursday, April 25, 1861 the new recruits had breakfast with Colonel Kane at the Bennett House, speeches were made by Byron Delano Hamlin of Smethport and Hon. N.E. Eldred, of Wayne County and the recruits marched off toward Emporium and their way to Harrisburg and Civil War legend status.

VOLUNTEER RIFLES MARKSMEN WANTED

SMETHPORT, PA – YOU are invited to join with us as we reenact the events of April 25, 1861 & you don’t even need a costume (or a rifle).

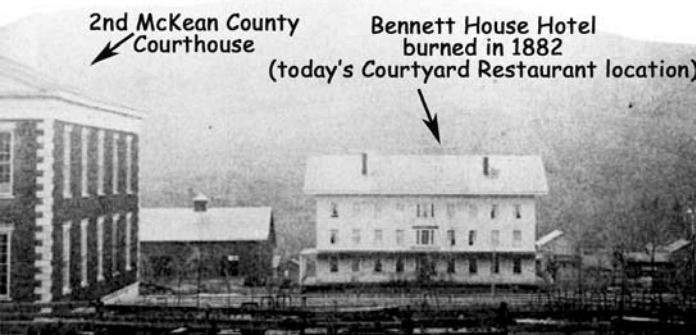
On that special April day the McKean County Rifles marched out of Smethport on their way to Shippen, now Emporium, and on to Camp Curtin, Harrisburg. Along the way other Pennsylvania county volunteers joined the original Bucktails, which evolved into an elite regiment of Pennsylvania rifle- men known for their courage, focus, dedication and commitment.

Only a few days after the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter, men from throughout McKean County answered President Lincoln’s call for volunteers to rise to the defense of the Union.

Philadelphian Thomas Leiper Kane, inspired by Smethport business- man Byron Delano Hamlin, brought together the McKean County Rifles.

The McKean County Rifles later became known as the Bucktails because of the bucktail symbol they wore on their hats. The unique Bucktail symbol was born in Smethport from a deer tail cut at the butcher shop beneath the Sartwell Building, across from the courthouse.

DEPARTURE OF M’KEAN COUNTY RIFLES Smethport, Thursday morning April 25, 1861 (as reported in the McKean County Democrat May 2, 1861)



In April 1861 men from throughout the region congregated in Smethport to answer the call of Thomas K. Kane to join a militia. The Bennett House Hotel, site of Kane’s recruiting headquarters burned in 1881. *McKean County Historical Society Collection*

Col. Kane came in yesterday afternoon. In the evening he administered to those who had signed the muster roll.

The following are the names of those who received the oath:

Smethport:

S. Peters, J. Leus, D.W. Brignam, S.G. Southwick, B.H. Freeman, D.Y. Crossmire, L.S. Bard, A. Wolters, James Gague, J.B. Otto, O.J. Barner, John Hoan, P.G. Ellethorp, G.W. Uniggs, E.W. Ensop, Benj. F. Davis, R.F. Ward

Bradford Township

W.T. Blanchard, Ernest Wright, A.S. Foster, N.M. Curtis, C.C. Lawrence, Edward D. Curtis,Wm. Page, L.R.

Prosser, A.D. Norrcoss, J. Wheeler, G.W. Hutchison, A.L. Hichaman, Thomas Cornelius, Martin Marran, Dennis

Case, J.K. Haffet, D.C. Egown, E.B. Semans, J.L. Wells, J.W. Corbet, R. Ingalsby

Liberty: B. Nichols; *Otto Township:* G.A. Sinley



Today’s Courtyard Restaurant, 505 W. Main rests on the location of the Benett House. Hotel.
Ross Porter Photograph

Eldred Township: A.J. Turpins, J. Lamdergin, Harrison Campbell, Franklin Mix, Wm. Payne; *Turtle Point:* Henry Magee; *Ceres Township:* C.D. Moser, Jacob Both, Charles Malvaret, N.K. Burdick, H.C. Burnham, N. Nichols, Jacob Woodard, N.P. Foot, Cornelius Culp, Frank Bell, B.B. Rice, J.M. Wood, Henry Hadley, B.A. Treat, Erastus Cornan, L.B. Danforth, John Hall, Patrick M. Clyne, F. Holley, O.O. Bacon, Fillison Door, Hero Blon, Wesley Beuly, John Hall, Jr.

Breakfast was taken at the Bennett House at 6 o’clock, and immediately after all assembled in the Court Room were the troops received their first military instructions, under Col. Kane. At 8 o’clock they were marched and filed in the street fronting the Bennett House. Col. Kane proposed three cheers for Byron D. Hamlin, the President of the first Union meeting which had been held in McKean County since the attempted dissolution of the Confederacy. Mr. Hamlin being called for came forward and addressed the troops as follows:

(GN as Byron Delano Hamlin)



Smethport’s Byron Hamlin helped rally the troops.

“Fellow Citizens: You are about to part from us for, as we fondly hope, a brief period, to do duty in the ranks of the country. This is the first body of men ever, collected in McKean county to perform military service. Our country never before called for your aid to fight her battles. You are of a people who loved the pursuits of a peaceful and quiet life. Why have you now donned the habiliments of war, and prepared yourselves to make your fellow countrymen bite the dust? The Flag of our country has been assaulted- the stars and stripes have been torn from their proud position and trampled under the feet of those who have been protected by them and whose duty it was in turn to protect.

The Capitol of this free people, founded by and bearing

the name of our immoral Washington, is threatened with violence by those who have enjoyed the fruits of his achievements. This has caused you to come forth and stand here to day. Then shoulder your arm; go where duty calls; protect the home, the liberties and all this goodly heritage, which is the common property of the thirty-four States which compose this government. I need not say to you that we shall carefully follow you in your movement. We feel a pride in you as the sons of McKean, and confidently believe our hopes in your patriotism and courage will never be disappointed.

“ To the gallant Colonel who leads you, I have known long and well: longer and better then any of you yet have done. You will soon know him better than I, for you relations with him will be of a more intimate kind. I can endorse him to you as being in every way worthy of your confidence. Stand by him; obey him, be true to him and the cause which you have espoused, and he, your friends at home, your country and your God, will praise and reward you for it.

I should add one other word. Some of you may not be so fortunate as to have friends here to look after your business interests and correspondence. In the name of the people of the County, I tender to you a carte blanche and authorize you to draw upon any one of our citizens for attention to any interests or the care of any friends you may leave behind.

May Heaven protect you and grant you a safe and speedy return to us, when we will meet you with outstretched arms and welcome you to our families and firesides.”

(W P as Hon. N.B. Eldred, of Wayne County, being loudly called for came forward and delivered some words of encouragement and advice.

He said his health was so feeble he would not attempt to make a speech to them. He was now an old man and had lived through two wars. He had full confidence in the patriotism of those he saw before him. It was a painful duty they had to perform, but he knew they appreciated it and would do it well. The soldiers had more to fear from sickness and the contraction of bad habits and foul diseases than from the bullets of the enemy. He earnestly urged them to take care of their healths and habits, and hoped it would not be long before they would return to their homes and firesides, bringing with them the news of an honorable peace.

Three cheers were then proposed, by the citizens, for the MCKEAN COUNTY RIFLEMEN! Three for Col. Kane, and three for the STARS AND STRIPES, which hung infront of the hotel. All of which were given with a will.

Col. Kane then directed his Company to “stand at ease” and gave them an opportunity to receive the adieus and congratulations of their friends. This occupied some fifteen minutes. During the time, many a tear dropped from the eyes of those present, and all began to realize the sad scenes which war brings upon a people. At about 9 o’clock the order was given, “forward march!” when our fellow citizens departed from us for the scenes of strife.”



Thomas Leiper Kane rallied his troops in Smethport.



In April 1861 men from throughout the region congregated in Smethport to answer the call of Thomas K. Kane to join a militia. The Bennett House Hotel, location of today’s Courtyard Restaurant, 505 W. Main, was his recruiting headquarters. McKean County Historical Society Collection