

# A History of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment N.J. Vol. Infantry

N.J. Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Div., 6<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Army of the Potomac,

Brevet Brig. General E. Burd Grubb,



## *The Jersey Yahoos*

**Living History Group**

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## The 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment N.J. Volunteer Infantry -- *The Jersey Yahoos*



Presentation flag from "Sunday School Army" offerings

[Article reprinted from Wikipedia.]

The 23rd New Jersey Volunteer Infantry was an American Civil War infantry regiment from New Jersey that served a nine-month enlistment in the Union Army.

It was recruited from various towns within Burlington County, New Jersey, and was mustered into Federal service in August 1862. The regiment trained at Camp Cadwallader in Beverly, before being sent to join the Army of the Potomac. There, it was brigaded with the New Jersey units that made up the famed "First New Jersey Brigade", which had been reduced to a shadow of its former self due to continual field service and participation in the Battles of Gaines Mill, Second Bull Run, and South Mountain. The arrival of the nearly 1,000-strong 23rd New Jersey and the newly recruited three-year

15th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry greatly replenished the brigade's numbers.

When the 23rd New Jersey's first commander, Colonel John S. Cox, resigned to prevent a court-martial for drunkenness in November 1862, the new commander, Col. Henry O. Ryerson (the former Lieutenant Colonel of the 2nd New Jersey Volunteer Infantry), reviewed the regiment, and disparagingly called them "Yahoos", due to their less than military demeanor and irreverence. The men of the regiment took to the sobriquet, emblazoning it on their regimental flag, and called themselves Yahoos for the rest of their lives.

The regiment fought in two engagements—the December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg, and the May 1863 Battle of Salem Church. Years after the war was over, the regiment erected a monument—the only one ever erected for a nine-month New Jersey unit—on the Salem Church battlefield, where it stands today. In that engagement, it was led by 21-year old Burlington-born Col. Edward Burd Grubb, Jr., who took over command when Colonel Ryerson left to lead the 10th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry in March 1863.



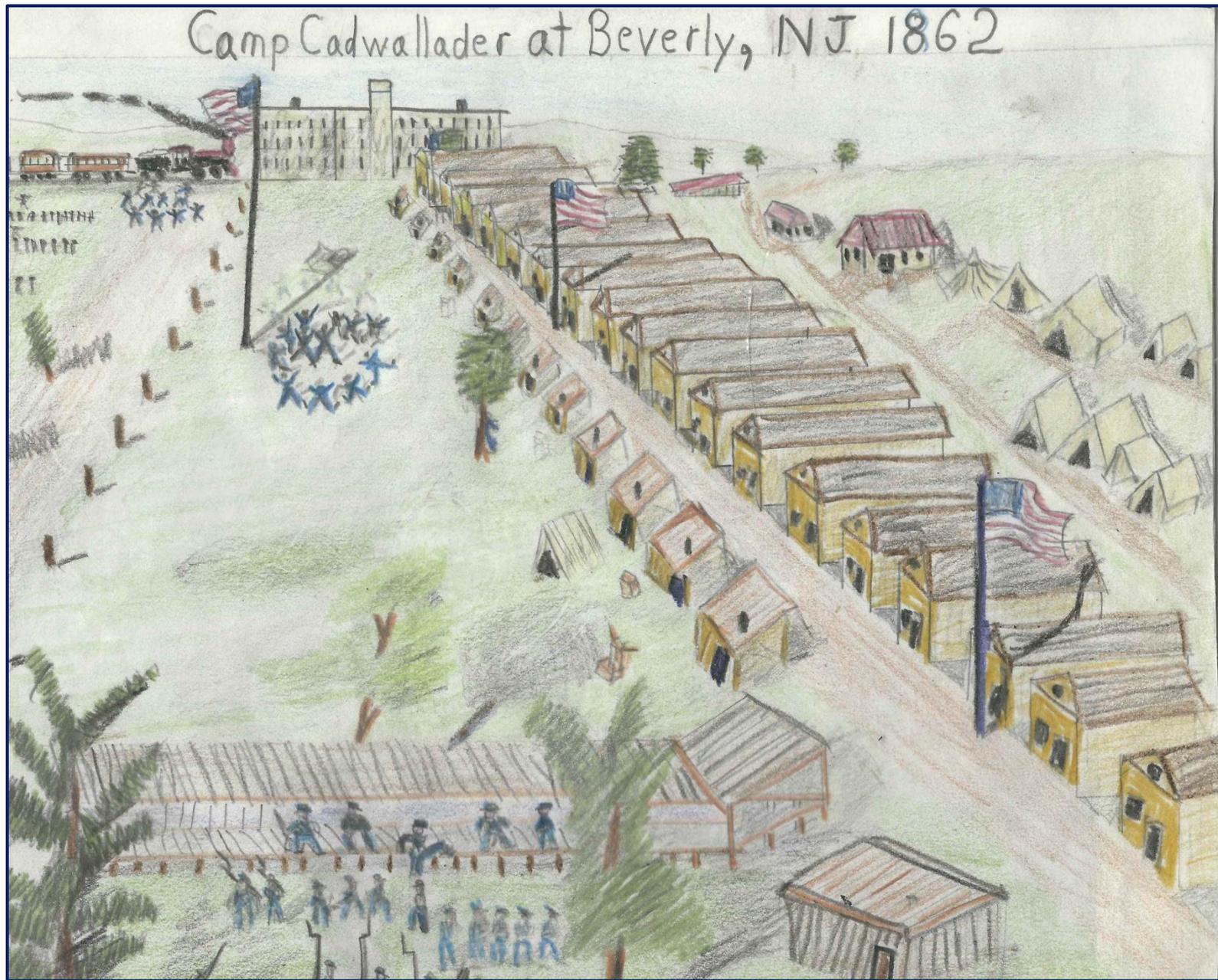
**The Yahoo's beloved commander Col. E. Burd Grubb, Jr.**



**The memorial to the 23<sup>rd</sup> NJ Regiment Volunteers erected in Salem Church near Fredericksburg Virginia in 1909.**

After serving its nine-month enlistment, the regiment was mustered out in June 1863. Many of the veterans of the 23rd New Jersey went on to serve in other regiments, most notably the 34th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, which is attributed to the fact that Colonel Grubb, much respected by the Yahoos, was rumored to be the commander of the unit (he in fact went on to command the 37th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry instead).

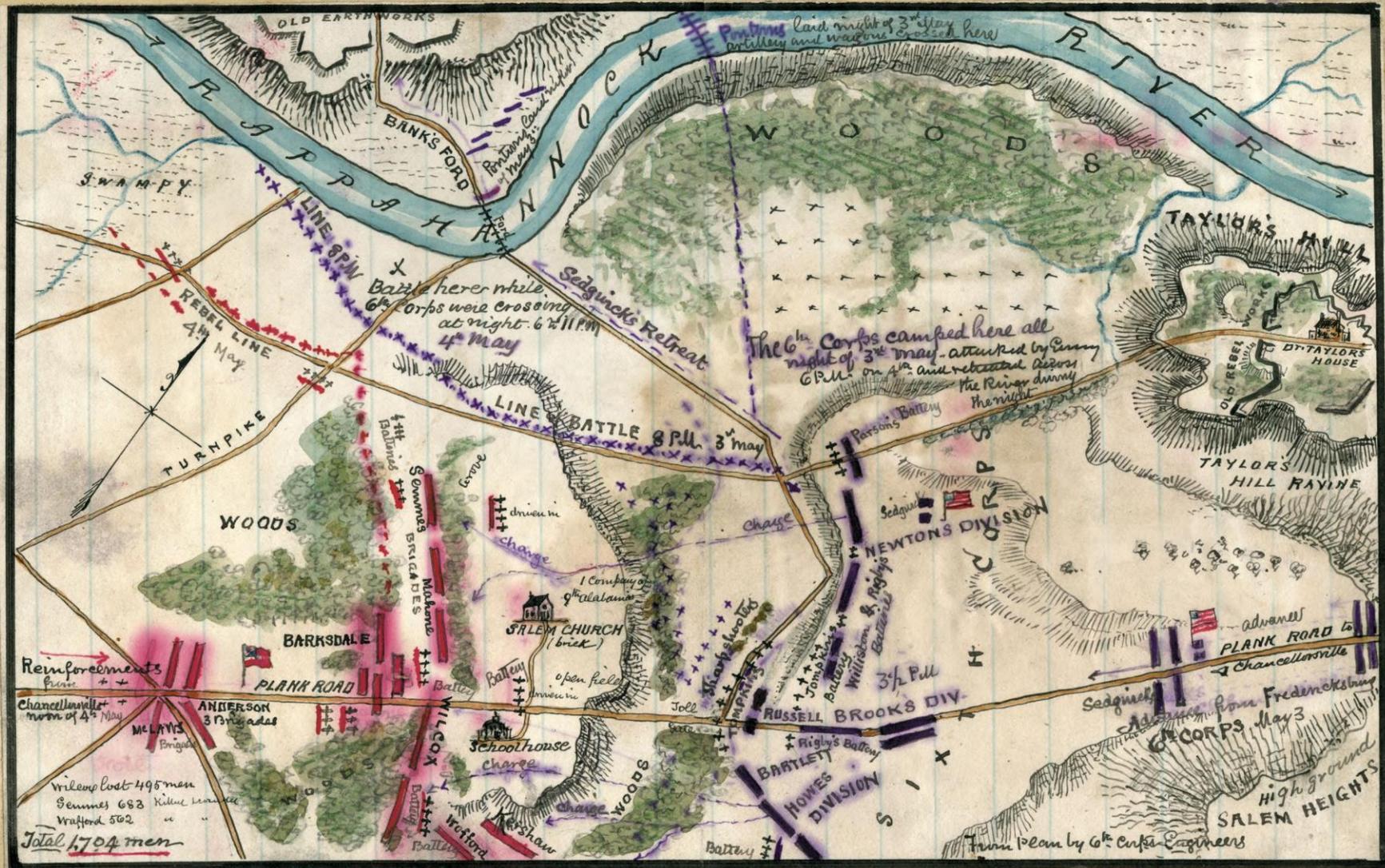
Captain Forrester L. Taylor, commander of Company H, rescued two wounded soldiers while under intense fire from the Confederates during the Salem Church engagement, an act of bravery that would get him awarded the Medal of Honor. This made him one of only two men from New Jersey's 11 nine-month enlistment regiments to be awarded that high honor (the other being Sergeant Major Amos J. Cummings of the 26th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry).



A reporter's drawing of Camp Cadwallader in Beverly, NJ. View facing north (from the shadows) showing the railroad and hospital.  
The drawing was colored by Edwin Kaewell and provided to Delanco HPAB for use in this publication

# BATTLE OF SALEM CHURCH VIRGINIA.

MAY 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 1863.



PLAN OF THE BATTLE OF SALEM CHURCH NEAR BANK'S FORD Virginia MAY 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 1863.

UNION LOSS. The total loss in the 6<sup>th</sup> Corps in the assault on Manassas Heights Frederick'sburg,

at 11 1/2 am May 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Battle of SALEM CHURCH was 4,925 - Killed, wounded & missing

(Sedgwick's Report)



**Painting of the interior of Salem Church showing its use as a field hospital following the Battle of Salem Church. Surgeons treated soldiers of both north and south equally. The surgeon pictured is reported to be the brother of Abraham Lincoln.**

## Timeline for the 23<sup>rd</sup> NJ Volunteers

Reprinted from Civil War in the East

<b>1862</b>	
	Organized at Beverly, New Jersey of men from Burlington and Burlington County.
September 13	Mustered in under Colonel John S. Cox. Trained at Camp Cadwallader in Beverly NJ
September 26	Left New Jersey for Washington, D.C. then moved to Frederick, Md.,
October 8	March to Bakersville, Md. and attached to 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 6th Army Corps, Army of the Potomac (the First New Jersey Brigade).
November 9	At New Baltimore. Colonel Cox resigned after Brigadier General Gabriel Paul brought court martial charges for incompetence. Lieutenant Colonel Henry O. Ryerson of the 2nd New Jersey Infantry was promoted to colonel and given command of the 23rd and Captain E. Burd Grubb of the 3rd New Jersey Infantry was promoted to major and transferred to the 23rd.
December 12-15	<b>Battle of Fredericksburg</b>
January-April	Duty near Falmouth, Va.
<b>1863</b>	
January 20-24	"Mud March"
March 26	Colonel Ryerson was transferred to the 10th New Jersey Infantry.
April 9	Twenty-one year old Major E. Burd Grubb was promoted to colonel
April 27-May 6	Chancellorsville Campaign
April 29-May 2	Operations at Franklin's Crossing
May 3	<b>Battle of Maryes Heights (Second Battle of Fredericksburg)</b>
May 3-4	<b>Salem Heights</b>
May 4	Banks' Ford
	The regiment volunteered for service before muster out during the Gettysburg Campaign, and moved to Harrisburg, Pa.
June 11	Regiment arrived at Beverly NJ by steamboat and returned to Camp Cadwallader to prepare for mustering out
June 27	Mustered out from Camp Cadwallader © 2016 Civil War in the East

## The Memory of the Jersey Yahoos Lives On



**The 1889 Reunion of the 23rd NJ Volunteers at *Grassmere*, Burd Grubb's estate in Edgewater Park, New Jersey. Burd is shown in uniform with his sword, front row center.**



**Salem Church was built in 1844. It found itself at the center of battle May 3&4 1863. It is shown here in an undated photograph courtesy of the National Park Service, which maintains the property.**

## Original Field and Staff

Mustered in September 1862:

- Colonel John S. Cox
- Lieutenant Colonel George C. Brown
- Major Alfred Thompson
- Adjutant William G. Winans
- Quartermaster Abel H. Nichols
- Surgeon William Cook
- Assistant Surgeon David G. Hetzell
- Assistant Surgeon Robert T. Elmer
- Chaplain William T. Abbott.
- Sergeant Major John F. McKee

## Original Company Commanders

- Company A - Captain Francis W. Milnor
- Company B - Captain Francis J. Higgins
- Company C - Captain Samuel Carr
- Company D - Captain Reading Newbold
- Company E - Captain Augustus W. Grobler
- Company F - Captain Samuel B. Smith
- Company G - Captain Joseph R. Ridgway
- Company H - Captain Henry A. McCabe
- Company I - Captain John P. Burnett
- Company K - Captain William J. Parmentier

The 23rd New Jersey Regiment Volunteer Infantry lost 4 officers and 31 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded, and 1 officer and 54 enlisted men to disease during the Civil War. The regiment is honored by a monument at Salem Church, near Fredericksburg.

## Listing of 699 members of the 23<sup>rd</sup> NJ Volunteer Regiment:

An alpha listing with links to service records and other material  
<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=vcsr&GSvcid=114>.

## Brigadier General

# Edward Burd Grubb, Jr. (1841 – 1913)

Excerpted from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



**Edward Burd Grubb, Jr. (AKA E. Burd Grubb)** (Nov 13, 1841 – July 7, 1913) was a Union Army regimental commander in the American Civil War who was later appointed by President Benjamin Harrison as United States Ambassador to Spain. He served in three regiments, commanded two of them, and became a brevet Brigadier General of Volunteers. He was also a noted foundryman, business owner and New Jersey politician.

## Biography

Edward Burd Grubb, Jr. was born in Burlington, New Jersey in 1841. He was educated at Burlington College, later named St. Mary's Hall-Doane Academy and graduated in 1860.

In May 1861, he enlisted in the 3rd New Jersey Volunteer Infantry. Commissioned as a first lieutenant, he would ultimately be promoted to Captain and served as an aide to Brig. Gen. George W. Taylor during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign. In November 1862, Grubb was promoted to Major, and was transferred to the 23rd New Jersey Volunteer Infantry

Regiment. In March 1863, despite his youth, he was promoted to Colonel and commander of the regiment when its previous leader, Col. Henry O. Ryerson, left to take command of the 10th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry. Grubb led his regiment "The Jersey Yahoos", as it participated in his brigade's assault on Confederate positions at Salem Church during the May 1863 Battle of Chancellorsville. Wounded in action, he was mustered out when his regiment's enlistment expired in June 1863.

After a year spent in recruitment and recruit training, Grubb was re-commissioned as Colonel and appointed commander of the 37th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, a 100-day enlistment unit. The new regiment then served in the trenches of Petersburg, Virginia, and in garrison duty until it was mustered out in October 1864.

In recognition of his service, Grubb received a brevet promotion to Brigadier General, United States Volunteers on March 13, 1865, for "gallant and meritorious services during the war."

After mustering out later in 1865, Grubb returned to Burlington and established himself as a prominent iron manufacturer, taking over the family's business. In 1868, he married Elizabeth Wadsworth Van Rensselaer (1848–1886). Together they had one daughter. In 1872, Grubb had fellow veteran Frank Furness design a house on the river, still known as "Grubb Cottage". In 1874, he built a 12-acre estate at Edgewater Park, called "Grassmere", where he annually entertained the survivors of the 23rd Regiment. (See photo)

In February 1874, Grubb was elected into the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry, the unit that served as George Washington's personal body guard. Grubb was also a colonel in the New Jersey National Guard.

Burd Grubb entered politics and held several local offices. In 1889, the Republicans nominated for Grubb for governor, hoping that the war hero could beat Leon Abbett, a popular former Governor. Grubb lost by a narrow margin. The same year, President Benjamin Harrison selected a friend of Grubb, James G. Blaine, as Secretary of State. Blaine then arranged for Grubb to be appointed as Ambassador to Spain.

While in Spain, Grubb met and married Violet Sopwith (1865–1958). They would go on to have three additional children.

The General made national news in 1908-1909 after meeting the commander of the 8th Alabama Regiment. Two units that once met as enemies at Salem Church, met again as friends at the "Yahoos Reunion" at Grubb's Grassmere estate.

Burd Grubb died in Newark, New Jersey in 1913 and was buried in Saint Mary's Episcopal Churchyard in Burlington.

## The 23<sup>rd</sup> New Jersey Volunteers today

In July 2011, inspired by Burlington County Historian Joe Laufer, Edwin Kaewell recruited a group of Civil War re-enactors to adopt the standard of the 23<sup>rd</sup> New Jersey Volunteers. Under the command of Captain Kaewell, the regiment has participated in Burlington County Farm Fair, battle re-enactments, parades, and veteran's events.



Capt. Kaewell leads the 23<sup>rd</sup> NJ Color Guard in the Riverton Parade



Capt. Kaewell leads the 23<sup>rd</sup> NJ Color Guard in Beverly Parade



The Color Guard participates at the American Legion



The Yahoos frequently participate in history fairs

For more information, go to the Jersey Yahoos Facebook Page:  
"Jersey Yahoos Burlington County's Own 23rd Vol Inf Reg"