

Connecticut honors Connecticut: The Restoration and Preservation of the Flagpole on Barlow's Knoll
By Carolyn Ivanoff

The flag pole on Barlow's Knoll will be restored during the upcoming year by Company F 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry in honor of the 17th Connecticut Volunteer Regiment who fought there on July 1, 1863. Company F 14th Connecticut is funding the entire restoration. The rededication of the restored flagpole will take place July 1, 2018 on the 155th anniversary of the first day's battle.

Company F 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry,

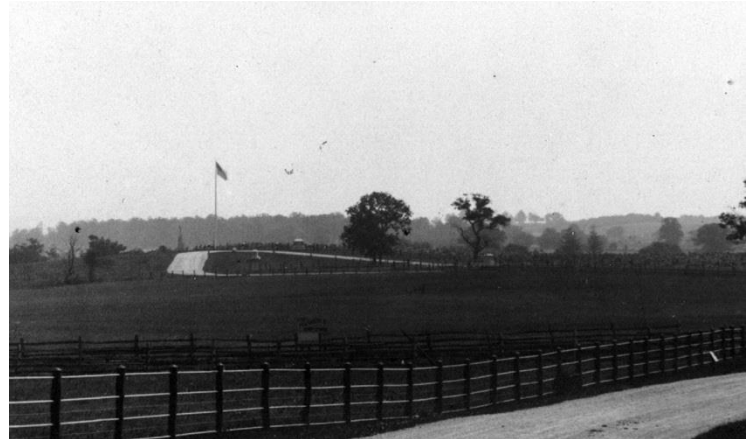
<http://www.cof14thcvi.com/>

is a 501(c)3 organization. Since our inception in 2011 we have donated more than \$21,000 towards Civil War preservation projects such as gravestones, battlefields, and memorial statues. Company F 14th Connecticut annually holds Color Bearer status with the Civil War Trust in addition to donating to various Civil War Trust campaigns for preservation. The unit is continually raising funds and accepting donations for upcoming projects. Company F 14th Connecticut is proud of the fact that 100 percent of every dollar raised is dedicated to funding Civil War preservation.

During our annual Remembrance Day brunch in 2016, several Connecticut transplants to Gettysburg and several members of Company F were discussing Barlow's Knoll. **Bob and Peg Angelovich, Chris Purrone, Paul Martinello, and Nick and Carolyn Ivanoff** began the discussions that led to a meeting with Lucas Flickinger, NPS Monuments Supervisor, and the group in February, 2017. Lucas developed a proposed restoration estimate and method to address the necessary restoration issues including cleaning, sandblasting, and repainting to be completed in-house by the NPS and funded in its entirety by Company F 14th Connecticut.



Left to right: volunteers Nick Ivanoff, Jim White, Bob Angelovich (Photo courtesy of Carolyn Ivanoff, July 2, 2017)



The flag of the United States of America flying on the flagpole raised by the 17th Connecticut Survivors on Barlow's Knoll. These images show views of Howard Avenue leading out to Barlow's Knoll.
(Photos from the late 1800's courtesy of the GNMP)

Since its erection and dedication in 1885 by the surviving members of the 17th Connecticut the flagpole has been a landmark on the first day's battlefield. The first pole was originally made of wood and was erected on the site where Lt. Col Douglass Fowler, 17th CVI was killed July 1. The first pole came down in a storm in the mid-1890s and a steel pole replaced it. That pole was replaced by the existing pole in 1921. In 1922 at the Annual 17th Connecticut Survivors meeting the members voted to procure a designation plate for the pole which marks it today. At that time there were fewer than 40 surviving members of the regiment and only twelve attended the reunion and voted on the plaque appropriation. (*Historical information courtesy of the 17thcvi.org webmaster from the 1922 Annual Reunion and the Norwalk Hour article reporting on the Roton Point reunion, <http://seventeenthcvi.org/blog/david-blocher-and-the-17th-cvi-flagpole/>*)



The location of the pole marks the spot where Lt. Col. Fowler, 17th CVI was killed on July 1, 1863. The current metal pole dates from 1921. The plaque was designated to be fixed to the pole by the Survivors Association of the 17th Connecticut in 1922. (Photos above courtesy of Carolyn Ivanoff, July 1, 2017)

Thanks to reporting by the *The Gettysburg Daily* in May, 2017 that the flag was flying at Barlow's Knoll (<http://www.gettysburgdaily.com/flags-fly-barlow-knoll/>, <http://www.gettysburgdaily.com/the-17th-connecticut-flagpole-at-barlows-knoll/>, <http://www.gettysburgdaily.com/17th-ct-flagpole-wait-theres/>) our group was able to get into contact with Jim White and Tom Sullivan who had adopted the position and apply for permits to fly the flag twice a year. Jim and Tom are both Connecticut natives who were looking into getting the flag pole painted. It was a pleasure to connect with them and let them know that a complete restoration had already been scheduled and fully funded by Company F 14th Connecticut Volunteers. The restoration is scheduled to be completed within the year. Efforts and organization of a rededication ceremony and programming are underway and scheduled for July 1, 2018. In 2013 Tom and Jim who are the Adopt-A-Position volunteers for the 17th Connecticut monument and flag pole at Barlow's Knoll presented the flag flown during the 150th Anniversary and Commemoration of the Battle of Gettysburg to the Connecticut Governor.



Left to right: Jim White, Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy, Tom Sullivan
(Photo above courtesy of Tom Sullivan)

This year during the 154th Anniversary of the Battle, **Bob and Peg Angelovich, Jim White, Nick and Carolyn Ivanoff** were able to meet at Barlow's Knoll in Gettysburg. Jim had obtained the necessary permit from the NPS to fly the flag for the three days of the anniversary. All three days the National Colors floated proudly above Barlow's Knoll. Huzzah!!! Long may she wave!



Volunteers Jim White and Nick Ivanoff raise the National Colors and the Connecticut State Flag on Barlow's Knoll on the first day of the 154th Anniversary. (Photos courtesy of Carolyn Ivanoff, July 1, 2017)



Volunteers July 2, 2017 on Barlow's Knoll, left to right: Carolyn Ivanoff, Nick Ivanoff, Peg Angelovich, Jim White, Bob Angelovich (Photo courtesy of Carolyn Ivanoff)



Members of Company F 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry at a living history in Lennox, Massachusetts, July 2017. (Photo courtesy of Karen Purrone)



Company F 14th Connecticut members Nick and Carolyn Ivanoff on Barlow's Knoll, July 1, 2017. (Photo courtesy of Carolyn Ivanoff)