

# William H. Wright

First Lieutenant

**56th Regiment N.G.S.N.Y.**

Residence was not listed.

Enlisted on 6/18/1863 at Brooklyn, NY as a 1st Lieut.

On 6/18/1863, he was commissioned into "G" Co. New York 56th Infantry

He was Mustered Out on 7/24/1863 at Brooklyn, NY



**CIVIL WAR MODEL 1850 FOOT OFFICER'S  
PRESENTATION SWORD**

**AWARDED SHORTLY AFTER  
GETTYSBURG CAMPAIGN SERVICE**





The scabbard is black leather with gilt brass fittings.



The upper suspension band of the scabbard is inscribed "LIEUT WM H. WRIGHT/BY/the Members of Comp G 56th Regt N.G.S.N.Y. July 28th 1863" on the reverse, and the rest of the fittings have floral engraving.



The 32-inch blade has patriotic, floral, and martial etching patterns with frosted backgrounds, "Schuyler-/Hartley-/& Graham/New-York" etched above the right ricasso and "W./CLAUBERG/knight logo/SOLINGEN" stamped on the left ricasso.





The silver-plated cast brass hilt has floral patterns and a cast brass rope pattern grip that had a silver-plated finish. A gilt sword knot is fitted to the knuckle guard.



A very fine sword! The blade is mostly the untouched original bright polish and has crisp acid etching, some faint spotting, and generally minimal wear. The hilt has aged patina. The grip has traces of silver and otherwise aged patina. The sword knot has moderate age and storage related wear. The scabbard is fine and has moderate wear on the leather, mostly aged patina on the fittings, and distinct engraving and inscription. This is a very attractive Civil War presentation sword complete with a historical inscription to a New York officer from a unit that fought in one of the northernmost skirmishes of the Civil War during Gettysburg campaign.





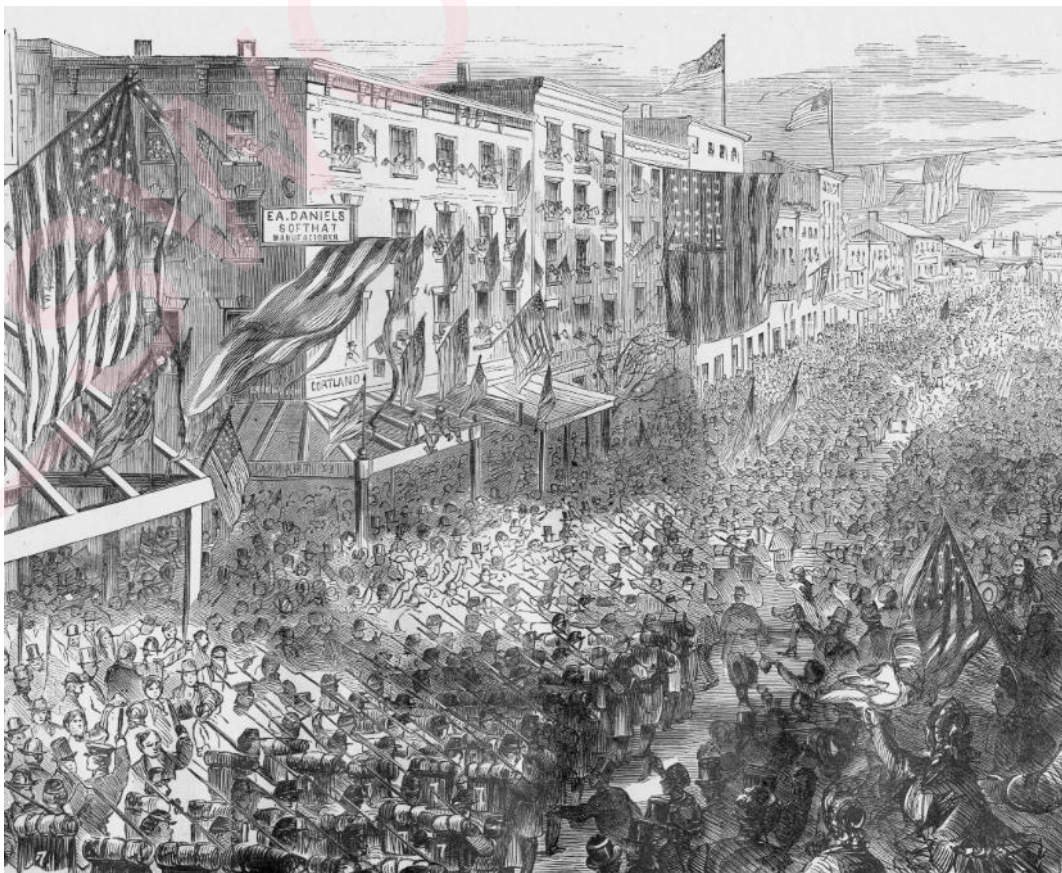
# 56th Regiment N.G.S.N.Y.

The National Park Service Soldier & Sailor Database lists a William H. Wright as a first lieutenant in Company G of the 56th Regiment, New York Infantry National Guard (30 days, 1863). The regiment mustered in on June 18, 1863, and mustered out on July 24, 1863. This was during Robert E. Lee's famous invasion of Pennsylvania that culminated in the historic Battle of Gettysburg.

The New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center has a more in depth look at the "56th Regiment, New York National Guard" taken from "New York in the War of the Rebellion." Of this regiment, which was located in Brooklyn, but is not now in service, a number of men volunteered in October, 1862, for nine months. June 18, 1863, it was ordered to Harrisburg, Pa., for a service of thirty days; commanded by Col. John Q. Adams, it left the State June 19, 1863, and served in the Third Brigade, 1st Division, Department Susquehanna, and July 24, 1863, it was mustered out of the service of the United States at Brooklyn. August 2, 1864, it was mustered into the United States service for 100 days and it served, commanded by Col. John Q. Adams, at Elmira, until it was mustered out November 6, 1864.

March 15, 1865, Colonel Adams received authority to recruit his regiment for a service of one year as part of the volunteer forces; the necessity for more troops ceasing to exist shortly after, the organization was not carried out. The men enlisted, about 200, were discharged May 3, 1865, at Hart's Island, New York harbor.

The regiment in its service in 1863 took part in a skirmish near **Oyster Point, Pa.**, June 29, 1863, and it lost in its service in 1864, by death, of disease, two enlisted men." One veteran of the battle at Oyster Point recounted: "While this skirmish was of no particular account in itself, it is really historic. It was at the furthest northern point which was reached by the invaders, and marks the crest of the wave of the invasion of Pennsylvania. The retreat of the Confederate force there commenced did not end until the Potomac was crossed. The success obtained must be largely ascribed to the gallant conduct of Landis' Battery..." The skirmish lasted for two days and ended when Robert E. Lee issued orders for the troops to retreat south on June 30th for the Battle of Gettysburg. The Union militia pursued the invaders and fought them in another skirmish at the Battle of Sporting Hill.



# William H. Wright

Name	William H Wright
Enlistment Date	18 Jun 1863
Enlistment Place	Brooklyn, New York
Enlistment Rank	First Lieutenant
Muster Date	18 Jun 1863
Muster Place	New York
Muster Company	G
Muster Regiment	56th Infantry
Muster Regiment Type	Infantry
Muster Information	Commission
Muster Out Date	24 Jul 1863
Muster Out Place	Brooklyn, New York
Muster Out Information	Mustered Out
Side of War	Union
Survived War?	Yes
Was Officer?	Yes
Title	New York: Report of the Adjutant-General 1893-1906

*Wright Wm. H.*  
Co. *G*, *56* N. Y. National Guard.

(30 Days, 186<sup>3</sup>)

<i>1st Lieut</i>	<i>1st Lieut.</i>
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See also

**GENERAL INDEX CARD.**

**48** This card must not be taken from the files.  
(382)

# 56TH REGIMENT, NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD

Mustered in: June 18, 1863  
Mustered out: July 24, 1863  
Left the State: August 2, 1864  
Mustered out: November 6, 1864

The following is taken from *New York in the War of the Rebellion*, 3rd ed. Frederick Phisterer. Albany: J. B. Lyon Company, 1912.

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1863	
June 18	The 56th New York National Guard mustered in for 30 days United States service under the command of Colonel John Q. Adams
June 20	Left State for Harrisburg, Pa. Attached to 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, Department of the Susquehanna.
June 29	<b>Skirmish near Oyster Point, Pennsylvania</b>
July 24	Mustered out of United States service at Brooklyn
1864	
August 2	Mustered in for 100 days' service. It was one of the "Hundred Days Men regiments" intended for short term rear echelon duties in the summer of 1864.
August-September	Duty at Elmira, New York, losing two men to disease.
November 6	Mustered out at Elmira.



# The Skirmish of Oyster's Point

Sunday, June 28 and Monday, June 29, 1863



Photographed by Larry Gertner, May 3, 2016

## 1. The Skirmish of Oyster's Point Marker

Confederate General Albert G. Jenkins' trot towards Harrisburg was stalled as he neared Oyster's Point, named for a tavern owned by the Oyster family at the junction of Carlisle Pike and Trindle Springs Road. In 1863, these two roads met to form a fork or a "point" around the 3000 block of Market Street. Recognizing the strategic advantage of controlling these roads, select Union forces advanced from the defenses of Harrisburg and gathered in the vicinity. The Oysters' quaint tavern, a mere three and a half miles from the state capital, would soon become the focal point of hostilities in the hours before Gettysburg.

The nearby community was known as White Hall, consisting of about a dozen homes. In the days before the Confederate arrival, Union militia had looted and plundered the local homes and farmsteads. "It seemed as if our soldiers thought they were in an enemy's country," recalled one exasperated local. "The contents of the store of David Denlinger were strewn along the picket line... Packages of tea, coffee, muslin and calico could have been obtained... with but the asking for them..." The New Yorkers and Pennsylvanians alike freely took preservatives, meats, and blankets, and frequently killed local livestock at their own decree.

Fighting at Oyster's Point commenced in the early afternoon of June 28, 1863. Confederates lobbed artillery shells into the vicinity from the Peace Church and the Samuel Albright House on East 36th Street. Confederate skirmishers were countered both north and south of the Pike by Union pickets, and the lines moved back and forth throughout the afternoon, with skirmishing primarily between the 3100 and 3300 blocks of Market Street. On June 29, General Jenkins was under orders to scout the defenses of Harrisburg and inform the infantry in Carlisle, and therefore devised a ruse. For about two hours he bombarded the Union position, and then some Confederates on horseback charged down the Pike, driving back frightened Union militia, and getting as far as Limekiln Lane (present-day 28th Street, Camp Hill). This marked the furthest advance towards Harrisburg by any Confederate force. They remained under fire for at least another hour, effectively occupying the Union attention while General Jenkins rode south to observe the defenses of Harrisburg.





## Skirmish at Oyster Point (June 1863) Themes: Battles & Soldiers

Posted by [sailerd](#)

Published in [Civil War \(1861-1865\)](#), [Places to Visit](#)

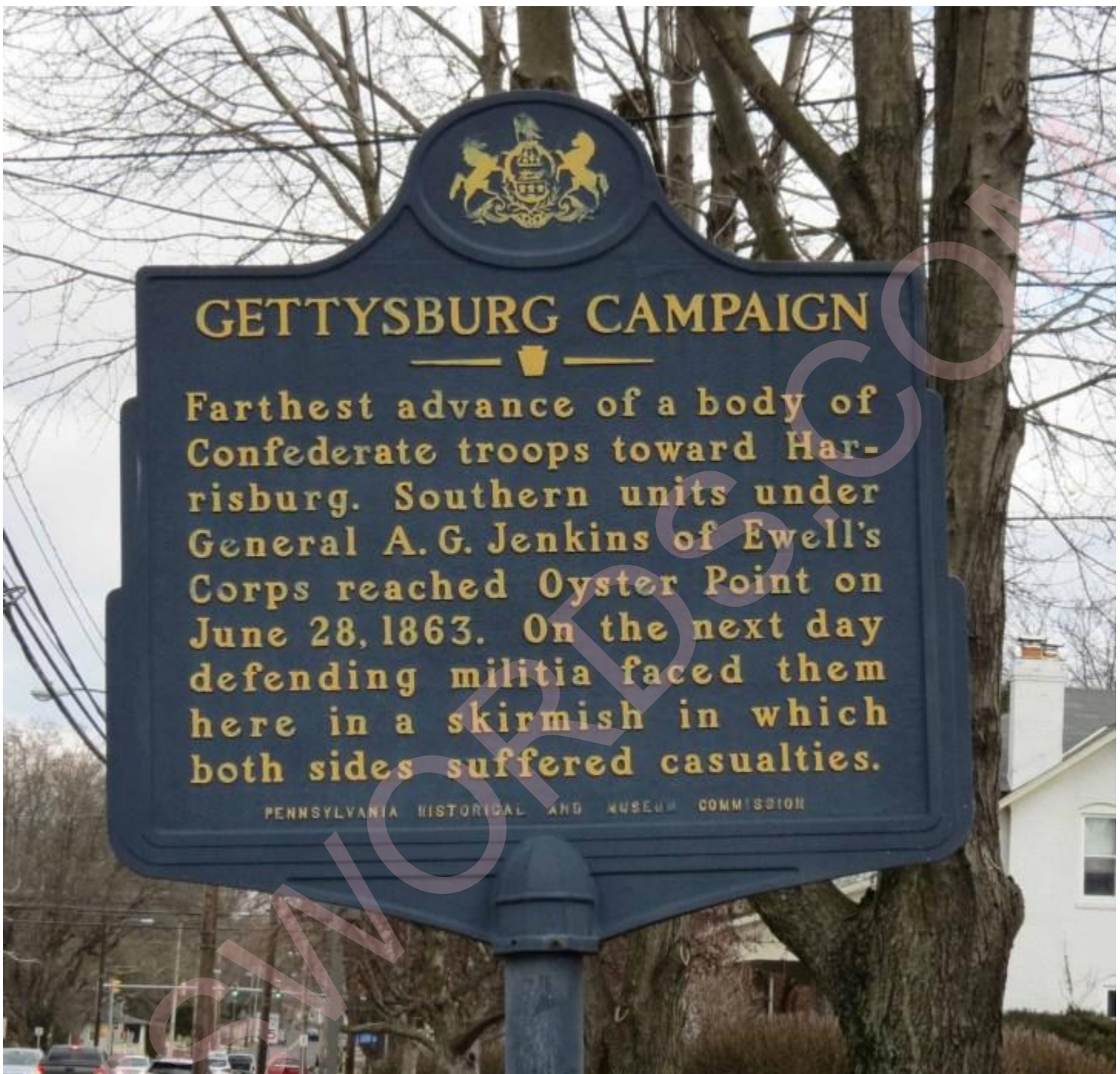
The skirmish at Oyster Point was a small engagement that took place in late June 1863 in [Camp Hill](#), Pennsylvania between Confederate forces under General [Albert G. Jenkins](#)' command and Union militia from New York under General [William F. Smith](#)'s command. After Confederates entered [Mechanicsburg](#), General Jenkins set up artillery and sent Virginia cavalry in pursuit of Union militia who had been in the town. At Oyster Point the Confederates encountered two militia regiments from New York and Landis' Philadelphia Battery of Light Artillery. Later that day General Jenkins ordered his force to withdraw to the [Rupp House](#) in Mechanicsburg. Confederates returned on June 29, but they were unable to dislodge the Union militia. The [Battle of Sporting Hill](#) took place on the following day as Confederates left Mechanicsburg and marched towards Gettysburg. As a veteran who served with the 22nd New York Regiment [recalled](#):



While this skirmish was of no particular account in itself, it is really historic. It was at the furthest northern point which was reached by the invaders, and marks the crest of the wave of the invasion of Pennsylvania. The retreat of the Confederate force there commenced did not end until the Potomac was crossed. The success obtained must be largely ascribed to the gallant conduct of Landis' Battery,...."

A historical marker is located at the intersection of 31st Street and Market Streets in Camp Hill. You can read more about this battle in an essay on [ExplorePAhistory.com](#), Robert Grant Crist's article "[Highwater 1863: The Confederate Approach to Harrisburg](#)" (*Pennsylvania History* 1963), and in Wilbur Sturtevant Nye's *Here Come The Rebels!* (1965).





In June of 1863, the Confederate Army invaded Pennsylvania. In preparation for the invasion, Union militia and volunteer citizens from Harrisburg constructed fortifications atop Hummel Heights (near present-day Lemoyne) as a means to defend the city. On June 28 the Confederates advanced toward Harrisburg but clashed with Union forces near present-day Camp Hill. The Skirmish of Oyster's Point, as it would later be known, lasted for two days. Lee ordered his troops to retreat south on June 30 in preparation for the Battle of Gettysburg. Union militia pursued retreating Confederate forces down the Carlisle Pike where they engaged one another in what would become known as the Battle of Sporting Hill. These two engagements would be the northernmost fighting of the American Civil War and would serve as the "high water mark" for the Confederacy.

























