***Marching to Gettysburg***

Civil War living history uniformed re-enactors of the Union’s Federal Sixth Corps marched through Poolesville on June 28 on their way to Gettysburg to participate in the 150th anniversary of the battle.

The size of the group varied during the full march, but as they came through our area, they were a color guard.

In 1863, the more than fourteen thousand men of U. S. Gen. John Sedgwick’s Sixth Corps marched from Chantilly, Virginia to Pennsylvania. They were ordered to arrive in Gettysburg by 3:00 p.m. on July 2 on Little Round Top. The soldiers force-marched the last thirty-seven miles in seventeen hours and arrived at 4:00 p.m. Their timely arrival was key in the defense of Little Round Top, which eventually proved to be pivotal in the success of the Federal Army.