

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION  
Borough of Smethport, Pennsylvania  
“Birthplace of the American Civil War Bucktail Regiment”

1. WHEREAS; During April, 1861, brave men from McKean County, Pennsylvania answered President Lincoln’s call for volunteers to rise to the defense of the Union less than one week following the Confederate bombardment at Fort Sumtner, South Carolina; and
2. WHEREAS; McKean County business Thomas Leeper Kane and inspired by Smethport businessman Byron Delano Hamlin, the soon to be famous McKean County Rifles were first mustered in Smethport , Pennsylvania; and
3. WHEREAS; the unique identifying Bucktail symbol of the McKean County Rifles was born in Smethport from a deer tail cut at the Butcher shop beneath the Sartwell Building across the McKean County Courthouse; and
4. WHEREAS; these rugged Bucktailed lumberjacks and hunters of McKean County marched out of Smethport on April 26 on their way to Shippen (now Emporium) and on Camp Curtin, Harrisburg; and
5. WHEREAS; other Pennsylvania county volunteers joined our original skilled Bucktailed McKean County sharpshooters; and
6. WHEREAS; an elite regiment of Pennsylvania riflemen evolved who donned the famous Bucktail emblem on their hats as their regimental badge of honor; and
7. WHEREAS; the Bucktails became famous because their courage, focus, dedication and commitment, qualities still prominent in Smethport citizens today; Now, therefore be it
8. RESOLVED, that the Borough of Smethport, Pennsylvania, realizing our unique place in United States history, do hereby proclaim

SMETHPORT PENNSYLVANIA to be recognized as the “Official Birthplace of the famous Bucktail American Civil War Regiment”; and be it further

9. RESOLVED, that APRIL 26 of each year be known as “Smethport “Birth of the Bucktails” Day; and be it further
- 10: RESOLVED, that the Borough of Smethport encourages local organizations to acknowledge April 26 as the day that General Thomas Leeper Kane and the 45 enlisted men, wearing their soon to be famous Bucktails on their hats, marched out of Smethport on the back valley road toward Harrisburg and the American Civil War.”

Adopted by the Borough of Smethport, Pennsylvania January 16, 2006

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Ross Porter- Mayor, Borough of Smethport

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Greg Rounsville- Borough Council President

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Brian Gustafson- Borough Council VicePresident

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Ed Althouse- Borough Councilman

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Josh Costa- Borough Councilman

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Paul Raymond - Borough Councilman

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Patricia Witchen - Borough Councilman

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Fella Wright - Borough Councilman