

THE FUGELMAN

Newsletter of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry

Association

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PASS IN REVIEW

"A moment of silence... Uncover".

At our recent drill, and after a good work out of the evolutions of the battalion, the members of the 2^{nd} Wisconsin Association took a moment of time in silence to remember the original men of the 2^{nd} Wisconsin. We uncovered our heads, bowed, and took less than a minute to contemplate what they and the other Iron Brigade regiments' sacrifice meant to us and our country.

The sacrifice: Three years of service to the Union cause. Three months and more of drill to understand the School of the Soldier, School of the Company, Skirmish drill, Bayonet drill, School of the Battalion; Marching hundreds of miles in the sun and the rain; Illness and homesick; Army rations and supplies. What kept these men going?

In three years the Iron Brigade left their dead buried in three states and claimed the biggest engagements of the eastern theater as battle honors. First Bull Run, Brawner's Farm, Second Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Chancellorsville, & Gettysburg and others. In three years they watched friends fall from their ranks. Those not killed outright were left where they lay with mortal wounds, dismembering wounds. Wounds that were survivable allowed the men to return to the ranks for another go-around with the enemy.

As Memorial Day is upon us; let's take time to remember all our servicemen and women from colonial times to the present that lie in cemeteries across this country and in countries abroad.

Sacrifice is nothing without remembrance.

Rufus Dawes says it best when he wrote: "For what they died. I fight a little longer. Over their graves I get my inspiration to stand for all they won in establishing our government upon freedom, equality, justice, liberty and protection to the humblest."

"Amen. Cover."



Memorial Day, Monday May 26th, 2008

The editor wants to take this opportunity to preface this brief contribution to your holiday celebration by initially thanking those who have served this Nation in uniform. The citizens and the Nation owe you more than it could ever repay. You have stood your post to preserve

freedom and our rights, and as President Lincoln said so eloquently, this Nation is a beacon of freedom and the last best hope of mankind. Bless you for your service to us and our mutual country!

braham Lincoln saw the United States as a nation founded on the principles of freedom and equality as set out in Jefferson's Declaration of Independence. His soldiers fought and died to preserve this nation with its principles of freedom and, eventually, respect for the basic humanity of all peoples. This wasn't something new in 1861, nor would it be for the next 145 years. The soldiers who served on Bunker Hill and Yorktown, in the War of 1812, on the plains and in the mountains of Mexico during the Mexican War, during the Civil War undertook the task of soldiering not for loot or titles, but for these abstract ideas of freedom and human worth. In the Alamo, the Spanish American War, World War I and II, Korea, Viet Nam, Bosnia and Iraq and Afghanistan those who served or are serving in the U. S. Military are in essence fighting for the freedom of people in foreign lands that one day they too might enjoy the benefits of freedom and a voice in the conduct of their governments. It speaks well of men and women who willing come to the support of our nation and others for these lofty ideals.

o on May 26th, let us not only remember, but honor those who have sacrificed in the past. But let's honor those who serve to this very hour and who are engaged in carrying forth those great principles which this nation was founded upon. May it ever be so!!!!



May 11th, is Mother's Day. When one reads the letters of those young soldiers who served in the volunteer regiments during the Civil War, it is clear how important these women were to their lives and beliefs. Mothers give their all everyday for their husbands and children (some argue they are indeed the same) and it is only fitting and proper to remember the significant role they have played in our lives. Remember them on this special Sunday and let them know how much they are loved and needed in our lives!

THE VIEW FROM THE RANKS

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE MAY ISSUE OF THE FUGELMAN

The Fugelman wishes to express its gratitude to the members and supporters of the Second Wisconsin who have provided articles and information for the newsletter: Lyle Laufenberg Dave Dresang

IN MEMORIUM

It is the sad duty of the newsletter to pass on the following information from Lyle Laufenberg to our members!

Most of you are aware of the physical struggles of Miss Katie Kalmerton due to the information shared by our comrade from Battery B. And the editor is sure that many of you have added Katie to your prayers for God's loving care for her. Katie's struggles have now ceased and she is now at peace and all suffering has passed. Katie passed away on April 9, 2008. It is hard to lose one so young and full of promise. Her courage and spirit has been chronicled and it is a wondrous thing to have beheld.

At this like these the editor is reminded of John Donne's *Meditation* and it's reminder that we are all connected to one another and that such tragic news diminishes us all. It is a reminder of our own mortality and calls us to consider the loss sustained and to look into our own souls to discover true meaning of a life lived well.

Katie shared the passion and desire to share the history and existence of the mid-19th century citizens of our country so that others might know of the momentous events that were important to shaping the future of this nation. That made Katie more than just a member of one of our units that form the Second Wisconsin, but a true daughter of the regiment!

John Donne <u>Meditation XVII</u>:

"All mankind is of one author, and is one volume; when one man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language; and every chapter must be so translated...As therefore the bell that rings to a sermon, calls not upon the preacher only, but upon the congregation to come: so this bell calls us all: but how much more me, who am brought so near the door by this sickness....No man is an island, entire of itself...any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

Katie contributed to events and was one of us in the effort to expand the knowledge of the Civil War era and in that respect she was certainly our comrade. We are truly diminished by her passing! The courage Katie displayed during her physical struggles mirrors that of those intrepid souls we all admire.

To Katie's friends and family we extend our sincerest condolences and pray for God's merciful sustenance for her family and her colleagues in Battery B!

RECLAIMING OUR HERITAGE EVENT IN MILWAUKEE-May 31 to June 1, 2008

On Saturday, May 31, 2008, and extending into Sunday, June 1, one of the more popular events during the reenacting season will take place on the campus of Woods Soldiers Home in Milwaukee. A number of the Second



Figure 5Photo from Lyle Laufenberg of Miss Katie Kalmerton-photographer unknown

Wisconsin companies have representatives attend this event. And the event supports a good purpose which makes it all the more worthwhile!

A couple of things to suggest for this event. It would be good to have your white gloves for the parade and maybe polish up that brass. Also there will be a skirmish and you will need to have caps and cartridges if you are going to participate in this portion of the event.

THANK YOU FOR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE NEW KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

Recently, a number of fellas and ladies from the Second Wisconsin participated in an event marking the opening of the Kenosha Civil War Museum. The following two notes expressing gratitude for those who were able to help out are reproduced. Gentlemen well done!

From Dan Joyce, Kenosha Public Museums Senior Curator of Exhibits and Collections:

"A big thanks to all who participated in the dedication ceremonies for the new Civil War Museum. We had over 4000 people attend the event. We are all looking forward to June 14th when the building will finally open to the public. Thanks much!"

From Lance Herdegen: "Let me add that the ACWSA had a nice contingent at the dedication of The Civil War Museum of the Upper Middle West. All did their duty and I had a number of favorable comments how the live interpreters added to the event.

The ... story from the AP does not really indicate how heavy the crowds were during the day. The official count of those actually touring the exhibits was more than 4,000. Again, thanks to all for their help making the ribbon cutting a huge success."

COMPANY EVENTS IN MAY

There are a number of school events scheduled throughout May. The list is as follows:

On May 2nd, Company E has a school event scheduled for Erb Park in Appleton. This is also an event on the Battery B schedule. On May 9th, Company E will conduct a school event for the Charter School at Pierce Park in Appleton.

May 16th Company B holds a school event in Salem, Wisconsin.

On May 16th, Company K will hold a day long school event in Blue Mound State Park in Blue Mound, Wisconsin. Battery B will be present for this event also.

On May 16th, Company E will conduct the Prairie River School Day at Stanges Park in Merrill, Wisconsin.

On May 17th Company B will hold a living history event at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

On May 17th and 18th Battery B will conduct a School of the Piece in Boscobel, Wisconsin.

Company E will conduct a living history event at the Hazelwood House in Green Bay, Wisconsin, on May 17th and 18th. This is also on the schedule for Battery B.

On May23rd, Company E will conduct its Valley View School Day in Ashwaubenon, Wisconsin.

May 26th is a Memorial Day parade for members of Company B. This is one of their MAXIMUM EFFORT events.

On May 26th, Company K will participate in its annual Memorial Day event at Forest Hills Cemetery in Madison, Wisconsin. On May 26th, Company E will participate in the Memorial Day procession and ceremony in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

On May 30th, Battery B will be participating in the school event associated with the "Reclaiming Our Heritage" event in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

May will close out with the "Reclaiming Our Heritage" event at the Woods Soldiers Home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. (See above for details)

ARTILLERY AT GETTYSBURG

By the editor (Part 1 of 2)

This two part series will focus on the role of the artillery branch 145 years ago on the field at Gettysburg, particularly on July 1, 1863. Two points here: first, why do we need another book or article on the fight at Gettysburg and two, why a focus on the artillery? To answer the second question, the editor notes that although our brothers in Battery B are part (rightly so) of our association, nearly all our focus is on the infantry branch. This is an effort, weak as it might be to incorporate our comrades into the newsletter in a stronger way. As we prepare to attend the 145th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, the article is timely, however, the real reason for the article is selfish. The editor has been enthralled by the fight there for nearly 50 years. This article is simply a way of entertaining himself by writing on a topic dear to him. He is greatful for that opportunity!

The guns have fallen silent; the heat, the flying bullets, the crashing shells and canister, the shouts and cries of men are long silent. But on the battlefield at Gettysburg the guns still keep their silent vigil and remind visitors that at one time a terrible struggle took place here. Today as one looks over the serene landscape of the battlefield one is struck by the gleaming stone monuments to the units that fought it out on this spot and the cannons that for three days roared in earnest conflict on that field! All else is gone.

Metal against mortality, the guns at Gettysburg have survived the men who served them. Gone now are all the gunners in blue or gray. Some lie near where they fell, under white stones in the military cemetery. Others, who lived to fight on, only to die in later battles, or to complete their spans in years of peace, have one and all answered the last roll call. By records they and their comrades in arms left they can be summoned back from Valhalla to man their guns again. (Downey, p. 4) n June 30th, 1863, Major General Meade had the Army of the Potomac sweeping north in an effort to repel the invasion by Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia of Pennsylvania. During that march a mounted officer from a Pennsylvania battery rode through the First Corps batteries. The gentleman called on those members of batteries to fight for his native state:

> On the march toward Gettysburg a sergeant of Battery B, 1st Pennsylvania Light Artillery, riding past a group of other I Corps gunners, had halted his mount.

> "Boys," he called to members of Battery B, 4th U.S. Artillery, "Don't forget this is free soil. We are now about half a mile north of the Keystone State line." His own home, he told them, was only about ten or twelve miles away, in the direction of Hanovertown, and added: "You are Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, and New York boys, and maybe you don't know how a Pennsylvanian feels when he may have to fight tomorrow in his mother's dooryard!"

> They looked at him soberly, and one answered for the rest. "We'll stand by you until hell freezes over and then fight on the ice!" (Downey, p., 34)

The previous response was from a member of Battery B, 4th U.S. Artillery as noted in the reported exchange. In the coming days these men would be as good as their word! As circumstances would develop, the First Corps, under Maj. Gen. John F. Reynolds, had a date in a small town called Gettysburg on July 1, 1863.

eneral John Buford was already in Gettysburg. Buford, a tough, hard fighting cavalry commander, had moved through the town and onto the ridges west of town. He had already determined that the rebel army was moving in that direction and that the surrounding country, especially the ridge east of the town was an ideal place to engage the enemy. Buford's decision set the course for a meeting engagement in this spot and three days of struggle unequaled in the annals of warfare.

Buford was sending messages to Meade and Reynolds, who was acting as a wing commander, as well as commander of the First Corps, that day (his headquarters on June 30th were at the Moritz's tavern only five miles away) calling for support and reporting the presence of a large body of rebel troops in the vicinity of Gettysburg. Gen. Reynolds, himself an aggressive commander was responding to the call ordering the First Corps to move towards Gettysburg and summoning Gen. Howard, commander of the XI Corps to make haste in moving up his Corps to support his move towards Buford and Gettysburg. Orders were also issued to the 5th and 3rd Corps who were under his command as commander of that wing of the army. n the morning of July 1st, Reynolds had the I Corps on the road to hurry to aid Buford's cavalry in Gettysburg. Meanwhile at Gettysburg Buford was fighting a delaying action against the arriving forces of Maj. Gen. Harry Heth. Among the weapons used in this action was Calef's battery. Buford became adept at the use of modern techniques in fighting cavalry troops and the use of horse artillery to support his aggressive tactics. The technique described below used by Buord effectively in the past would come into play on this morning of July 1, 1863.

> In Battery A's park sergeants ran their eyes over its 3-inch ordnance rifles, trim guns mounted on lightweight carriages, for horse artillery must move rapidly to keep up with cavalry. Those rifled pieces could throw a shell 4,000 yards but was extreme range and seldom used. Guns with Buford's horse were usually close up behind the front line or in it, covering his dismounted troopers. Might as well have been supporting infantry, A battery said, and drew plenty of canister when it replenished its caissons from the ammunition train. Buford was one of the new type of cavalry commanders. While he could deliver a whooping charge if need be, mostly his men fought on foot. If they had to pull out, horse holders galloped up with their mounts as the artillery did with their cannoneers horses. Riflemen and gunners got away fast. By the time the enemy came up, they were out of the saddle and opening fire from a new position. (Downey, p.10)

The men in Calef's battery were indeed experienced, although short staffed as they arrived at Gettysburg. As Calef's battery arrived on the field its men cared for the animals, checked their pieces and made sure their ammunition chests were full. They knew a fight was coming and that it might be a desperate affair.

Along the line of the battery's carriages chains rasped as limber poles were let down to take the weight off the necks of wheel pairs. Drivers smoothed back the manes beneath collars as they had the hair under saddle blankets. In case of trouble each driver carried two basil leather pads--tanned sheepskin with the wool still on--to put under a collar and relieve pressure on a sore neck. Such injuries must be guarded against more than ever, with the animals as worn and gaunt as they were. No wonder. Only three weeks ago the battery had been supporting Buford's command in Pleasanton's hell-for-leather cavalry clash with Stuart at Brandy Station, Virginia. It had been a long, hard march to Gettysburg and a fighting one, the guns unlimbered now and again to beat off Confederate cavalry charges. Caisson corporals checked ammunition. The chests at least were full, which was more than could be said of the battery's strength. Calef had only one officer instead of the four authorized; two of his three sections--two guns to a section--were commanded by sergeants. Still there were men enough to serve the pieces and horses enough to pull them, the twelve caissons, and the traveling forge and battery wagon containing stores for shoeing and repairs. (Downey, pps. 10-11)

t around 7:00 a.m. the pickets of Buford's unit began engaging with the oncoming rebel troops. Using the firepower of repeating rifles they beat back the skirmishers sent out by Heth whose troops were marching in column on the Chambersburg Pike. Heth decided to deploy Archer's and Davis' brigades and it took him 90 minutes to accomplish the task, placing James J. Archer's Tennesseans and Alabamians on the right, south of the pike, and Davis' Mississppians and North Carolinians on the left, or north of the pike. (Sears, p. 163) Heth now had 2,900 troops deployed on a line nearly a mile wide. (Sears, p. 163) Sometime after 8:00 a.m. Buford met Calef who had received orders earlier from Gamble, commander of the 8th Illinois Cavalry, to form his battery on Buford's battle line. Calef formed his battery on a crest near the Seminary where they had encamped the night before and set his men to tearing down fences to clear his field of fire. He had placed Lieutenant John W. Roder's right section of the battery to the right of the Pike and Sergeant Joseph Newman's left section to the left of the Pike. "Sergeant Charles Pergel's center section was sent 600 yards to the left and formed behind a northsouth fence in the area southeast of Herbst woods," (Martin, p. 75) Calef engaged in long range counterbattery fire as the rebels moved artillery belonging to Pegram's and McIntosh's batteries into position, as well as directing fire on the advancing infantry columns coming down the Chambersburg Pike. Running low on ammunition and in danger of losing his guns to the pressing rebel battle lines Calef withdrew his guns from their advanced positions at around 10:00 a.m. The buildup of superior numbers of rebel artillery batteries was resulting in devasting fire from Pegram's cannons and flanking infantry units poured musketry fire into the battery. It was at this time, 10:00 a.m., that General Reynolds began arriving on the field.

Major General John F. Reynolds, leading his Union I Corps into action, was an old artilleryman of the Mexican War, veteran of the bloody street fighting at Monterey and the glorious day at Buena Vista. He had five batteries, one of them commanded by a captain of the same name as his. All of them were good. Artillery odds were nevertheless against him. Calef's guns, 2nd U. S. Artillery, had been blown off the field by Pegram's battalion, and on its left McIntosh's guns were booming, with two more battalions of Hill's III Corps, C. S. A., coming forward.

North and south of the Chambersburg Pike, also called the Cashtown Road, Reynolds flung his infantry into the fight. There marched the famous Iron Brigade, 'a command of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Indiana soldiers who deserved their name.' They wore their black slouch hats like the badge of honor they were, honor won by superb gallantry in past combats and to be earned again today at fearful cost. Shortly the Southerners would sight that headgear, distinctive among the prevailing forage caps, and shout a tribute: "Here are those damn black-hat fellers again . . . 'Tain't no militia--that's the Army of the Potomac!" (Downey, pps. 25- 26) "On I Corps' left the conflict was going better for the Union. The valiant Iron Brigade hit the Southerners hard, rocked them back, outflanked them. Reynolds, one of the foremost of the war's front-line generals, rode forward into the smoke of battle, looming above it on his charger. It was then that the Rebel sharpshooter in the old stone barn found his target. His rifle spoke, and Reynolds toppled from his horse, a bullet through his head. Furiously the Iron Brigade renewed its onslaught, capturing Confederate General Archer and hundreds of his men. North of the turnpike the Blue ranks, reinforced, caught the contagion of victory and surged forward, also taking prisoners by the hundred." (pps., 29-30)

As Maj. Gen. Reynolds looked over the field he had one primary concern and that was solidifying his center with his infantry units. However, as Reynolds was directing troops into line the rebel artillery was wreaking havoc on the arriving troops. To buy some time he turned to Hall's battery, the 2nd Maine, with instructions to direct fire on those guns until he had the infantry in position. Hall formed up his battery below the crest of Seminary ridge before dashing forward to go into battery!

Now Hall galloped up and unlimbered 400 yards beyond Seminary Hill. Instantly a dozen rebel guns concentrated on this tempting target. The Maine gunners stayed where they were and blazed back, driving two opposing pieces to shelter behind a barn. But the Blue infantry was being overlapped and it was ordered to pull back. Shortly Hall found himself isolated on the ridge, with an enemy column charging in fast on his right flank. While his left section continued the artillery duel, he swung his right and center guns to meet the assault. Sixty yardscanister range. Four muzzles belched murderous charges into the attacking column. Broken, it reeled back but re-formed again, this time with skirmishers thrown out ahead. The men in gray and butternut brown raced forward, dropped prone, and began to pick off Maine cannoneers and horses. There was no stopping them. Canister, which had slaughtered massed men, swept between and above the skirmishers like a scythe over stubble. "Artillery against skirmishers," an infantry observer noted, "is like shooting mosquitoes with a rifle." (Downey, pps. 27-28)

While Hall's battery of Maine gunners was being devastated by rebel artillery and skirmishers; with shells exploding in and around the battery, bullets bouncing off the tubes of the guns, caissons exploding, horses pitching about and screaming as they were killed or wounded, bullets sending splinters flying from the wheels and carriage of the

guns, and men servicing the guns sustaining wounds rapidly; the remainder of the I Corps batteries were arriving on the field and being held in reserve near the Seminary. The fight had been hot and desperate and around noon there was a lull in the fighting as commanders on both sides reorganized their lines and reorganized their batteries and prepared for the final tragic confrontation that was to come around 1:00 or 1:30 in the afternoon. The artillery played another role often overlooked (but not by Hancock on day 3 of the battle), but equally important to the infantry-the psychological impact of the thunder of the guns while the foot troops were under enemy cannon fire!

"Certainly artillery was formidable both at long range and in the close infighting of this war from which gunners did not shrink. Cannon could plow bloody furrows through the ranks of foot troops with solid shot--could mow them down with bursting shell and shrapnel. Canister, tin cans containing iron or lead balls packed in sawdust, and the similar but less frequently used grapeshot were like 'the murderous blasts of a giant sawed-off shotgun.' In single, double, and even triple charges their frightful devastation at short range and point-blank anticipated that wrought by the latter-day machine gun. Napoleon's principle of massed artillery fire had been magnificently exemplified by Hunt's batteries on Malvern Hill and to some extent in other battles. Gettysburg would see it delivered by Alexander and Hunt again. But not until World War I would the artillery establish, and continue to maintain, its reputation as the greatest killer on the battlefield." (Downey, p. 30)

uring the afternoon struggle this first day of July, 1863, the batteries of the I Corps would carry out this devastating role with unparalleled courage and effect! Although the artillery would be forced from the field, when the Union position was overlapped and the XI Corps' line was broken by Early's Division virtually behind the Union lines they held on the right of the I Corps. Among the batteries on Seminary Ridge that afternoon was Battery B, 4th U.S. Artillery. This battery was very closely associated with the Iron Brigade and was commonly referred to as the Iron Brigade Battery.

THE HISTORY OF BATTERY B AND ITS ROLE WITH THE BLACK HATS

here is a list of coincidences that ties the Iron Brigade to the battery most closely associated with them during the war. General John Gibbon, a man who clearly forged a hell-bent-for-victory brigade from Western regiments from Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan, commanded the battery before turning his talents to commanding infantry troops. When filling the depleted ranks of the battery very early on he enlisted volunteers from Western regiments, including those who served with regiments that would become the Iron Brigade! Gibbon believed these men were the finest material for troops he had ever seen and he would remember that fact when he moved to command infantry troops.

John Gibbon, now leading a division in Hancock's II Corps, had taken command of the battery in 1861 when it rolled into Washington much depleted in strength after long service in the West. He had filled its ranks with men from Volunteer regiments, who offered themselves when he appealed for recruits for the battery that had defended the gorge at Buena Vista. In spite of the Volunteer belief that discipline in a regular outfit was strict and duty tough, he obtained 150 of the 'finest material for soldiers I ever saw.' To stimulate their pride Gibbon ordered six small national flags made and inscribed with the names of the states from which the volunteers came; they were fastened to the battery's pieces. Cannoneers were told the guns belonged to their states and that it was up to them to defend them.* Both they and he lived up to it. In the cornfield at Antietam, when the battery was losing men fast but doggedly holding its ground, Gibbobn, then a brigadier, had ridden up, vaulted from his saddle, and helped man an almost crewless gun, taking the place of both the gunner and Number 3. (Downey, p., 36)

Thus there were members of the Second Wisconsin serving in the battery as they worked together during the time leading up to the fight at Gettysburg. Battery B was there at Brawner's Farm when the Second Wisconsin, the Sixth Wisconsin, the Seventh Wisconsin and the Nineteenth Indiana went into battle together for the first time. In fact, except for the Second Wisconsin, it was the first taste of action for those regiments. Alan T. Nolan describes the fighting by the battery at Brawner's Farm:

The general [Gibbon] now reacted quickly. He dispatched a staff officer to the rear to bring up Battery B. In another instant the first of Balthis' [rebel battery] shells came screaming in and, according to the historian of the Sixth Wisconsin'd leading company, the soldiers made 'so polite a bow' as the shells passed over the heads of the column. The fire from Balthis' battery was at once duplicated by Wooding's guns firing from behind the Brawner farmhouse into Doubleday's and Patrick's brigades. While the Sixth Wisconsin took cover behind a slight embankment at the roadside, a result of the road's having been cut through an irregularity in the ground, Battery B came up the pike at a gallop. Eager hands tore down the turnpike fence and the guns passed into the field and were placed on the knoll from which Gibbon had first seen Balthis' guns. With shells bursting all about, Captain Campbell put his guns to work responding to Balthis, while Gibbon rode into the edge of the rectangular wood to the left and front of Battery B to observe the effect of its fire. (Nolan, p. 86)

Although Battery B, which had by now driven off Balthis' battery, continued to fire away at the Confederate line from its position to the right and rear of the Sixth, both of Gibbon's flanks were in the air and his 2,100 infantry faced 5,200

Southerners in the four Confederate brigades initially engaged. The longer Confederate front line overlapped both Federal flanks even before any Confederate reserves entered the fray. Gibbon's one battery was no match numerically for the Southern guns, but General Taliaferro later recalled the terrible effectiveness of Battery B. "The Federal artillery was admirably served, and at one time the annihilation of our batteries seemed inevitable, so destructive was the fire." Poague's, Wooding's, and Carpenter's batteries, outmatched and in trouble, were moved to the overlapping Confederate right to enfilade the Federal infantry. To these guns Major Pellham added two rifled cannons which fired into the Federals at a range of sixty yards. But the close proximity of the contending lines of riflemen now sharply limited the usefulness of the Confederate guns. (Nolan, p. 88)

The terrible odds facing Gibbon's men at the onset of the battle did not impress Stonewall Jackson. Shortly after the action commenced, doubtless expecting Gibbon to be supported, Jackson put in Colonel Tasliaferro's brigade to the right of Baylor's, extending the Confederates right flank and increasing their infantry engaged to 6,400 men. Two of Early's regiments were also directed to the Confederate right while the balance of Early's two brigades , his own and Hay's, were ordered forward. But here the railroad embankment, previously jackson's ally, turned to the Union's benefit.** Unable to pass over the embankment in their immediate front, Early's men moved to their right and were forced to break ranks and file through a narrow cut in the embankment. While the Confederates sought to re-form south of the embankment, Battery B, which had now advanced from its original position, found their range and poured on them what Early described as " a galling fire of shells and canister," killing and wounding thirtyfour of early's officers and men. Early was finally to succeed in forming his men to the left and rear of Trimble's Brigade, but the battle did not wait for these reinforcements, and they arrived too late to become engaged. A similar fate befell the men of A. P. Hill's Division. Archer's and Branch's brigades were ordered up behind Ewell's Division, where they withstood Battery B's cannonade without casualties and were withheld from the battle until too late. Branch's Eighteenth North Carolina and all of Gregg's Brigade were finally sent for late in the engagement, but arrived in line only after the firing had ceased. (Nolan, p. 89)

Battery B had done its work well under adverse circumstances, but there were many challenges to come for the men in the battery.

B attery B was regular army! It had a long pedigree reaching back to the American Revolution! It had a glorious tradition that it earned in combat. It was a reputation that would be burnished and enhanced during the War of the Rebellion.

Battery B, 4th U. S. Artillery, was also on the field, fulfilling its pledge to stand by fellow artillerymen from Pennsylvania--and Maine as well. One of the most famous batteries in the army, its regimental roots stretched back to the Revolution. Around the guidon of B, wrote its historian, 'twine the triple laurels of 1812, the Mexican War, and the Struggle for the Union.' On its record stood a feat of arms that ranks as one of the epics of the field artillery--its supremely gallant stand at the Battle of Buena Vista in Mexico. There, under heavy cannonading and volleys of musketry from charging enemy, Lieutenant John Paul Jones O'Brien without infantry support had fought the guns he called his 'Bulldogs,' bearing the brunt of Santa Anna's attack. Pressed back, he retreated but only the distance his pieces recoiled after each discharge, then blasted away again with double canister. Finally, with only two guns left in action and all the horses killed, the battery fired a last round into assailants only yards from the muzzles. The wounded O'Brien and his few surviving gunners limped to the rear. They lost their guns but saved the day by holding off the foe till Bragg's Battery galloped to the rescue, and American infantry rallied. (Downey, pps. 35-36)

s Battery B came east to join the fight to put down the rebellion it was commanded by John Gibbon. Ever mindful of the heritage of the battery Gibbon would encourage a spirit of brotherhood among the regulars and volunteers who manned that battery! The editor feels safe to suggest there was a great deal of satisfaction in the breast of Gibbon when the battery was attached to the infantry brigade he commanded beginning in May, 1862.

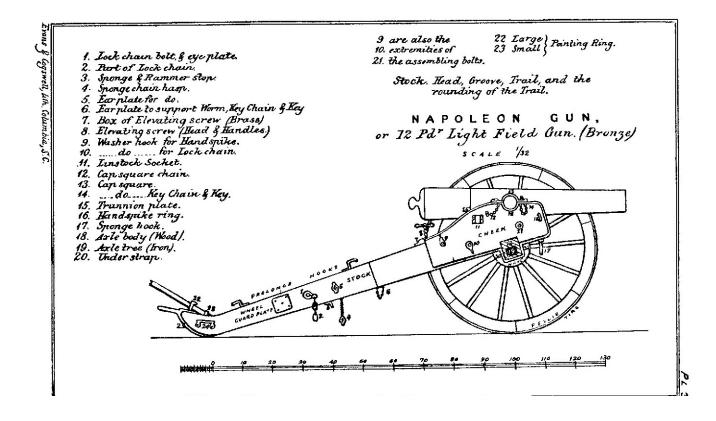
> "John Gibbon, now leading a division in Hancock's II Corps, had taken command of the battery in 1861 when it rolled into Washington much depleted in strength after long service in the West. He had filled its ranks with men from Volunteer regiments, who offered themselves when he appealed for recruits for the battery that had defended the gorge at Buena Vista. In spite of the Volunteer belief that discipline in a regular outfit was strict and duty tough, he obtained 150 of the 'finest material for soldiers I ever saw.' To stimulate their pride Gibbon ordered six small national flags made and inscribed with the names of the states from which the volunteers came; they were fastened to the battery's pieces. Cannoneers were told the guns belonged to their states and that it was up to them to defend them. Both they and he lived up to it. In the cornfield at Antietam, when the battery was losing men fast but doggedly holding its ground, Gibbon, then a brigadier, had ridden up, vaulted from his saddle, and helped man an almost crewless gun, taking the place of both the gunner and Number 3." (Downey, p. 36)

t Gettysburg, the battery was commanded by Captain James Stewart, a Sergeant who had risen through the ranks and was a commissioned officer as the battery moved towards Gettysburg.

B was armed with bronze 12-pounder, smoothbore, muzzle-loading Napoleons, the gun howitzer developed in the reign of the French emperor, Napoleon III, and named for him. The U.S. 1857 model became the foremost fieldpiece of the Civil War. While it could throw a projectile 1610 yards, it of course lacked the accuracy of rifled guns. Ordinarily it was used at short ranges, with canister a favorite charge. To man Napoleons was a test of a battery's mettle. It often meant handto-hand combat, with enemy charging the guns, overrunning them, and battling to capture them. For close defense B, like other units, had been issued sabers. Average artillerymen soon discarded those cumbersome, useless weapons dangling from their belts. In the early days of the war the route of a battery's march was marked by sabers stuck in the mud for Ordnance to pick up and pass on to the cavalry if it wanted them, which it usually did not, preferring its own issue with less blade curve and better hand guard. B's were carried in its battery wagon, Stewart being an old regular with strong respect for property accountability; he did not intend to have an inspector report them missing and find them as debits on his pay roll. Officers and noncoms continued to carry sabers, more as badges of authority than anything else; Stewart, according to regulations, flourished his for signaling orders. The revolver was the ideal artillery small arm, but few were supplied the rank and file and those mostly to horse artillery. In default of anything better artillerymen wielded handspikes and rammer staffs, threw stones or used their fists, when they struggled with the enemy in their gun positions. (Downey, p. 37)

Thus Battery B was a very good artillery unit as it rolled onto Seminary Ridge that morning and it was officered by good men. The gunners who serviced the pieces were well prepared, determined and proud. Their time had come and they were indeed ready to answer the call. As the day progressed, it was the stand of Battery B and other artillery units that saved much of the I Corps as their lines collapsed west of Gettysburg.

Stewart's battery was to come close to that eventuality this noon as it took positions, three guns to the right of the railroad cut under 'The Old Man,' three to the left under Lieutenant James Davison, sited to sweep the Chambersburg Pike. The day was growing hotter. Cannoneers, many no more than nineteen years old, and not a few even younger, stripped off jackets and rolled up sleeves, watching the panorama of the conflict to their front. The weight of the enemy's attack was commencing to overpower the Blue infantry. Other I Corps batteries to the fore were limbering and falling back. B, sighting tips of color staffs coming up over a little ridge, then the point of bayonets, and finally the Rebels themselves, knew its turn had come. Davison shouted sharp orders: 'Load--canister--double!' Rammer heads thumped, and section chiefs reported ready. The lieutenant's command was instant. "Ready--by piece--fire!" (Downey, pps. 37-39)



*This would be similar to the approach that Gibbon's determination to have his brigade wear the frock coat, gaiters and the black Hardee hat. It marked them as a special group of volunteers and created unit pride, what today would be called *esprit de corps*.

** A railroad cut on the ridge occupied by Jackson had worked to conceal his troops from Gibbon's view as he assessed the situation when his brigade on the Warrenton Turnpike came under fire from cannons. It also served as a defensive trench early on shielding the brigades not engaged from the fire of the Federals.

Downey, Fairfax. The Guns At Gettysburg, David McKay Comp., Inc.: New York, N.Y., (1958)

Nolan, Alan T. The Iron Brigade A Military History, Indiana University Press: Bloominton,

THE FOLLOWING IS THE INFORMATION FOR THE SECOND WISCONSIN SCHOLARSHIP AND APPLICATION. BE AWARE OF THE DEADLINE FOR FILING AN APPLICATION.

2007-2008

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association Inc.

The world... can never forget what they did here" A. Lincoln, Nov. 19, 1863, Gettysburg

The 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry (WVI) Association began with the purpose of preserving

America's Civil War heritage through reenacting and performing "living history". We now also

further that purpose by offering a scholarship to family members.

Background

The 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry (WVI) Association began with a handful of members in 1960 dedicated to the purpose of preserving American Civil War heritage through reenacting and performing "living history". In 1990, the Unit was reestablished as a result of a general rekindling of interest in the Civil War. Through the use of authentic-styled uniforms and equipment, along with drills, battles, and camp life portrayals, we believe the general public might become more accurately aware and ponder what life might have been like for the average Northern soldier during America's greatest trial. Further, and with great pride, the Unit attempts to depict and honor one of the greatest Union regiments to take to the field, The 2nd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment. With the 6th and 7th Wisconsin, the 19th Indiana, and later the 24th Michigan, they eventually became known as the famous "Iron Brigade" with their infamous "Black Hats". The original men have long since concluded their Rendezvous with Destiny in such places as Bull's Run Creek, Fredericksburg, the "Cornfield" at Antietam and "McPherson Wood" at Gettysburg.

The Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association Inc., in recognition of the importance of keeping this history alive in modern times, is proud to offer one \$500 college scholarship to relatives of Association members.

Timeline

Closing date for submission of the application is Wednesday May 30, 2008. If you are the recipient of this scholarship, you will be notified by mail by Saturday June 30, 2008.

Eligibility

All of the following conditions must be met for consideration as a recipient of the 2006-2007 Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association Inc. Scholarship:

- 1. You must be enrolled/accepted in an accredited College or University.
- 2. You must list your intended field of study.
- 3. You must be a member, or be related to a member in good standing of the Second Wisconsin Association Civil War Reenactors. (Member, Child, Spouse, Grandchild, Niece, Nephew, Sibling)
- 4. Attach a complete transcript of your grades (including cumulative Grade point average).
- 5. Attach a listing of your non-academic activities (extra curricular, volunteer/community work, club memberships with offices held etc.).
- 6. Attach a separate sheet, containing a short essay (500 words or less) on the following topic. "How do the events or idea of the Civil War continue to affect the United States of today?"

Once awarded, the funds can be used for tuition books and fees at the college or University you are attending. The scholarship check will be made payable to you and your school.

Award Criteria

All applications will be evaluated on meeting the above requirements. The Second Wisconsin Association Scholarship Committee will make the selection of the scholarship winner. All decisions made by this committee are final.

Financial need is not a relevant consideration in this award.

The following is the legislation adopted by the U.S. Congress to establish the structure of state commissions to engage in creating Civil War Sesquicentennial commemorations. This is something that units or the entire Association might be interested in as grant money should be available for special commemorations in the coming years. The expected kick off for this celebration is 2009.

109th CONGRESS 1st Session

1. H. R. 687

To establish a commission to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 9, 2005

Mr. BAKER (for himself, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. GOODE, Mr. FORBES, Mr. MELANCON, and Mr. WOLF) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To establish a commission to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act'.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) Findings- Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The American Civil War was a defining experience in the development of the United States.

(2) The people of the United States continue to struggle with issues of race, civil rights, the politics of federalism, and heritage which are legacies of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

(3) There is a resurgence of interest in the Civil War that is evidenced by the multitude of publications, exhibits, reenactments, research organizations, Internet and multimedia resources, historic parks, and preservation associations focused on the Civil War.

(4) The years 2011 through 2015 mark the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

(5) The sesquicentennial of the Civil War presents a significant opportunity for Americans to recall and reflect upon the Civil War and its legacy in a spirit of reconciliation and reflection.

(6) The United States Civil War Center at Louisiana State University, Louisiana, and the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania, have been designated by the Federal Government to plan and facilitate the commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

(7) The State of Virginia--

(A) witnessed more Civil War military engagements on its soil than any other State;

(B) hosts more historic sites related to the Civil War than any other State; and

(C) is home to the Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier and the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, both of which are nationally recognized centers of expertise in the study of the Civil War.

(8) The African American Civil War Museum located in Washington, D.C., is the only museum in the Nation dedicated to the study and understanding of the role of African Americans in the Civil War.

(b) Purpose- The purpose of this Act is to establish a Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Commission to--

(1) ensure a suitable national observance of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War;

(2) cooperate with and assist States and national organizations with programs and activities for the observance of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War;

(3) assist in ensuring that any observance of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War is inclusive and appropriately recognizes the experiences and points of view of all people affected by the Civil War; and

(4) provide assistance for the development of programs, projects, and activities on the Civil War that have lasting educational value.

SEC. 3. CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION COMMISSION.

The Secretary of the Interior shall establish a commission to be known as the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Commission (hereafter in this Act referred to as the `Commission').

SEC. 4. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) In General- The Commission shall be composed of 25 members as follows:

(1) GOVERNMENT MEMBERS- The Commission shall include--

(A) 2 Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(B) 2 Members of the Senate appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, in consultation with the majority leader and the minority leader of the Senate;

(C) the Secretary of the Interior or the designee of the Secretary;

(D) the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, or the designee of the Secretary;

(E) the Secretary of the Department of Education, or the designee of the Secretary;

(F) the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, or the designee of the Chairman;

(G) the Archivist of the United States, or the designee of the Archivist;

(H) the Librarian of Congress, or the designee of the Librarian; and

(I) the Director of the National Park Service, or the designee of the Director.

(2) PRIVATE MEMBERS- The Commission shall include--

(A) 5 members appointed by the President from among individuals who are representative of the corporate community; and

(B) 9 individuals, appointed by the President, from among persons who by reason of education, training, and experience, are experts on the Antebellum, Civil War, and Reconstruction eras, including--

(i) 6 individuals with expertise in history;

(ii) 1 individual with specific expertise in art history, historic preservation, or a related field;

(iii) 1 individual with expertise in anthropology, cultural geography, sociology, or a related field; and

(iv) 1 individual with expertise in political science, law, economics, or a related field.

(b) Terms- Members shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(c) Vacancies- Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, and shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(d) Initial Appointments- The appointment of the members of the Commission shall be made not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) Meetings-

(1) INITIAL MEETING- Not later than 60 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the members appointed under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 4(a)(2) shall call the first meeting of the Commission.

(2) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS- The Commission shall hold subsequent meetings at the call of the chairperson.

(b) Chairperson and Vice Chairperson- At the initial meeting, the Commission shall elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among its voting members.

(c) Quorum- A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold meetings.

(d) Voting-

(1) IN GENERAL- The Commission shall act only on an affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members of the Commission.

(2) NONVOTING MEMBERS- The individuals appointed under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 4(a)(1) shall be nonvoting members, and shall serve only in an advisory capacity.

SEC. 6. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) Activities Related to the Sesquicentennial- The Commission shall--

(1) plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War;

(2) encourage interdisciplinary examination of the Civil War;

(3) facilitate Civil War-related activities throughout the United States;

(4) encourage civic, historical, educational, economic, and other organizations throughout the United States to organize and participate in activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the Civil War;

(5) coordinate and facilitate the public distribution of scholarly research, publications, and interpretations of the Civil War;

(6) provide technical assistance to States, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War;

(7) develop programs and facilities to ensure that the sesquicentennial commemoration of the Civil War results in a positive legacy and long-term public benefit; and

(8) encourage the development and conduct of programs designed to involve the international community in activities that commemorate the Civil War.

(b) Plans and Report-

(1) STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS- The Commission shall prepare a strategic plan in accordance with section 306 of title 5, United States Code, and annual performance plans in accordance with section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, for the activities of the Commission carried out under this Act.

(2) REPORTS-

(A) ANNUAL REPORT- The Commission shall submit to Congress an annual report that contains a list of each gift, bequest, or devise with a value of more than \$250, together with the identity of the donor of each such gift, bequest, or devise.

(B) FINAL REPORT- Not later than December 30, 2015, the Commission shall submit to Congress a final report that contains--

(i) a summary of activities of the Commission;

(ii) a final accounting of funds received and expended by the Commission; and

(iii) the findings and recommendations of the Commission.

SEC. 7. GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) Grants Authorized- The National Endowment for the Humanities shall award grants under this section for the uses described in subsection (b).

(b) Use of Grants- Grants awarded under this section shall be used for appropriate activities relating to the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

(c) Consideration- In awarding grants under this section, the National Endowment of the Humanities shall consider established university, museum, or academic programs with national scope that sponsor multidisciplinary projects, including those that concentrate on the role of African Americans in the Civil War.

SEC. 8. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) In General- The Commission may--

(1) solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of money or other real or personal property for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Commission;

(2) appoint any advisory committee as the Commission considers appropriate for the purposes of this Act;

(3) authorize any voting member or employee of the Commission to take any action that the Commission is authorized to take under this Act;

(4) procure supplies, services, and property, and make or enter into contracts, leases, or other legal agreements to carry out this Act (except that any contracts, leases, or other legal agreements entered into by the Commission shall not extend beyond the date of the termination of the Commission); and

(5) use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other Federal agencies.

SEC. 9. PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) Compensation of Members- Members of the Commission, and members of any advisory committee appointed under section 8(a)(2), shall serve without compensation.

(b) Travel Expenses- Members of the Commission, and members of any advisory committees appointed under section 8(a)(2), shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of

subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(c) Staff-

(1) IN GENERAL- The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to civil service laws (including regulations), appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(2) CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR- The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(3) COMPENSATION-

(A) IN GENERAL- Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

(B) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY- The rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel shall not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) Detail of Government Employees-

(1) IN GENERAL- At the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may detail, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out the duties of the Commission under this Act.

(2) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS- The detail of an employee under paragraph (1) shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(e) Volunteer and Uncompensated Services- Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines necessary.

(f) Support Services- The Director of the National Park Service shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, such administrative support services as the Commission may request.

(g) Procurement of Temporary and Intermittent Services- The Chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at daily rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(h) FACA Nonapplicability- Section 14(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Commission.

(i) Termination- The Commission shall terminate on the date that is 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits its report under section 6(b)(2).

SEC. 10. AUDIT OF COMMISSION.

The Inspector General of the Department of the Interior shall perform an annual audit of the Commission and shall make the results of the audit available to the public.

SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) In General- There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act (other than section 7) \$200,000 for each of the fiscal years 2005 through 2016.

(b) GRANTS- There is authorized to be appropriated \$3,500,000 to the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide grants under section 7, to remain available until expended.





The West Side SoldiersHid

Society presents:

The 2008 Reclaiming Our Heritage Quilt Raffle

FREEDOM'S LADDERS

Size: Double/Full Tickets: \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Drawing is June 1, 2008, 3 p.m., Raffle Tent, National Soldiers Home Historic District, Milwaukee You need not be present to win. Please make checks payable to the Soldiers Home Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 139 - 5000 W. National Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53295 Raffle proceeds support the mission and activities of the Soldiers Home Foundation, Inc., including restoration of the 1889 Chapel. The Soldiers Home Foundation, Inc., is a non-governmental 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Raffle License No. R0022833A-02477 For presales, contact Patricia Lynch at 414-427-3776 or pplynch@starmax.com. Detail of Freedom's Ladder Quilt Check www.rohmilwaukee.org in May to see the entire quilt top.

If anyone would like to buy a ticket or 6, please mail a check to Patricia Lynch at the address above. The money goes for a great purpose and you are in the running for a unique item handcrafted and well worth the ivestment!!

2007-2008 Scholarship Application

1ddress:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Phone:		
Email:		
academic year _	Intended field of stu	
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o Application Page o Copy of your Grade/GPA Transcript o List of Volunteer/extra curricular activities o Essay (500 words or less). - How do the events or idea of the Civil War continue to affect the United States of today?

Mail to:

2nd Wisconsin Association 2007-2008 Scholarship Selection Committee Attention: Dave Dresang—Association Secretary 2890 Monroe Rd. De Pere, WI 54115 The application deadline to be considered for the 2007/2008 Scholarship is May 30, 2008.