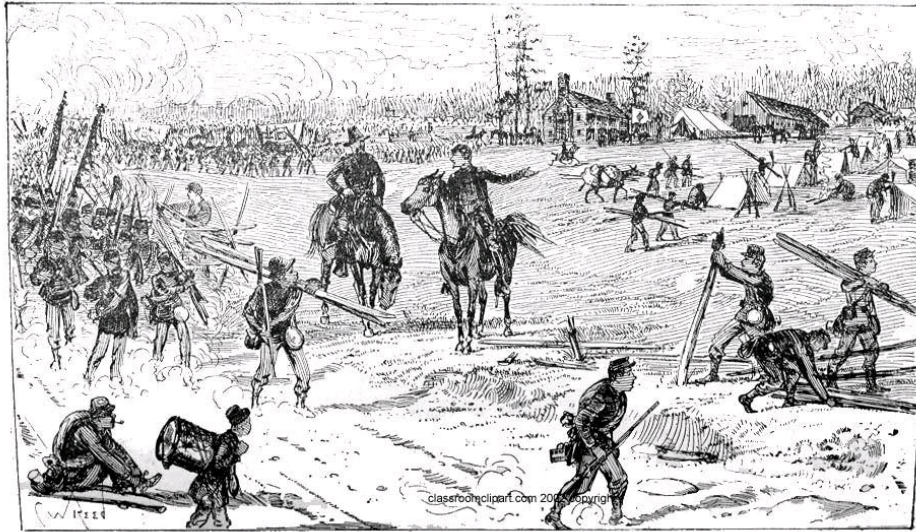


# THE FUGELMAN



## Newsletter of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association

Volume 17

Issue 1

January, 2008

### THE VIEW FROM THE RANKS

#### PASS IN REVIEW

Here we are in winter camp and we are looking forward into 2008 and what it will bring. But as historians we tend to look back. And in so doing, I would like to take this time to thank everyone for the work that they have done this past year to bring the history of the American Civil War to the

forefront.

There is a certain amount of pride that I have when I speak at a school presentation about Wisconsin soldiers and their contribution in the War Between the States. Before my last talk, I took a short stroll through the local cemetery. The veterans' graves were easy to locate as the

flags were still in place from Memorial Day observance. In the older portion of the cemetery I found the graves of the members of the Grand Army of the Republic. They were weather worn and had stood solemn vigilance through the years. Of course there were many men from the various regiments, but one regiment seemed more prevalent and in particular of one company of that regiment... Company I of the 6<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin, an Iron Brigade regiment. I took this new found information to the classroom and discussed the importance of the 6<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin at a then little known town of Gettysburg Pennsylvania, men from their hometown and the importance of their action on July 1, 1863.

That same week of my presentation a young Marine who was on furlough was visiting his old high school. As he was leaving, all I could think of was the future and how this young man would contribute to it.

As we prepare for our 2008 campaign and tell again the story of the American soldier, let us take special care in our interpretation... the future depends on it.

Your Obedient Servant,  
Lt. Col. P. D. Seielstad  
Second Wisconsin Vol. Inf.  
Association

## **SECOND WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING SET**

The Second Wisconsin's annual meeting has been scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The meeting will be held in the same location as last year, the American Legion Hall in Fox Lake, Wisconsin. The address of the Hall is 210 E. State Street, Fox Lake. The meeting is scheduled to commence at 10:00 A.M.

Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend this meeting as we lay plans for the 2008 campaigns.

## **GETTYSBURG REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Bill Acheson, our comrade from Company C, has been the primary organizer of the Gettysburg Remembrance Day commemoration during the last 4 years the editor has attended the event. He always does a remarkable job and we owe him a deep debt of gratitude. Without his dedication to the memory of the fellas who formed the original Second Wisconsin their sacrifice would be forgotten! Last year Al Ferranto pointed out that the men from Wisconsin interred at Gettysburg were never to return to their home state to rest for all time.

**OFFICIAL  
MINUTES OF THE  
2ND WISCONSIN  
MEETING AT OLD  
WADE HOUSE**

**The following minutes were prepared by our secretary, Dave Dresang. The minutes that appeared in the November newsletter were taken down by the Fugelman's Editor at that meeting, but they weren't the official minutes for the Association.**

Minutes of Special Association Meeting

1. September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Wade House (Greenbush) WI

4:45pm

Presiding: Pete Seielstad

Motion made to have Scott Sonntag to chair the meeting

Motion made by Pete Seielstad

Special visitor Craig DeCrane (sp?) of the BHB

2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry West

Motion passed

Scott Sonntag chairs meeting

Issues

National Event 2008 for the Association

Fugelman, what needs to be done?

Organizational structure

1<sup>st</sup> issue

National event for the Association for 2008

2 events brought up

Both dealing with the 145<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg anniversary

1<sup>st</sup> event, smaller event (about 4,000 reenactors) last weekend in June, the main focus of the event will be the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Gettysburg and the capture of Confederate General Archer.

2<sup>nd</sup> event is being called a MEGA-event (around 16,000 reenactors) it will take place outside of Gettysburg and held the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in July.

The floor was then opened for a general discussion

Plans from most companies have already decided upon the MEGA event, K has already secured a bus, and John Dudkiewicz has begun securing registration and a host unit it fall in with.

Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of both events.

Motion made that the Association support the MEGA-Event

Motion made by Doug Rasmussen

2<sup>nd</sup> by Craig Seizer

Motion passed, the 2008 National event for the Association will be the 145<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg mega-event in July

Craig DeCrane would report back to the BHB that the Association will support the MEGA event, and he will ask the rest of the BHB to support the event too. (It sounded like a formality; Craig stated

that the 2<sup>nd</sup> made up half of the BHB)  
Craig also praised the 2<sup>nd</sup> for the  
handling of the meeting.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> issue

The future of the Association newsletter  
“The Fugelman”

Jim Johnson was contacted in January by  
Scott Sonntag about his involvement  
with the newsletter; Jim finally answered  
Scott in June that he would no longer  
continue being the editor of the  
Fugleman.

Co E used their own newsletter as  
substitute until the Fugelman got up and  
running again.

Website was brought up; Scott reminded  
everyone that the website is owned by  
Jim and Sue Johnson.

Other avenues on how to send-out the  
newsletter, to save on postage and paper  
cost.

Scott pointed out that the Association is  
not required to have a newsletter, that  
the association has completed other  
requirements (non-profit) to keep the  
charter, but a historical/educational  
organization should have a newsletter to  
keep the membership informed.

A survey (put together by Gary Van  
Kauwenbergh) was passed out and  
discussed.

Discussion ensued about whether or not  
the Association should continue to have  
a newsletter, and if so, how and who  
would be responsible for it.

General consensus was to keep the  
newsletter going.

Jim Dumke (Co. K) willing to take over  
the Fugelman.

Motion made to keep the Fugelman

Motion made by Andrew Seymour

2<sup>nd</sup> by Robert Schwandt

The Fugelman’s new editor will be Jim  
Dumke (review will be done after the  
2008 season to see if it was successful)

The newsletter will be sent out  
electronically to one member of each  
company, that person then will be  
responsible to send it out to that  
Companies membership, by either  
electronically or hardcopy.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> issue

The organization of the Association was  
brought up.

Scott pointed out that the 4 civilian  
positions (President, Vice President,  
Treasurer and Secretary) have no power  
in the Association.

The handbook does not even mention the  
responsibilities of these positions.

The military structure has the power to  
act on the behalf of the Association.  
(Scott used the example of him having to  
voted in to chair the meeting, because his  
position has no power without that vote)

The Lt. Colonel (Pete Seielstad) of the  
Association has all the power to act and  
make decisions

Along with the 2 Major positions

Major of Infantry (Doug Rasmussen)

Major of Artillery (Terry Brown)



Courtesy of Center for Civil War Photography

No other issues were brought up  
 Motion made to adjourn  
 Motion made by John Dudkiewicz  
 2<sup>nd</sup> by everyone  
 Meeting adjourned 5:25 pm

### **INFORMATION ON STEREOSCOPIC PHOTOS OFFERED FOR SALE**

Corporal Grover sent the newsletter the following information for those who might be interested in stereo views of some of the events attended by various members of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association.

A purveyor of stereo photos of the type used in the mid-19th century has copies for sale to interested folks. The photos are replicas of the way they were produced during the Civil War and are in Sepia Tone. They come bundled in packs of 5 for \$5.00 plus 50 cents per packet for mailing. The following packets come from the Wade House, 2007:

No 100 The Union Camp

1. 1. Entrance to the camp and Provost Marshall
2. Along the Company Street
3. Morning formation at parade rest - waiting for orders
4. Marching with Old Abe the War Eagle



## 5. Evening Dress Parade

### No 200 Light Artillery in the Field

1. Firing by the right battery
2. Firing by the left battery
3. The Firing command is given by hand signal
4. The Lanyard is jerked quickly to ignite the primer
5. The Battery at rest after their work is done

### No 300 The Chain of Command

1. The President reads the Daily Reports from the field
2. General Grant is given the order to move forward
3. Field Generals signal orders to the front
4. The reserve company is given its marching orders
5. The men on the front line are told "take that hill."

### No. 400 The Battle (pictures from Boscobel)

1. The Battle line
2. Deployed as skirmishers
3. In the Reb Flank
4. The Union battle line and a surgeon waits
5. Defending the colors - the officers undertaker watches

I also have a packet of Rebs (some at Greenbush) and one of The Correspondent (taken at another site)

They are all good pictures, some are awesome stereo. Money back if you don't like them. If you don't have a viewer, I also have plastic viewing glasses for \$5.00.

The gentleman who offers these items for sale is Mr. Robert Taunt and he can be reached at N2325 Willow Way West, LaCrosse, Wisconsin 54601 or at

[rtaunt@yahoo.com](mailto:rtaunt@yahoo.com)

## NOTICE FROM WADE HOUSE ORGANIZER

Happy New Year!

I hope you all enjoyed happy holidays. Believe it or not it's time to start thinking about the Wade House Civil War School Day for 2008. This year's date will be September 26. Last year we hosted 700 people. This year I know will be asked to host more. I would like to ask for your help in how we can host more students. Last year we had scheduled stations of 15 minutes each. Should we stay with that or maybe open it up to touring on your own with presentations still at 15 minutes. I did a school day in Platteville where groups came through at the own pace but the were assigned an arrival time. I did a similar type of day at Apple River Fort. Another thought might be to have large group presentations and stations at the same time and then have the groups flip flop (if that makes any sense). One comment I did get from many of the students was that they wished they could have gone to all the stations.

I know that may never be possible but we may be able to accommodate a few more. I've rambled on enough. I would really like to hear what you think. No idea is to outlandish. Thank you so much for your willingness to help with this exciting program. If you would like to be removed from this list please let me know. If you know of others who would like to be included please send along their name and contact information.

Betsy Urven

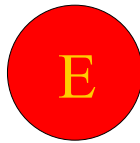
Lead Interpreter  
Wade House Historic Site  
1.

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## COMPANY DISPATCHES FROM HEADQUARTERS



### ***Company E of the Second Wisconsin***

*Cordially invites you to attend our annual Sweethearts'*

*Dinner on Saturday February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008*

*Holiday Inn City Center Green Bay, WI.*

***Cost for the event is \$18.00 per person***

*Includes a buffet dinner of Chicken and tenderloin tips, vegetable, rolls potatoes, garden salad, dessert and coffee. Cocktails will be at 5:30 PM with dinner being served at 6:30. Cash bar will be available in the banquet room. Music by Twin Hill String Band will follow from 8-11 P.M.*

*For anyone wishing to stay overnight we do have a block of rooms reserved at the rate of \$80 per room. Rooms will be held until 3 weeks before the event. When calling to reserve a room let them know you're with the Civil War Group. The Phone Number for reservations is 1-800-457-2929. The Holiday Inn's pool is open 24 hours for your enjoyment.*

*To make for easier accounting, payment must be received in advance for this year's dinner. Please reserve your spot for the dinner by February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 by sending a check payable to: Co. E 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin. Checks should be mailed to: Dave Sielski  
2316 Serenade Ln.  
Green Bay, Wi. 54301*

Please contact Dave at (920) 433-9716 or [dsielski@greenbay.gannett.com](mailto:dsielski@greenbay.gannett.com) with any questions you may have about the dinner.

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***The Fugelman*** has received the following from our comrades in Company E. We extend our heartiest congratulations to these men. It speaks well of their dedication to their company and men that they are willing to step up and assume positions of leadership! Much luck and success to all of you in the months and years ahead!

Co.E held its annual meeting and elections in December, the results are as follows:

Civilian Leadership

President- Dave Sielski

Treasurer – Marv Kostka

Secretary- Charles Bagneski

Military Leadership

Captain- Doug Rasmussen

1<sup>st</sup> LT – Dave Dresang

2<sup>nd</sup> LT – Marv Kostka

1<sup>st</sup> SGT- Steve Peterson

2<sup>nd</sup> SGT- Ed Golemme

CPL – Charles Bagneski

CPL – Scott Boesel

CPL- Robert Schwandt

CPL – Craig Seizer

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The following dispatch was prepared by Captain Mickelson of Company K. This is both important information for those who plan to take the bus to the Gettysburg National Event, but also TIME SENSITIVE as well. Please read carefully and make sure you comply with the requirements. On behalf of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association we extend our sincerest gratitude to Captain Mickelson and John Dudkiewicz and Jim Johnston for their efforts on our behalf.

***LATEST 2008 GETTYSBURG TRIP INFORMATION***

**John Dudkiewicz tells me he has:** completed the Initial 2nd Wisconsin Association Registration for Gettysburg 2008. We have registered 72 military and 14 civilians from CO E, CO K, CO H, CO B, 2nd Platoon B, and one from Battery B. We are registered as 2nd Wisconsin Association Infantry, Cumberland Guard/Black Hat



Battalion.

Ok read below carefully, new info has been added.

We are going to have 2 payment deadlines of 50% each for your trip cost.

\*\*\*\*\*Payment Deadlines: are March 3, 2008 & May 1, 2008\*\*\*\*\*

Send your checks made out to: Co. K, 2nd Wisconsin, to the Co K Treasurer, Jim Johnston, 4910 Odana Rd, Madison, WI 53711. **NO REFUNDS**. I and Co K don't have the money to issue a refund for whatever reason, and I'm not going to hit up your pards to pay more due to a cancellation.

Total Trip cost includes: one night in a motel, bus rental, Gettysburg Battlefield Tour Guide, Tip for Guide, Tips for 2 bus drivers, ice, soda & beer on return trip, and Thursday dinner in Gettysburg at General Pickett's Buffet. **IF YOU DON'T WANT TO PAY \$12.15 FOR THE General Pickett Buffet YOU MUST LET ME KNOW BY MARCH 3, 2008. YOU WILL THEN BE ON YOUR OWN FOR DINNER.** The current menu includes a soup & salad bar with 3 homemade soups, salads, Amish Macaroni Salad, Dutch Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, fresh fruit, Jell-O. The dinner buffet includes Carved Top Round of Roast Beef, Carved Virginia Ham, BBQ Pork Spare Ribs, Southern Fried Tilapia, Alaskan Pollock, Baked Chicken, Rice, Pastas, Potatoes & Veggies. They also have a dessert table with fresh pies, cakes and brownies. You can pay cash for any adult beverages.

To figure your Total Trip Cost use the info below.

If you know who you want to room with, let Jim Johnston know that when you send in your check; otherwise we'll pick a roomie for you....

MOTEL COST ONE NIGHT----- SUNDAY JULY 6:  
Ramada Inn, Breezewood PA. INCLUDES FREE HOT  
BUFFET BREAKFAST!

Single \$60.00

Double \$ 32.50 per person

Triple \$ 23.50 per person

Quad \$ 19.00 per person

TOTAL TRIP Cost (bus & motel) - COST CALCULATION  
EXAMPLE :

Co. B, K, & Batt B People: IF YOU WANT A 4 MAN ROOM  
(\$19.00) + BUS \$165.29 + \$12.15 General Pickett's Buffet =

\$196.44/person.

Co. E People: IF YOU WANT A 4 MAN ROOM (\$19.00) + \$15.93 (Green Bay pickup surcharge) + Bus \$165.29 + General Pickett's Buffet \$12.15 = \$212.37/person. [NOTE: Dave Sielski says the Co. E kitty will pay the Green Bay pickup surcharge].

WE HAVE DISCOVERY COACH'S BIGGEST BUS, A 56 PASSENGER! We have 60 bus riders at this point. IF we end up with more than 56 riders, the first 56 that pay, get a bus seat. Any above 56 go on a waiting list or into another vehicle. I do expect that we will have cancellations (we already have) especially when we have to start making the payments.

Wednesday, July 2 evening, bus picks up Co. E guys & gals in Green Bay (we're expecting about 26 at Green Bay, this saves them sending 8-10 cars to Sheboygan).

One person pick up in Fond du Lac now.

Wednesday July 2 evening...later on, bus departs from Madison. Everyone sleeps on bus (the seats do recline some).

Thursday, July 3 breakfast along the way somewhere.

Thursday, July 3 arrive Gettysburg Battlefield appx 10:00 am.

Thursday, July 3 tour with Battlefield Tour Guide at 11:00am (2 hour tour), and tour new National Park Visitor Center (Cyclorama is closed).

Thursday, July 3 dinner in Gettysburg at General Pickett's Buffet at 4pm. The cost per person is \$12.15 inclusive. I will need a final count for dinner by March 3. Discovery Tours will send in the payment for this since it must be paid by 1 check in order for us to get the group rate

There is a 22 minute film at the Visitor Center, there is a charge for this.

Thursday, July 3 arrive at the event around 7:30 PM.

WEBSITE: Shortcut to:

<http://www.gettysburgreenactment.com/index.htm>

As always if you've gotta a question, you gotta ask it.

Craig Mickelson, Capt.  
President, Co K

SKIRMISH



TEAM

The following information was provided to the newsletter by Gary Van Kauwenbergh. The editor did go to the website for the Wisconsin Historical Society and greatly enjoyed the photos from Camp Randall and the photos of the men and officers of the Second Wisconsin. There was a flag from the Iron Brigade at the site found by entering "Iron Brigade" in the search field. The editor had never seen that particular flag. It was very impressive. Thank you Gary for the information!

2008 Events for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Skirmish Team

Feb 9 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Annual Meeting

1 p.m. in Johnson Creek, WI

May 3-4 66th NC skirmish @ Appleton

June 14 2 WI skirmish @ Bristol, one-day, Carbine & Musket Team ONLY

July 12-13 56th VA @ Stonebank

August 2-3 1 USSS, 15 WI & 8 WI @ Boscobel

Aug 30- 8 & 2 WI @ Rhinelander

Sept 1

Sept 20-21 15<sup>th</sup> WI @ Bristol

**Interesting Web Sites**

Wisconsin Historical Society Images on line: <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/whi/>

Their images are now searchable. E.g., try "Iron Brigade", or "Camp Randall"

2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Skirmish Team's web page: [http://www.acwsa.org/2nd\\_wisconsin.htm](http://www.acwsa.org/2nd_wisconsin.htm).

Check out the ACWSA home page too at <http://www.acwsa.org>

North-South Skirmish Association Video on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtpI0zcaEjA>

Print out your own targets at home:

<http://www.hwsportsman.net/CompTargets.html>

<http://shooting-targets.net/free-shooting-targets.html>



## REGIMENTAL DISPATCHES



### **DUES**

Dear Association members:

With the New Year just a few days old, it is time to start thinking about this upcoming reenacting season. It should be another great time, most companies had a very FULL schedule, and a lot of good work was done.

Now, it also that time of year to make plans on paying your dues, as Association Secretary, I will try to clear up any confusion there might be on this subject.

Dues are to be paid to your respective Company no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>, the dues for full membership are:

\$20.00

For those families that have multiple Association members living at the same address

Each additional member pays

\$8.00 (this is to cover the cost of the insurance)

Break down for dues are as follows:

\$8.00 insurance (a must for anyone that takes the field)

\$12.00 website and Newsletter (self explanatory)

Dues are to be paid to your respective companies. Each company will be responsible for your own membership, it is a great help to myself and Scott Frank if each company sends in one check along with the following information.

Name\* (must have)

Address\* (must have)

Amount paid for each person\* (must have)

E-mail address (optional)

Phone number (optional)

If I do not receive dues by April 1<sup>st</sup>, that person (from last year's roster) will be dropped; there will no longer be any exceptions to this!

If (company) has problems getting the dues to me by the designated time, I must be contacted with the reason for the delay.

My address is;

David Dresang  
2890 Monroe Rd  
De Pere WI 54115  
[ddresang@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ddresang@sbcglobal.net)

If you have ANY questions regarding this, please, either the Company President or Company Secretary Contact me, and I will try to answer them regarding this matter.

Do not send me any names of persons that you feel will pay past the deadline, I only want those that will actually pay, I will then check the amount that is sent to me against the names sent, in the past, and we have more members than dues paid.

Thank you for your time in this matter, and I look forward to seeing you on the battlefield.

David Dresang  
Association/Corporate Secretary

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## THE EXPERIENCE OF BATTLE

By Jim Dumke

As the boys of '61, including the Second Wisconsin, marched off to war; they had little idea of what lay before them. To them it was all glory and excitement! Most of these early volunteers could not wait to see action. Almost everyone thought the war would be a short one with one or two big battles and it would be over. No one in the Second Wisconsin Regiment could imagine the devastation and loss that lay before them.

The soldier experienced battle through his various senses. The first sense to come into play was his eyesight. As the two opposing forces moved into position to engage in battle the troops could observe the enemy coming into position for the coming fight. The following chart was compiled by Steinmetz, prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, to demonstrate what troops would see as adversaries prepared for battle. The first section evaluates what one could observe of approaching cavalry. The second section charts how soldiers would perceive the arrival of infantry on the field.

### APPROACHING CAVALRY

Approximate distance	What is distinguishable
650 yards	The rate of motion—walking, trotting, galloping; the

	direction of the movement—advancing or retiring; the brilliant part of the accoutrements—helmet and cuirass; the color of the uniform—red, white, the breastplate, the plume, the blade of the lances.
430 yards	The saddlecloth; the rates of motion and its direction; the helmet and cuirass; the bright colors of the uniform; the shoulder belts of the horsemen in front.
325 yards	The colors of the saddlecloth; the reins of the bridles on horses with light saddlecloths, seen sideways; the scabbard of the horseman's sword, seen on his left; the shaft of the lances; the epaulettes, the hair of the head.
215 yards	The saddlecloth; the reins of the bridle on horses with dark saddle cloths; the blade and the scabbard of the sword; the shaft of the lance; the carbines slung; the principal parts of the uniform and equipment.
110 yards	The soldier's body; his shape and arms; his weapons and equipment; the details of his uniform; harness; the line of buttons on his jacket, holster and cloak.

#### APPROACHING INFANTRY

Approximate distance	What is distinguishable
650 yards	The movement of companies marching, advancing, or retiring, the red color of infantry.
430 yards	The direction of their march and the movement of their muskets.
325 yards	The barrels of rifles or carbines; the rifle at the shoulder, the different parts of the uniform.
215 yards	The color of the uniform; the badges of the belts or shakos; the hilts of swords, the cartridge box.
110 yards	The different parts of the body; the movements of the men individually; the form and color of the uniform.

*Source: Adapted from Steinmetz.*

(Nosworthy, pps 213-14)



The onset of battle would invoke the soldier's senses of sight, smell and hearing. Most Civil War battles saw the attacking army resort to artillery to soften up the defensive line before sending in the infantry to assault the defensive position of the enemy forces. Nosworthy describes this experience in detail. The booming of the guns and the responsive fire of the defenders artillery would shake the ground and deafen the troops of both the attackers and the defenders. Smoke would obscure the vision of the field and the tension would build in all the forces committed to the coming struggle!

"With the first roar of the artillery, the poetical appearance instantly vanished as the deadly struggle began in earnest. The attacking side began its advance seemingly in perfect order. Clouds of smoke leapt up furiously here and there in the distance as the enemy's artillery began its defensive fire. The enemy's batteries frequently remained unobserved, and smoke rising from the tops of ridges, behind clumps of trees, or within hidden hollows or valleys was proof that the defenders had carefully placed their pieces to take advantage of available terrain.

The projectiles speeding on their way towards the intended targets, it took only a few seconds for little, white puffs of smoke from the exploding shells to rapidly dot the field, many exploding over the attackers' heads. A survivor of the carnage at Antietam (Sept. 17, 1862) would recall that long after the actual event, these would appear peaceful in the mind's eye:

Everyone of them exploded just as nicely as they could wish, squarely over our heads, shaking its fragments among us, leaving only harmless cloud of smoke to roll peacefully away, as if satisfied with its work and glad to return to its proper home in the atmosphere.

The men's actual reaction during a battle was rarely so serene, however. Hundreds were killed or severely wounded by such shell bursts. Bodies would lie scattered below each puff, and small groups of wounded men could be seen slowly limping back to the rear, many forced to use their muskets as crutches. Nevertheless, as the lines of attacking infantry continued their seemingly inexorable motion forward, gaps would appear, and the lines became increasingly more ragged. As the attacking formation continued forward, it left in its wake a trail of dead and dying.

How far the attacking lines were able to advance and, in fact, their ultimate success or failure depended on a myriad of factors. Foremost among these were the determination and commitment of the troops on both sides, leadership, the amount of defending artillery,\* and, of course, many unforeseen circumstances. The majority of attacks were able to advance to within 100 to 150 yards of the enemy, and many were able to close to within "pistol range," that is, within about 20 paces or so. The defenders might open fire at long range, trying to stymie the assault at an early stage, but if experienced and well led, they would withhold their fire. If the defenders did hold their ground, the barrels gleaming in the sun would inevitably be leveled. Then followed a short pause that seemed an eternity both to the intended victims in front and those along the line anxiously awaiting the orders to fire. Suddenly, there was a tremendous burst of fire, a tremendous,

withering volley, and a light bluish smoke rose along the length of the defending line. Unlike the smoke from artillery, which leapt higher into the air, that from musketry rose more lazily, even hanging over the ground on a breezeless day or clinging to the foliage, if any was present.

(\*This was a particular issue during the first day of fighting at Gettysburg. The rebel forces were able to bring superior numbers of artillery pieces into play, which along with a large advantage in the number of troops arriving on the field, made all the difference in the outcome of the fight west of Gettysburg. Ed.)

The effect of the volley, delivered at such close range, was frequently devastating. Someone glancing at the attacking line a moment after the defender's volley might be reminded of a gale. The line of men appeared as if blown down by a "blast from a tempest." Dismayed by the sudden horror, in most cases the leading elements would run back in complete disorder. The panic contagious, the second line, if close enough behind, and sometimes even the third line would be carried along by the routed tide. Most often the rout would continue back for 150 to 200 yards, until the panicked men found refuge in a hollow or behind undulating ground. The enemy artillery would relentlessly continue to ply the ranks with metal and cause more casualties than ever. Riding among the disorganized masses of men, officers would grab the regimental colors and scream at the men to rally and reform. Eventually, the officers' efforts would have an effect, and here and there among the milling crowd, small portions of a line would start to form, much like crystalline structures coagulating around isolated precipitants in a chemical solution. As the process continued. These isolated sections of line gradually stretched out until the whole mass was once more re-formed.

But other points along the attacking line might have more success. The attackers sometimes succeeded in advancing to close range, and then it would be the defenders' turn to panic and flee. At other times the attacking line would be neither routed nor immediately victorious but would stall, and its men, despite the officers' exhortations, began to fire individually, and the battle quickly became general. The individual shots merged into one continuous sound, producing a thunderous roll or crackle of musketry, punctuated periodically by booming of artillery. Almost deafening in volume, the deadly cacophony drowned out the officers' commands, as well as the men's screams and groans. Thomas L. Livermore, a Union sergeant during the Seven Days' battles (June 25-July 1, 1862), likened the "piping tones" of the minie balls as they whizzed above to "a very small circular saw cutting through thin strips of wood." Coming all too close to the men's heads, the bullets reminded him of large blue flies that sometimes flew high and at other times seemed to pass close to one's ears. One Northern newspaper correspondent would describe his impressions of being fired at: "You hear a drop, drop, drop, as a few of the skirmishers fire, followed by a rattle and roll, which sounds like a falling of a building, just as you heard the bricks tumble at a great fire."

Most often the sharp, noisy rattling of the musketry would soon be swallowed by the booming of the artillery. To John Robson, who fought on the Confederate side, this thunderous sound reminded him of "a mighty, rushing wind, [which] rises, swells, lulls, and roars again along the line." In a moment much of the soldiers' surroundings were

wrapped in smoke, and on a windless day it was possible for the entire battlefield to be enveloped. At Antietam a group of newspaper correspondents, civilians, and even a few officers scampered up an incline hoping to get a panoramic view of the murderous contest. George Noyes later recalled that they saw only the “usual battle panorama”; the smoke prevented them from distinguishing a single battery or brigade. A. F. Hill of the Eighth Pennsylvania Reserves recalled that during the Second Battle of Bull Run (August 29-30, 1862), the smoke was so dense that he could not see the enemy in front lying in wait. He never forgot the sound of the minie bullets striking and crushing the bones of those around him.

The battle, of “the ball,” as it was often referred to, was now in full swing. The artillerymen would hear a “wack, wack” as Minie bullets struck the wheels and guns. Very occasionally, a caisson loaded with artillery ammunition would explode, and for a few seconds parts of the charred wagon and mangled bodies of men would rain down throughout the immediate area. Sergeant Foster’s description of his regiment’s experience during the First Battle of Fredericksburg (December 13, 1862) provides a universal description of the sheer horror of any hard-fought contest during the Civil War:

No one who has not witnessed such a scene can form any idea of the awfulness of that hour, the fearful screeching of the shells, the ominous buzzing and the vicious whistling of canister and the endless, “ping ping” of the minie balls, while the reports of the musketry was one continual crash and, far and above all, the thunderous tones of hundreds of cannon, completely drowned the encouraging shouts of the officers. The whole line was enveloped in a cloud of sulphurous smoke, almost hiding the regiments from each other and through which crimson flares of the muskets and cannon darted fiery tongues. What carnage! Comrades fell all around you, mangled and bleeding, the colors go down, but are raised to fall again and again, the line moves forward with decreasing speed until when past the center of the plain it finally stops, fires a few spasmodic volleys, wavers, breaks and flees to the protection of the bank from whence it had started. Then, without delay, it reforms, moves up the bank and the tragedy is re-enacted.

A momentary breeze would occasionally push aside the low-lying smoke clouds, and if the infantryman could detach himself from loading and firing his weapon, he might see “thousands of busy reapers in the harvest of death” and the effects of the carnage. Occasionally, shot (solid cannonballs) would be seen skipping along through the enemy’s formations. When this happened, the gap produced in the enemy’s ranks was “for an appreciable instant like the splash produced by striking the surface of water with a stick.” This gap was produced as much by men quickly dodging out of the path of the incoming projectile as it was by the physical destruction of those not fortunate enough to see the deadly missile or be able to get out of its way. The dodging or ducking motion was an involuntary reaction based on the strongest instinct for survival. It also occurred whenever the troops heard a shell passing overhead. As one veteran would recount in his regimental history:

It was always interesting to notice the men of the army whenever a rebel shell came their way. It was impossible to resist the temptation to “dodge” it, and the men could do this with better precision than drill—all dodging together.

(Nosworthy, pps 214- 219)

Nosworthy, Brent. *The Bloody Crucible of Courage: Fighting Methods and Combat Experience of the Civil War*, Carroll & Graf Publishers: New York, N.Y. (2003)

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## RECENTLY FOUND PHOTOS OF LINCOLN AT GETTYSBURG

Above in the “View From The Ranks” section of the newsletter are three photos, recently discovered, which purportedly show President Lincoln at Gettysburg on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November, 1863. There are only 125 known photos of Lincoln in existence, making these photographs rare and valued!

The third photo of the crowd was taken by Alexander Gardner and Lincoln is seen in his “trademark” stovepipe hat in the center of the picture. The first two photos show an image of one who appears to be President Lincoln moving towards the stage where he will give his famous address. The first picture is of the crowd surrounding the stage where Edward Everett and President Lincoln would speak. It is hard to see in this photo, but when magnified Lincoln’s head and shoulders are clearly visible above the crowd. In the second of the photos above, Lincoln can be seen riding on horseback between the ranks of soldiers as he moved up to the stage where he was to speak.

\_\_\_\_\_The pictures were made for stereographic viewing and had been posted on the Library of Congress website and while studying the pictures posted there he found these three photos. Once he identified a gentleman named John Richter saw them as from Gettysburg and magnified them he was astounded to find they included pictures of Lincoln! (Information from an article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*)

\_\_\_\_\_The article pointed out that these photos (and 7000 others) can be viewed at [lcweb2.loc.gov/pp/pphome.html](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pp/pphome.html). Enter “stereograph+civil war” in the search field or they can be seen at the Center for Civil War Photography’s website found at [www.civilwarphotography.org](http://www.civilwarphotography.org) for your review.

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\_\_\_\_\_Below is a map of Fox Lake to help our members locate E. State Street, the site of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association annual meeting for 2008.



## THE SECOND WISCONSIN FAMILY LOSES A VALUED MEMBER

On December 22, 2007, Steve Scott, a member of Battery B, passed away after a long battle with illness. I am sure Steve was well known to many of our comrades in the Second Wisconsin and his presence on the field will be greatly missed by his friends and associates.



I did not know Steve, but we did share an interest in the Civil War and reenacting. It brings to mind the words of John Donne, who makes the point that all human beings are interconnected and form a cohesive whole. The loss of any one of us diminishes who and what we are. This is a particular truth here where there is more than a human connection,





but also a common bond based on similar interests.

Steve's passing also calls us to introspection about our own existence and what we may leave behind when the "bell tolls for thee".

On behalf of the Association we extend our sincerest sympathies to Battery B and Steve Scott's family. May your faith sustain you in the days ahead and lift you up!

"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."

John Donne



\_\_\_\_\_ January 1, marks the anniversary of the prohibition of the importation of slaves into the United States which took effect in 1808. It would be the first step in achieving freedom for the Africans brought to this country against their will. This picture accompanied an article on this anniversary in the *New York Times*.