

THE FUGELMAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

THE BLACK HAT BRIGADE---THE IRON BRIGADE

1861-1865

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FU-GEL-MAN: A well-drilled soldier placed in front of a military company as a model or guide for others.

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PASS IN REVIEW

From the quill of Lt. Colonel Pete Seielstad



I have just received a package of thank you notes from the eighth grade class at West Salem Middle School. On the 16th of May, Company B and the Poor Boys' Mess hosted a Civil War Day. Each class comes out of the classroom wearing grey or blue denoting what side they are on. Like drill instructors waiting for new recruits to get off the bus, we meet them and immediately formed the company and put the students through the fundamentals of drill. "Right face, Left Face, About Face." "Attention, Foreword March." "Load and come to the ready." "Ready, Aim, Fire!"

We then break into groups and go about the different ‘Stations of the Civil War’. This year we had the Surgeon, Billy Yank, Johnny Reb, Load & Fire the Musket, a short Bio of a soldier-Silas Coster, Photograph, and Regimental Mascots.

I’m sure you get the idea and have probably done the same routine at your own local school. But what really sets this school day apart from others is the thank you notes written by the students to the re-enactors. I was a confederate officer and the letters I received were from my company of confederate soldiers.

Dear Mr. Seielstad

Thank you for taking the time to come to our school and help us learn about the Civil War. We really appreciate it. All of us had a lot of fun and it was way better than learning about in in a normal class.

Sincerely,

L.G.

A student who I had a laugh with writes:

Thank you so much for coming to teach our very uncoordinated class about the Civil War. As your favorite mulatto soldier fighting to keep slaves, I want to say your wonderful sense of humor and large amount of knowledge really helped make the day come alive.

Your favorite soldier,

S.C.

The last letter writer was forced to think about why she was a soldier in the confederate army fighting for a slave-based society. A hard lesson with a lasting impression; her modern-day mind-set couldn’t collaborate with the antebellum mind-set.

It’s a wonderful to watch young students learn in their own and unique way about the American Civil War and all its complications. Take note, we are an instrument to their new-found knowledge.

Your obedient servant,

Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad

CAMPAIGN SCHEDULES OF THE COMPANIES AND ASSOCIATION

JUNE

7th & 8th	66th NC & 2nd WI (Skirmish team)	Appleton, WI.
7th & 8th	Beaver Dam Reenactment (Co.E, Co.K, 6th WI LA)	Beaver Dam, WI.
14th & 15th	Sauk City Living History (Co.K, Batty B.)	Sauk City, WI.
21 & 22nd	Hertiage Hill Recenactment (Co. E, Co.B, Co.K, Baty B, 6th WI LA)	Green Bay, WI.
21st	Kenosha Civil War Museum Co.K)	Kenosha, WI.

REGIMENTAL DISPATCHES



A photograph of the men of the Second Wisconsin, Company E, out east for the 150th anniversary of the Battle of the Wilderness

The above photo comes from the Company E facebook page. This editor is unable to credit the photographer—but this was an excellent photo. The following are dispatches from the recent fight near the old Chancellorsville battlefield. It sounds as though the old brigade did her friends and state proud during the campaign.

I would like to report that the combined company of members of Co's B, E and K all showed great strength in repelling 80% of the rebel forces early Sat morn in the wilderness. Our Battalion acted with honor, strength, dignity and courage in executing the commands given. Especially going from column of companies to left into line wheel. It was a site to see. Having never drilled with the other companies assigned to our battalion, we worked together with precision. Though we could not hold our position in the afternoon, we did our best. We hope that kind providence will prevail tomorrow.

**Respectfully Submitted,
1Sgt Rob't Schwandt**

Wilderness continued:

After a longer but colder evening, we awoke around 7am and roll call was conducted. All were present for duty.

We were able to pack out as much of our gear to our wagons before Battalion Parade at 11am. That made for one of the quickest exits from a national that many of us had ever experienced.

The lads performed up to their usual standard. Firing many rounds at the Rebs who were behind dug-in breastworks. We made three valiant charges but were unable to take the position. Several of our lads did manage to crest the fortifications including myself. What a sobering site it was to look back at the field of brave men you gave their last full measure.

All returned from the field in good order. We are now on our way home and look forward to seeing our loved ones who await us.

**Respectfully Submitted,
1Sgt Rob't Schwandt**

The following photos (and the one above) were provided to the newsletter by John Dudkiewicz. They are photos of the men of the Second Wisconsin Regiment at the May, 2014, 150th commemoration of the battle of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania. The men were a suitable representative of the regiment and constituted a fine body of men.





ATTENTION TO ORDERS



AFTER ACTION REPORT 150TH OVERLAND CAMPAIGN - SPOTSYLVANIA PART I

Twenty-two members of the Association made the last grand battle of the 2nd Wisconsin in Spotsylvania Virginia. Kudos to our little caravan of travelers; they made the trip worthwhile.

THE MARCH. Three vans from Green Bay, Madison & La Crosse proceeded to the rendezvous at the familiar town of Youngstown Ohio where we rested for the next step in our travel.

A Wisconsin interpreter of the 2nd Wisconsin Vol. Inf., cannot travel East without making a stop at a battlefield of the famous Iron Brigade. We did not ignore this tribute and visited the historic Brawner Farm located near the Antietam Battlefield. As I looked out from the yard of the farmhouse toward the turnpike, I visualize the Black Hat Brigade marching on it and going into battle lines across the field to engage confederate Stonewall

Jackson and his men. Could I do the same? What courage it must have taken.

Arriving at the event we had little difficulty finding our campground. The rain had stopped but wet was the ground. Wagons were getting mired down in mud and one of ours was no exception. Company K's wagon was stuck in the mud and just shy of the proper compliment of men to push it out. Taking in the situation, the association members were summoned to the rescue. Being a teamster, I sat in the drivers seat and took the reigns. In three short pulls and pushes the wagon was freed and we proceeded to form the company street. Lt. Grootenhuis [adjutant pro-tem] relinquished command of the camp and for the next few days we called this piece of terra-firma home.

Command structure. We were assigned as 1st Battalion, 4th Brigade, 5th Division.

My command consisted of three companies of 25 – 30 men each.

Battalion staff: Col. Pete Seielstad, Major Rich Hunt and adjutant Lt. Kevin Hampton

Company officers: 1st Company: Capt. Dave Baumann [3rd Michigan] 2nd Company Capt. Charles Bagneski [2nd Wisconsin] & 3rd Company: Capt. Ben Cywana [7th Michigan] Note: Pvt. Doug Nosbich [17th Michigan - BHB] was consolidated in 1st Company

Lance Dawson commanded the 2nd Battalion

Bob Minton commanded the 4th Brigade and Darrel Markijohn commanded the 5th Division.

Truth-be-known I was nervous. Col. Bob Minton had formed 1st Battalion and introductions and assignments were conducted via 'the wire' and I would not meet my commanders till Friday evening. We also would not form the battalion until 0530 Saturday morning, minutes prior to the order to march and engage the enemy. By 0615 we had made contact with the confederate forces and were heavily engaged.

On their arrival, Capt. Cywana ordered his 3rd company to strengthen the defensive position of the brigade. This would prove significant as the day unfolded. Just before sunset Friday evening, 4th Brigade officers reconnoitered the wooded area in the front of the brigade's position; and concluded after 8 o'clock pm. Fourth Brigade was prepared.

THE TACTICAL. At 0600 the brigade was ordered out of their fortifications and cross the creek directly in front, and proceed through the woods to the top of the hill. In clear lines, the brigade moved forward. 1st battalion held the extreme right as we stepped off. Three other brigades from the division [1st, 2nd & 3rd] moved on the road toward the top of the hill.

It was soon discovered that the rebels had congregated early in the morning and had prepared to meet our advance in force.

Our intent was to reach the top of the ridge and engage the enemy hoping to find their flank. Our good intentions to reconnoiter the woods Friday evening proved useless as we encountered the confederate lines well before the crest of the hill. The opposing force was very strong and had good lines of supporting infantry. The pressure was constant and we were compelled to fall back. Stubbornly we gave up ground.

The shove given us by the rebs coerced Capt. Cywana to "give it to them". He was then given liberty to "push back". Capt. Bagneski kept the battalion intact with his strong resistance to enemy, allowing the other companies to retreat in order to the breast works.

On the right of my regiment the Johnnies were trying to take my flank. To repel the flanking movement, I sent 1st Company to extend their interval from the regiment. This left 1st Company in a desperate fight on their own while the rest of the regiment fought off the rebs in our front. The fortifications that were built the day prior were strong and offered protection from enemy fire. The creek that meandered before our breastworks offered another form of protection; the enemy could not or would not attempt to cross it.

The other brigades that moved to the top of the hill realized the main event was in the woods below them and began to move to the sound of battle. My

1st Company commanded by Capt. Baumann, was beginning to push the enemy back and it was apparent that the new pressure on the confederate's left was too much for them. Seeing the enemy withdraw, I requested another regiment to be brought up in support of our success. I did not know that the entire 6th Brigade had been routed leaving the left of the Federal position and headquarters exposed. At the same time I requested support, Col. Minton ordered my regiment to the left at the double quick. First battalion answered the call and met the enemy as they were advancing on the flank of the Federal line. As soon as the line was set the men tore into the rebs with devastating gunfire. The Union line held and the confederates were forced to withdraw. Keeping our position on the left my men watched as the confederates retreated in order. Exhausted and out of ammunition, there was nothing left in us to continue the fight.

I salute the men of the 1st Battalion as they met the challenge before them with determination and élan. The company officers were dedicated to their men and it showed in the performance of their companies on the field.

Drill is a perishable skill and the men and officers met the challenge and succeeded. It is this officer's opinion that the hours given to drill by the men and officers of the battalion reflected in the performance on the battlefield.

Well done gentlemen, well done indeed.

Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad

PHOTOGRAPHIC ESSAY FROM MEMORIAL DAY

The following is a photographic essay on the contributions to Memorial Day commemorations by the men of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. Your officers and comrades thank everyone who participated in this day's events for setting aside part of their holiday to remember our fallen who gave their last full measure to maintain this nation and freedom for all.

Company K has the fortunate luck of being close to Madison and annually going to Forest Hill for Memorial Day. It is there that Colonel Lucius Fairchild is buried in his family plot. The following was written by Corporal Ryan Schwartz. It was read at the graves of the Fairchilds by Captain Holbrook and followed by a volley over those graves of the Fairchild brothers who gave their efforts during the War of the Rebellion. It reads as follows:

Thank you all for joining us today at our yearly vigil.

Memorial Day, or Decoration Day as it was once known, is among the most solemn of dates as a grateful nation pays its respects to the fallen. This is particularly true for those of us here. We gather each year on this day by the old Fairchild monument, where only yards away Wisconsin's "First Family" of the American Civil War lay buried. When the drums sounded out the call; Lucius, Cassius, and Charles Fairchild each answered it. They joined with thousands of others, the "bully boys" of 1861, full of patriotism and idealism.

In many ways, the Fairchild men are symbolic of their comrades who now rest beneath the earth in expansive cemeteries and small chapel yards across the nation. Some, like Lucius, came home from the war to a successful career. Others, like Cassius, never lived to see their country reunited. Cassius died of his wounds received in action at Shiloh. Still others, like Charles, may have come home from the battlefield, but never stopped seeing it.

It is because of their sacrifice that we are here to render honors for "our boys". And I say "our boys" even though we ourselves never had the opportunity to meet them. When we don the Black Hat, we make a commitment and forge a connection to comrades gone before. We seek to honor them in all we do, and on no day more than this one. They and their comrades of every conflict represent the best of what our country stands for. This nation is whole and united because of them.

(facing the monument)

Rest in peace, brothers. Your watch has ended, and we thank you for it.

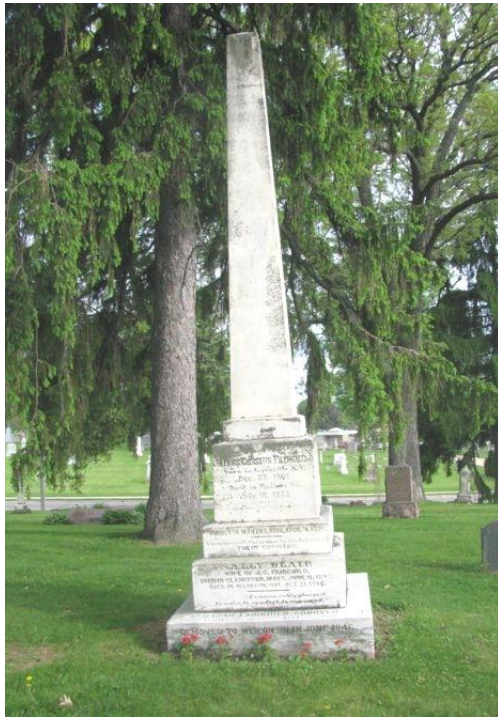


Figure 1 FAIRCHILD MONUMENT AT FOREST HILL



Figure 2 COMPANY E AT OSH KOSH PARADE



Figure 3 THE BOYS FROM COMPANY E IN OSHKOSH

The following photos come from the Company E Facebook page. They were posted by Leif Sjoquist, but he was unlikely the photographer. They are photos from Memorial Day events on May 26th. Our comrades are indeed a good looking bunch of soldiers







Figure 4 BATTERY B AT BROOKLYN MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES



Figure 5 CANNON FIRE AT BROOKLYN



Figure 6 COMPANY K AT THE FAIRCHILD GRAVES

BEAVER DAM EVENT CANCELLED!

The Beaver Dam event has been cancelled, apparently due to local ordinance concerns regarding traffic and parking regulations. This event

was on the calendars of Company E, Company K and the 6th Wisconsin Light Artillery units.

FROM THE CAMPS OF THE COMPANIES OF THE SECOND WISCONSIN

INFANTRY



COMPANY K

EVANSVILLE EVENTS

On May 16th, Company K held its large scale school day at Lake Leota Park in Evansville, Illinois. Over 1700 students were able to tour a number of stations including a battery made up of Battery B and the 6th Wisconsin Light Artillery unit. (Always a very popular station with the students) Student drills, a medical demonstration, and a political campaign from 1864 with a representative for Gen. George McClellan and President Lincoln going head to head to get the students to vote for their favorite candidate. After the campaign speeches the students were able to vote for the candidate of their choice. In the case of this school day McClellan got 272 votes out of approximately 1700 votes cast.

The following pictures come from the Company K facebook page and were taken by Tiffany Wetzel Kvalheim. They are photos from the Company K school day.



Figure 7 TWO MEMBERS OF COMPANY K ARRIVE FOR THE SCHOOL DAY PRESENTATIONS



Figure 8 BATTERIES FROM THE 6TH WISCONSIN LIGHT ARTILLERY AND BATTERY B DELIGHT THE STUDENTS



Figure 9 THE CAMPS COME ALIVE AWAITING THE SCHOOL DAY PRESENTATIONS IN EVANSVILLE

On Saturday there was a living history event in Evansville. The event, “Rally ‘Round the Flag” event has been a popular event in the past. Great weather and an exuberant company under the leadership of Captain Ryan Holbrook made the Saturday event a very pleasant one. The photos below were provided by Jill-Joe Butterfield—Herdegen.



Figure 10 Poor Abe has shrunk under the pressure of the war!



SAUK CITY EVENT OVER FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND

The Weekend of June 14th and 15th, 2014, is the scheduled event in Sauk City. Company K made this an optional event this year. However, Captain Holbrook wishes to remind our members that Battery B has always conscientiously supported Company K events and it would be great if our fellas turned out to support this event.

The event is held each year in August Derleth Park located at 236 Water Street, in Sauk City. The site is along the Wisconsin River and is a beautiful location for an event. There is plenty of shade in the military camps. The event is primarily living history, but if the numbers of infantry attending justify it, there will be a skirmish with the rebels both Saturday and Sunday.

Members should be in camp by 8:00 a.m. to set up and the public will come pouring in at 9:00 a.m.

HERITAGE HILL EVENT SET FOR JUNE 21ST AND 22ND IN GREEN BAY

Petersburg is under seige as Grant presses in to break Lee's lines of communication and you are there! Company E will hold its Heritage Hill event June 21st and 22nd, 2014. This was set as a maximum effort event at Company K's annual meeting last November. Captain Holbrook wants to

turn out great numbers so the men in the ranks need to step up and fall in for the march to Heritage Hill State Historical Park. The site is located at 2640 South Webster Avenue, Green Bay (and yes this is in Wisconsin).

General Grant and the commander-in-chief will be prowling the lines to make sure the men are ready for a forward movement at any time. The battle scenarios are based on the fighting around Petersburg in 1864. General Grant in trying to cut Lee's lines of communication or to drive him from the defensive trenches making it untenable for Lee to hold a defensive line protecting Richmond. There will also be some young bounty men and recruits to drill and prepare for service in the Union army. Be prepared to meet and greet the general public during two days in a great location. It is reported that members of the Company can begin arriving on Friday night to set up camp.

Men! March to the sound of the guns!!

COMPANY E

The following photo essay comes from our comrades in Company E. The photographer is Lisa Ann Bagneski and they were taken during Company E's Valley View School Day on May 16th, 2014.







CONGRATULATIONS DUE TO COMPANY E ADDITION TO THE ROLLS

Jeff and Danielle Grochowski have announced the arrival of a new recruit, one Joshua James (an excellent middle name) Grochowski. He arrived for duty on May 7th, 2014, at 9:39 a.m. It may be hard to find a uniform to fit him at this stage as he was only 8 pounds, one ounce and 21 inches long! On behalf of the entire Association we extend our congratulations on the new baby and our hopes for a long, productive life with Mom and Dad.

COMPANY H

BY PVT. TONY VRANICAR

PHOTOS BY JAN SPARKS

ORIENTATION BY NPS VOLUNTEER AT THE SALLY PORT ON ALCATRAZ ISLAND



ORIENTATION BY NPS WORKER AT ALCATRAZ SALLY PORT

In April Co. H performed its bi-annual garrison duty on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay. Polished brass and polished boots were the order of the day. This event is sponsored by the National Park Service and the Friends of Civil War Alcatraz and is open to any Civil War era Union re-enactors that wish to participate. Confederate sympathizers may participate as well, but only as prisoners. Needless to say, there is always a shortage of these. While 99.9% of tourists who visit the island (statistics by this writer) only know about Alcatraz's history as a Federal prison for notorious gangsters of the 30's, the National Park Service wants to highlight the island's 80 years as a military fort, beginning in 1859 with its role as guardian of the entrance to San Francisco Bay.

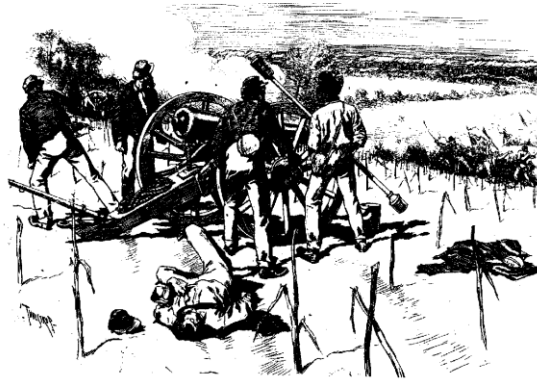
Our duties are simple. Orders from the National Park ranger: walk around like you own the place, and do what soldiers would normally do - stand around, drill, march from here to there, and answer questions that the visitors may ask. The Civil War military band plays era marches on the dock area, giving tourists getting off the boat the idea that something special is going on. But true to the words of our National Park Service host, most people only have Al Capone and his associates on their minds, and they make a bee line for the prison and audio tour. Only after that do they get interested in what we do and why we are there. Speaking of which, if we are asked, we represent Co. H of the 2nd Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry, which served a short stint on the island in 1862, en route to a duty station in the Pacific Northwest.

This is one of the most pleasant and least demanding events on our event calendar. Days are sunny and breezy, with a free boat ride and free lunch -

who could ask for anything more? If any members of the SWIA plan to vacation or visit California around the times of this event (typically in April and October) and are interested in attending, we would be happy to assist them in getting signed up. It would be something to experience at least once.



ARTILLERY



BATTERY B-4TH UNITED STATES LIGHT ARTILLERY

HARTLAND SCHOOL DAY EVENT

On May 9th, 2014, Battery B hosted a school day for the 5th grade students at the Hartland School. The morning began with a driving rain, but by 9:30 the rain had ended and the students began to arrive. By 11:00 a.m. the sun made its appearance, but the wind became a torrent! The editor is convinced that the idea of the Frisbee came from the wind lifting a Hardee hat and sailing it across a windswept field. The students were remarkable for their compliance with orders and dedication to learning the skills of the civil war soldier.

The school event was organized by Lyle Laufenberg of Battery B, but it turned into a joint operation with men from the 6th Wisconsin Light Artillery, a representative from Company E, and men from Company K. The following photo essay comes from the event.

The day ended with a battle with the rebs based loosely on the fight at Brawner's Farm in 1862. The Union troops outflanked the rebel troops and drove them from the field after a spirited exchange on those bloody fields. The honor of the Iron Brigade was once again vindicated in battle!



Figure 11 Cpl. Wayne Vawter from Company K waits in the rain for the students to arrive.



Figure 12 Members of Battery B explain the roles and positions in the battery at Hartland .



Figure 13 Students march from station to station



Figure 14 The field hospital awaits the end of the rain and arrival of the students.



Figure 15 ASSISTANT SURGEON TRIES HIS OWN SEDATIVE

6TH WISCONSIN LIGHT ARTILLERY



Figure 16 MUSIC STATION AT APPLETON SCHOOL DAY



Figure 17 MEMBERS OF THE 6TH WISCONSIN LIGHT ARTILLERY-WALLY AND SHELLY HLABAN AND LYLE LAUFENBERG



Figure 18 MARCHING INTO THE SCHOOL DAY EVENT IN APPLETON



Figure 19 THE CANNON OVERLOOKS THE BATTLEFIELD AT APPLETON



Figure 20 CASUALTIES FROM THE BATTLE AT APPLETON

ARTILLERY SAFETY SCHOOL IN ELMBROOK, WISCONSIN

On Saturday May 17th, 2014, an artillery safety school was conducted in Elmbrook, Wisconsin, attended by Battery B and the 6th Wisconsin Light Artillery among other artillery units. The safety school is organized under the auspices of the National Civil War Artillery Association. The event was under the direction of the NCWAA chairman, Ethan Barnett. He was assisted by the District 8 Inspector Ron Aronis. The event staff was composed of Wally Hlaban, John Thiessen, Ethan Barnett, Rich Young, Brant Doty and Ron Aronis (in the photo below).



Figure 21 left-Ethan Barnett, right Ron Aronis



Figure 22 SAETY SCHOOL STAFF

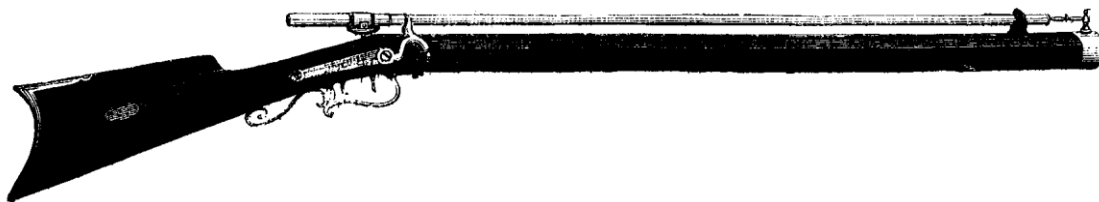


Figure 23 IMPRESSIVE SHOT BY BATTERY B



Figure 24 6TH WISCONSIN LIGHT ARTILLERY

THE SKIRMISHERS



Below you will find a photo from Lance Herdeggen of the arsenal cartridges assembled for the live fire demonstration at the Boscobel reenactment the first weekend in August. During the Boscobel weekend our skirmishers will live fire using these reproductions which are as close to those used by the soldiers in the civil war as is humanly possible. This is a

unique opportunity to walk in the footsteps, so to speak, of those intrepid young men who served from the state of Wisconsin. Lance Herdeggen has been assembling these packages and from the photo it appears he has done an excellent job.

Also below you will find an article on safely loading and firing one's rifled musket. It is a lesson to all of us, skirmishers and reenactors. In our drills we are constantly reminded to keep our fingers and hands from passing over the barrels of our rifles. This is emphasized in the following article. To repeat, this is a valuable instruction on the safe use of our rifles and worth the time to review.

Many thanks to Lance Herdeggen for his efforts on behalf of the skirmishers. We also appreciate the article for our reflection. The newsletter also appreciates the passing along of the photo and article by Gary VanKauwenbergh. Well done, fellas!!



BEGINNER'S DIGEST

Safety With The Rifle-Musket

SAFETY with firearms is always best observed when the firer has the greatest respect for the weapon he is firing, both for its potential danger to others as well as to himself. The basic rules for safety with firearms when firing the military weapons of the Civil War era are no different in most cases than when shooting the breech-loading and semi-automatic rifles of today's military forces. The ignition systems of Civil War military rifles and rifle-muskets do, however, require special safety precautions and careful loading procedures.

Manuals followed

The competition rules of the North-South Skirmish Association, Inc., recommend that the military manuals of the time of original issue be used as a guide in the handling of these weapons.

There are a number of different manuals on Civil War era arms, usually written by experienced officers in the military services and military academies. Manuals were written for each type of weapon used, such as separate manuals for the percussion musket, the rifle, and the rifle-musket. One manual recommended by the North-South Skirmish Association is the one prescribed for the smoothbore musket in William Gilham's *Manual of Instruction for Volunteers and Militia*.

In practice or drill, the loading and firing was done by the numbers or by counts, each motion in the process being done on command. Through these drills

a person would become adept in loading and firing in a uniform manner. Eventually, by continuous drill and practice, the motions became second nature and when the command "Fire at will" was given, the soldier automatically used the correct movements. For safety reasons it was almost mandatory that these movements be followed since the formations in the armies of that day and time required that men fire shoulder to shoulder and often in 2 or more ranks while in line of battle.

This method for the musket provides that when loading, the muzzle of the weapon is always angled away from the firer and thereby he is safe from any serious injury in case of a premature ignition, as are the persons on his right and left. The method to be followed while loading and firing, from a safety point only, is shown in the illustrations.

It will be noted that at all times while loading the hammer is down on the nipple—on the bare cone for the first round, and on the fired cap thereafter. This acts as a stopper and helps to prevent the passage of air while ramming. The passage of air can prove dangerous after the first round is fired if, by chance, foreign matter is left in the bore that might retain a spark or smouldering ember.

Handle percussion caps carefully

The practice of holding percussion caps in close vicinity to the rifle actually being fired is extremely dangerous, especially when the caps are held



1 The position of "Load". Note that the barrel is farthest from the body, thus not requiring any part of the hand over the muzzle while loading, withdrawing ramrod, or returning rod

in the mouth or in a device which does not completely cover the cap. Cases are on record of entire boxes of caps and a cap container exploding when the rifle was fired. The fulminate of which the priming mixture is composed is very sensitive and such an explosion can cause very serious burns and lacerations. The time saved in rapid-fire by using 'cappers' is hardly worth the risk of losing an eye or experiencing painful burns and cuts.

During rapid-fire events in modern day competition, it is not required that the ramrod be returned after each loading, competitors sticking the rod in the ground, or using a bayonet stuck in the ground to support the rod, or retaining it in the hand while actually aiming. These various methods are at the preference of the individual, but the Skirmish rules do require that the rod, if not replaced in the rifle, be located so that no



2 Inserting powder. Note the position of the fingers and hand



3 Inserting bullet. Again note position of fingers and hand



4 Withdrawing ramrod



5 Ramming. Note fingers and hand



6 Returning ramrod



7 Springing the rammer. First be sure that the cap or primer is removed. Tap the small end of the rod on the face of the breech screw. If the rifle is not loaded, the rod will have a metallic ring. A dull thud will indicate a lead bullet is still in the bore. Do not use the cup end of the ramrod. After a period of firing, the bore will be slightly fouled and this fouling will cause the head to stick and the ramrod will be quite hard to withdraw

part of the body comes in line with the muzzle of the weapon when the rod is picked up, used, and replaced.

Another suggestion, and also common practice in modern-day shooting, is the wearing of shooting glasses for eye protection against escaping gas and fragments of primers or percussion caps.

Other than the modern-day safety rules, the following particular suggestions are believed to be the most important when firing the rifle-musket or a military muzzle-loading weapon:

❑ Do not use smokeless powder of any kind.

❑ At no time while loading allow any part of the body to be exposed to the muzzle of the weapon.

❑ Always load with the hammer all the way down on the cone (nipple).

❑ Never incline the barrel of the

toward another person while

❑ If possible to do so, prime the piece only with the hammer at half cock.

❑ When cleaning between firing events or when you expect to fire again within a short time, take care that the cleaning materials are not of a substance that might fray or unravel or leave a particle in the bore that can be ignited by the snapping of a cap to clear bore. Such a fragment may cause a premature fire when the powder is inserted.

❑ Do not use a paper wad on top of a bullet. It is a common error of the inexperienced to think that the paper cartridge is used as a wad after the bullet is inserted. Tight wadding, not rammed all the way down, can cause a burst barrel. Paper particles may be left in a deep-grooved rifle and hold a spark until the next charge is loaded.

❑ When firing is in progress, either individually or by teams, and it becomes

necessary to cease fire or to unload the weapon, always ground the rifle and remove the cap before leaving the arm unattended or before attempting to draw the charge.

❑ Always 'spring rammers' when the firing is completed to make certain the barrel does not contain a load.

The foregoing is a safe and satisfactory method of loading a muzzle-loading rifle, worked out many years ago. If followed by the inexperienced shooter, it will help to avoid any serious mishaps that might spoil a wonderful sport.—

JOHN L. RAWLS

1960

CIVIL WAR MILESTONES

JUNE

June 1, 1862	General Robert E. Lee appointed Commander of the army of Virginia
June 1, 1863	General Burnside orders the suppression of the <i>Chicago Times</i>. After strenuous complaints from local leaders Lincoln would rescind the order on June 4th
June 2, 1864	The Battle of Cold Harbor
June 2, 1815	General Philip Kearney, U.S., born
June 3, 1808	Jefferson Davis born
June 3, 1863	R. E. Lee launches his second invasion of the North, by sending men west from Fredericksburg, which will result in a collision of armies at a small town called Gettysburg
June 3, 1864	The Battle at Cold Harbor
June 5, 1863	J. E. B. Stuart hosts a Grand Review of his cavalry
June 6, 1863	Memphis surrenders
June 8, 1861	Tennessee formally secedes
June 9, 1863	Battle of Brandy Station
June 12, 1862	Stuart begins his ride around McClelland's army

June 15, 1864	Petersburg Campaign begins
June 17, 1861	Thaddeus Lowe demonstrates hot air balloon
June 20, 1863	West Virginia officially enters the Union as the 35th State
June 23, 1862	Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans begins his Tullahoma Campaign against Confederate General Braxton Bragg
June 23, 1865	Last formal confederate surrender
June 24, 1863	Robert E. Lee begins crossing the Potomac River heading north into Pennsylvania
June 25, 1862	Seven Days Campaign begins
June 26, 1864	Cavalry under General Stoneman begins Atlanta raid
June 27, 1864	Battle of Kennesaw Mountain
June 28, 1863	President Lincoln appoints Gen. George G. Meade as commander of the Army of the Potomac, replacing Gen. Joseph Hooker
June 30, 1864	General Early and his rebel troops march towards Washington City

ABRAHAM LINCOLN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY EVENTS



The editor is a member of the Foundation that supports the work of the Abraham Lincoln Museum and Library in Springfield, Illinois. He received the following notice of a new exhibit at the Library and another event at the restored Union Station (the location where Lincoln's body arrived in Springfield for his funeral).

These exhibits are worth the effort to view if one finds himself in Springfield. They are composed of documents, photographs and artifacts of the soldiers in the Union army during the late unpleasantness. These items come from the archives of the Lincoln Library and are unique! This is the fourth in the series which has been devoted to the years of the war. The editor had the privilege of viewing the displays from 1861 and 1862. Due to the heart problems last year he missed the displays focusing on 1863.

Also take note of the exhibit at the Union Station. So many of us no doubt saw the movie Lincoln and the exhibit sounds intriguing.

Member Preview - Illinois Boys in Blue Part 4: In Memory of Heroes

May 22, 2014 --- THE EXHIBIT OPENS TO THE PUBLIC MAY 23RD, 2014

Part 4 of 4, original photographs, manuscripts, newspapers, artifacts and broadsides will highlight the Grand Army of the Republic, which was founded in Central Illinois; Confederates and Copperheads; nurses; what became of some of the soldiers after the Civil War; and the Lincoln Funeral March. You will also meet the Civil War ancestors of the staff of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. In addition, a listening station will be available for visitors to hear recorded Civil War sheet music.

**Library, 3-5 pm. Open house format. Refreshments served.
Regular Library hours Mon.-Fri. 9-5**

Free; reservations required. Call (217) 557-5589 or email rsvp@alplm.org

Lincoln: From History to Hollywood Exhibit Now Open

Open Now

See sets from the Academy-Award-winning film including Lincoln's office and a vignette of Mary Lincoln's bedroom. The costumes include a selection of Mary Lincoln's dresses (which will change annually), Lincoln's suit, and a uniform worn by their son Tad. Props in the exhibit include the stethoscope used in the scene of Lincoln's death and gloves worn by Daniel Day-Lewis as he portrayed Lincoln. The sets and costumes are on loan from Spielberg and DreamWorks Studios.

Union Station, across from the Museum

Tickets : Adults \$5.00; Children FREE when accompanied by paid adult

“Full Experience” Package \$15.00, includes tickets to Museum AND Movie Exhibit (Regular Museum admission price + \$3)

THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF DIXIE

THE CIVIL WAR AND THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION THAT
TRANSFORMED THE SOUTH

BY BRUCE LEVINE

This month marks the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, which President Lincoln issued on Jan. 1, 1863, in the midst of the Civil War. The document declares that all those held as slaves within any state, or part of a state, in rebellion "shall be then, thenceforward and forever free."

Historian Bruce Levine explores the destruction of the old South and the reunified country that emerged from the Civil War in his new book, *The Fall of the House of Dixie*. He says one result of the document was a flood of black men from the South into the Union Army.

"The black population of the South had been raised on the notion that, among other things, black men could not, of course, be soldiers," Levine tells *Fresh Air's* Terry Gross, "that black men were not courageous, black men were not disciplined, black men could not act in response in large numbers to military commands, black men would flee at the first opportunity if faced with battle, and the idea that black men in uniform could exist and ... offer them the opportunity to disprove these notions and ... more importantly, actively struggle to do away with slavery, was unbelievably attractive to huge numbers of black people."

As its ranks dwindled and in a last gasp, the Confederacy, too, had a plan to recruit black soldiers. In 1864, Confederate President Jefferson Davis approved a plan to recruit free blacks and slaves into the Confederate army. Quoting Frederick Douglass, Levine calls the logic behind the idea "a species of madness."

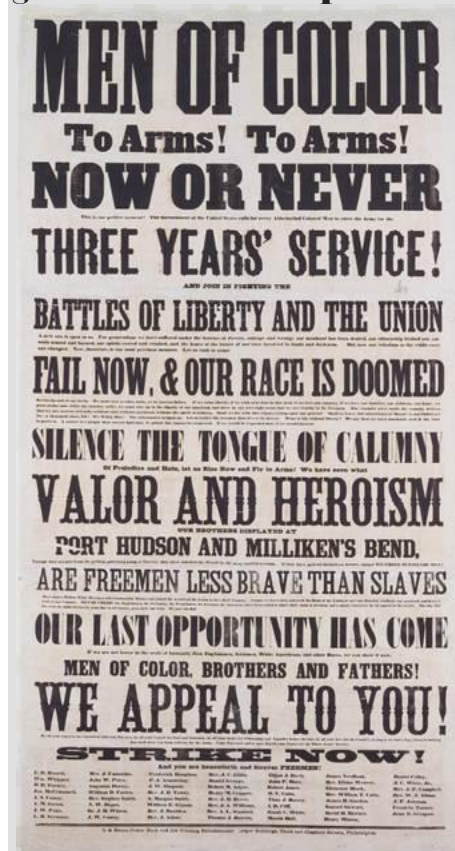
One factor that contributed to this madness, he says, "is the drumbeat of self-hypnosis" that told Confederates that "the slaves are loyal, the slaves embrace slavery, the slaves are contented in slavery, the slaves know that black people are inferior and need white people to ... oversee their lives. ... Black people will defend the South that has been good to them. There are, of course, by [then] very many white Southerners who know this is by no means true, but enough of them do believe it so that they're willing to give this a chance."

Considering what might have happened had there been no war at all, Levine thinks slavery could well have lasted into the 20th century, and that it was, in fact, the Confederacy that hastened slavery's end. "In taking what they assumed to be a defensive position in support of slavery," he says, "the leaders of the Confederacy ... radically hastened its eradication."

INTERVIEW HIGHLIGHTS

ON THE BLACK SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT FOR THE UNION, 80 PERCENT OF WHOM WERE FROM THE SOUTH

"By the end of the Civil War, nearly 200,000 black men had served in either the Union army or the Union navy, and that alone was an enormous military assistance to the Union at a time when volunteering had fallen drastically and when there was a great deal of hostility to the draft. So these 200,000 men significantly contributed to giving the Union army the volume, the bulk, the size that they needed to cope with their Confederate opponents, and that gave the union the power, ultimately, to overwhelm the opposition."



**A Union army recruiting poster aimed at black men.
The Library Company of Philadelphia**

ON THE RESPONSE AMONG BLACKS TO UNION RECRUITING EFFORTS

"There were at least some slaves who still believed what others had been telling them during most of the war, namely ... 'This is a white man's war, stay out.' ... And others, because of having just been freed and finally given the opportunity to live the life of free men and women, didn't relish the prospect of immediately being separated from their families and possibly

killed before they could realize the benefits of that freedom. But very, very large numbers responded very enthusiastically to the chance finally to, in great numbers, take organized collective action in pursuit of the freedom of their people."

ON THE RADICALIZING EFFECT FIGHTING IN THE SOUTH HAD ON MANY UNION SOLDIERS

"Large numbers of Northern whites, who may previously have had no sympathy for blacks, are, by virtue of moving into ever more deeply the land of slavery, being confronted with the brutalities of slavery and being confronted with the fact that much pro-slavery propaganda that they have been hearing for decades by Northern allies of the slave owners are lies, and that this system is pretty horrible. And many of them start writing in letters home that, contrary to their original assumptions, they have now become, in effect, abolitionists and they will never tolerate slavery again."

ON WHY LINCOLN WAS SO PREOCCUPIED WITH PRESERVING THE UNION

"For white men then, this is the cutting edge of progress. They believe what protects the rights that they have is the strength and unity of the country, and they fear that as sections of the country begin to withdraw from the union, the country will continue to fragment, that this will only be the beginning of the fracturing of the union. ... And so, instead of there being one ... more or less powerful country in North America — and south of Canada, that is, and north of Mexico — there might be two and maybe three and maybe four and so on, and that, in turn, might very well lead to the end of republican government in North America. And, again, we're talking about an era in which much of the world still thinks that republican, nonmonarchical, nonaristocratic government is doomed."

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THADDEUS STEVENS AND THE RADICAL REPUBLICANS IN ENDING SLAVERY

"[Stevens] was the foremost fighter against slavery and for racial equality in the Congress. He was the most important single figure, I would say. It's also true, and I think undersold in the film [*Lincoln*], that Stevens and the radicals were way ahead of Lincoln throughout the war on these questions, pointed the way forward for Lincoln, and without their pressure and without their agitation and without their constant demands, it's not at all clear Lincoln would have eventually moved in the same direction. They — and Stevens as an individual — are a very important part of the story of how slavery comes to an end."

The preceding review and interview was provided by Craig Mickelson, a former member of Company K and at one time their Captain. Craig also is a regular reader of the newsletter. The highlighting was provided by Mr. Mickelson. In the past the editor and Craig have engaged in discussions about the importance of slavery as a cause of the war and the building impetus for freedom during the struggle.

The only problem this editor had with Levine's book was his belief that the Northern abolitionists were the ones who were responsible for secession and the oncoming war. Levine did argue that slavery would have ceased to exist on its own (Lincoln's "course of ultimate extinction") eventually. The author seems to avoid any discussion of the morality of slavery or the determination in the South to preserve this "peculiar institution". The book was well written and interesting as to the impact of the war on the very institution it was meant to preserve.

USS MONITOR CENTER RESUMES WET LAB OPERATIONS

Two months ago the newsletter reported on the disastrous decision not to fund the preservation efforts for the U.S.S. Monitor. The following article is an update of the circumstances and the good news that funds are now available to continue to maintain the ship with a distinguished heritage.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. - The Mariners' Museum has resumed active operations in its wet lab, which is part of the USS Monitor Center's Batten Conservation Laboratory Complex. The public can once again witness the active treatment of the large artifacts within the lab, including the Monitor's iconic revolving gun turret, steam engine and Dahlgren guns.

The lab was closed on Jan. 1, 2014, due to a funding shortfall as a result of the Continuing Resolution, which delayed the passing of a federal budget until January 2014. The total cost to operate the Monitor conservation laboratory in 2014 is about \$450,000. At a funding level of \$750,000, conservators project the stabilization of large artifacts in the wet lab can be completed in about 20 years.

Once the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) received its FY14 appropriations, it committed \$200,000 for 2014, with the possibility of additional funds to support the ongoing conservation effort. NOAA and The Mariners' Museum continue to work hand-in-hand to develop a long-term funding solution based on a mix of private and public sources that assures the preservation of these national treasures. The

Museum and NOAA are committed to working together to raise the needed funds for conservation. Donations to support this effort can be made directly through The Mariners' Museum.

During the past four months, conservators continued to conserve smaller artifacts in a separate Monitor Center laboratory. The large artifacts were covered with tarps, and conservators ceased using wet lab equipment during this period. Artifacts were monitored with a digital corrosion monitoring system to maintain stability.

The Mariners' Museum, an educational, non-profit institution accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, preserves and interprets maritime history through an international collection of ship models, figureheads, paintings and other maritime artifacts. For hours and information, visit www.MarinersMuseum.org, call (757) 596-2222 or write to The Mariners' Museum, 100 Museum Drive,

Newport News, VA 23606.

LIVING HISTORIAN IN THE NEWSPAPER

The editor became aware of the following article on one of our own. Lyle Laufenberg was the subject of the following newspaper article that appeared in the *Oregon Observer* for the Memorial Day weekend. Lyle had wanted your editor to read the article but indicated he did not think it was suitable for *The Fugelman*. After reviewing the article this editor has decided that Lyle's humility aside, the article reflects the things all of us do as reenactors. While not all of us will be covered so extensively in a public medium, it does us honor when one of our own gets the recognition for his services to the history and the men who put down the rebellion now called the Civil War.

Thank you to Lyle for his efforts on behalf of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association. And we offer our congratulations to Lyle for the article.



OREGON OBSERVER
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One-hundred-and-fifty years ago, teenagers and young men right off the farms of Dane County went off to fight - and die - in the Civil War. Thankfully for the Badger State, battles were fought far from home, but the effects were felt all over Wisconsin, as more than 12,000 men from the state died during the war, of the 91,000-plus who served. The impact on the area's history was great, and though it's faded by the passing of each generation, people like Lyle Laufenberg do their part to pass on the importance of remembering the Civil War, and those who fought in it.

Laufenberg, a life-long Dane County resident and Oregon School District teacher of 41 years, just can't shake the history bug during his recent retirement years. And the students at Rome Corners Intermediate School who know him as a faithful volunteer and "living history" guru, they are all the better for it. Laufenberg, who's volunteered at the school for the past five years, sets up shop in an open team area a few times a week during students' lunch breaks, talking about history in general, but more specifically about the Civil War. "It's an interesting group, and the kids find the Civil War interesting," he said. "I don't focus on war and blood and guts, rather the time period that made it quite a shift in this country's history."

Not coincidentally, he started getting interested in history at about the same age as the kids. "I was in grade school and had a cousin who did some research on the Laufenberg family history and background, and there turned out to be knights and castles over in Germany; part of Charlemagne's realm," he said. "I've always been interested in history, but my parents were tenant farmers, so we moved frequently and didn't have a lot of ties." A teacher named Bob Hoffman helped him study about his family's origins, going back many generations. When he found out his wife Linda's "several great" grandfather served in the Union Army out of Wisconsin, he was hooked. Since Linda was also a history buff, the two immediately got more interested in the time period, immersing themselves as historical re-enactors and educators. Laufenberg said he gets a lot out of an authentic "re-enactor" experience, though his body doesn't respond like it used to. "I've had to be a little bit careful with my back after I had back surgery, and the marching is getting a little hard on my feet," he chuckled.

When he really wants to get up close and personal with the Civil War, Laufenberg helps load, aim and fire an authentic 12-pound 1863 "Napoleon" cannon from Battery B of the Wisconsin 2nd Infantry, a group of southern Wisconsin-based re-enactors. The gun (which Laufenberg

said is technically a gun/howitzer because it can be elevated like a howitzer but fired like a gun), belongs to the Wisconsin National Guard and was forged by the Revere Copper Company, founded by Revolutionary War icon Paul Revere. In history, the soldiers of the 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment (as well as the 6th and 7th) were comprised of several units from Dane County such as the "Stoughton Light Guard," "The Randall Guards" and "The Anderson Guards." The 2nd Wisconsin was one of the first regiments to fight in 1861, suffering severe casualties at the inaugural Battle of Bull Run (Manassas, Va.), where their gray uniforms with black trim caused friendly fire, Laufenberg said, one of many humbling events for a confident Union army. "There was a great amount of enthusiasm to get the war over in 90 days in one good battle," he said.

Laufenberg said there are a variety of types of people who are Civil War re-enactors. Some of the hardcore, detail-oriented ones call themselves "progressive or authentic," (otherwise known by some a bit derisively as "stitch-counters"), while Laufenberg said he and his comrades in the 2nd Wisconsin simply try to match their gear to that of the day, as best as possible, without getting their wool britches in a bundle. "We just try to be reasonably authentic, because you can never totally re-create it from back then - the weaving was different, slightly different materials," he said. "The uniforms I have are made from patterns of the time, the materials are as close as we can get. "The Civil War was a non-standard war - the uniforms were of a lot of variety, because they tended to need things in a hurry."

Battery B is made up of around two dozen members from all over the southern part of the state and as far north as Green Bay, who have participated in events around the state and as far away as Gettysburg in southern Pennsylvania. The group does much of its work with schools, giving presentations throughout the year to groups big and small. Members also spend considerable time on training, to make sure everyone is capable of different roles, depending who can make an event on a particular day. "One fellow used to drive in all the way from Fargo," Laufenberg said.

So why in the world do people drive to Dane County from Fargo, and visit schools every week to talk about something that happened so long ago? It depends who you ask, of course. For Laufenberg, the Civil War is and always will be important for kids - and adults - to know about, because it ended slavery and fundamentally changed the nature of how all Americans viewed themselves and their country. At a terrible cost in blood, the union had been preserved. "Up until 1861, you were the 34 'un-tied' states, and everybody said, 'Well, we could break off if we really wanted to,'" he said. "Massachusetts talked about it during the War of 1812, South Carolina in the 1820s and '40s and '50s before they were actually the first to do it." Before the war, the United States 'are' a country - after the war, the United States 'is' a country."

Perhaps just as important, historical re-enactors like Laufenberg honor the everyday people who experienced the horrors of the Civil War, hoping to keep their lives as normal as possible before they returned. "These were real people going through real things away from home, and trying to get back information; they've got friends and families," he said. "It's tough times. It isn't all blood and bugles and glory. It's dealing with life as you have it." To help carry home the very personal nature of what soldiers were going through, Laufenberg carries a beat-up, Civil War-era tintype - about 2 by 3 inches - of two young girls. The identity of the owner of the tintype - and the girls - is probably lost to history, but the message remains. "My two daughters are grownup now, but at one time they were about the age of 4 and 6 - about the ages of the girls in this picture- and my girls would have looked somewhat like that," he said. "It's one of those things you would have carried; family was important."

By the numbers

According to the Wisconsin State Historical Society, 91,327 men from Wisconsin served and 12,301 died during the Civil War (3,802 killed in action or battle wounds and 8,499 of other causes.

<http://www.oregonobserver.com/pdf-edition/e-edition>

**JEFF. DAVIS' REPLY TO
LINCOLN.**

On the 20th of July, 1864, Horace Greeley crossed into Canada to confer with refugee rebels at Niagara. He bore with him this paper from the President:

"To Whom It May Concern: Any proposition which embraces the restoration of peace, the integrity of the whole Union, and the abandonment of slavery, and which comes by and with an authority that can control the armies now at war with the United States, will be received and considered by the executive government of the United States, and will be met by liberal terms and other substantial and collateral points, and the bearer or bearers thereof shall have safe conduct both ways."

To this Jefferson Davis replied: "We are not fighting for slavery; we are fighting for independence."