

THE FUGELMAN



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

THE BLACK HAT BRIGADE—THE IRON BRIGADE

1861-1865

VOLUME XXIV

ISSUE 3

MARCH, 2015

**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



“The Packers will be playing Da Bears tomorrow. That’ll be a game!”

“Yep, I love these types of games. Long-time rivals. Can it get any better?”

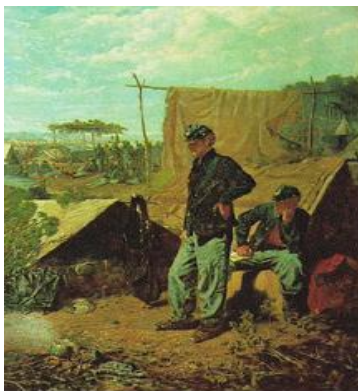
The above is good conversation but not in formation 15 minutes before an event’s main battle scenario. It doesn’t happen just within the rank and file. At an event long ago where I served as a company captain, I noticed the officers huddled around the commander. Thinking I was missing some important information about the scenario, I move closer. To my shock & dismay they were checking out the score of a football game that was taking place at the same time. What the h*! We are staged and ready to begin the scenario and this is happening? My heart pretty much sank at that moment. Thank God I haven’t seen anything like that again. But I have heard several out-of-place discussions in front of spectators and around campfires. (*I’m perhaps guilty myself.*)**

In my January article I wrote about the “The Next Step” where we all need to think beyond what we are doing now and take *the next step* toward a better experience in our portrayal of the American Civil War soldier.” I have some thoughts and would like to offer them for consideration.

LETTERS AND JOURNALS ARE GREAT SOURCES TO STUDY THE DISCIPLINE OF CONVERSATION.

To begin, we have to be totally conscious of what we are saying, where we are saying it and who is around when we say it. My earlier description is a good example of when not to pull out your *I-phone*. Keeping conversation in a first-person context is the best advice when the public is nearby or even after the spectators have left. “*I will be*

right back, I have to go to the supply wagon and pick up our rations before first call is sounded.” Sound much better than, “I got to get my Pop Tarts out of the truck.” Here is where understanding how people had conversations in the 1860’s will help.



***“HOME SWEET HOME”
Winslow Homer***

TAKE ONLY WHAT YOU'LL NEED. YOU'LL DO JUST FINE.

A good pard was praised for being 'hard-core' authentic as he marched into camp with his rifle, accouterments, haversack and knapsack. The rest of his mess came in the same way. Stacking arms and laying out their gear, they proceeded to make their bivouac under the stars. His reply to the 'authentic' statement was something to the effect, "I am just lazy, and I only want to make one trip in and one trip out. I really don't eat that much at an event and I'll have more than enough to get me through the weekend." At the same event, I brought an A-frame with fly, some chairs with table. I even had a hardtack box at my disposal. The boys quickly christened my arrangement as "Petersburg". Ouch, that hurts and I still hear the echo.

UNDERSTAND THE DUTIES OF YOUR POSITION AND THE RANK OF ABOVE IT.

Arrive in camp as if you just came back from a short furlough. We all have our rank from the private to the general. The private soldier will arrive/return to camp find his company, report to his Sergeant and find his pards. Dropping his gear he'll set up his tent/bedroll and continue with his assigned duties. Corporals and Sergeants will report to the 1st Sgt. or captain and begin assembling his men for the day's duty roster. Captains as well as the lieutenants will resume his duties and attend to the needs of his company or platoon. Understanding the event's activities prior to taking the field, an officer can inform his NCOs appropriately. Any rank higher than captain will have event responsibilities to adhere to. He will also have officer and safety meetings to attend and overall a lot of running about to get things done. For each level of rank it is that man's responsibility to care for his subordinates' welfare.

ESTABLISHING MILITARY PROTOCOL AND A SCHEDULE OF DAY'S EXPECTATIONS WILL ELIMINATE WASTED TIME.

Officers and NCOs know the strengths and weaknesses of their company. What is acceptable and what needs to be done to accomplish success. Time is our enemy at events and we soon find ourselves falling behind when we sit around waiting for something to happen. *"If a private is not given something to do, he will sit and do nothing."* Lt. Col. Pd Seielstad to Sgt. John D several years ago.

Below is a guide for a day's activities:

SATURDAY

0600 (or Sunrise): Reveille

0615: Roll call (1st Sergeants take roll call in company streets, with a preliminary Morning Report submitted to the Adjutant before 0800)

0615-0645: Sergeants and Corporals conduct School of the Soldier

0645-0745: Breakfast

0745-0800: Roll call for Battalion drill with report to the Adjutant before 0900

0800-0900: 1st Sergeants and officers conduct School of the Company

0900: Guard Mount *(This will be a functional guard, with a reserve. It will be changed hourly. All NCOs and soldiers will be expected to participate. The Adjutant will detail officers from the regimental duty roster.)*

0900: Sick call

0900-1000: Fatigue duty *(This block of time can be used by the company officers to accomplish further drill, wood and water details, or other needs of the company.)*

1000-1100: Battalion Drill

1100-Noon:

Fatigue/Drill/Leave *(This is free time and will be determined by the company officer.)*

Noon- 1230: Midday Meal

1230-1500: Assemble and prepare to march. *(This time is to be used for the event to prepare and to partake in the scheduled battle scenario.)*

1500-1545: Post battle scenarios. Wounded, dead, burial details and other post battle scenarios can be accomplished at this time. Also, company officers will prepare after action reports and submit them to Adjutant.

1545- 1600: Roll call

1600-1700: Evening parade *(Following the evening parade the men may be dismissed for evening festivities or continue with event scenario. ALL SOLDIERS ARE TO BE IN CAMP FOR SUNDAY MORNING REVEILLE)*

1700: Break ranks – March

1700: Evening meal

ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE

When all is said and done, it is the ultimate challenge to enjoy the experience. Preparation, participation & pride are essential elements to this peculiar hobby. When the three have been achieved what choice is there but to come away pleased in the accomplishment.

Your obedient servant,

Lt. Col. Pd Seielstad

CAMPAIGN SCHEDULES OF THE COMPANIES AND ASSOCIATION

20th-22nd	150th Bentonville Reenactment (Co.K) Fresh Fish Spring Drill	Bentonville, NC.
21st	(Co.E) Company B Spring Drill	Green Bay, WI.
21st	(Co.B) Spring Drill Waterloo Elementry	West Salem, WI.
21st	(Co.K) Civil War Expo (Co.K, Bty	Waterloo, WI.
21st	B.)	Kenosha, WI.
27th & 28th	Sailors Creek Reenactment (Co.A)	Rice, VA.

EDITORIAL



In this month's newsletter one will find the minutes of the 2015 Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association annual meeting. Please look them over at your leisure as they are a reminder of the actions and decisions by our members for the coming year. The minutes will be reprinted in the January 2016 issue for review prior to next year's annual meeting.



Below you will find a dispatch from our Lt. Col. on the newsletter and the Second Wisconsin Regimental website. It is always dangerous to try to respond for another, but here the editor will take the risk. On behalf of Jim Johnson and Jim Dumke we would like to thank Pete for his kind comments. It is indeed gratifying to be recognized for one's efforts, no matter what that endeavor is or on who's behalf. Jim Johnson's efforts on the website are remarkable. It is an excellent source for research on the history of our regiment. When the editor first joined Company K the recruiter, Craig Mickelson, directed him to the website. It was indispensable in putting together my original kit and developing a sense of the life of the civil war soldier. It still can serve as that tool to get new members up to speed. Both of us do these jobs because of our love of the Second Wisconsin and a passion to share the story of the regiment and to present a standard of service that would credit those who originally served in this unit. It is nice to be recognized for our efforts and we thank everyone who has expressed their appreciation for those efforts.



On March 4th, 2015, we will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the second inauguration of Abraham Lincoln as president of the United States. Initially it should be noted that intuitive Southern politicians had understood that the re-election of President Lincoln spelled the death knell for the Confederacy. Any hope of a negotiated end to the war that would result in Southern independence was gone. And by the inauguration in March or 1865, it was also clear that the end of the rebellion was certain to come.

During the last year of the war Lincoln had turned to consideration of the role of the divine in the conflict. In his desk at the end were scraps of paper where Lincoln had jotted notes on the impact of God on the war and

the causes of the conflict. Lincoln had not been a traditional Christian. He had a skeptical view of the organized church and its dogmas. Those notes in his desk drawer and the elements of his speech at his second inauguration [These were inclusive of meditations reflected in his notes—Ed.] denotes a growing faith and a thorough study of the idea that God favored one side or the other in the War of the Rebellion, or that he sided with one side of the conflict or the other. As Lincoln observed, God may have had other ideas about the nature and devastation resulting from four years of war.

The *London Spectator* called the speech a sacred effort and prophetic in its message. Scholars continue to view this speech as one of the best ever delivered in the history of the United States. Some of the pathos that has accompanied the speech is the knowledge that 42 days after its delivery Lincoln would die at the hands of a rebel assassin.

Lincoln began his speech by taking a look at how we found ourselves locked in the deadly contest of the civil war. He noted that neither party to the conflict wanted a war, but one side would choose to pursue a war to dissolve the Union. *“Both parties deprecated war; but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive; and the other would accept war rather than let it perish. And the war came.”*

Although the speech, by historical comparison, was a brief one, it was pithy! Lincoln addressed the cause of the war in the longest section of the speech and the unexpected outcomes from the nature of the war.

“One eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the Southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was, somehow, the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union, even by war; while the government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war, the magnitude, or the duration, which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the cause of the conflict might cease with, or even before, the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us

judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has his own purposes. "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" If we shall suppose that American Slavery is one of those offences which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South, this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offence came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a Living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope--ferrently do we pray--that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue, until all the wealth piled by the bond-man's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether"

Neither side had predicted the revolutionary changes that would arise from the war. The end of slavery through the Emancipation Proclamation and the passage of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution would result in fundamental changes in society. Another revolutionary change was the former relationship of the states to the national government and a resolution of the doctrines of nullification and secessionism. [At least through the 20th century. They have reared their ugly heads once more in the 21st century—Ed.] These changes would overshadow the country's history for the next 100 years.

Finally, the closing of the speech was a clarion call of challenge to all Americans as the war was clearly drawing to a close. With victory in sight this was not a celebratory speech. It was not a victory lap by the head of the central government and commander-in-chief. The closing of the speech reflects this humble approach to the war's end and the task which laid before the government and the American people.

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan--to do all

which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.”

REGIMENTAL DISPATCHES

SOURCE OF PRIDE

SUBMITTED BY PETE SEIELSTAD

THE FUGELMAN

Just what are they saying about the Fugelman, the Second Wisconsin's newsletter?

You guys have a wonderful newsletter and thoroughly enjoyed reading it.

Eric Martens 24th Michigan

I have read your Fugelman again and have found it to be one of the best unit newsletters that I have seen in reenacting. I noticed that you mentioned the Lincoln Funeral prominently. Thank you.

Larry Werline (US Grant)

At our annual meeting Jim Dumke received applause for his work and it is justly deserved. It is informative, entertaining and educational as well as timely.

Thanks Jim!

SECOND WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY WEBPAGE

One cannot highlight the Fugelman for its good work and forget to point out the webpage for the Association. Jim Johnson has put a lot of work into making this the go-to website for information about our organization.

Typing, <http://www.secondwi.com/index.htm> will take a person to the page and from there he is on his way to information about our schedule, handbook, drill manuals and separate links to the other Company's webpage or Facebook. Other sources of information about the 2nd Wisconsin can be located simply by a click of the mouse.

We cannot thank Jim enough for keeping this vital source of information available for everyone. Applause, applause!

Well done Jim, well done!

2ND WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY ASSN, INC. ON THE WEB

The following report was submitted by Gary Van Kauwenbergh in order to keep our Association members updated on his effort to determine the status of our presence on the web. At the Association's

annual meeting Gary volunteered to review the status of the Second Wisconsin's website maintained by Jim Johnson. Immediately below is Gary's report on his efforts. On behalf of the Association and the newsletter we extend our appreciation for his efforts.

As promised at our last meeting I assessed the Associations' web presence. Bottom-line-on-top is I didn't think that we needed a new web page - we just needed to update Jim Johnson's site. Jim was actually pretty current when I first checked the site. He had everything posted that had been sent to him except for the latest issue of the Fugleman. While Jim is eager to keep his web site fresh, current and active, he's not a mind-reader and can't do that without our help.

I strongly suggest each company and battery appoint someone to periodically review the website and give Jim feedback. Jim Johnson's email address is secondwisconsin@hotmail.com and his new phone number is 906-284-7085. If something needs to be added or changed, you have to provide him a copy of content you'd like posted. You can't just complain the Handbook is out-of-date, you need to send him a note asking him to update with copy of the current handbook.

Reminder: Links to every issue of the Fugleman from January of 2000 to the current one can be seen at:

<http://secondwi.com/newsletter/newsletter.htm>

So far Jim has made, or is in the process of making the following changes to the web site <http://secondwi.com/index.htm> :

- 1. All unit contacts and links to each unit's web pages and Facebook pages. <http://secondwi.com/toc.htm>**
- 2. Updated to a current copy of the Association Handbook
<http://secondwi.com/handbook/2ND%20WISC.%20HANDBOOK.pdf>**
- 3. Changed the addressing e-mails from David Dresang to David Sielski**
- 3. Updated the Memorandum Page
http://secondwi.com/In%20Memoriam/in_memoriam.htm**
- 4. Adding a link to a copy of the Assn's Articles of Incorporation**
- 5. Adding a link to a copy of the Assn's 501 (c) (3) determination letter**
- 6. Adding a link to a copy of the Camp Chase article on tax deductions**

7. Adding a link to a copy of the Assn's WI Certificate of Exemption for Sales and Use Tax.

Other observations:

The company level Face Book pages are the most active and vibrant source of information the association has on the web. If your unit does not have one, they're not that hard to create. Anyone interested in creating one can learn how to and have one up and running very quickly. You can start in Face Book at

https://www.facebook.com/pages/create/?ref_type=logout_gear or go to YouTube and watch videos on how to do it like this one:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4N0yyB6hE8>

Many companies now have their own web pages. There's not a lot of content in them yet, but they're all pretty new so that's not surprising. Who's ever running each unit's web page needs input to keep it fresh, or they'll become out-of-date.

Please spend some time browsing through the web site at <http://secondwi.com/index.htm> If you have additional suggestions please forward them to me and I'll work with Jim on any reasonable request.

**I am, Yr. Obt. Srvt.,
Gary Van Kauwenbergh**

**CUSHING MEMORIAL ENCAMPMENT MAY 23-
24, 2015**

The following dispatch comes from Jenna Thiessen, one of the organizers for the upcoming ceremonial weekend to commemorate the award of the Congressional Medal of Honor to Alonzo Cushing.

Hello to all,

As many of you already know, Lt. Alonzo Cushing was finally awarded the Medal of Honor in November of 2014. It was exciting to see this ceremony live on tv, to witness history, and to pay honor to one of this country's great heroes. On May 24, 2015 the city of Delafield will be celebrating the Re-dedication of the Cushing Memorial at Cushing Park on its 100th

Anniversary! On May 31st 1915 William B. Cushing's widow and two daughters were in attendance as the monument with it's bronze plaque were unveiled to crowds of people. The park looked VERY different back then, being an open field with no trees around it. As a member of the planning committee for the 100th Anniversary and Re-dedication, I have been directed to invite re-enactors to the one time Cushing Memorial Encampment- a living history event, to honor the Cushing Brothers, the American Civil War, and the celebration in honor of the monument. At present there is no plans for the Medal of Honor to be there, but there are those working on getting the family to bring it to the park that weekend. What I have been directed to do is to oversee the encampment and invite you there for the weekend. The details are as follows:

1) This is an invite only event. Space is limited as we are trying to have the encampment in Cushing Park. If you know of other groups that may be interested, please send them to me via email. I would be more than happy to chat with them. Currently no horses will be allowed at the park. Dismounted Cavalry only at this time. There will be NO bounties paid out for this event. It is a volunteer event. The park and area can only accommodate three artillery pieces currently- Cushing's Battery and USS Minnesota being two already. This is also a UNION only event. We have invited Confederate units but would appreciate if you could galvanize for the weekend should you wish to participate.

2) The event will be Saturday May 23-Sunday May 24th. Hours will be from 10-4 both days. Set up will be on Friday, after 2:00pm. We are currently working with the school districts for a school day, so I would like to prepare with set up time for after that. The camp will close from 1-3 for a parade and the re-dedication on Sunday May 24th. All amenities will be provided: running water, toilet facilities (flushing and port-a-potties), fire wood.

3) Living history presentations to include: scheduled firings of both cannons and muskets, cooking demonstrations, music, ect. A schedule of events has not yet been put together. We are in the preliminary stages of the event. If you have a presentation that you would like to have scheduled, please let me know. I would like to schedule a few things on Saturday for the public. 4) Outdoor Church Service on Sunday at 9:30. 5) We would like to have a group of folks that would go into downtown Delafield on Friday night during the dinner hours (from 5-8) to hand out flyers and mingle with folks. Currently working on some avenues for that as well.

More information will be forthcoming as our planning committee continues to move forward. But we wanted to get the information out to you and your groups/units so that this could be added to your schedules for next year.

**Please RSVP to me via our Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1517299718552276/> Information will be shared on that page as well.**

Thank you for your attention, and I hope to hear from you soon!

Jenna Theissen

**Historical Timekeepers event coordinator Coordinator Cushing Memorial
Encampment sasymonstr@yahoo.com 262-366-1220**

ATTENTION TO ORDERS



AN ORDER DIRECT FROM HEADQUARTERS

**FROM THE LT. COL. COMMANDING THE SECOND WISCONSIN
REGIMENT**

Regimental Headquarters

2nd Wisconsin Vol. Inf.

23 February 2015

Order # 1-15

Infantry officers and NCOs,

You are here-by informed to institute the use of Casey's Manual of Arms as the drill preferred for the ensuing campaign.

Whereas we will assign ourselves with units in Illinois and on the march with others in subsequent campaigns;

Whereas as the source used by these units for manual of arms is Casey's Manual of Arms;

Therefore we will adhere to this preferred manual of arms.

Please continue to instruct your men in Scott's Manual of Arms when appropriate.

The 2nd Wisconsin will continue to base battalion drill on Col. Dominic Dal Bello's 4th edition Parade, Inspection and basic Evolutions of the Infantry Battalion (PIE)]

By Order of:

Lt. Col. Pd Seielstad

MINUTES OF ANNUAL
ASSOCIATION MEETING

JANUARY 31ST, 2015

Below you will find the minutes from the 2015 Association annual meeting. The secretary has had the minutes reviewed and this is his final draft. For those who were unable to attend the annual meeting this is a chance to acquaint oneself with the discussions and actions taken by our members. For those who attended the meeting it is your chance to refresh your recollection of the decisions taken at the meeting. A special thank you to our secretary, Dave Sielski, for providing this information for the members and the newsletter.

Meeting called to order at 10:03 A.M. by President Kevin Hampton.

Scott Frank welcomed everyone and gave brief history of the church (built in 1855), which was used as a meeting place for the original members of Co. A before and after the Civil War.

I CALL TO ORDER

- A. Invocation given by Gary Klas**
- B. Presentation of Colors: Tom Bass**
- C. Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Kevin Hampton**
- D. Oath: administered to all in attendance including new member Tanner Spahn (Co.K).**
- E. Moment of Silence for past members of the Association; Led by Pete, names of all members who passed away in recent years were read.**

II-MINUTES

Motion was made by Gary Klas to dispense with the reading of the 2014 minutes, 2nd by Ryan Holbrook. (Motion carried). Motion was made to approve minutes as written without any changes; motion was made by Lyle Laufenberg, 2nd Casey Hulbott. (Minutes approved as written by membership).

III TREASURE'S REPORT

Scott Frank reported that the Association finished the year with a balance of \$5,713.64, an increase of \$817.90, and reduction in cost of liability policy. Cause of higher income was due to only one scholarship being given out and higher amount of dues received. Copies of the report were handed out to those in attendance. Scott's opinion was that we have enough funds to continue the scholarship program. A motion was made by Gary Klas to accept the treasures report as presented, 2nd by Lyle Laufenberg. (Motion carried)

A copy of the Treasures Repost is listed below:

The Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association
Treasurer's Report
January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

Receipts:

Member Dues:	\$2,360.00
Bank Fees Reimbursed:	\$10.00
National Trip:	\$200.00
Donations:	\$0.00
Total Receipts:	<u>\$2,570.00</u>

Disbursements:

Arrears for NSF Check	\$99.00
Hall Rent:	\$100.00
Bank Fees:	\$40.00
Association Liability Insurance:	\$793.10
National Trip Deposit:	\$200.00
Scholarship:	\$500.00
Fees (Wis. Dept. of Financial Institutions):	\$20.00
Total Disbursements:	<u>\$1,752.10</u>

Net Income/(Loss): \$817.90

Beginning Balance:	\$4,895.74
Add Receipts:	\$2,570.00
Less Disbursements:	\$1,752.10
Ending Balance - 12/31/2014:	\$5,713.64

IV BOARD AND MILITARY OFFICERS REPORTS

- A. PRESIDENT KEVIN HAMPTON:** Kevin thanked everyone for attending the meeting and was pleased with the unity, communication and cooperation between the companies as we continued through the cycle of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.
- B. VICE-PRESIDENT:** No report given by Tom Bass
- C. SECRETARY DAVE SIELSKI:** Association membership in 2014 was 137 paid members for the year. Dave reminded everyone that dues and rosters need to be submitted ASAP along with any changes to the event schedule. For a member to be covered by our insurance or be eligible for the scholarship they must be on the official roster. Dave also has blank membership cards for anyone needing them.
- D. LT. COL. PETE SEIELSTAD:** As an association, we need to continue to recruit and communicate, it's the help of our individual members to make who help make us a strong group. Events went well this season and we presented ourselves well in the field. In closing Pete thanked everyone for attending the meeting and reminded us of the following:
- Give an authentic representation of the CW soldier on the field
 - Communicate with others in the Association
 - Recruit so we can educate others on the American Civil War
- E. MAJOR DOUG RASMUSSEN:** Doug thanked everyone for their attendance during the year as without the men in the ranks the officers would have no men to command. Doug commented on the hard work all the companies did working on drill which showed in the field.
- F. COMPANY OFFICERS AND / OR PRESIDENTS REPORTS**
- 1. COMPANY A TOM KLAS:** The company currently has 3 members and will be participating in the Sailors Creek National (March 27th-28th), anyone interested in attending this event should contact Tom for more info.
 - 2. COMPANY B JOHN DUDKIEWICZ:** Bill Bessler continues as President of the Company with 16 members. Co. B will be supporting events of its sister companies along with holding the annual Coon Valley event.
 - 3. COMPANY C:** Reported By Pete as still inactive.
 - 4. COMPANY E. CHARLES BAGNESKI:** Finished the year with 53 military members with 43 having participated in at least 1 events, Co.E gained 3 new members for the 2014 season. Best attended of the season were Wade House 33 members, Heritage Hill 29 members and Old World 20 members. Plans are again to support the events of our sister companies in 2015, with the main company event being at Heritage Hill in Green Bay June 20th & 21st.
 - 5. COMPANY G GARY KLAS:** Membership remains at 4 members.

-
- 6. COMPANY H REPORT GIVEN BY DAVE SIELSKI:** Company continues to look to rebuild due to the death of Tom Bispo, they wish the association well during the 2015 campaign season.
- 7. COMPANY K. RYAN HOLBROOK:** The Company has 25 members with more still needing to pay dues. The company max effort event will be the living history event at Old World Wisconsin which has moved to Labor Day weekend. The company will also be participating in a new event in Milton.
- G. BATTERY B. CHRIS BESTFUL:** Battery currently has 10 members; the battery continues to recruit for new members. Help is needed for the Hardland school day, Battery participated in the Co. A safety school for artillery. Lyle mentioned that anyone is welcome to fall-in and train on the piece.
- 6TH WI LA WALLY HLABAN:** Wally reported having 10 members, participated in 4 school days and 5 reenactments in 2014, in 2015 will be assisting in 4 school days and 7 event weekends. Battery has purchased a used limber.

COMPLETIVE SHOOTING COMMANDER GARY VAN KAUWENBERGH:

**HEADQUARTERS
2^d Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry (ACWSA)
5692 Williamsburg Way
Madison, Wisconsin 53719**

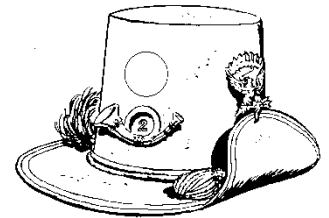
January 31, 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the honor to report,

The 2015 organizational meeting for the 2nd Wisconsin skirmish team will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 7, 2015 in the home of Roy and Cathi Nelson, located at W4982 Woodside Lane, Watertown, WI. 2015 ACWSA are \$10 and we still have the "first year free" program for new members.

2014 Season Summary:

The skirmish team had 24 members in 2014, a little down from 2013, but participation was steady.



The team attended all six skirmishes offered, and we finished in third place or better in all the small arms competitions. :

Musket Teams:

A 2nd

B 1st

Carbine Teams: A 3rd

B 1st

Ladies 1st

Revolver Team: A 3rd

Smoothbore:

A 2nd

B 1st

Breechloader

A 3rd

We only competed with the mortar at Boscobel, and placed 4th.

Bad news:

Long-time member Lee Arnold passed away last fall. Lee had be struggling with respiratory problems that had been keeping him off the firing line for a number of years, but he always re-enlisted every year hoping to join back in.

The Second Wisconsin skirmishers have attended every ACWSA skirmish and fielded at least one team in every competition is since we started. This year we broke our streak by not fielding a Henry team at one competition. The marksmanship team was started in conjunction with Company K the same year the movie Gettysburg was released (1993) which make that a 22 years run. (The Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association was incorporated in August of 1962, which means we're in at least our 53 year of operation.)

The following members served as cadre in 2014, and I don't expect any changes are in 2015.

Commander (Sergeant) Gary Van Kauwenbergh

Corporal Roy Nelson

Paymaster Darlene Van Kauwenbergh

2015 Outlook:

The team looks healthy again for 2015. We'll be starting with at least five new members. Mike Moran from Wausau, Yancey Von Yeast and his son Duncan (Yancey runs his own gunsmith business, see <http://www.yvonyeast.com/For-Sale.html>), along with Dan and Lori Johnson (who run their own Civil War clothing business, see <http://www.johnsonreproductions.com/>).

We have six competitions scheduled. They are:

April 25-26 114th ILL (N-SSA) & 2nd WI @ Springfield, IL

June 6-7 66th NC @ Appleton, WI

July 18-19 56th VA @ Bristol, WI

July 31- Aug 2 1 USSS, 15 WI & 8 WI @ Boscobel, WI

Sept 4-6 8 & 2 WI @ Rhinelander, WI

Sept 19-20 15th WI @ Bristol, WI

Lance and I would like to offer an opportunity for ‘traditional skirmishing’ with paper cartridges again this year. It’s a whole lot simpler if we do it at one of our regular events like Boscobel, but if you want to do something at a different place at another time, we’ll consider it as long as we’re available and you provide a place to shoot.

I’m also looking for an opportunity for some cross-pollinating the marksmanship team into a living history event, drill or reenactment this year. The marksmanship team does just enough drill to get us through our opening ceremonies, but don’t have the opportunity to do a lot of marching, stacking arms, doubling, or those kinds of movements.

My quest to field a team armed with Lorenz rifled-muskets continues, and we now have six members who own a total of nine fully functioning guns. I also translated the ninety-page Lorenz manual from German to English last year, and it’s available to everyone free on-line at

<http://acwsa.org/Documents/LorenzManualTranslation.pdf> . It has two things of interest to reenactors regardless of type of musket they use. First is a detailed description of the cleaning kit and how to maintain their gun. The second is a three-column table showing common problems with muskets, the probable causes, and what needs to get done to fix it. The manual is much more detailed than the Federal manuals published for the 1855 and 1861 Springfield rifled-muskets.

The Old Soldier Fiddlers, who are all either 2nd Wisconsin or my family members, were scheduled for three performances last year, but had to cancel one. We’ll be performing just once in 2015 at the Civil War Expo in Kenosha during March. If your unit isn’t going to make it to the Expo, I’ll be glad to hand out any brochures you send with me.

The American Civil War Shooting Assn. (ACWSA) obtained 501(c) (3) status last year, and I’d helped them set up a few things I’d like to remind the Association about:

1. If your unit making group purchases, you do not need to pay Wisconsin Sales tax. We have a Sales Tax Exemption certificate you need to show at the time of purchase. E-mail me if you want a copy of it.

2. We are registered with TechSoup, a non-profit organization that provides low-cost software to other non-profit organizations. I registered the Association a few years ago, but so far I'm the only one who's used it. When I registered the ACWSA, some of the members took advantage of it immediately. One bought a Windows upgrade with a manufactures suggested retail price of \$296 for \$8. Others bought \$588 Windows Office packages for \$24. If you have members who are using software for the benefit of this association, they can buy software from TechSoup. They sell everything. I'm the association coordinator for TechSoup, so anyone interested should contact me.

3. I also registered the ACWSA for the Amazon.Smiles program, which something our Association hasn't done. Amazon Smiles is a program where .5% of online purchases made through Amazon come back to the organization as a donation.

Reminder – the 2nd Wisconsin skirmish team is organized as part of the ACWSA, and open to anyone interested. You reenact in the same uniform we wear, and the ACWSA still has a 'first-year-free' promotion. After that annual dues are only \$10. Eleven of our members also shoot with the North-South Skirmish Association (N-SSA) who host an additional two skirmishes in Streator, IL, and two national competitions in Winchester, VA.

Just like reenacting, we have more events available than most people can attend. . Our philosophy has always been to keep a big roster and not depend on a small group to go to everything. Some of our members only come to one event a year. Before each event, I send out an e-mail with the skirmish information, and ask who's going to be there. You only have to say no once – and there's no hassling. On a good weekend we've put as many as five teams on the firing line, on a weekend where members have a lot of conflicts, we may only muster one.

Even if you're only interested in live-firing once, and not interested in competing with the team, I encourage you to shoot with us first. This is not brain surgery, but there are some things like finding the right bullet and powder charge that aren't intuitively obvious, and it's not uncommon for new shooters to get a round stuck in the barrel, or have ignition problems. We can save you frustration.

**Respectfully submitted by,
Yr. Obt. Srvt.,**

Gary Van Hauwenbergh

- H. KEEPER OF THE COLORS– TOM BASS:** took over as keeper of the colors in 2015 from Robert Schwandt. Colors were used at 3 events (Wilderness, Old World & Wade House), some minor repairs may be needed. Arrangements will be made to get the Assoc. colors from the Dresang home. Pete will be in possession of the colors.
- I. FUGELMAN –JAMES DUMKE:** Jim thanked everyone for sending him info for the newsletter.
- J. Website Jim Johnson:** Jim not in attendance, no report given. Gary will contact Jim on updated info for the website.

V. Nomination & Elections

A. Nominations were taken for President: Due to the expiration of the term nominations were opened for the position. Kevin Hampton was nominated by Ryan Holbrook, 2nd by Robert Schwandt. No other nominations were received, Tom unanimously reelected as President.

B. Nominations were taken for Corporate Secretary. Due to expiration of term nominations were opened for position. Dave Sielski was nominated by Marvin Kostka & 2nd by Ryan Holbrook. No other nominations were received. Dave was unanimously reelected as Corporate Secretary.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Scholarship continuance: In 2014 1-\$500 scholarships were given out. A total of 4 applications were received, the committee has meet to meet to decide on a new essay questions for the 2015 scholarship, the form will be updated and sent to each company. An applicant must be a member in good standing at the time that the application is submitted. A motion was made to continue the scholarship under its current guidelines for 2015 by Robert Schwandt, with a 2nd made by Ryan Schwartz. (Motion carried)

B. Surplus funds disbursement: General discussion was had on distribution of funds, a motion was made to table the distribution of additional funds by Gary Klas, 2nd by Lyle Laufenberg (motion carried).

A. Insurance Update: Report given by Scott Frank, no claims in 2014. Only Dues paying military members are covered by insurance, event must also be on the Association schedule to be covered by insurance. For some unknown reason our premium went down in

2014, invoice went back up to 2013 price for 2015. Please contact Scott Frank with any Insurance questions.

B. Handbook Committee: Tom Klas reported that he will continue to work on the handbook committee.

C. Membership: Discussion was had on what qualifies as a membership, see below for an outline of current policy. Motion was made to send issue back to committee by Dave Sielski, 2nd John Dudkiewicz. (Motion carried).

MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

ITEM: "Discussion was had on what qualifies as an association member, some ideas were that you must be a dues paying member to have any rights within the association. Other discussion was to get everything updated and in writing. Kevin Hampton will research the By-laws to see what might need to be changed. A motion was made by Ryan H with a 2nd by Chris Bestful to defer additional discussion on the matter until more research can take place.

Motion carried by the association." Minutes of the 2nd Wisconsin Association 2014

Membership

1.00 Intent

In that the original Veterans of the 2nd WVI sacrificed themselves for the sake of the Government and the Constitution, the 2nd WVI will not adopt any rule, policy, or requirement that by so doing would defy these very sacrifices. Therefore, this Unit will not prevent any American Citizen or its equivalent, excepting those convicted of a Felony, from joining, and participating, reenacting and portraying, an Iron Brigade Federal soldier of the American Civil War, of the 2nd WVI, when based on conditions of religion, ethnic origin, sex, age, race, disability, sexual/political preference, or nationality.

1.01 Rights & Duties

Persons are granted membership upon personal signature on the appropriate membership application and payment of dues. Excepting invited guests or units, no individual may participate with the Unit in any form unless there is a completed application on file. Renewal payment of dues will be required at the beginning of each calendar year to the 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Incorporated in order to maintain membership. Tardy dues will be subject to cancellation of membership. New memberships and refunds will be granted on a prorated basis. Members will have the right to vote on Unit issues after having attended at least three events. To retain the right to vote on Unit issues in succeeding years each member must have attended 3 events in the prior calendar year. Members must be sworn in once, through the traditional flag ceremony using the National Colors whereupon each member will recite the original oath administered to the original Federal soldiers of the American Civil War. The Headquarters Group will administer the oath as soon as practical for each member. Members will have a period of 1 year from the time of joining, to receive the oath. Failure to receive the oath will nullify membership. Prior to that time, members will still have full membership rights after attending 3 events as indicated above. Each member will be assigned to a Field Command.

COMMENT: Section 1.01 states 4 criteria for membership. 1. A personal signature on appropriate membership application. 2. The payment of dues. 3. Participate in flag ceremony and recite the oath of allegiance. 4. Retention of "Right to Vote" by having attended 3 events. (It is assumed that these events are the ones posted on the calendar of events for the association.

Observation:

There is no enforcement of this requirement for the 2nd Wisconsin Association.

It has been stated that the insurance of the association ONLY covers military personnel. This may need further clarification.

1.01(A) As part of the regimental dues a portion shall be added to the regular dues to cover the cost of the Association liability insurance policy.

1.02 Discipline

In becoming a member, each member inherently agrees to abide by the rules, regulations, policies and requirements set forth by the Unit in the Handbook and other methods. Any member may be permanently dismissed from the Unit upon a serious infraction of Unit rules and policies.

Permanent dismissals may only come about through a 2/3-majority vote of at least 21 present members after a discussion on the alleged infraction before the Unit. The alleged offender will have the right to defend his actions at this time. The Unit Commander will put the alleged infraction into writing and the results of the vote will be included. Tie voting will not be considered a majority vote. Temporary removal of a member from the Unit may occur at the discretion of the Unit Commander or a Field Commander when based on reasons of safety, law, or Unit Handbook. Action of this type will be made with extreme judgment and will culminate in a Unit meeting as above if necessary. Violations of a lesser transgression will be handled by the appropriate Field Commander along with the Unit Commander; a verbal warning given first. A subsequent violation will proceed with a written warning signed by both the respective Field Commander and Unit Commander. Any subsequent violations will proceed with temporary or permanent dismissals as indicated above.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Awards: Pete presented John Dudkiewicz with a certificate of appreciation for his support in the ideas and principles of the 2nd Wisconsin Association.

B. Event Calendar

- 1. Association Max effort event: Wauconda July 11th & 12th.**
- 2. National Event: Lincoln Funeral Train May 2nd & 3rd.**
- 3. BHB Event: None**
- 4. Company Max effort event (Co.E): Heritage Hill June 20th & 21st.**
- 5. Spring Muster: Due to the National interfering with the spring muster, a decision was made to postpone the muster in 2015, muster activities will take place at Heritage hill event.**
- 6. Kevin Hampton is working on a one day event in Madison, more info will be available pending approval of funding for the event. A motion was made by Ryan Schwartz & 2nd by Alex Kvalheim to support the event (motion carried.)**
- 7. Tentative Assoc schedule was passed out to all in attendance, members were reminded to review and send any updates or charges to the corporate secretary.**

N. Jim Dumke asked for association permissions to reactivate the medical unit, discussion was had that permission not needed as unit is already part of by-laws and as long as rules are followed no need to approve.

O. Ryan Schwartz brought up the idea of producing a recruitment video and a mess to help with training of new members, a motion was made by Gary V. and 2nd by Doug Rasmussen to refer back to committee to investigate the cost and options of making a video (motion carried).

P. Ryan Schwartz discussed an idea to create a core-group of company recruiters and NCO's. This group would be called the Camp Randall Mess, its purpose would be to introduce new recruits into our hobby by immersing them in the Civil War experience at 3 events per year, designated as "Recruit Musters". The Camp Randall Mess will establish itself with the express purpose of cultivating new members. A motion was made to refer this to committee comprised of interested people of the 2nd Wisconsin Association members. A full report on the Recruiting Video & Camp Randall Mess is to be completed by September 26th 2015, so that discussion can be had at the Wade House event (Motion Carried).

Q. Motion Made by Scott Frank, 2nd from Todd St.John to donate \$100 to the Fox Lake Historical society for allowing us to use the building for the meeting. Motion approved by the association.

VIII CLOSING

A. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by John Dudkiewicz, 2nd by John Thielmann, (motion carried). Meeting adjourned at 2:11 P.M.

Meeting Attendance

Dave Sielski Co.E

Casey Hulbott Co.K

Gary Van Kauwenbergh Co.G

Pete Seielstad Co.B

Scott Frank Co.A

John Thielmann Co.K

Gary Klas Co.G

Tom Klas Co.A

Kevin Hampton Co.K

Tom Bass Co.K

Ugljesha Pirocanic 6th WI LA

Todd St.John Co.E

Robert Schwandt Co.E

Ryan Schwartz Co. K

John Dudkiewicz Co.B

Ryan Holbrook Co.K

Kevin Klandrud Co.E

Anthony Burzinski Co.K

Andrew Burzinski Co.K

Lyle Laufenberg Bty B.

Wally Hlaban 6th WI LA

Chris Bestul Bty B

Marvin Kostka Co.E
Paul Seielstad Co.B
Charles Bagneski Co.E
Tanner Spahn Co. K
Doug Rasmussen Co.E
Jim Dumke Co.K
Kevin Birmingham Co.K
Weston Weisensel
Jerry Letcher Co.E
Scott Sontag Co.A
Sean Sample 6th LA
Alex Kvalheim Co.K
Laurie Rasmussen (civilian)

(Total attendance 35 people attended the meeting)

INVITATION TO COMPANY E DINNER & DANCE

The following is an invitation to all members of the Association to come and enjoy a wonderful meal and entertainment on April 11th, 2015. This is a special way to commence the reenacting season and to share time with our brothers and sisters from the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.

COME ALL!



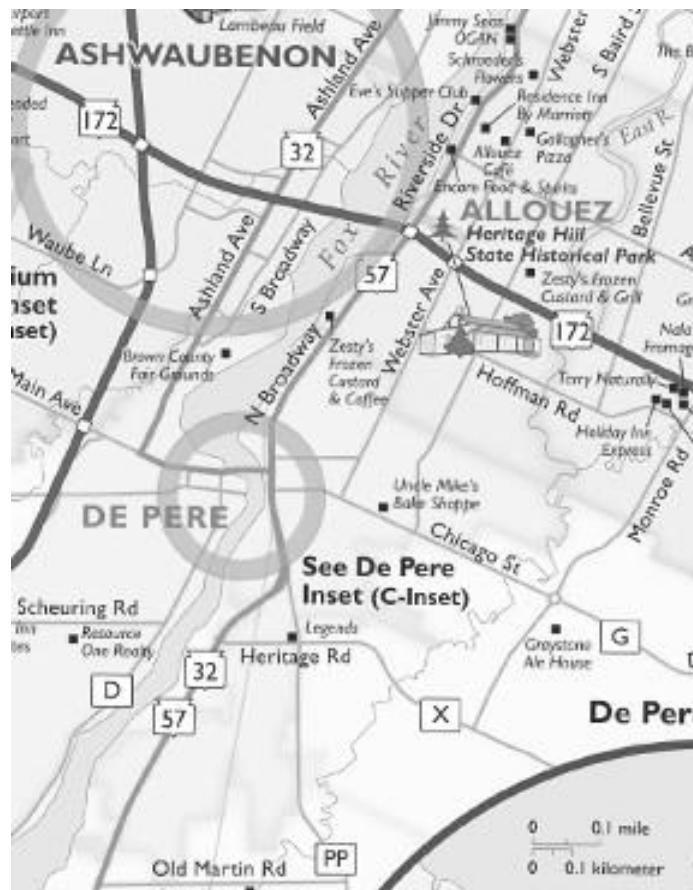
**THE OFFICERS, LADIES AND SOLDIERS
OF COMPANY E, SECOND WISCONSIN
VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,**

**INVITE ALL TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL
SWEETHEART'S DINNER & DANCE AT
SWAN CLUB/LEGENDS (DIRECTIONS ON
THE FOLLOWING PAGE) IN DE PERE,
WISCONSIN ON SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH
2015.**

**COCKTAILS WILL BEGIN AT 5:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY A
DINNER OF CHICKEN AND TENDERLOIN TIPS, MASHED
POTATOES, VEGETABLES, COLESLAW, ROLLS, DESSERT
BARS AND KNEECAPS AT 6:00 P.M.**

THE TWIN HILL STRING BAND WILL PLAY FROM 7 P.M. UNTIL 10 P.M.

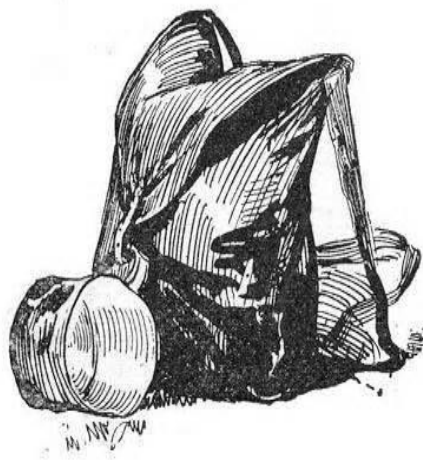
**THE COST WILL BE \$18.00 PER PERSON, PAYABLE BY CHECK TO "COMPANY E,
2ND WISCONSIN," AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, APRIL 6TH 2015.
SEND PAYMENT TO DAVID SIELSKI, 2316 SERENADE LANE GREEN BAY, WI
54301 QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO DAVID SIELSKI AT EITHER (920)
660-2449 OR DSIELSKI@GREENBAY.GANNETT.COM**



Please Come and Celebrate the Beginning of a New Season! Directions to Swan Club/Legends 875 Heritage Road De Pere, Wisconsin 54115 From Highway 172 East/West—take the Riverside (Hwy 57) Exit. Turn left onto Riverside Drive—you will be going south towards De Pere. In De Pere, Riverside Drive becomes North Broadway. Go straight through the roundabout in De Pere, staying on North Broadway, which remains Hwy 57. Outside De Pere the road will split—stay to the left, taking County Rd PP. Legends/Swan Club will be on your right at the corner of County PP and Heritage Road.

FROM THE CAMPS OF THE COMPANIES OF THE SECOND WISCONSIN

INFANTRY



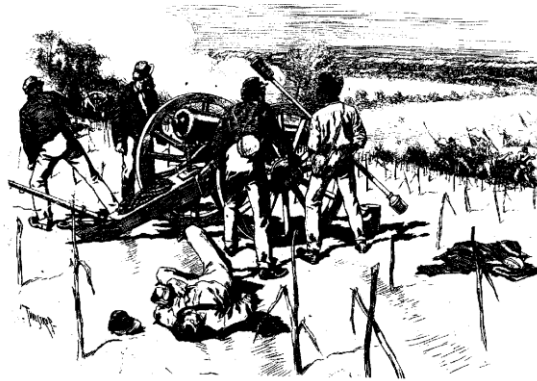
COMPANY K

Company K will conduct its second spring drill on March 21st, 2015. Drill will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Waterloo High School. As always, the men need to arrive in uniform with their rifle, bayonet, leathers and full canteen. Wear soft soled shoes to protect the gym floor.

As noted above by Lt. Col. Seielstad, the Second Wisconsin is moving to Casey's drill manual for events. Below is a link to the drill manual which also has a link to the School of the Soldier at the bottom of the page. It is a good way for all of us to brush up on those aspects of drill that will be the common relationship for all of us. Thanks to John Thielmann from Company K for providing the link for us to review.

http://64thill.org/drillmanuals/caseys_infantrytactics/volume1/part01.htm#66

ARTILLERY



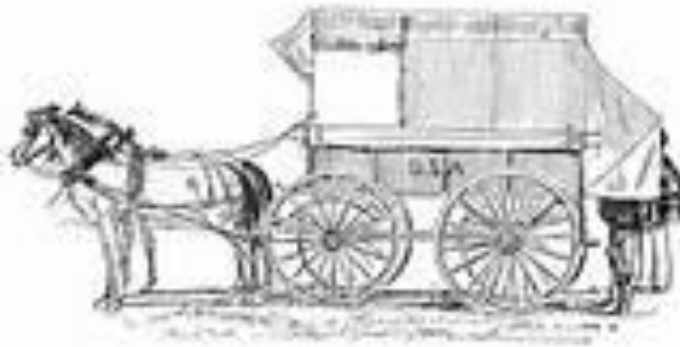


The photograph above is of the new limber purchased by the Association member 6th Wisconsin Light Artillery. The limber was used by another unit for years, but that unit is now defunct. The first time this limber was used by our fellers was at Norskedalen this last year. In the photo we find Wally Hlaban cleaning up the limber for the Norskedalen event last October.

THE SKIRMISH TEAM



**2ND WISCONSIN REGIMENTAL
FIELD HOSPITAL**



A medical unit for the 2nd Wisconsin Regiment was recently reactivated. The name adopted by the unit was the 2nd Wisconsin Regimental Field Hospital. Currently there are only two members of the unit but anyone is encouraged to join the unit at an event and try it out as an alternative to the field service, especially older fellows.

A recent organizational meeting was conducted and Stan Graiewski was elected to serve as Chief Surgeon and President of the group. Jim Dumke was elected to serve as Assistant Surgeon and Vice-president and secretary for the group. As chief surgeon Stan Graiewski will serve as part of the field command structure at events.

CIVIL WAR MILESTONES

MARCH

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Mar. 1, 1864 | A Union raid on Richmond led by Col. Ulric Dahlgren is turned back by cavalry forces under Custis Lee. |
| Mar. 1, 1865 | Wisconsin ratifies the 13th Amendment. |
| Mar. 2, 1864 | Col. Ulric killed in an ambush as his failed raid on Richmond came to an end. |

Mar. 2, 1864	The Senate formally promotes U. S. Grant to Lieutenant General.
Mar. 2, 1865	Gen. Robert E. Lee asks Gen. Grant to discuss an armistice. On instructions from Washington two days later Grant declines the request.
Mar. 2, 1865	Gen. Custer defeats Jubal Early's troops at Waynesboro, Virginia.
Mar. 3, 1865	U.S. Congress passes legislation creating the Freedmen's Bureau.
Mar. 4, 1861	Abraham Lincoln is sworn in as 16th President of the United States of America.
Mar. 4, 1864	Lincoln's Second inauguration.
Mar. 6, 1831	Gen. Phillip Sheridan, U. S., born.
Mar. 6, 1865	Inaugural Ball at the U.S. Patent Office.
Mar. 8, 1862	The Confederate Ironclad <i>Merrimac</i> -named the <i>Virginia</i> by the CSA-- sinks two wooden Union ships then battles the Union Ironclad <i>Monitor</i> to a draw. Naval warfare is thus changed forever, making wooden ships obsolete.
Mar. 8-10, 1865	Federal troops repulse Gen. Braxton Bragg's confederates at the Battle of Kinston, N.C.

Mar. 11, 1865	Federal troops occupy Fayetteville, N.C.
Mar. 11, 1865	President Lincoln offers amnesty to deserters who return to action within 60 days.
Mar. 9, 1862	The Monitor and Virginia conclude their battle, fighting to a draw, but the Virginia had to withdraw due to damage.
Mar. 10, 1864	Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant receives command of al the armies, replacing Henry Halleck, who is relieved of duty at his own request.
Mar. 16, 1865	General William Hardee's Confederates surprise Gen. Slocum's Federals at Averasboro, N.C. After initial success Union reinforcements force Hardee to retreat.
Mar. 17, 1862	General McClellan begins moving the Army of the Potomac to Fort Monroe, the beginning of the Peninsula Campaign.
Mar. 18, 1964	Arkansas voters ratify a pro-Union state constitution that ends slavery.
Mar. 19-21, 1865	The Battle of Bentonville results in a Confederate defeat.
Mar. 21, 1864	President Lincoln signs legislation allowing Colorado and Nevada to become states.

- Mar. 23, 1865** **President Lincoln leaves Washington City for City Point, Virginia to confer with Gen. Grant on plans to end the war.**
- Mar. 25, 1865** **Confederates attack Fort Stedman, a key point in Grant's Petersburg defenses.**
- Mar. 27-28, 1865** **President Lincoln meets with Generals Sherman and Grant aboard the *River Queen* to discuss the final campaign, surrender and reconstruction.**
- Mar. 29, 1865** **The Appomattox Campaign begins.**
- Mar. 28, 1864** **A large group of anti-war Copperheads attack Federal soldiers on furlough in Charleston, Illinois. Nine men are killed and 12 wounded in the disturbance.**

WHEN LINCOLN'S STATE OF THE UNION LEAKED

SOMEONE CLOSE TO LINCOLN GAVE EXCERPTS TO THE PRESS, AND THE NEW PRESIDENT SCRAMBLED TO AVOID A VERY PUBLIC HUMILIATION.

BURT SOLOMONJAN 19 2015, 12:52 PM ET



In this age of political posturing, the White House tries to scoop itself on the State of the Union message by pre-publicizing it in dribs and drabs. But in Lincoln's day, leaking this affair of state was treated as a scandal—one that might have meant a world of hurt for Honest Abe just as his 11-year-old son died and the Civil War started to turn the Union's way.

Hours before Lincoln sent his first State of the Union message to Congress on December 3, 1861—in those days, the message was delivered in writing—an anti-Lincoln newspaper, the *New York Herald*, published a few excerpts. No big deal, right? Wrong. Lincoln scrambled to cover up the apparent source of the leak—his wife—and to save his administration from a public humiliation.

The House Judiciary Committee pursued the leaker, or leakers, with a vengeance. It already had reason to suspect their identities before its

investigation began in February 1862. The correspondent for the *Herald's* archrival *New York Tribune* had fingered, as a go-between, a flatterer and social climber named Henry Wikoff, who was getting "news from the White House ... from women ... members of the president's family."

The Chevalier Wikoff, as he liked to be known, for some obscure past service to the Spanish crown, had hobnobbed with royalty all over Europe. Now in Washington, he served as a secret correspondent for the *Herald* (he was friends with the newspaper's founder and editor, James Gordon Bennett) and had exploited Mary Lincoln's social insecurities to insinuate himself into her affections.

The involvement of Mrs. Lincoln may help explain the vigor of the committee's pursuit. John Hickman, the severe-looking chairman, was an eloquently anti-slavery Republican from Pennsylvania who presumably shared many northerners' scorn for the president's wife. Besides having a brother, three half-brothers, and three brothers-in-law in the Confederate army, Mrs. Lincoln was assailed for lavishly redecorating the Executive Mansion while Union soldiers needed blankets. Earlier in February, the press had pilloried the First Lady (to whom that term was first applied, by the correspondent for *The Times* of London) for putting on an "ostentatious" and "most unseemly" White House ball.

The involvement of Mrs. Lincoln may help explain the vigor of the committee's pursuit.

Chairman Hickman also had reason to attack the *New York Herald*, which had knocked him in 1860 as "only a fighter with his tongue." The committee subpoenaed Wikoff, who confessed his own role in informing the *Herald* of the main points of the president's address. But he refused to reveal how he had learned of them. For this, he was held in contempt of Congress and jailed.

Wikoff was confined in a rat- and roach-infested storeroom in the Capitol's subbasement, attended by a Newfoundland named Jack. For a dandy who showed (a biographer wrote) a "slightly hysterical reaction to any situation," one night was enough.

He had help in getting out. Daniel Sickles, another of the capital's peacocks, went to the White House on his behalf. As a congressman, Sickles had shot and killed his wife's lover on a Washington street (and won acquittal on the unprecedented grounds of temporary insanity). Now a brigadier general known for his political skills, he visited Wikoff's unfortunate quarters the next morning, passing himself off as the prisoner's counsel.

Their conversation prompted Wikoff to send a note to Chairman Hickman that he was ready to talk. The sergeant-at-arms brought the witness back before the committee, where he dumbfounded the members when he named his source for the leak: none other than the White House gardener, John Watt. Watt confessed the following day, telling the committee the unlikely story that he had seen the message in the president's library, memorized passages, and recited them to Wikoff.

But why would the gardener admit guilt for something he hadn't done? Well, he was in a legal tangle of his own. The month before, another House committee had accused him of secessionist sympathies. Worse, he was engaged in blackmail. As an expert at padding invoices, he had taught the skill to Mrs. Lincoln, whose social and decorative ambitions exceeded Congress's purse. Now he was demanding \$20,000 in exchange for three of Mrs. Lincoln's incriminating letters. Accepting blame for leaking the president's message, Watt lost his White House job but landed a \$1,500 per year sinecure at the Patent Office.

If doubts remained about the source of the leak, the *Herald's* regular Washington correspondent seemed to settle them a few days later. S.P. Hanscom had wired the original dispatch to New York after Wikoff told him of the annual message's contents. Testifying under protest, he told the committee Wikoff had assured him "that he got it from Mrs. Lincoln; otherwise I should not have sent it ... I readily believed what he told me, because I knew that he was frequently up at the White House."

The committee heard from another witness as well: President Lincoln. He reportedly testified in person, and in secret, that nobody outside his Cabinet had seen the message in advance—meaning, not his wife.

The next week, the Judiciary Committee members voted not to publish testimony about the role of "any member of the President's family." With only a single dissent—the chairman's—the committee spared the first family any further disgrace. Despite the dangers they posed, the leaked excerpts proved no more memorable than the rest of the speech. Lincoln's first State of the Union message sank into the historical obscurity that is such addresses' customary fate.

CAPTURED! TAKING "PRISONERS" IN CIVIL WAR LIVING HISTORY

BY KEVIN O'BEIRNE

The following article was posted to the Company E facebook page by John Schut. It is something to consider and we thank John for making the article available to our readers.

[Author's Note: This essay attempts to discuss a woeful inadequacy in modern reenacting: the taking of prisoners during "battle" scenarios. It does not attempt to present information relative to the incarceration of captured soldiers in Civil War-era prison camps. While most of this article is presented relative to Federal soldiers of the Army of the Potomac, much of it is applicable for other military impressions of the Civil War.]

Being taken prisoner in the Civil War was both common and easy—all a soldier needed to do was not run fast enough when it was necessary, be caught on the skirmish line when the enemy got between him and the main body of his unit, or otherwise be in the wrong place at the wrong time. During four years of war, scores of thousands of boys in blue and their grayclad counterparts were captured and doomed to take up residence in places like Belle Isle, Salisbury, Point Lookout, and Johnson's Island, among others.

The Problem

Despite the fact that the capture of enemy soldiers was very common in most Civil War battles, it is extremely uncommon in modern living history. And, on the rare occasion when prisoners are taken at a reenactment, often their behavior in no way conforms to that of most soldiers captured in the Civil War. Examples from 2000, 2001, and 2002 events attended by this writer support this position:

- I participated in a regional event in New York State as a Confederate infantryman. During a heated "battle" I threw myself on the ground in "fear" as did many Northern and Southern soldiers in 1861-1865. When the Federals advanced, I rose to my knees with my hands in the air and cried out, "Yanks, I surrender!" Did a grim-faced sergeant order two men to fix bayonets and escort me to the rear and turn me over to the provost marshal, as I hoped would happen? No. Instead, they smiled, broke ranks, and stood around me cracking jokes until their commander moved them along to rejoin the "battle". The next blueclad battle line that approached simply split and marched around me as if I were an inanimate object (despite the fact that I continued to raise my hands and say, "Yanks, I surrender!"). I next attempted to surrender to a lone Federal captain, who only chuckled, shook my

hand, and walked away toward the sound of the guns. I knew most of the men to whom I attempted to surrender; they are fairly good reenactors, but they apparently had no time for taking prisoners. Frustrated, I finally picked up my rifled musket and rejoined the Southern battle lines.

- **At a large event in Kentucky I served in the Federal ranks as a Major. In accordance with the scenario and our portrayal, our brigade broke and ran like frightened sheep. While trying to escape by running through a cornfield with a Confederate battle line in hot pursuit, I tripped and fell. I sat up and raised my hands as the “enemy” advanced on me. The line parted around me and kept moving as if I were a tree or rock outcrop...Déjà vu. A second line approached and I continued to hold up both hands. This line also parted around me and marched past, and one of the Confederates gave me a “high five” (this may be commonplace because, around the same time, one of my comrades received a “high five” while trying to surrender on the opposite side of the cornfield). A third line, with a commissioned officer, quickly bore down on me. I held up my right hand and, with my left, offered my sword to the Rebel officer. He ignored me and kept his line marching—it appeared they never even paused to consider the exhausted Yankee attempting to spare his own life through the ignominy of surrender. It sure can be tough to be taken prisoner, even when one is wearing a relatively high rank.**
- **At a large event in Maryland, one of my comrades fell out of the ranks to aid a “wounded” man. While doing so he was approached by a group of amiable Confederates who had been milling about behind Federal lines looking for someone who actually carded to receive their surrender. They stated that they felt more than a little ridiculous wandering through the Federal forces fully armed—in view of the spectators.**
- **During a “battle” at a small, regional event in southwestern Pennsylvania, after expending almost all of its ammunition on the skirmish line in a large, open field, our company decided to surrender en masse. When we raised a white rag on our officer’s sword, the “enemy” apparently did not know what to do with us or how to react. Our company commander had to tell the “enemy”**

officer to order us to our feet with our weapons' muzzles toward the ground, to move forward slowly, then give them our names and unit, and hand over our cartridge boxes. After this, we had to more-or-less form ourselves into a line and ask the "enemy" commander to march us to the rear. • At an otherwise excellent event in Maryland over 100 Confederates were "taken prisoner" in a short battle reenactment and held under guard throughout the night.

- During the evening some prisoners ridiculously attempted to escape by hiding in a group of spectators who were passing through on a candlelight tour. The next morning several prisoners got up a ruckus, yelled modern epithets at their "captors", and commenced throwing potatoes, slightly injuring one guard. This was against the historical scenario and had a decided feel of Hogan's Heroes instead of the 1862 Maryland Campaign.**

Do such incidents sound familiar? If you have not encountered similar experiences, perhaps you have never attempted to "surrender" during a battle reenactment.

This writer has come to the conclusion that most reenactors have neither the time nor the inclination to take prisoners or surrender. Perhaps they are too intent on getting back into the "battle", or perhaps they simply do not care to deal with "captured" men, or maybe they do not want to subject themselves to becoming prisoners, even for a short while. Regardless, the failure to take prisoners in modern reenacting represents a tremendous disservice of historical interpretation, as well as lost opportunities for some fantastic first-person encounters between the blue and gray.

Being Captured in the Civil War

A student of the common Civil War soldier summarized the experience of being captured as:

"First hustled to the rear, the prisoner was disarmed. The unarmed individuals were then collected into groups where each man's identity and unit was recorded. Sometimes while October, 2002 The Columbia Examiner Page 20 "[The Confederate officer] yelled for the Yanks to come in... [and] motioned to the Yankees to come forward into their lines. At last, a few dazed, terrified New Yorkers quietly got to their feet, dropping their muskets and gun belts, and slowly made their way

up the gradual slope to the Rebel rifle pits. Within seconds it was all over; after seeing the first few give up, almost the whole mass of [thirty-three] men stood to surrender. Only Springsteed and a few others made any attempt to escape... They made a rush for safety, under heavy fire, having decided 'that it was better to risk the enemy's bullets than a prison.'"⁸ **near the front the captive might be questioned by an army officer as to his regiment, army commander, or military information, however, 'interrogation' as it is used in today's armed forces, was rare. From the front line collecting points the prisoners were marched further to the rear, and during these movements were usually allowed to keep their canteens and haversacks. Most accounts of men captured in regular battles, with some exceptions, acknowledge that their treatment was normally rough but courteous... Eventually all captives were marched to a railhead, or to a large town or city where transportation by train or boat to...military prison camps was provided."**¹

Robert Knox Sneden, a cartographer on the Sixth Corps staff, recalled his capture by Mosby's Rangers during the Mine Run campaign: In contrast to most re-created "battles", soldiers in real Civil War engagements often called upon their foes to surrender. During the battle of the Wilderness, a Zouave recalled of the fighting in Saunders's Field,

"The Johnnys were then coming down upon the open plain close on to us, yelling out 'surrender, Yanks.'... They shot down a great many of our boys coming back. But I did not like to register my name in the Hotel-deLibby." ²

An artilleryman in the Army of the Potomac's Second Corps recounted the decision of whether to flee or surrender during the battle of Reams Station: "There remain to us the... alternatives of surrender, or an attempt at flight... Our minds are instantly made up, for against the horrors of Rebel prisons on the one hand we have only to balance the chances of being shot while retreating...we hesitate but for an instant ere choosing the latter alternative, and take our departure, amid the hissing bullets, and the touching invitations of the 'Johnnies,' who tell us to 'come in,' or they'll shoot us."³

Soldiers who chose to surrender signaled their capitulation in a variety of ways. Simply calling out the intent to surrender seems to have been the most common. Confederate General Alfred Iverson recalled another common

method: “When I saw white handkerchiefs raised and my line of battle still lying in position, I characterized the surrender as disgraceful.” 4 A third method was the “old fashioned” “hands-up”, as recalled by a Rebel who was captured at Antietam: “three, myself among them, are run over by the line in blue, and throw up our hands in token of surrender.”5 Similarly, another Confederate recalled of Pickett’s Charge, “they flung themselves on the ground to escape the hot fire and threw up their hands in token of surrender, while the remnant sought safety in flight.”6 Soldiers commonly referred to being captured as “gobbled”, as in “gobbled up” by an advancing enemy line; for example:

“[A Vermont soldier] slipped and fell...between two rocks. ...Upon his arrival he found himself proceeded by a Confederate soldier. For an instant, they glared at each other, when the reb burst out laughing saying: ‘We’re both in a fix! You can’t gobble me, and I can’t gobble you till we know which [side] is going to lick [the other]. Let’s wait til the shooting is over, and if your side wins, I’m your prisoner; and we win, you’re my prisoner!’ The bargain was made... ‘Didn’t that reb feel cheap when he found I’d won him!’”7

One group of Federals was captured as follows:

“I [was]... awakened by a rough tap on the head with a pistol barrel... pressing the muzzle to my head [he] ordered me to ‘be silent or he would blow a hole through me.’... Five or six other [enemy] soldiers came in and immediately... [began] demanding silence, then greenbacks... One Rebel seized my pistol from under my pillow.... Mosby himself interrogated me at once.”9

A Federal captain serving near Hanover Court House, Virginia in late May, 1862 reported:

“As soon as [the Confederates] saw me they sprang up in a body and called to me not to shoot, that they were willing to surrender. The captain commanding them came forward and handed me his sword and surrendered to me 96 prisoners... with all their arms and accouterments... I then ordered the captain to form his men and have the caps taken off their guns and their bayonets unfixed, after which I returned with them to General Emory’s headquarters.”10

Commissioned officers usually preferred to surrender to an officer of equal or higher rank. One officer captured at Cold Harbor attempted to bury his

belt and sword—which was essentially a commissioned officer’s “badge of office” and a symbol of his honor— but, before the task could be completed he was caught and brought into the Confederate earthworks where,

“A man who was not a soldier, but a citizen...who had come up to kill a few Yanks...grabbed my sword and I wrestled with him for it. While we were twisting and struggling... a tall Confederate Officer took him by his neck, [cursed him, and] and wanted to know why he intended to strike a prisoner.... The officer touched his hat to me and asked the cause of my trouble. ‘That man wanted my sword,’ I said, ‘but I saw no reason for giving it to him. You appear to be an officer and... I will offer it to you, sir.’”¹¹

In both the Union and Confederate armies, prisoners—regardless of the color uniform they wore—were placed in the charge an officer known as a “provost-marshal”, who essentially served as the chief of military police for a given geographic area or a given command.¹² Provost marshals were typically not used below the brigade level and were often junior field officers (majors and lieutenant colonels), October, 2002 The Columbia Examiner Page 21 although line officers were also frequently employed as provost marshals as circumstances required. Throughout most of the war, the Army of the Potomac had a provost-marshal-general, who was the top “police officer” of the army.

1. Even before the heinous prison camps of 1864, most Federal soldiers feared “being gobbled and taken to Richmond”. This should be reflected in reenactors’ first-person impressions.

2. When opposing battle lines were close, it was not unusual for men of one side to call upon their enemies to surrender, particularly if one side felt it had an advantage. In General Orders No. 133, dated June 9, 1862, General George McClellan issued the following order to the Army of the Potomac:

“All prisoners captured from the enemy will be turned over to the provost-marshal of division, who will send them, at the earliest practicable moment, with complete descriptive lists and information as to where, when, and how they were captured, to the provost-marshalgeneral.”¹³

3. Surrender was signaled by calling out, waving a white rag, by raising one’s hands, or simply by standing up when called upon to surrender. However, the use of provost marshals as receivers of captured enemy

soldiers was in effect before the publication of General Orders No. 133, as evidenced by this March, 1862 communication from a Federal General in the Shenandoah Valley: “We found a small picket of cavalry and a few infantry, several of whom were taken—furloughed men— who probably preferred being captured. I sent them forward this morning to Provost-Marshall Andrews.”¹⁴ Similarly, a Federal cavalryman serving near Richmond in May, 1862 wrote, “General Emory then ordered me to turn [the prisoners] over to the provost-marshal”¹⁵ As recounted above by Private Sneden, after capture it was not uncommon for soldiers to be “relieved” of their cash or valuables, or certain parts of their uniforms or gear. Shortly after being taken prisoner, soldiers were marched to the nearest town or railroad station for transport to a prison camp. The reception that Southern civilians provided for captured Yankees was not always the warmest, particularly as the war dragged on. A New Yorker taken prisoner in 1864 described marching through the streets of Petersburg, Virginia: Confederate prisoners captured at Spotsylvania Court House in May, 1864, being held in an open ravine nicknamed “the Punch Bowl” near Belle Plain, Virginia pending transport to Northern prison camps (Library of Congress)

4. Men who surrendered did so out of an instinct for selfpreservation. As such, they were often (but not always) more willing to be captured than to be shot while attempting to escape.

5. The first order of business after actual capture was disarming the prisoners. Captors not only removed percussion caps and charges from muskets, but also thoroughly checked each prisoner for knives, pistols, and other weapons and confiscated their ammunition. Captured weapons could be left behind or, more commonly, were brought to the rear with the prisoners, carried either by the captors or the prisoners themselves.

6. Upon their capture, prisoners were generally stunned and depressed, not defiant and surly as many “captured” reenactors tend to be.

7. Prisoners tended to obey the commands of their guards.

8. Men who guarded captured soldiers could be nervous and trigger happy—which was understood by most prisoners, who behaved accordingly.

9. It was fairly common for guards to steal money, valuables, and gear (hats, blankets, etc.) from prisoners.

10. In the immediate aftermath of their capture and disarming, prisoners were usually marched to the rear and handed over to a provost marshal. “We were subjected to gross abuse—the ladies condescending to hoot at us and spit on our faces... The next morning we were robbed of all valuables, and part of our clothing was taken.” 16

11. If prisoners were held for a brief period before being marched to the rear, they were “confined” in any convenient area: a fenced-in farmyard, the center of a large clearing, in a ravine, etc. In short, prisoners were held at gunpoint in any location where they could be watched and warded from escape attempts. While the treatment described above was not uncommon, on the other hand, not all Federal prisoners were subjected to such treatment by Southern civilians. Indeed, there were many acts of kindness toward captured Yanks by Confederate locals; however, as the war lengthened, the frequency of acts of kindness toward prisoners tended to decrease.

Implications for Reenactors

How can living historians improve the quality of “battle” scenarios through increased attention to taking “prisoners”? Here are a few pointers.

Conclusions Drawn from the Historical Accounts The first-person testimonies presented above are merely a smattering of the hundreds of available accounts of soldiers’ captures. The following inferences were drawn from the historical accounts of captured soldiers studied for this article:

- ***Consider Documented History:*** Reenactors should endeavor to incorporate the conclusions listed above into living history events. October, 2002 The Columbia Examiner Page 22

- ***Reenactors Should Add Talk of Capture to Their First-person Impressions:*** When a “battle” appears imminent or in the aftermath of an “engagement”, talk about who was “taken to Richmond” or “gobbled”, and other topics relative to being captured. Not every casualty in Civil War battles was a gunshot wound, as is depicted at most reenactments.

- ***Reenactors Should Think More Often About Taking Prisoners than “Killing” the “Enemy”:*** It was common practice for soldiers in battle to call upon their foes to surrender, and all but the most murderous men typically desired to capture the enemy rather than

spill his blood. This should be incorporated into the actions of almost all reenactors in a “battle” scenario, from privates up to the highest ranks, more often than is currently the case at most living history events.

• *Opportunity for First-person Interaction Between Federals and Confederates:* One of the most interesting aspects of the Civil War was the interaction between Federals and Rebels. Such interaction was fairly rare for the average soldier, and generally could occur only on the picket line when commissioned officers were not present, or when a group of men were captured. Such occurrences are altogether rare in reenacting because realistic picket scenarios are uncommon and the taking of “prisoners” at events is rarer still. Unfortunately, events with strong prisoner-of-war scenarios are almost unheard of, outside of the Immortal 600 events at Fort Pulaski, Georgia, the Fort Delaware events, and a few others. Taking prisoners presents a unique opportunity for realistic, intense, and educational first-person interaction between the two sides.

• *Preparing to Accommodate the Taking of Prisoners:* Battalions or larger bodies of living historians preparing to enter a “battle” should consider how to accept and handle prisoners.

If a unit (company, battalion, brigade, or otherwise) intends to take prisoners, it is necessary to have a responsible person who is familiar with period procedures and protocols designated to serve as the “provost marshal”. While the “provost marshal” should optimally be a commissioned officer, depending on the size of the living history event, his rank may not matter as long as the job gets done. One alternative for living history events is to simply designate the commander of a battalion’s guard detail as the “provost marshal”, assuming that at least a portion of the guard detail does not return to the ranks for the “battle” and remains under the direct control of the commander of the guard.

Regardless of who serves in the role, the “provost marshal” must be delegated the authority to handle prisoners. All commissioned officers in the command should be made to understand that the “capture” of prisoners is actively sought and, upon capture, all prisoners are to be sent under armed escort to the “provost marshal”.

The “provost marshal” must be provided with a guard detail sized sufficiently to handle the expected number of prisoners; this writer believes

that five armed men, in addition to the “provost marshal” himself, are sufficient to handle up to thirty or forty prisoners for up to a couple hours, assuming that the guard detail is not called upon to do anything other than guard the prisoners.

The overall commander, in consultation with the “provost marshal” and the “enemy” commander(s) should determine before the “battle” commences the procedure for handling prisoners after they are turned over to the “provost marshal”: are they to be held for two minutes, throughout the “battle”, or for hours afterward? If prisoners are to be released shortly after they are taken, routes for them to rejoin their own lines out of the sight of the spectators and somewhat away from the “battle” action should be identified in advance of the “engagement”.

If prisoners are to be held beyond the end of the “battle”, arrangement for a holding area (preferably with some type of barrier, even if it is only a farmyard fence) is necessary. After a “battle”, guards should be prepared to aid prisoners by escorting or providing water details, and escorting prisoners to the sinks if necessary.

While they are seldom needed at most living history events, it is a good idea for the “provost marshal” or unit commander to have period parole forms, which can lend an added touch of realism to a prisoner scenario.

• *Tips for Prospective Prisoners:* Commissioned or non-commissioned officers in charge of troops that contemplate surrendering in a “battle” should be prepared with a white (or white-ish) rag to clearly signal their surrender or request a cease-fire. Alternatives to the white flag include holding up both hands, holding up muskets in a nonthreatening manner, hollering “We surrender!”, and other means. Upon being taken captive, knowledgeable reenactors may need to provide subtle advice to their captors to achieve a first-person experience satisfactory to all. “Prisoners” should present an appropriate first-person impression: dejected, sullen, morose, and exhausted. Prisoners should immediately obey the orders of their guards. Escape attempts, if any, should be realistic, limited in frequency, and should be ventured only if there is a realistic chance of success without receiving a guard’s bullet in the back. In such instances, remember that you are representing men who were often isolated in a virtual sea of enemy soldiers, who moments before had

been busy trying to kill them; therefore, conduct yourself with appropriate trepidation.

• ***How to “Take Prisoners”:*** If one or more “enemy” soldiers surrender to you in a “battle”, what should you do? First off, signal to them that their surrender is accepted and order them to advance in a non-threatening manner (i.e., hands up, weapons held with muzzles toward the ground, move slowly, etc.). If the prisoners are taken in the midst of a raging “battle”, it is probably best to move them to an area of “safety” out of the immediate area of the “fighting”. If the prisoners are captured after the “battle” has moved away, it could be appropriate for the captors to simply order the prisoners to sit or kneel in place. As soon as possible, the prisoners should be disarmed, even if it means only removing the percussion caps from their weapons; however, other means of disarmament are desirable, including checking each man for pistols, knives, and other weapons. Small arms and knives should preferably be confiscated; if confiscation is undesirable, the reenactor possessing the weapons should be informed that they are “confiscated” and that he is not to consider using them in an escape attempt. If the latter course is adopted, obvious pistols and knives should be immediately concealed from plain sight by the men who carry them. Optimally commissioned officers should surrender their sword (or at least make a show of **October, 2002 The Columbia Examiner Page 23** it) to the senior officer in the vicinity; however, an officer should not be distracted from the more serious duty of attending to his troops in the “battle” simply to accept the formal surrender of an “enemy” officer. After the prisoners are disarmed, the name and rank of each should be recorded by the senior person present, or delegated to a non-commissioned officer if a commissioned officer is present. For this reason, it is important to have writing materials handy, particularly for those reenactors with non-commissioned officer impressions. Commissioned officers who are “captured” should be separated from their enlisted men as soon as possible after capture to minimize the potential for organized, mass escapes. Captured commissioned officers who conduct themselves as gentlemen should be treated accordingly by their guards. After disarmament and the recording of names, prisoners should be marched to the rear and turned over to the provost marshal, together with the list of their names and ranks. After this, the captors may rejoin their commands.

• *Tips for Guards Watching Over Prisoners:* At all times, especially during the period before the prisoners are disarmed, captors should be especially vigilant and should maintain their guard. Guards' weapons should generally be held at the ready in the general direction of the prisoners. Of course, there are obvious, common sense safety implications to this, such as not pointing weapons directly at anyone, and maintaining all guards' weapons at half cock (never at full cock). The use of bayonets by guards should be carefully considered before the order to fix them is given; similar considerations apply to the use of loaded weapons by men who guard prisoners. Needless to say, guards should never turn their back on prisoners and should absolutely never quit their weapons. Guards should always be on the lookout to prevent escapes. Within the reasonable bounds of safety (always the highest consideration), guards should endeavor to convey a slightly "threatening" attitude toward prisoners, and should conduct themselves in an appropriate first-person manner.

• *What to do with "Captured" Gear:* One of the inevitable aspects of being taken prisoner in the Civil War was losing some of your gear: muskets, cartridge boxes, belts and bayonets, and—if it struck the fancy of one's captors—hats, blankets, cash, and other items. How can this aspect of "captures" be re-created in the living history context when each man has to purchase his own (expensive) gear? Unfortunately, because the government does not issue kit to reenactors, often some corners of historical accuracy have to be cut when it comes to confiscating arms, valuables, and other equipment from "prisoners".

A few alternatives include:

1.) Prior to the "battle" all men can mark their gear with their name and group, including placing small tags on weapons and other gear as appropriate. Thus, confiscated items can be easily identified and returned to their owners upon the release of the "prisoners".

2.) Prior to the battle, a limited number of men from either side can be selected for capture. If the number of men is fairly small, identifying the various items for return to their owners should not be difficult. The drawback is that spontaneity in captures is reduced or entirely eliminated.

3.) Robbery of cash from “prisoners” can be easily accomplished by distributing reproduction period paper money to reenactors prior to a “battle” scenario.

4.) As the least-accurate but most reliable alternative, all items of gear can be left with the “prisoners”, even to the extent that prisoners carry their own weapons after capture. For the capture scenarios observed by this writer, this seems to be the most common approach today. The first three alternatives promise higher degrees of historical accuracy but require advanced planning; in particular the first two scenarios have a small probability of equipment being lost despite the best of intentions. For all alternatives (especially the first three), the most favorable results will be obtained if capture scenarios are reviewed with the “enemy” prior to the “battle”. For all alternatives, the best outcomes will likely be obtained at smaller events where increased control and coordination is more easily implemented. Conclusion “Battle” re-creations can be significantly enhanced with increased historical correctness attained through improved planning, preparation, and willingness on both sides to take prisoners and to be captured in turn. Often the first-person experience achieved through a well done “capture” scenario more than makes up for the loss of trigger time during battle reenactments. If you’re tired of the same-old, same-old when the powder starts to burn at your next event, consider surrendering or looking to take some prisoners.

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13 O.R., Series 1, Vol. XI, No. 3, pg. 222.

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