

# OUR CAMP JOURNAL



Volume 17, Issue 5

"We are but few in number but formidable." -Pvt. James Shelton, 7th Md. Co. B

February 2012

## Annual Meeting 2012



**Register NOW!**  
For  
**148th New Market**  
(May 19-20th)  
and  
**149th Gettysburg**  
(July 6th—8th)

**See Page 2**

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The 2012 edition of the 7th Maryland got underway at a new meeting location that was old home to the company.

Marietta House Museum, formerly known as Marietta Mansion, graciously allowed the company to use a renovated meeting room. Still recovering from the earthquake damage in August of 2011, and under a new administration, the room served to be absolutely perfect for the annual business meeting, even if the weather was less than ideal.

The session started later than anticipated due to the sloppy conditions outside. After the Invoca-

tion, the attending members got down to business under the direction of President Bill Hart who presented the opening statement on the agenda. He recapped the year, and noted to members that he would not seek reelection as president of the 7th MD.

Cpl. Stephen Blumberg, in his role as Vice President, also recapped the year and looked forward to the coming events in the 1862 season.

Secretary-Treasurer Jay Henson presented the

financial report on the health of the company's funds. With an anony-

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Capt. Jeff Bush, left, awards the coveted "Farby Barbie" award to Pvt. Don Miskey during the annual meeting.

## President's Message

And so our 2012 season has begun! Our kickoff meeting at Marietta Mansion was well-attended and very productive, with a lot of active engagement by everyone. I was surprised and pleased to see such a large turnout in light of the bad weather and difficult traveling conditions. And comrades, do we have a busy year planned!

Stay tuned for the consolidated information on events to be distributed.

I should like to thank everyone who attended the meeting for their confidence in voting me into the position of president, as well as for voting to have me continue in the role of Corporal. I will do my very best to

perform my duties with sincerity, and to honor the trust and confidence you have placed in me. I also wish to thank Bill Hart for his hard work and dedi-

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**Cpl Stephen Blumberg**  
President

# Upcoming Campaigns

## February 11th

Presidential Escort,  
Salisbury University  
Contact Capt. Jeff Bush at  
JBushBRE@aol.com  
(*Individual 7th MD*)

## February 25th

Company Drill Day  
Marietta House Museum grounds  
Glenn Dale MD  
11 AM until about 3 PM  
(*Company 7th MD*)

## March 24 & 25

Officer's and NCO's School (24<sup>th</sup>) with  
1<sup>st</sup> Regiment Drill Day (25<sup>th</sup>)  
Gettysburg, PA  
(*Company 7th MD / FVB*)

## April 3rd

The Annapolis History Consortium  
presentation of Annapolis, MD, in  
1862. A one-night event at St. John's  
College Key Auditorium. Must attend  
rehearsals in March.  
(*Individual / 7th MD*)

## April 14-15th

Reenactment of Campbell's Run, in  
Chambersburg, PA.  
(*Individual 7th MD / FVB*)

## April 21-22nd

Marching Through Time at Marietta  
House Museum, in Glenn Dale, MD.  
(*Company 7th MD*)

## May 5th

Frederick Douglass Day at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, MD., and African American Civil War soldiers cemetery program to possibly coincide with date of the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland Spring Soiree.  
(*Company 7th MD*)

## May 19-20th

148th Anniversary Battle of New Market, in New Market VA.  
(*Company 7th MD / FVB*)

## June 9-10th

150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Battle of Cross Keys and Port Republic  
(Held at Cedar Creek Battlefield in Middletown, VA)  
(*Company 7th MD / FVB*)

## July 6-8th

149th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, Gettysburg, PA  
(*Company 7th MD / FVB*)

## July 21-22nd

Skirmish at Funkstown  
Town Park Days, Funkstown MD  
(*Company 7th MD*)

## August 3-5

150th Anniversary of the 2nd battle of Bull Run (Manassas)  
(Held at Cedar Creek Battlefield in Middletown, VA)  
(*Company 7th MD / FVB*)

## September 14-16th

150th Anniversary of the Battle of Antietam.  
(Held near Sharpsburg, MD)  
(*Company 7th MD / FVB*)

## October 20-21

148<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Battle of Cedar Creek. At Cedar Creek Battlefield, Middletown, VA.  
(*Company 7th MD / FVB*)

## November 17

Morning Ceremonies and Remembrance Day Parade, Gettysburg, PA  
(*Company 7th MD / FVB*)

## December TBA

150th Anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg

A complete schedule listing both *Individual* and *Company* events in 2012, will be available as an attachment.

## Notes from the 1st Regiment

### Onward to 1862!

We're entering the second year of the anniversary events, with a busy season ahead. In preparation for the rigorous schedule, my staff and I are busy preparing a schedule of topics for the coming Officers and NCO's School in March.

We hope to present a variety of subjects that will help our organization operate more efficiently and most of all, more "militarily".

We can use input from everyone, so if you're curious or wish to help us operate better, please send me an e-mail with your suggestions.

At the Federal Volunteer Brigade meeting in mid-January, one thing was requested of all companies and their rank-an-file. That being if a company



Col. Jay Henson  
1st Reg't FVB

votes to attend an FVB event, then maximum attendance is requested. Adjutant Lt. Steve Wagner requests a head-count from each company prior to the event, and our street counts are based upon the information supplied. So please, if you voted to attend an event, please follow up, and be there.

Also, we will be trying to increase the width of each company street to 12.5 feet. This is based upon the research of the street widths being five paces apart, and historically one pace equals about 30 inches. Two paces, or 60 inches, should be left between company streets as well. This, of course, is all dependent on our allowed space at each event. But, it is something we're working on.

# From The Right Flank

Since this is my first article, I'll be brief. I'd like to thank the members of the 7th Maryland for electing me to the position of Vice President. I consider this an honor and I will do my best to fulfill the requirements. Looking at our schedule for 2012 I believe our plates are quite full. Each month there is one or more events for us to come together, accomplish the event in 7th Maryland style, and enjoy each other's company!

With our new leadership in place I believe our presence on the field will be envied and inspiring. Maybe a little drill competition at

some events will prove the point.

We have our new national colors in place. Our focus now turns to our regimental colors. How grand it will be to have both in place. I also look forward to see how many inches our "yoouts" will grow this year. *It has to be something in the water.*

So members, with only a few weeks left to prepare yourself and kits, may God bless us all with health and happiness. See you on the field!



Cpl. Ron Riotta  
Vice President

## Register NOW!

### New Market

The early registration fee for the Battle of New Market is \$12.00 per person until March 25th. From April 1 to April 30, fee is \$15.00 per person. Walk-on fee, if available, is \$20.00. Please contact Col. Jay Henson at CoA7MD@aol.com if you wish to register early.

### Gettysburg

The early registration fee for the 149th Gettysburg is \$12.00 per person until March 10th. Please contact Col. Henson (above) if you wish to pre-register.

# Hundred Days Men

By Pvt. Bill Hart

With my term of office over, the editor of *Our Camp Journal* has generously promised to reserve a corner of the publication for me to have articles printed on an occasional basis. My plan is to focus on historical pieces but I will also likely provide some ramblings about the company and our doings at times. My purpose in writing about historical subjects is to share the discoveries I make about details of the Civil War. While I know we have members who are well acquainted with much of what I dig up, I am making it my mission to share my research trusting that there are others in the company who know as little as I.

This month I am writing about the "Hundred Days Men", soldiers who signed up for 100-day enlistments in 1864. I had read about the hundred days men in books but knew little about who they were and how they came to be. It got to the point that I had seen enough references to these one hundred days men without my having much knowledge about them that I was motivated to do some investigation.

In the spring of 1864 despite three

years of questionable military leadership and too many defeats on the battlefield, enough success had been obtained that the citizens of the United States could see the successful end to the long civil war looming ahead at last. Grant was poised in Northern Virginia to push south against Lee's army. Sherman was preparing his campaign into Georgia.

Ohio Governor John Brough visited the national capitol in February and offered President Lincoln 30,000 to 40,000 Ohioans for one hundred days service. The idea of this proposal was that these new men would release more seasoned troops from rear area duties and those troops thus relieved could be transferred to the field armies; the Army of the Potomac, the Army of the Cumberland, and the Army of the Tennessee, to maximize their strength for the summer and hopefully final offensive. Rather than accept these men immediately with the potential for raising jealousies among other states, Lincoln recommended that Brough should invite other governors for a meeting and propose the idea to them that they together assemble 100,000 100-days vol-

unteers for service with the national government.

Accordingly, Brough invited Governor Lewis of Wisconsin, Governor Morton of Indiana, Governor Stone of Iowa, and Governor Yates of Illinois to a meeting in Columbus. The outcome was that the governors of these five states offered 85,000 men to Washington on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Not quite the hoped for 100,000 but the offer was nonetheless accepted on the 23rd.

Ohio quickly had more than 40 regiments ready for duty. By May 18<sup>th</sup>, six were in service in Maryland 13 in West Virginia, 13 in Washington City with another on the way, and seven regiments and a large battalion in Ohio. The other Western states had their troops mustered and ready within another four to six weeks. With Ohio's 36,000 men and the other states' 25,000, they were still some more than 24,000 men short of the number offered to the President. However Jubal Early's attempted raid on Washington in July motivated another seven states to contribute to the one hundred days men enlistments. Delaware, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania together contributed another almost 20,000 men

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# Captain's Report



**Capt. Jeff Bush**  
Company Commander

It was good to see everyone at the annual meeting! Having the meeting at Marietta was a home coming of sorts. The folks at Marietta gave us an outstanding venue for our needs. It seems as if we had been away for ages! Despite the weather we had a pretty fair turnout and I hope everyone made it home safely. With the delayed start we still were able to get everything covered and head home before it got too late.

I am very excited about the new year. We have a busy schedule and I look forward to being with you on the field. I urge everyone (military in particular) to make sure they get to the company drill February 25<sup>th</sup>. With our cadre of NCO's we can expect to refine our drill and knock the rust off in preparation of Regimental drill in March.

As far as drill goes, you can expect company drill at every event this year. If we can get it in early in the day (schedule permitting) we will do so. I urge all the NCO's to study up on your

Casey's so you will be better prepared for your roles. It was discussed that the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. would be attempting to get all of the NCO's together for a pre drill meeting. Elected by the members to lead this year, it is imperative that all of us in leadership roles go the extra mile, so please try to attend. It will be very important that you all have an understanding of drill and tactics so that we do not waste time discussing and referring to manuals while on the field, time will be precious to everyone in the company. I propose a debriefing after a drill to iron out any problems. Once clarified, the item in question can be implemented at the next drill. NCO's should always have some kind of journal or book to make notes of such instances as well as keeping track of troops and details that are assigned. The more organized we are the more time we will have for other activities

that all look forward to at each and every event. You know ... the mischief we have always been fond of and infamous for.

With the comprehensive schedule we have, I hope everyone can attend the majority of the events we selected. Most of us work for a living and have families and it can be difficult to attend everything. With Colonel Henson in command of the regiment we have made it a goal to support everything that the FVB First Regiment is attending. Along with that we also have some 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland specific events that have always been fun. Then there are the "Individual" events some of which are specific to the 1862 campaign. Don't burn yourselves out! My priority personally is to make it to the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland and FVB events. If I can somehow fit in an Individual one I will, but my goal is supporting the 7<sup>th</sup> and the FVB. Your mileage may vary.

This is looking to be a great year, with events for everyone! When you run across our comrades that could not make the meeting urge them to get their calendar squared away so we may see them out in the field real soon. See you at company drill on February 25<sup>th</sup>!

## President's Message

*(Continued from page 1)*

cation during his 2-year term as president. Bill can certainly count on me to turn to him often for guidance and support in my new endeavor.

During the opening comments and discussion at the meeting, the general consensus was that we had a terrific 2011 season, one full of memorable events and the pleasure of spending time with our comrades. We have recaptured our desire, energy and enthusiasm for a return to being an organization recognized for its professionalism and authenticity in camp and on the field. And that really is the theme for our upcoming season. We will be working and training with a focus on standards and consistency in our drill. And, of course, we will reinforce the requirement of having fun! Some interesting discussion around recruiting ideas took place, and some enjoyable activities from past

years, such as the Ladies' Tea, and 7<sup>th</sup> MD Players are also on the planning table. Please look for information and requests for ideas and assistance in future communications. I would ask that you give due consideration to the smaller events being scheduled which count heavily on the presence of the 7<sup>th</sup> for success; Funkstown, St. Michaels, educational events. Please, by all means, support the educational events that develop during the season.

Careful research and analysis of the manual of arms and school of the soldier is underway. Our common objective will be to achieve the highest degree of authenticity possible on the field, and to develop our impressions as individuals and as a group so that we will set the example for others in camp and on the street. I will be working closely with the new 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant, Steve Giovannini, on his thorough study of the school of the soldier so that we can provide members new and old alike with consis-

tent and authentic instruction. My Corporal impression needs some work, and I hope to offer up someone who will become an engaging presence in the Company. I'll be as curious as anyone to see how that develops. I encourage everyone to read and research, and use your imaginations to develop your individual impressions. All of our experiences will be enriched by the effort.

Scheduled events will be here before we know it. Work on your kits, work on your impressions, try to plan and schedule your calendar so that you can participate in as many of our events as possible. Come prepared to work and learn together. I believe the overall result of our work and efforts together will be an organization we can all be even more proud of, and one to which others will be drawn as they consider their involvement in the hobby. I will look forward to seeing one and all at Marietta Mansion for the first Company Drill on 25 February. Travel safely.

# The Awkward Squad: Attention to ...Detail! Firing Position Footwork



By 1st Sgt. Steve Giovannini

This past season I had the opportunity to serve the 7<sup>th</sup> as 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant on a couple different occasions. This role gave me a unique opportunity to observe the formation of our boys in Line Of Battle. It also gave me occasion to listen to various Comrades-In-Battle grouse and groan about their inability to fire over the front rank.

In trying to ascertain the reason behind the alleged grievances, I discovered a couple of causes. Sometimes the inability for the rear rank to fire was due to the terrain our officers chose for us to fight on. It seems there are times when they work extra hard to find the worst terrain to form our battle lines. In those instances, there is not much we can do but to have individual soldiers refrain from firing when they find it unsafe to do so. However, more often than not, the reason that the rear rank was unable to fire safely was due to the ranks being deranged; someone, either front rank, rear rank or both, was not standing in proper position. These situations were compounded when soldiers, who habitually occupy the rear rank, stepped up into the front rank to take the place of their fallen file partner. Although they were now in the front rank, the former rear rank soldier positioned himself when firing as he was accustomed when standing in the rear rank. And sometimes even that rear rank position was not correct.

The manual of instruction for the infantry is very precise regarding the positioning of the soldier, in particular the positioning and distance of the feet movements. Regardless of whether the command for direct or oblique fire is given, the front rank does not move the position of their feet from the position prescribed for the Ready position. Regardless of whether the command for direct or oblique fire is given, the rear rank moves one of their feet a total distance of, as described in the manual, "about 8 inches". The other foot is to remain fixed in the position it started

when in the Ready position. The foot the rear rank soldier is to move, and the direction he is to move it, is determined by the cautionary command.

I've extracted the relevant paragraphs of instruction from the School of the Soldier as described in the 1862 edition of Brigadier General Silas Casey's

INFANTRY TACTICS FOR THE INSTRUCTION, EXERCISE, AND MANOEUVRES OF THE SOLDIER, A COMPANY, LINE OF SKIRMISHERS, BATTALION, BRIGADE, OR CORPS D'ARMÉE

For the purposes of this article, I have only reproduced the segments of the instruction that describe the footwork. I've also added underlining to emphasize certain parts of the instructions.

The Position of a Soldier is defined at the very beginning of the manual:

**85:** Heels on the same line, as near each other as the conformation of the man will permit;

The feet turned out equally, and forming with each other something less than a right angle; ... If done properly, the feet should be positioned as depicted below:



From the Position of a Soldier, we move to the Ready position.

READY.

**178.** *(First motion.)* Raise the piece slightly with the right hand, making a half face to the right on the left heel; carry the right foot to the rear, and place it at right angles to the left, the

hollow of it opposite to and against the left heel; ...



The "half face to the right" causes our left foot to point directly to the front which is perpendicular to the line of battle.

The "carry the right foot" and subsequent "place it at right angles to the left, the hollow of it opposite to and against the left heel" instructions create the position we often refer to as the "T". The feet are supposed to touch! The hollow, or arch, of the right foot is supposed to touch the back of the left heel. The feet are supposed to be perpendicular. This is an important position because it contributes to the safe positioning of the musket when we aim.

It is important for all men to remember, that when we are commanded to aim, only the rear rank move their feet from this position!!! It is especially important for those soldiers who usually find themselves in the rear rank! When they have to step up into the front rank to take the place of a fallen file partner, they need to alter their behavior and conform to this position.

**Direct Firing**  
AIM.

**183.** The rear-rank men, in aiming, will each carry the right foot about eight inches to the right, and towards the left heel of the man next on the right, inclining the upper part of the body forward.

I'll talk about the importance of body position in a subsequent article.

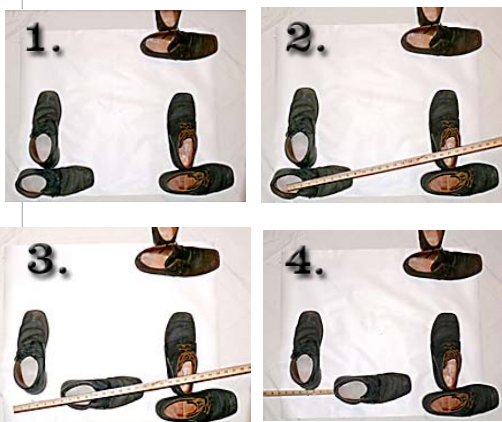
*(Continued on page 6)*

# Firing Position Footwork

(Continued from page 5)

I'll examine two aspects of this instruction: 1) the distance: "about eight inches", and 2) the direction "towards the left heel of the man next on the right". Let's look at the direction first. The phrase "towards the left heel of the man on the right" causes us to move the right not perfectly parallel to the rear rank, but a short distance towards the front rank. I repeat, a **short** distance! Now let's look at the distance moved to the right. **Eight inches Comrades!** Pull out a measuring stick and check this out yourself. This is less than the length of a brogan, and for some of you in the ranks, it's about half the length of your gunboats.

When done properly, the rear rank's feet in the Direct Fire should be positioned as depicted below. The measuring stick is used to indicate direction of movement and length of movement. The first image in the sequence depicts all the soldiers' feet in the proper Ready position. The second image shows the direction of movement. The third image shows the length moved in that direction. The last image shows the rear rank soldier on the left having taken his eight inch step towards the left heel of the comrade on his right. Eight inches, really?? Yes! Don't forget that when we take the Ready position, our right heel is placed almost four inches to the left of the left heel. Therefore, when we move the right foot "about eight inches" to the right, at the end of the movement there is less than four inches separating the left heel from the right heel.



So much for the easy footwork; now let's look at our favorite foot work, the movement required for the Oblique Firings.

## Oblique Firings

**275.** The oblique firings will be executed to the right and left, and by the same commands as the direct fire, with this single difference – the command *aim* will always be preceded by the caution, *right* or *left oblique*.

### POSITION OF THE TWO RANKS IN THE OBLIQUE FIRE TO THE RIGHT.

**276.** At the command *ready*, the two ranks will execute what has been prescribed for the direct fire.

This is the foot work described earlier that results from the instructions in paragraph 178.

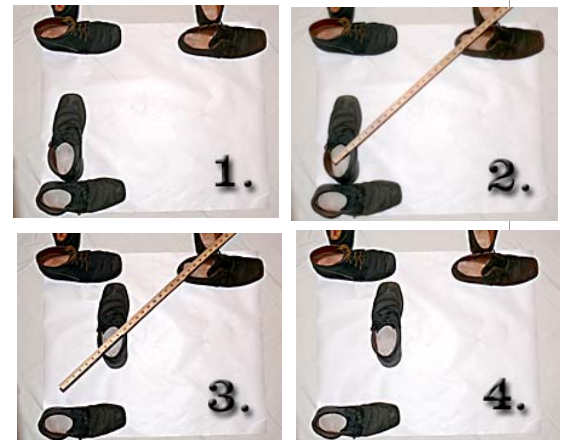
**278.** At the command *aim*, each front-rank man will aim to the right without deranging the feet; each rear-rank man will advance the left foot about eight inches toward the right heel of the man next on the right of his file leader, and aim to the right, inclining the upper part of the body forward, and bending a little the left knee.

We have to read this far through the manual to get the explicit instruction that the front rank **does not derange their feet** on the aim.

The key items I want to focus your attention on in this instruction are again 1) the distance: "about eight inches", and 2) the direction "toward the right heel of the man next on the right of his file leader". Let's look at the direction first. We advance the **left** foot "toward the right heel of the man next on the right of his file leader". This time the point of reference is the **right heel** of the man in the front rank, on the immediate right of your file partner. The feet of that soldier are touching and forming the "T". This is why it is important for the front rank to not derange their feet from the ready

position. The front rank's feet serve as the point of reference for the rear rank!

So what does this look like, let's take a look. The first image in the sequence depicts all the soldiers' feet in the proper Ready position. The second image shows the direction of movement. The third image shows the length moved in that direction. The last image shows the rear rank soldier on the left having taken his eight inch step with his left foot toward the right heel of the man next on the right of his file leader.



### POSITION OF THE TWO RANKS IN THE OBLIQUE FIRE TO THE LEFT.

**280.** At the command *aim*, the front-rank will take aim to the left without deranging the feet; each man in the rear-rank will advance the right foot, about eight inches toward the right heel of the man next on the right of his file leader, and aim to the left, inclining the upper part of the body forward, and bending a little the right knee.

The distance and the direction are exactly the same: 1) "about eight inches", and 2) "toward the right heel of the man next on the right of his file leader". The foot that moves is different. This time we advance the **right** foot "toward the right heel of the man next on the right of his file leader".

Here's how this looks. The first image in the sequence depicts all the soldiers' feet in the proper Ready position. The second image shows the direction of movement. The third image shows the

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# The Ladies' Knapsack.

If memory serves me correctly, which it usually doesn't, this will be my fifth season with the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland. When we attend the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Antietam that will mark the five year anniversary of the event that got me into reenacting, September Storm was held in 2007 just outside of Boonsboro, back along an old road that could barely fit two passing cars, on a farmer's field that stretched back into the woods. My parents had read about the event in the newspaper, and my dad and I had decided to go check it out, see what it was all about.

We were one of the first spectators to get to the camp grounds; I remember driving by the reenactors parking lot on our way to the event, seeing several large trucks, trailers, hitches and other cars parked along a back field. When we got to the visitors lot, we were directed into the very first spot, and we were immediately immersed in drill that I have now come to know as dress parade.

It's weird to think back and see myself as a spectator; it was September, so it was still rather warm, so I was mar-

veling at the men in their wool uniforms while I wore shorts and a t-shirt. Dad explained some of the different marking on the soldiers' arms to me, and I took pictures of the men as they marched past as to their practice grounds. The camp closest to the visitor's parking lot was the Union camp. We walked along the different rows, peering into the tents that were left hanging open. I loved looking at the different quilts that were on the beds, and seeing different types of furniture, or lack of furniture.

Eventually, we came upon a group of civilians under a camp fly, writing letters and sewing. They explained that they were writing letters to their men who were out to war, and were making house wives to send along with the letters. One woman talked so sincerely about her husband who was at war, my dad asked if her husband had been actually deployed to Iraq; she was that believable. The woman got a confused look on her face, and answered him like he had been speaking jibberish – her husband was fighting the Confederacy, of course.

We continued to walk along the Un-

ion camp, and as we worked our way back along the field, we came to a row of trees the marked the end of the Union camp, and the start of the

Confederate camp. This camp was not as organized as the Union camp; tents were placed along different types of tree lines, pup tents were set up in random places, and blankets were strewn on the ground, under various bushes and low hanging branches. I don't remember much about the Confederate camp, I don't think we spent nearly as much time there as we did the other camp. I remember lots of long beards and weird hats, and that was about it.

By that time it was time for lunch, so instead of giving up our prime parking spot in the visitor's lot, dad and I opted to walk into town and get something to eat. Luckily, we told mom of our plans and she drove out to join us for lunch,

*(Continued on page 8)*



**Miss Sarah Harris**  
Civilian  
Coordinator



## Meet the NCO's

At the annual meeting, changes were made to the Non-Commissioned Officer's ranks. From left, newly appointed 1st Sergeant Steve Giovannini will command the corps of Corporals Mike Lafferty, Ron Riotto, Stephen Blumberg and Dan Paterson, Jr. (not pictured).

These leaders will be responsible for the rank-and file in camp and on the field.

First Lieutenant Jeff Bush was promoted to the rank of Captain, and is now company commander of the 7th MD.

# Firing Position Footwork

(Continued from page 6)

length moved in that direction. The last image shows the rear rank soldier on the left having taken his eight inch step with his right foot toward the right heel of the man next on the right of his file leader.



If you look closely at the images, you will notice that my assertion is that the soldier does not derange the direction of the foot being moved. Based on what you ask? For now you will have to trust me on this one. I have my reasoning, but that will have to wait for another article.

And there you have it.

To summarize;

## Front Rank

On the command AIM, the front rank **never** deranges their feet. The soldiers in the front rank keep their feet in the position prescribed in instruction 178.

## Rear rank

On the command AIM, the rear rank will **always** move one foot. The foot and the direction will vary depending on whether the Aim is the Direct Fire, Left Oblique, or Right Oblique. The distance will **always** be **about eight inches**.

Direct fire position is described in paragraph 183

Right oblique fire position is described in paragraph 278

Left oblique fire position is described in paragraph 280

There are two methods to help remember which foot to move on the oblique firing.

### Method one:

Move the foot opposite to the named oblique:

Left oblique - move the right foot

Right oblique - move the left foot

### Method two:

Hold stationary the same foot as the named oblique:

Left oblique - don't move left foot

Right oblique - don't move the right foot

Study this foot work. We'll be using it in drill and on the field!

# Ladies Knapsack

(Continued from page 7)

taking us to the near by Red Byrd Restaurant, and then dropping us back off in time for the afternoon battle.

We made our way through the Union camp and out to a field that formed the third point of a triangle with the Union camp and the Confederate camp. We picked a prime spot right at the fencing that cut the spectators off from the battle field, and refused to budge even when men with their fancy, large cameras tried to sidle up beside us to get the perfect shot. I remember one civilian reenactor who was carrying a wooden box around on a tri-pod; she explained that she was taking pictures of the battle, and her contraption did look like a camera that would have been used at that time. When I asked her some more questions, she showed me her trick – she opened up the back of the box to reveal a digital camera, with it's lens looking out through the hole cut in the front of the box, and a remote that she held in her hand to take the pictures. I thought that was pure genius.

From our point of view, the Union was lined up on our right, behind a wooden fence line, the Confederates were back in a deep tree line on our left, and cannons were directly across the large field from us, hidden by a grove of trees in the middle of the field. By that time, I had taken a class in college on the history of the Civil War, so I had a pretty good idea of what was going on. The cannons started first with their fire, the bands played their songs, and you could see the first few skirmishers sneaking out on the field. However, there was one spectator there who obviously had no clue what was going on. She was a teenager who was there with her father, and as any curious spectator, she was asking questions. The only problem was, she kept asking them in an extremely loud, obnoxious voice, and continued to ask non-stop questions even when her father wouldn't answer them. Finally, with my patience for her running out, I couldn't hold my tongue any more. I turned

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## Company Shirts!

Three company shirts have become available. Sizes **XXLarge**, **Large** and **Medium** are available for sale.

Please contact Col. Jay Henson at CoA7MD@aol.com if you are interested in purchasing one of the last available shirts. Handcrafted by our civilians and modeled by 1st Sgt. Steve Giovannini, left, the shirts are fast becoming a collector's item.

Only  
\$35.

# Annual Meeting 2012

mous donation for the reconstruction of the National colors, the 7th is very solvent and can look forward to a healthy year ahead. As Newsletter Editor, Col. Henson thanked the columnists and contributors for making the 2011 issues a pleasure to edit and lay out. He is looking forward to another interesting year of Our Camp Journals.

Lt. Jeff Bush recapped the year as well and led into the introduction of the 2011 Reenactor of the Year award, the coveted "Farby Barbie". It's the award that everyone tries to win, but no one wants to accept! He presented the award to Pvt. Don Miskey for conspicuous actions on the field of the First Bull Run.

Old Business was wrapped up by offering un-paid for company shirts, and forming a loose committee for investigating the cost of having the Regimental colors reproduced. The members were again urged to renew recruiting efforts and Pvt. Patrick Morton is working for the company to staff a recruiting table or booth during the Mary-



**New members Caldwell Munk and Tamara Munk are introduced during the meeting. They first met the company at Cedar Creek, then fell in with the unit for the Remembrance Day ceremonies in November.**



**Left to Right, as Pvt. Patrick Morton enjoys lunch, President Bill Hart, Vice President Steve Blumberg and Secretary-Treasurer Jay Henson conduct the annual meeting during the first half of the session.**

land State Fair later this summer.

New Business offered a plea to renew participation by the troops in the Ladies Tea. The civilians requested the troops re-form the chorus and participate in the serving and ceremony during at least one event. Requests were also made to bring back the 7th Maryland Players for an encore production of *"The Grand Old Flag"*, or possibly an all-new production. The general census was to make the down time between drill and battles more interesting to the members by creating events within the event.

Also, an invitation will be extended to the Arundel Excelsiors bas ball team to join us at an event for another round of ball, or for the 7th Maryland to attend one of their functions.

Prior to breaking for lunch, Maj. Rick Boyle formally resigned as company commander of the 7th Maryland, as he will be serving on the 1st Regiment's staff. The members then promoted 1st Lt. Jeff Bush to the role of Captain, and company commander, and declined to appoint a junior officer. Members then nominated and /or sustained the Non-Commissioned Officers staff for the coming year. Steve

Giovannini was chosen as First Sergeant, with Cpls. Steve Blumberg, Ron Riotto and Dan Paterson, Jr. reprising their roles. Mike Lafferty was chosen to serve as the fourth Corporal.

Nominations and elections for association officers were then held. With Bill Hart abstaining from office, Cpl. Stephen Blumberg was nominated and elected to serve as President. Cpl. Ron Riotto was nominated and elected as Vice President, with Jay Henson as an uncontested candidate for Secretary-Treasurer and Newsletter Editor...again. Miss Sarah Harris was re-appointed as Civilian Coordinator along with Miss Melanie Garvey. Elected to the Sutler Review Committee were 1st Sgt. Steve Giovannini, Miss Rizzi Oskoui and Pvt. Mark Blumberg.

A committee was also formed to coordinate the soiree in May.

The structure of the 2012 event calendar followed the lunch break. A brief list of 7th Maryland and Federal Volunteer Brigade events may be found on page two. A more complete list will accompany this issue as an attachment and may be found on the 7th Maryland website, [www.7thmaryland.com](http://www.7thmaryland.com)

# OUR CAMP JOURNAL



*Civil War Reenactors;  
Americas Living Historians.*

## Hundred Days Men

*(Continued from page 3)*  
which nearly made up for the shortfall.

These one hundred days men served in West Virginia, along the coast of North Carolina, in Kentucky, in Alabama and Tennessee, in Maryland and Virginia, and manned forts around Washington City. Some, especially in the East, remained in their home states guarding prisoners, supply depots, and fortifications.

Some saw no action, but most did see the elephant. They took part in battles including the Battle of the Monocacy during Early's raid which as mentioned above was an incentive for the Eastern states to join the hundred days movement.

Others guarded wagon trains and railways, bridges, prisons, and supply depots, took part in reconnaissance patrols, in raids and skirmishes. Some were killed, some were wounded, some taken prisoners, some died of disease. In short, they endured most of the experiences of the regular volunteers.

By the time the last of the one hundred days men were released from service on November 16, 1864, Sherman had left Atlanta on his march to the sea and Lee's army was besieged in Petersburg. Indeed, some of the troops who had manned the trenches before their mustering out were hundred days men. Although the plan to use these men to bring about the downfall of the Confederacy was not successful, the end was brought closer partly through the efforts of the one hundred days men.



## Ladies Knapsack

*(Continued from page 8)*

around, answered her last question in a very loud, obnoxious tone of voice, made a smart, yet not too disrespectful remark about her (which I really wish I could remember at this point because it was so good), got a laugh from the audience around us, and then was able to enjoy the rest of the battle in relative peace.

The battle raged on, I took several pictures, and marveled at how close the reenactors got to the spectators as they moved through the battle. We got to see the musicians try to drag a wounded, screaming man back from the line of battle, but then give up when he suddenly died from his wounds. There was dust, and smoke clouds, and the noise of it all was just amazing.

After the battle, dad and I wandered back into the Union camp. This was when I posed the question to my dad – If I become a Civil War reenactor, will you? Dad's immediate response was he would only do it if we fought for the Union. With the brief conversation behind us, when ever we interacted with reenactors in the Union camp, we were asking how they got into the

hobby, and what steps we might take to be able to join. We were taken in by one unit who were very friendly; they gave us seats under their camp fly, offered us some water in their tin cups, and talked to us about the hobby, and their specific unit.

We left that day with a lot of information, pictures, and high hopes for what we would be able to do in the near future. I began my search on line just a few short days after that, searching for reenacting groups. Dad and I had discussed that we would want to join a Maryland unit, and a Google search brought me to the 7<sup>th</sup> MD page. After sending out some emails, and asking a few questions, I was on my way to Gettysburg to find Abraham's Lady, where I bought my first clothes as a reenactor. I placed an order for a custom made dress, as I was slightly way too tall for any of the dresses in the store, and went home to eagerly await my new dress. I tried it on as

soon as it came in the mail.

After that, it was only a few short weeks until Remembrance Day, my first event with the 7<sup>th</sup> MD. I made a few more trips up to Gettysburg after that, journeying to Regimental Quarter Master to pick up some things for my dad, and then he was able to make his debut at New Market.

I am looking forward to this season for several different reasons, and we have a lot of work ahead of us to pre-

pare for everything that I would like to try. I know I always tend to over plan, and not everything can be done, but I'm excited to see what we'll be able to do this year. Ladies – mark your calendars! March 25 will be a civilian meeting up in Gettysburg, the boys will march around and play with guns, we'll talk shop and make some plans for the season (my new kangaroo will be there too). More details will come about the meeting in the next news letter. I hope every one enjoys the 'winter break', we have a busy season in front of us.



**Krista Hipp with her miniature dress form for testing patterns and designs.**