

No Peace While Traitors are in Arms.

Our Camp Journal



Volume 15, Issue 12

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

September 2010



1st Regiment Federal Volunteer Brigade

September Events!

Tome School
Living History
Sept. 17th

Contact; Stephen Blumberg
h 410-287-3124, w 302-293-7143
stephen.blumberg@verizon.net.

Harpers Ferry
Provost Guard
Sept. 18-19th

Contact; Maj. Jim Cobb
138thPA@gmail.com
by Friday, September 10th.

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Provost Duty at Harpers Ferry Nat'l Park.

September 18th - 19th, 2010

General Portrayal

138th PA., Early September 1864 during Sheridan's Valley Campaign.

Provost Guard of the town of Harpers Ferry, WV. Hostile population; 9 of every 10 citizens support the Confederacy. Confederate activity by Mosby's Rangers in and around area. Guard duty will be maintained at various town locations. Prisoners must be guarded. "The

only thing worse than secesh is a deserter..."

Civilians interact with townfolk at the clothing store, bakery or from their private residence

Military: This is a late war portrayal of a combat unit assigned temporary Provost duty during the Valley Campaign. 138th PA is in the 3rd Division, Sixth Corps, assigned to Sheridan's Army of the Shenandoah. A combat unit is probably in no mood to deal with secession-

ist sympathizers. (remember...the operative word in "re-enactor is "actor")

The preferred enlisted uniform is as follows:

- Coat: Sack
- Pants: Light blue
- Shoes: Brogans
- Hat: Forage Cap (slouch hats are not preferred, but are acceptable. Hardee hats, cowboy hats, Derby hats, Fez, etc. are inappropriate)
- Corps Badges: Third Division, 6th Corps Badges Permitted (note: the 6th Corps was the only Corps to ever wear badges at Harpers

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President's Message



Pvt. Bill Hart President

Why do we do what we do? That is, why are we reenactors? That's a question asked by many non-reenactors. As we know from conversations with one another, we began for a variety of reasons. It usually starts with having some degree of interest in the civil war. How it gets further than that is the question. We all had to study the civil war to some extent in school. A degree of curiosity beyond that led us to learn more about the war, perhaps only about a particular battle or general to begin with. Probably we visited a battlefield at some point. Having done it in our youth seems to be a common thread. Maybe during the

visit, we saw a living historian, had a talk by one or possibly by a park ranger. Perhaps we got to a living history event and then at some point, we attended a full-blown reenactment. That was probably the event that put us over and made us want to try reenacting for ourselves. It could have been right there and then that we were invited to try it, to suit up and join in an event on the field. It just as well could have been that we made a contact with a unit and received encouragement to join up until we eventually did. The contact could have been in person at a living history event or reenactment

or it could perhaps have been through a web site. The interest in the civil war isn't all it takes, however. In American history, the civil war is very likely the one episode that holds the most fascination for more people than any other but most people do not become civil war reenactors. Thousands of people, in fact certainly tens of thousands of people and possibly hundreds of thousands of people attend reenactments in the course of a year but do not become reenactors.

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Upcoming Campaigns

September

18th-19th

19th Annual Lebanon County Civil War Weekend Twin Grove Park, PA (Individual)

Morning tactical, battles both days, living history, and evening entertainment. Saturday evening meal. \$6.00 per person registration by Sept. 1st. Hosted by the 93rd Penna, 13 Mississippi and Twin Grove Park. Contact Capt. Dennis Shirk, 717-933-4294 or dshirk93@comcast.net

The Tome School Civil War

Living History Education Event **NEW DATE!** Friday, 17th (Individual)

Starting at 10: AM, at the Tome School, 581 South Maryland Avenue, North East, MD. Demonstrations, displays, Q&A, primarily for the 8th graders prior to their class trip to Gettysburg, but will be extended to other grades as well. Pvt. Stephen Blumberg will be looking into making wooden rifles as was done for the Salisbury event. Plenty of room to camp at the Blumbergs for anyone interested in making a night of it, will plan festivities accordingly. Their property is adjacent to the back of the school. Live-fire opportunity at the Elk Neck State

Forrest Range just up the road a few miles for anyone interested in that. **Directions:** Exit 100 off of I-95, Route 272, approximately 8 miles below the DE State line. Go South, across Route 40 and into the town of North East. 272 becomes Main St. At the South end of town at the Post Office turn left on E. Thomas, cross over S. Mauldin, and find the school entrance a few hundred yards on the right. Support of this individual event will be greatly appreciated by the students and faculty of Tome. Please contact Pvt. Steve Blumberg directly with any questions or ideas. h 410-287-3124, w 302-293-7143 (8-5), m 410-279-8614 (5-8) or, stephen.blumberg@verizon.net.

October

16th-17th

146th Battle of Cedar Creek Middletown VA (Company)

146th Anniversary Reenactment of the Battle of Cedar Creek on the original battlefield in Middletown. Express registration \$15 by July 19, 2010, a signed waiver must be included. Regular registration \$20.00, July 19th through Aug. 23rd, late registration, after Aug. 23rd through Oct. 8th, \$25.00. Walk-on fee \$30 (may be limited). Sponsored by non-profit Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation. Visit www.cedarcreekbattlefield.org for addi-

tional information.

November

Saturday, 20th

Remembrance Day Ceremonies and Parade Gettysburg, PA (Company)

Join the company and regiment for morning ceremonies in the National Cemetery, followed by the annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Maryland Monument. Parade then forms up at Gettysburg High School and steps off at 12:00 noon through the streets of the town. Meet behind the National Wax Museum, on Steinwehr Ave. at 7:30 AM. Additional details and directions to come.

December

Saturday, 4th

Antietam Luminaries Antietam National Military Park Sharpsburg, MD (Individual)

Help to set and light some of the 23,000 luminaries that are placed on the battlefield to signify a casualty during America's bloodiest day. Details to come to participate in the preparation.

Notes from the 1st Regiment

As we enter the latter half of the reenacting year, all eyes will be looking forward to the coming start of the 150th anniversary events year.

The Ft. Sumter event support has been dropped by the Federal Volunteer Brigade (FVB) due to the many requirements imposed by the National Park Service (NPS). NPS mandated that certain physical requirements would have to be observed by participants and those criteria did not meet the approval

of Gen. Ron Palese for the FVB. Though a contingent is still being raised, it is not sanctioned by the FVB. Please contact Mike Doyle, at doylestudios@verizon.net or 410-549-6125, if you wish to participate.

This month, please try to support Stephen Blumberg's living history event at the Tome School in Northeast, MD. This effort will ultimately provide a valuable history lesson to the kids at the school just as it did for the students



Col. Jay Henson

at Salisbury Christian School.

Then head over to the Harpers Ferry Provost Guard event. Please contact Maj.

Jim Cobb if you are planning to attend this interesting event in the historic

town. Also, the Twin Grove Civil War Weekend in Lebanon is the same weekend. Contact Capt. Dennis Shirk at 717-933-4294 or dshirk93@comcast.net if you wish to attend. September has something for everyone!



**Lt. Jeff Bush
Vice President**

From The Flank

Last month, I discussed the way the Army expected food to be prepared and some of the equipment that was to be used. I am asked often ...just what did the rations consist of and how much? Several

years ago, I researched the regularly issued items and how much for one days ration. To make it easier for the preparation for a weekend event like Funkstown and our annual ration issue, I broke the bulk items down for 20 and 30 men. The lists usually are per 100 men. This technique is how Cheryl was able to get the right proportions. Further explanation for this list: Anything that would have required extended times for preparation would not be considered marching rations. So beans most likely were not a marching ration (it was one of the favorites though). Tea was hard to come by. Green coffee would have been a big inconvenience especially when in a hurry. Soft bread was often difficult to get when on the march. Some of the non-food items would have been very popular. I always looked forward to ration issues and I hope some of you enjoyed the adventure last month.

One Days Marching Rations For One Man
12 oz Pork or Bacon Or 1 lb 4oz Beef Or Salt Beef
1 lb 6oz Soft Bread Or 1 lb Hard Bread Or 1 lb 4oz Corn Meal

<u>To every 100 men</u>	<u>20men</u>	<u>30men</u>
15 lbs Bean or peas	3 lbs	5lbs
10 lbs Rice or hominy	2 lbs	3 lbs 5 oz
10 lbs Green coffee 2 lbs	3 lbs 5 oz	
Or		
8 lbs Roasted coffee	1 lb 10 oz	2 lbs 11oz
Or		
1 lb 8 oz Tea	5 oz	8 oz
15 lbs Sugar	3 lbs	5 lbs
4 qts Vinegar	1 qt	1 ¼ qts
30 lbs Potatoes	6 lbs	10 lbs
1 qt Molasses	1 pt	1 ½ pt
3 lbs 12 oz Salt	12 oz	1 lb 4 oz
4 oz Pepper	1 oz	2 oz
1 lb 4oz Adamite or star candles	4 oz	7 oz
4 lbs Soap	13 oz	1 lb 5 oz

Harpers Ferry Provost

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Ferry).

Military Camping:

Tents: Dog tents only for military (this includes Company Commanders)

Flies: Not permitted in military camp (note: camps are well shaded)

Equipment: Furniture should be limited in military camp. All cooking utensils and other equipment must be period correct. No visible coolers or other modern

conveniences. Military camp should appear spartan.



View of Harpers Ferry , 1864

Additional:

No alcohol permitted. Participants will unload their vehicles at the camp next to the Shenandoah River in town and park approximate a mile away. Firewood provided. Bring water. Entry permitted on Friday evening September 17th. **No powder or caps permitted!** Ammunition supplied by NPS. There will be one firing demonstration each day at 2pm.

Civilians

Clothing: Period clothing only between 8am on Saturday morning, Sept. 18th through the close of the event.

Civilian Camping: A separate ci-

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The Ladies' Knapsack.



**Miss Sarah Harris
Civilian
Coordinator**

This summer has certainly been an interesting one for me; it's the first summer in 10 years that I actually took some time off, and yet I was still very busy. It always seems to be my luck that other events or appointments in my schedule fall on the same weekend as a reenactment. Both of the company events in July were shortened for me due to other commitments, so I was unable to get the full experience out of each weekend. When I got a chance to reflect back on those weekends, I realized that though I had some memorable moments, I still regretted not being able to be there for the entire event.

With August already half way over (at the time that this article was written), and no company event this

month, I actually started to feel like I was going through something like a Civil War withdrawal. It's strange how I start missing working on different projects for events, friends and family. Over the past few days I have been pulling half-completed projects out from the closet or under the bed and continuing to add to them.

But I've also found myself not only missing projects and events, but also the company of 7th Marylanders as well. Don't see this as me trying to suck up or anything, but just giving a simple, truthful statement. Going to the different events provides me an escape from real life not only because of the overall atmosphere, but also the people

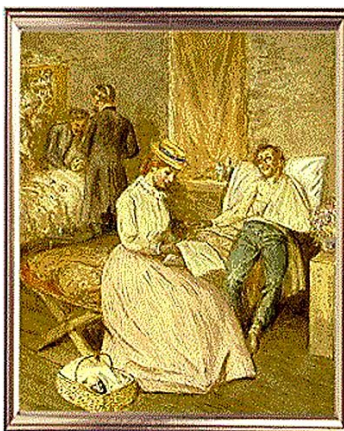
with whom I am surrounded by. Granted, everyone may not always be at their best for the entire weekend, yet the various attitudes, personalities, and impressions are what really make for a fun time.

I hope every one has been enjoying their summer, but I'm looking forward to being able to enjoy a full weekend with a group of people that I have come to see as something of an extended family.

Civil War Medicine

William Ludwell Sheppard's watercolor *In the Hospital, 1861* (right) pays tribute to those women of the South who labored ceaselessly to care for the war's wounded. "I have never worked so hard in all my life and I would rather do that than anything else in the world," declared one weary attendant.

A devoted nurse later praised her female colleagues: *"Would that I could do more than thank the dear friends who made my life for four years so happy and contented; who never made me feel by word or act, that my self-imposed occupation was otherwise than one which would ennoble any woman. If ever any aid was given through my own exertions, or any labor rendered effective by me for the good of the South-if any sick soldier ever benefitted by my happy face or pleasant smiles at his bedside, or death was ever soothed by gentle words of hope and tender care, such results were only owing to the cheering encouragement I received*



from them. They were gentlewomen in every sense of the word, and though they might not have remembered that "noblesse oblige," they felt and acted up to the motto in every act of their lives. My only wish was

to live and die among them, growing each day better from contact with their gentle, kindly sympathies and heroic hearts.

Approximately two thousand women, North and South, served as volunteer nurses in military hospitals during the American Civil War. Seeking convention and direct involvement in the national struggle rather than the domestic support roles to which social minimum career opportunity had traditionally

confined the majority of their sex, they experienced at first hand the grim constants of war -- amputated limbs, mutilated bodies, disease and death -- and provided invaluable aid to the sick and wounded soldiers and medical authorities on either side. Of those so employed a relative few--such as Louisa May Alcott, Jane Stuart Woolsey, and Katharine Prescott Wormeley - recorded their experiences for posterity. Most, however, unfortunately left little record of their wartime service. They therefore remain in large measure historically anonymous, except for the terse appearance of their names on hospital muster rolls, and consequently the activities and influence of the woman nurse constitute one of the rare aspects of Civil War history that has not been extensively recorded.

That comparatively little secondary material has been written concerning women nurses mutes the significance of their contribution to the wartime medical service. Available evidence indicates that their activities often had important ramifications in both an immediate and broader social sense, and that as a group they deserve attention as full participants in the civil conflict rather than as mere helpers of the main actors, more interesting

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A Civil War Soldier's Letters Home

Part 12

By Pvt. Jim Johnson

The following letter was among several provided by my brother-in-law, George Blood. They were written by his first great grand-uncle, George Furman, to his parents. George Furman was an enlisted man with the 4th New York Heavy Artillery. He was taken prisoner by the Rebels at Reams Station on the Weldon Rail Road on August 25th 1864. He later died, January 31st 1865, in a Rebel prison camp at Salisbury, N.C.

**In Camp near Army Headquarters,
July 18th 1864**

Dear Parents.

Not having heard from you since yours of June 18th I thought I would write for the third time and let you know that I am well and enjoying myself as well as at any previous time during my enlistment.

Our Reg. has moved from where it was when I wrote you last and is now in camp near Army Headquarters which is about 2 1/2 miles from Petersburg.

Through the influence of our Col. who has now left the army and gone to West Point, we have been relieved from Infantry duty and are now waiting for orders to take charge of a seige train of 30 pdrs. (Parrots) or else to return to Washington and its defences. It seems to be undetermined as yet which we shall do, although it is generally believed by the officers that we will return to the defences. We will probably know before many days what disposition is to be made of us.

The boys all feel very well at this change and the majority of them seem to think that they had as soon stay here with a seige train as to return to the defences of Washington for my part I had rather remain here.

We expect to see a general engagement again before long in front of Petersburg. I have been informed that our troops are engaged in undermining the Rebel fortifications in front of us and have their work nearly completed, when they intend to blow them



George Furman

up and then charge their lines with a heavy force, what success they will have remains to be seen.

The weather continues to be very warm with no rain as yet and we are very thankful that we are allowed to lie still. In the move we made to this place the other day, a distance of about four miles, five men of our Reg. died from sunstroke, one of them fell dead in the ranks while marching along. Many others were so much affected by the heat as to render them unfit for duty. We have excellent water here after having dug for it over twenty feet, we have a very pleasant camp located in a pine grove, our tents are covered with bushes to protect us from the intense heat which is a great improvement.

As we are not on the move we have no news to write for all is quiet with us while the work of undermining is going on. Capt. Jared Martin, whom you will remember enlisted from Albion and received his commission while in our Co. is dead. He with his command (colored troops) was sent to Ft. Tyler Key West Ga. where he remained until his death. He died June 15th of yellow fever. But I must close. Let me hear from you soon, love to all.

Geo. Furman

(This was written vertically along the left margin-bottom to top.)

Did you receive the Richmond paper I sent you?

Harpers Ferry Provost

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vilian camp will be established close to the military camp. Civilians are requested to limit their tentage to nothing larger than "A" frame tents. Flies must be kept to a minimum. The camping area is shaded. Military is permitted to spend the night in civilian camp if they desire.

Civilian Impressions: Civilians are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with 1864 demeanor and protocol. All participants are required to stay in period attire throughout the event. (247) This includes all children that may attend.

Civilians desiring to occupy period stores and residences throughout Old Town Harpers Ferry and interact with tourists are desired. Specific details will be provided to those wishing to participate. Programs will run between 11am and approximately 5pm each day.

Persons portraying Confederate deserters, spies, etc are also needed.

Participation: All persons desiring to participate in this event should either contact your Company Commander or submit your name, number and email address to 138thPA@gmail.com by Friday, September 10th.

Civil War Medicine

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than substantial. in fact, these women often had notable impact upon the men they tended and served under; and, further, the introduction of female personnel into responsible roles in a traditionally male military environment was one significant step in the progress of women toward a fuller involvement in American Society.

Dorothea Dix and Clara Barton were the leaders of a national effort to organize a nursing corps to care for the war's wounded and sick. Dix was already recognized for her work in im-

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OUR CAMP JOURNAL

Civil War Medicine



Civil War Re-enactors; America's living historians.

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proving the treatment received by the insane when she began to recruit women to serve as nurses in the Army Medical Bureau. Military traditionalists opposed her, but she prevailed, armed with an indomitable will and a singleness of purpose. One of the standards that Dix established for her nurses was that they be "plain looking" and middle-aged. "In those days it was considered indecorous for angels of mercy to appear otherwise than gray-haired and spectacled," explained one young lady rejected by Dix. "Such a thing as a hospital corps of comely young maiden nurses, possessing grace and good looks, was then unknown." Recruits nicknamed her "Dragon Dix," but it was a badge of honor id it indicated what it took to succeed in creating the army's first professional nursing corps.

Clara Barton worked on parallel lines, but outside the official military system. A Massachusetts schoolteacher, Barton had come to Washington in 1854 to work at the e U.S. Patent Office. Determined to play a role in the events of 1861, she cared for wounded soldiers who had returned to Washington. Thanks to financial support garnered throughout New England, Barton had the means, along with the resolve, to overcome the military bureaucracy ad travel to the front lines. "I went in while the battle raged," she recalled with pride. After the war, she was instrumental in the creation of an American branch of the International Red Cross.

Source: Civil War Nurse, The Diary and Letters of Hannah Ropes. Introduction and commentary by John R. Brumgardt

President's Message

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So there is something more to it, something that moves an individual to take that next step and I'm not sure what it is. There are also those who, for lack of a better term, I'll call secondary reenactors. These are people who entered the hobby, not because they had a strong desire to be reenactors, but to be with a relative. They joined to come out and attend with a husband or wife, a son or daughter or a mother or father. Others wanted to try it "just once" with a friend or relative, a brother or sister, to see what it was that made this person dress up in strange clothes and spend weekends camping in primitive conditions. Some of these "secondary reenactors" stayed to become reenactors.

These are some of the things that first drew us in. Why then, do we continue? That is likely a more important question and one which again has a variety of answers. Some enjoy the comradeship, some stay because they enjoy the educational aspect, the ability to pass on their knowledge to others, some, and this especially applies to Company A of

the 7th Maryland, because they are hams and love the "acting" portion of reen "ACTING", and of course there are those who, like big Dan and young Dan are wont to say, are there to "burn some friggin' powder."

Whatever the reason that drew us in to begin with, whatever the grounds that keeps us coming, we should always remember to honor the soldiers and civilians we are representing as reenactors. A few were heroes, a few were cowards, some were rogues and rascals, most were plain everyday folk. Few could have imagined what they were getting themselves into when they joined the army but most stuck it out and endured a harsh time of it. Whether it was for sixty days, six months, nine months, three years or more; it was all longer than the single weekend we usually put in.

Americans of the era came from an egalitarian society and were not used to nor inclined to take orders from anyone. They were an individualistic breed and the military regimen did not sit well with them. Most, that is those who lasted, did learn after a time that survival on the battlefield meant taking and reacting smartly to orders although in other circumstances there were still some who continued to be resistant to

discipline and regulation. They lived a life that we study and strive to understand and to replicate. Not always easy to accomplish but we should always endeavor to get it right and to improve as we learn more.

One thing I try always to do, something that has meaning to me personally, is when the battle ends, when the bugle sounds and we uncover, is that as hot, tired, and sweaty as I am, as exhausted and centered on my personal needs as I feel, is to take a knee and consider — earnestly reflect and concentrate on — the soldiers who led the life I am attempting to portray. To thank them for what they passed on to us through their efforts, their sacrifices. To those who lost their lives in charging a fortification so that others following would be successful in taking it and even to those who managed to avoid all the battles their regiment engaged in. I figure that they all did the best they could do. Not everyone is capable of being a hero and those who were not at least gathered wood and filled canteens for those who were. They joined up and found their limits. Those moments, at battle's end while the bugler plays, are inspirational.