

Vol. 29 NO 3

March 2021

"The Old Guard"
3rd U.S. Regular Infantry
Co. K

The American
Civil War:

1860 - 1865

Corporate Address: 3rd U.S. Infantry Reenactors, 4 Browns Lane, Fredericksburg, VA 22401 <http://www.3rdusreenactors.com>
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Unit Event Schedule & Basic Facts

March Event

**Military Through the Ages (MTA) –
Jamestown Settlement Park, VA**

Final Registration with the Company NLT [11 March 2021](#).

Dates: Friday - Sunday, March 19TH -21ST

Type of event: Living History Event where we demonstrate to potential recruits and fellow reenactors on what being a Regular is all about.

Location: 2110 Jamestown Road, Route 31 S., Williamsburg, 23185 or GPS coordinates 37.225069,-76.786218; for more information call (757) 253-4838 or visit - <https://www.historyisfun.org/jamestown-settlement/>

Registration Fee: Zero. Volunteer Forms must be completed by first-time participants.

Schedule: Friday Arrive on-site by 1500 to help set-up our encampment.

Saturday: Roll Call: 8 AM, with living history demonstrations throughout the day. Depart at 5 PM.

Sunday: Roll Call: 8 AM, with living history demonstrations throughout the day. Depart at 5 PM, though we will probably be able to begin breakdown at 3 PM or somewhere thereabouts.

Specifics – See First Call and the numerous UPDATES.

Commissary: On you own; Haversack or Handbasket. MTA will host an Appreciation Supper Saturday evening for all participants. Please let me know if you want to participate.

Uniform: : Ideally, Hardee Hat, Frock Coat (*with Scales*), Dark Blue Trousers, and either your Great Coat or Poncho (Otherwise, forage cap, fatigue blouse, and light blue trousers). Full accoutrements, brogans, and rifled musket. The QM can assist you should you have need of any or all of the previously listed items. Bottom-line, we want you to be there!

Ammunition: 24 Caps / 20 Rounds, stored in clearly marked by-name containers. All ammo will be collected

up once you arrive on site and stored in a central location.

April Event

**Pamplin Park Living History and Battle
Demonstration –
Petersburg, VA**

Final Registration with the Company NLT [31 March 2021](#).

Dates: Saturday, April 3 (you have the option of arriving the evening of Friday, April 2, and staying through Sunday, April 4.

Type of event: Living History and battle demonstration.

Location: 6125 Boydton Plank Rd, Petersburg, VA 23803

Registration Fee: Zero.

Schedule: Friday evening: Arrive, set up camp

Saturday: Roll Call 7:30 AM, Living history and battle demonstrations throughout the day until 5 PM.

***Sunday:** There will be living history and battle demonstrations until noon.

*: Sunday is **ENTIRELY OPTIONAL**, as it is Easter Sunday. Sunday will basically count as a personal interest event with no unit support. You will probably fall under a different unit's command structure.

Specifics – <https://pamplinpark.org/event/breakthrough-battle-anniversary-weekend/> We will portray the soldiers from Wheaton's Division during the Breakthrough of the Siege of Petersburg in 1865. Most interestingly, the battle demonstration will occur on the same date it did in 1865. See First Call and the numerous updates via email and our Facebook page.

Commissary: On you own; Haversack or Handbasket.

Uniform: Late war: Forage Cap, Sack Coat, Corps Badges (Sixth Corps, First Division—Red Cross), Light Blue Trousers, Brogans, Full Leathers, Rifled Musket.

Ammunition: 40 rounds, plus caps

President's Column

Buffstick family,

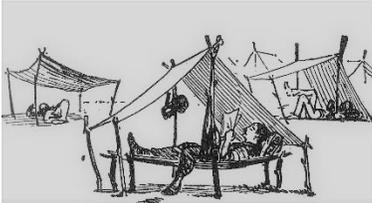
Our first 2021 event is under our belt, and I am ready as with many of you for many more. Our next event is MTA, and I look forward to seeing everyone again and hope more familiar faces will join us and as best we can with our masks on. I would say our drill sessions were a great success despite drilling on the artic parade ground simulator. You can read some of our thoughts in this month's newsletter. Our military leadership conducted a planning session with the membership and what followed was a great discussion. I think we are again setting a high bar for ourselves in our continued pursuit of education for the public and ourselves.

The unit launched the Michaeyla Nadeau Living History Scholarship on our unit website. You can find more information under *Scholarship* for additional information. Our Vice President, Peter Vaselopulos, will chair the selection committee with Glenn Deiters, Rebecca Welker, and Mary Ritenour.

The board made a financial contribution of \$500 to the Civil War Battlefield Trust for the Gaines Mill battlefield preservation effort for the portion of the battlefield, representing a significant part of the 3rd's position and movement during their action at the battle. It also covers most of the rest of the brigade's position and their retreat route in the evening. I hope when the land is finally acquired that the 3rd U.S. could take part in some future dedication or ceremony at the site.

It appears that COVID cases are reducing, and with more people getting the vaccine, our schedule may survive. I am looking forward to this year and trying to remain optimistic, so it is on to MTA!

YOS,
Neil Carmichael,
President, 3rd U.S. Board of Directors



Vice President Report – Current and Potential Events for 2021

By: Vice President Peter Vaselopulos

As of early March, Military Through the Ages (MTA) at Jamestown Settlement is still on. We will be closely monitoring and advise unit members asap if there are any changes.

All members are invited to let me know about any potential official or *Personal Interest* events for 2021.

A note on personal interest events: We always have a lot of events to choose from around the reenacting world. We always try to maximize the potential for fun, education, and recruiting, but there are always other options as well. We will let you know about these events through one-time announcements. These are too numerous to keep track of in

our official calendar but keep an eye on your email for things that might interest you.

Looking forward to receiving all of your responses, Peter Vaselopulos

Listed below are *Confirmed Events* that the board has already approved. The *Pending Events* are still being considered based on COVID and other scheduling factors.

Confirmed Events:

March

*Military Through the Ages (MTA) –Jamestown Settlement Park, VA**

Dates: Friday - Sunday, March 19th -21st

Type of event: Living History Event Location: 2110 Jamestown Road, Route 31 S., Williamsburg,
<https://www.historyisfun.org/jamestown-settlement/>

April

*Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier**

Dates: Saturday, April 3rd

Type of event: Living history

Location: 6125 Boydton Plank Road, Petersburg, VA 23803

November

Belair Mansion Living History, Bowie MD

Date: Saturday November 6, 2021 12noon – 4pm. Set up at 8am.

Type of event: Living History

Location: 12207 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie, MD. 20715
<https://www.cityofbowie.org/288/Belair-Mansion>

Potential Events:

May

Chancellorsville– Spotsylvania Museum

Dates: Saturday, May 1st

Type of event: Living History

Location: 6159 Plank Road Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, VA 22407-6235

<https://www.spotsylvania.va.us/898/Museum>

First Battle of Bull Run/Manassas – Daniel Lady Farm, Gettysburg, PA (USV) (alternate date)?

Dates: Friday - Sunday, May 14th -16th

Type of event: Battle Reenactment

Location: Old Hanover Street (Rt. 116 at 1008 Hanover St. Gettysburg, PA 17325

<https://www.gbpa.org/event/160th-battle-manassas>

June

Bristoe Station

Dates: Saturday, June 12th

Type of event: Living History

Location: Bristoe Station, Prince William County, VA

<https://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/park/hp/Pages/Bristoe-Station-Battlefield.aspx>

July**158th Battle of Gettysburg – Daniel Lady Farm, Gettysburg, PA**Dates: Friday - Sunday, July 2nd - 4th

Type of event: Battle Reenactment

Location: Old Hanover Street (Rt. 116 at 1008 Hanover St. Gettysburg, PA 17325

<https://www.gbpa.org/event/2021-battle-gettysburg>August**Cedar Mountain**Dates: Friday - Sunday, August 6th – 8th

Type of event: Battle Reenactment

Location: 9465 General Winder Rd, Rapidan, VA 22733

<https://friendsofcedarmountain.org/>**Battle of Kettle Run**

Dates: Saturday, Sunday August 28-29

Type of event: Living History

Location: Bristoe Station, Prince William County, VA

<https://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/park/hp/Pages/Bristoe-Station-Battlefield.aspx>September**159th Battle of Antietam/Sharpsburg – Daniel Lady Farm, Gettysburg, PA (USV)**Dates: Friday - Sunday, September 17th – 19th

Type of event: Battle Reenactment

Location: Old Hanover Street (Rt. 116 at 1008 Hanover St. Gettysburg, PA 17325

<https://www.gbpa.org/event/battle-antietamsharpsburg>October**Bristoe Station**

Dates: Saturday, Sunday October 9-10

Type of event: Living History

Location: Bristoe Station, Prince William County, VA

<https://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/park/hp/Pages/Bristoe-Station-Battlefield.aspx>**Battle of Cedar Creek**

Dates: October 16-17

Type of event: Battle Reenactment

Location: Cedar Creek, Middletown, VA (USV)

160th Anniversary Ball's BluffDate: Saturday, October 23rd

Type of event: Battle Reenactment

Location: Ball's Bluff, Leesburg, VA

December**The Slaughter Pen**

Date: TBD

Type of event: Battle Reenactment

Location: Fredericksburg, VA

Christmas at Fort Ward

Date: TBD

Type of event: Living History

Location: Alexandria, VA

Commanders Field Desk

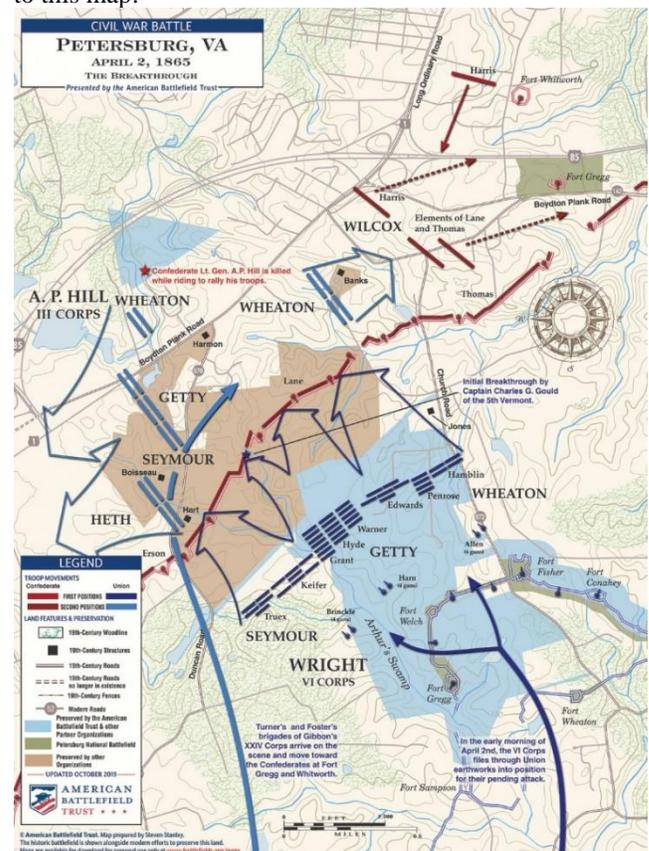
Buffsticks,

I am happy to report that Drill Day was a success. While cold, we managed to get in some good drill. Best of all, we were able to do most of it inside. Thanks to Ranger Barb for the coffee and hot chocolate. It's always a good time at Fort Washington.

While I'm on the subject of Drill: the Authenticity Committee has recommended we use Hardee's manual for light infantry, doing away with our previous use of heavy infantry drill in 1861 cycle events. The short version of this is, forget everything you know about loading by tens. We are going to be loading and firing in nine steps from now on, regardless of what year in the cycle or what event we are at.

If you have any question about this, I'll be happy to convey the full recommendation of the Authenticity Committee. As Darrell Cochran says, authenticity is a journey, not a destination.

Looking ahead, we have two great events coming up. For March, Military Through the Ages at Jamestown is always great, mainly because we get to see (*and be seen by*) a lot of other reenacting units of different historical periods. At our Drill Day, we decided upon doing a bayonet drilling ring (*no audience participation this year*), static soldier life displays, medical displays, a cooking fire, drill area, and fly/recruiting station. For more information, please refer to the FAQ provided by the event organizers in this newsletter. In April, we are going to be reenacting the Breakthrough at the Siege of Petersburg. We are portraying the men from Wheaton's Division (First Division, Sixth Corps). Please refer to this map:



<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/maps/breakthrough-petersburg-april-2-1865>

You'll notice the Boydton Plank Road on the map; Pamplin Park is just southeast of that road (*right where Getty's left flank is located*), so you can orient yourself. At this living history and battle demonstration, we will have the opportunity to put what we recently learned about skirmishing into practice, as well as portray a successful assault on a Confederate gun fortification. So much of the Civil War was fought in trenches and fortifications; we rarely get to see that aspect, so I'm really excited about this unique opportunity. Here is an overhead view of the ground: if you look at the southeast quadrant, there's a reconstructed fortification (*which I believe we will portray attacking and overrunning*).



As you all know, plans are always fluid these days, so stand by for more information on upcoming events. As soon as we know, we'll let you know.

YOS,
Lt. Geoff White

MTA 2021 FAQ

1. What guidance are you receiving from the Commonwealth of Virginia about holding future large events?

The Commonwealth's primary direction to us with regard to holding events is to allow no more than 250 people at a time in the various parts of our buildings (*education center, lobby, theatre, museum, etc.*). For our fall events in 2020, we

submitted detailed plans that included staffing levels and visitor occupancy and traffic flow, for example, and made adjustments as directed. We'll put together a similar plan for MTA, but since it's primarily an outdoor event, it will be much easier to manage.

2. What are the criteria you are using to determine if you will hold the event or not?

Based on our success with *Family Frights* and *Foods & Feasts* last fall, and the adjustments that we've made to the number of units and placement of camps, the Foundation has decided to hold the event, barring any unforeseen directives from the Governor's office.

3. What sorts of modifications to the event can we expect from previous years?

The biggest modification is in the layout of the site. We are spreading the units out more, so that they'll have more room in their camps to accommodate better social distancing. We will be camping units between the fort and the ships this year, on what was the main demo field. We will send out a map closer to the event so that you can see where you'll be camped, but that map is really fluid at the moment, and we expect there will be a unit or two that will decide not to participate this year after all, and waitlisted units added as replacements. For units that would still like to shoot, or do a demo that requires more space than they have in their camps, we will be using the patch of land by the tower gate.

The other big change in the event involves the judged competitions. While our initial thought was to continue to judge Best Unit Impression for the year, we have now decided not to, so there will be no judged competitions for MTA 2021. There are just too many restricting considerations this year, and we didn't want competitiveness to lead to anyone trying to go a bit above and beyond safety practices to impress judges. We will still do our visitor's Choice and Reenactor's Choice awards, but *that's* all.

4. If masks and social distancing are still required, does the event go forward? -

Yes. We have had a lot of discussion about what we will require regarding masks. *At this point*, we are planning to require our visitors to wear masks both inside *and* outside during the event, excepting those with medical conditions that preclude it. *As for* staff and the unit participants, masks are still required inside (*that's true for everyone*). They are optional outside, but we strongly encourage you to wear masks any time you have visitors in your camps or anywhere within six feet of you, even outdoors.

5. What are the current plans for social distancing of staff, visitors and reenactors?

As mentioned above, we have hard limits on the number of people who can be inside our buildings at a time, and will be

monitoring those numbers throughout the weekend by designating specific entrances and exits and counting people coming and going. Fewer people in the buildings allows for better social distancing. In the outdoor areas, there is more room for people to socially distance, but to assist with this, we have spread the units farther apart. Unlike previous years where units are camped up against each other, we will have an alley of approximately ten feet between the boundary of one camp and the boundary of another. *(Please don't sprawl into the neutral zones!)*

We have also eliminated things that would draw large crowds for an extended period. There are no announced demos on a demo field. There will be no Pass-in-Review awards ceremony on Sunday. Other than that, as an example, we've been protecting our staff in our living history areas by stanchioning their demonstration areas off with a six feet buffer in front of them, and they wear masks when visitors gather near them. We recommend that you think about how you can use ropes, stanchions, firewood, straw, tables, fencing, sandbags, etc. to create either physical or visual barriers around areas you're working. We have found our visitors to be very respectful with regards to social distancing, but having at least a visual barrier is a helpful cue for them, particularly if they have excited kids.

6. Given the rather tight space available in the past, are you looking at reducing the number of groups participating?

Yes, we have done that as well. There are currently 35 units attending, plus the Virginia Army National Guard, if they are able to attend. We had accepted 50 units for 2020. We do have a wait list.

7. Are you looking at limiting the number of participants within a group?

We have not done that, although we would encourage the units to plan their camp layouts and participants with social distancing in mind. On a normal year, if you had a unit of 50, we'd be thrilled and amazed. This year, we'll just be worried about you all.

8. Should we expect a change to how visitors flow through the property/camps, especially given the ten-person gathering limit currently in effect?

The ten-person gathering limit applies to individual parties, not the event venue overall. As for camps, we would like the units to have a specific point of entry into their camp and directional flow that they can control, so think about this when you're planning your camp layouts. You should assign a "greeter" to invite a few guests in at a time, or a family or two at a time whatever your space and camp layout will accommodate, so that everyone can maintain appropriate social distancing. This will vary with each camp. We're happy to offer advice on this if you like at any point. As an example, though, we're controlling visitors going onto our *Susan Constant* by having a greeter on the pier. One family or group of friends will be invited aboard. There is a counter-clockwise

flow on the deck. As that family moves towards the aft of the ship, another family can be invited aboard. So we're not saying that only one person/family can come into your camps at a time.

9. Will re-enactors still be allowed to camp on site? Yes. However, the maintenance building will not be available to the units this year. Bathrooms will be open in the education wing and the amenities building between the ships and Town.

10. Are you still providing dinner Saturday night?

Yes! But it will be different, since it's not a good idea to sit a large group at tables in the classrooms this year. Dinner will be a "Grab and Go!" hot meal from our café. We'll send more information out later as we settle on a menu, but the current plan is to call the units up individually to pick up their meals and then to back to their camps (or wherever they'd like) to basically picnic. *(There will be seating in the café, too, but it may fill up quickly.)* We are asking that you be as sure as you can be about your dinner RSVP numbers, though, as we'll have to issue meal tickets to the units at registration.

11. How will hands-on exhibits be handled?

At this point, our staff do not put anything in the visitors' hands that they want back. For everyone's safety, we recommend that you do not either. Keep doing interesting demonstrations and activities, and be sure you actively engage the visitors in conversation about them. Problem solving is great here, too. Encourage the visitors to think through scenarios with you, make decisions, puzzle through consequences, etc. It will be challenging and strange, but our visitors are well aware of the limitations this year due to safety, and generally keep their own distance while chatting.

12. While certain groups may have a historical precedence for use of masks in various historical functions, some do not. If masking is required, how will this be handled in regards to the judging criteria?

We are not judging this event, and are turning a complete blind eye to the masks, provided they are family friendly, with no text or political symbols on them. Our staff wear what they like: some are discrete and a single, muted color; some blend in nicely with the theme of their site; and some have cartoon sloths on them. We made the decision this past summer that we were willing to trade perfect authenticity for safety.

13. How will these requirements be enforced?

.. You won't be able to go inside *(where the bathrooms are)* without a mask, and we have plenty of the disposable medical masks if you need one. Outside, they're strongly encouraged, especially when other people are around, but not required. We don't anticipate having to "enforce" the mask rules, as we expect all of the units to be positive and cooperative with regards to these small things. Finding out that they aren't would certainly be very disappointing

14. Will there be additional hand-washing stations placed for use of staff/visitors/re-enactors?

Yes. We are definitely putting up more hand-sanitizing stations, and are trying to rent some hand-washing stations as well. There may be fewer of those, though, since they've been very hard to find, and we'll likely put them in some behind-the-scenes areas just for the re-enactors convenience.

Membership Report: Drill Day at Fort Washington

Once again, Buffsticks gathered at Ft. Washington to brush up on our drill covering Gilliams and Casey's manuals. As I made my way from the parking lot to the Fort, my thoughts drifted to the soldiers who garrisoned the Fort in the Winter of 1861. Walking through the Sally Port and seeing Ft Washington's cold, icy, windswept parade field, I immediately thought it would be a cold drill day. The wind was the strongest and coldest I have felt in a long time and cut right through my coat. I kept waiting for the wind to blow my M1858 dress hat away. I managed to keep it on.

I was very appreciative of the NPS allowing us the use of the buildings. The use of the barracks and officers' quarters is a huge blessing and kept us all out of the cold and below freezing conditions. The enlisted barracks allowed us to conduct our formal change of command ceremony. Although symbolic, the transfer of command from Lt. Stier to Lt. White is infrequent within our hobby. The movement of members into leadership positions and added responsibilities is an example of a healthy organization and strong membership.

It was a good day of drill, and I feel we accomplished everything planned for the day. I had a chance to work under Cpl. Gillispie with a few other salty veterans of the 3rd. Walking through skirmishers' deployment, I hope we get a chance to show our stuff this year. I enjoyed going through the bayonet drill, and it started coming back to me. When I got home, I pulled out my copy of McClellan's bayonet exercise to refresh my memory. Reading through, I started to remember much of the principles behind specific thrusts and parries. It was an excellent start to our 2021 season.

- *Pvt. Carmichael*

Due to my travels over the last few years my attendance has been very limited. So I was very much looking forward to attending Drill Day at Ft Washington. Paul and Janine Stier were gracious hosts in allowing me overnight accommodations to shorten my travels. I haven't missed a change of command in the past as this is unique in the hobby. I am very secure knowing that our new Commander Geoff White and First Sergeant Neil Burke will capably lead the unit! It was great seeing some old faces and meeting new members. I am looking forward to spending more time with the unit and watch it continue to grow and be a leader in the hobby.

- *Pvt. Bob Elkins*

While it was cold, our leadership played it smart by only being outdoors when the training session needed the room, i.e. Skirmish Drill, Manual of Arms with the Bayonet, and Manual of Arms with the entire Company. Our indoor activities consisted of the Change of Command Ceremony, Corporals Drill (*with Cpl.'s Ross & Gillespie*), Bayonet Drill (*minus the bayonets*) lead by 1st Sgt. Burke, and the MTA planning meeting.

Other items of note, the new commanders incoming speech was a real class act. His readings from the Manual set the proper tone for both that days training and what we can expect to happen under his leadership for our Company in the years to come. I also liked the explanation that our Board President, Pvt. Carmichael gave to company for both the significance of how we did our change of command, followed by his presentation of the medal to the incoming commander. To finish this thought it was an honor to have Mrs. Stier be with me as I finished my time as the commander of our Company.

To continue, during part of the Skirmish Drill it was awesome to see the adult American Bald Eagle do a flyby of the formation. Speaking of which, the section that I was with (*Pvt.'s Bondra, Forbes, and Noto*) while new to the Buff Stick's, did a great job and were indistinguishable from the veterans. During the break times the large coffee urn, along with the hot water for coco, that was provided by Ranger Barb Wadding was greatly appreciated. Finally, last but not least, it was great to see Private Elkins in the ranks again.

With that, I am looking forward to seeing more of the company next month at Military Through the Ages.
- YOS, *Private Stier*

I arrived at Fort Washington around 11:16AM and I walked down to the Enlisted Men's quarters and arrived by 11:36AM. I stopped along the half point to take a breather before journeying on and I also took a breather before I walked in the quarters for the meeting about this years Military Through the Ages (MTA.) 1st Lt. White Geoff White greeted me then 1st. Sgt. Neil grabbed a chair for me to sit down.

My spectacles were foggy and discolored from the cold weather outside, so I took them off until they cleared. Shortly after I arrived the meeting ended and it was time for the noon meal, each man ate out of their own haversacks. At 1:00PM the drilling of the troops from the Manual of Arms, teaching them to load in 10 times or 9 times, and bayonet fencing drills.

At 2:30PM coffee and latrine brake, before repeat of the drills. At 3:45PM the striking of the colors and three cheers for the Park Ranger. About 3:50PM I started back to the area where the houseless carriages are kept to wait for dad. The same resting periods as before, when I got to the bench Paul asked if I was ok, stayed with me until I caught my breath and offered to let me wait in his horseless carriage until my dad came. He did arrive around 4:16PM, I took some medication, we journeyed for home and arrived home around 5:06PM.

This is my experience at Fort Washington on this day of our Lord 20 February 2021 AD/CE.

-You're ever faithful Acting Assistant Chief/Principle
Mus. Brett M. Talbot

A resounding huzzah, First Sgt, for today's intro to bayonet drill. I've been wanting to do that since joining the hobby and I'm glad that it may/will be incorporated into our drill practice.

I know you mentioned that you would share the bayo drill manual (*yes, please*) and though you may have this, please allow me to share the following YouTube video for those more visual in their learning style.

<https://youtu.be/oRNal8tlWs>

[*Military Commander's addendum: please ignore the video narrator's pronunciations of the positions. While an excellent visual aid, the narrator's grasp of the French language (from which these fencing terms derive) leaves room for improvement*] It doesn't get into the fancy combinations, but I think the basics are covered quite nicely.

Again, many thanks, and more please!

-Pvt. John Noto

Civilian Corner

Civil War Pop Culture: "Our American Cousin"

By Rebecca Welker

When he bought tickets to see "*Our American Cousin*" on the night he would be assassinated, President Lincoln made a popular choice. This three-act play by Tom Taylor had premiered in New York City in 1858 and enjoyed long runs both there and in London, as well as across the US. By the time President Lincoln bought his tickets, it had entered American pop culture and was there to stay for the next few decades.

In short, "*Our American Cousin*" is the story of a backwoods gentleman from Vermont named Asa Trenchard, who inherits an estate in England and travels there to claim it and to meet his British cousins for the first time. I won't spend too much time summarizing it, since you can get a pretty good synopsis on Wikipedia or read the script at gutenberg.org. But "*Our American Cousin*" was pretty popular, and if you were near a city and had the money and free time, chances are good that as an American in the 1860s, you'd probably have seen this play.

In fact, even if you hadn't, it may have entered your cultural frame of reference, much the same way that I've seen few of the Marvel movies, but already know all the spoilers! So in the interest of rounding out our impressions as citizens of the 1860s, here are some of the things from "*Our American Cousin*" that entered Americans' cultural vernacular.

Like most pop culture, "*Our American Cousin*" is pretty quotable... if you live in the right era to understand the jokes. Abraham Lincoln was assassinated while the audience was laughing at a line that many considered one of the funniest of the entire play! It was (*and try not to hurt yourself laughing*), "*Well, I guess I know enough to turn you inside out, old gal – you sockdologizing old man-trap!*"

Don't worry- I saw "*Our American Cousin*" played by a community theater group in Baltimore a few years ago and

nobody in that audience laughed, either. I did look up "*sockdologizing*" and apparently it means "*scheming*". However, John Wilkes Booth is said to have picked this exact moment for the assassination because he hoped the uproarious laughter would drown out the sound of the pistol shot, so audiences at the time clearly thought this was comedy gold.

One of the most popular characters in the play was Lord Dundreary, who was a caricature of a pleasant but fairly stupid British aristocrat. Writer George Robert Sims, who was a teenager during the beginning of the "*Our American Cousin*" craze, wrote, "*we went Dundreary mad in '61. The shop windows were filled with Dundreary scarves, and Brother Sam scarves, and there were Dundreary collars and Dundreary shirts, and Dundrearyisms were on every lip.*"

There's a lot going on in this quote, and I particularly like the idea that teens in the 1860s were wearing "*Dundreary*" and "*Brother Sam*"-style outfits like they were band t-shirts. ("*Brother Sam*" is Lord Dundreary's even stupider brother, who does not actually appear on stage.) I did a quick search to find out what this clothing might have looked like, but I'm not coming up with anything too specific. The Oxford English Dictionary entry for "*Dundreary*" mentions a kind of summer scarf, so presumably a "*Dundreary scarf*" is a light, fashionable scarf rather than a more sturdy winter one. I assume the shirts and collars looked like ones the character wore in one or more of the popular runs of the show.

Unlike the shirts and scarves, "*Dundreary-isms*" are easier to bring into your Civil War impression. They are mixed metaphors like, "*Many hands make two in the bush*" and "*It's the wise child that gets the worms*". Modern readers of the Patrick O'Brian novels will also know these as "*Jack Aubrey-isms*"! Other favorite lines include, "*The tail wagging the dog*", "*It's a pretty flower,—if it were another colour*" and "*Most fellows think me a nice fellow,—two fellows out of three would think me a nice fellow,—and the other fellow—the third fellow,—well, that fellow would be an ass.*" Actually, some of these funny lines hold up pretty well!

So you can wear a Dundreary outfit, you can use a Dundrearyism in your speech... and it turns out that the gentlemen among us, if they're really been bitten by the "*Our American Cousin*" bug, can also grow "*Dundreary whiskers*". "*Dundreary whiskers*" are sideburns that have gotten completely out of control, and you won't have to look too far to find them on a Civil War General or two. Rear Adm. Stephen Bleeker Luce and Gen. Christopher Auger both wore them, although there's no word on whether they were inspired by the play. Honestly though, guys, if you want a lady's opinion, this is one piece of Civil War history that might be best left in the past.

If you want to branch out from quoting just the play's most beloved character, the titular "*American Cousin*", Asa Trenchard, also has some memorable lines. Some of these phrases I've heard in other American media of the day, for example, "*skedaddle*" or "*like a thousand of brick*". At least one, "*hitched*" to mean "*married*", has survived as a relatively common expression to this day. Others haven't lasted so long. Bonus points to anyone who can work "*you're small potatoes*"

and few in a hill" into their ordinary speech around the campfire!

For a good period experience, as well as a great way to understand the cultural touchstone that was "*Our American Cousin*", I recommend reading through the play or, if you can manage it, watching a production. The humor might not always translate to our own time, but it's still fun to check out the things that made our ancestors laugh and knowing the pop culture of the 1860s is always a great way to fill out your portrayal of the Americans of the 1860s.

"The Civilians of the 3rd US received a generous gift from the family of long-time member Mary Lou Taylor, who donated to us her reenacting clothes as well as a variety of accessories, period-appropriate toys, etc. These gifts are a beautiful way to honor Mary Lou's legacy within our unit by enabling future generations to enjoy the hobby she loved. The 3rd US, in particular the civilians, extend their thanks to Mary Lou's family and will be sending a thank-you card. If you have anything you would like to add to the message, please get in touch with Rebecca at r.welker64@gmail.com"

Want to Contribute to the Civilian Corner? Read below:

Civilians, this section is yours to share information, whether it be a period article from a contemporary magazine/periodical of the time or your own article focusing on our impressions as civilians of the civil war period.

Any member of the unit is welcome to contribute to this section and all contributions are welcome. This is our unit, our civilian section and so this section of the newsletter should be our creation.

To submit an article, please simply email a copy of the article you wish to contribute to Rebecca Welker at r.welker64@gmail.com by the 15th of the month prior to the newsletter in which you wish your contribution to appear. For example, if you wish your contribution to appear in the April edition of our Newsletter, then you must have your article to me by the 15th of March.

If you have not done so, please review our section of the unit's website and review the material we have saved there. All material is a work in process and we welcome feedback.

Military members, if you have family members that wish to join our civilian section, it is essential that you have them read the civilian handbook - and that you read it too!



The handbook is a good place to start to familiarize yourself on how to get someone started in successfully portraying a civilian of the civil war period. Authenticity is a journey and the journey should always be based on a foundation of period research and documentation so we can do justice to those civilians we strive to portray.

Respectfully yours, *Ms. Rebecca Welker*

Happy Birthday

Darrell Cochran	Charles Billingsley
David Welker	Janine Stier (<i>nee Politano</i>)
Neal Patrick	Lori Hull

If you have any questions regarding the policies or schedule of the 3rd U.S Regulars Infantry, Co. K please contact one of the elected Leadership:

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Corporal – Joseph Gillespie

Corporal – Craig Ross

Corporal – Peter Vaselopoulos

Commissary Sergeant Glenn Dieter
 Quartermasters-1st Sgt. Neil Burke,

Corporal Peter Vaselopoulos
 Recruiting Coordinator, Corporal Peter Vaselopoulos