

Vol. 29 NO 4

April 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

May Event

Bristoe Station Living History Prince William County, VA

Final Registration with the Company NLT [19 May 2021](#).

Dates: Saturday, May 22 (you have the option of arriving the evening of Friday, May 21, and staying through Sunday, May 23).

Type of event: Living History and potential battle demonstration.

Location: Bristoe Station Battlefield is located at the corner of Iron Brigade Unit Avenue and Tenth Alabama Way.

From Interstate 95: Take Rt. 234 North (Exit 152B); travel 7.5 miles and make a left onto Independent Hill Drive. Then make your immediate right onto Rt. 619 (Bristow Road). Travel 7 miles and turn left onto Iron Brigade Unit Avenue. The parking lot is located on your left at the traffic circle.

From Interstate 66: Take Rt. 234 South (Exit 44). Travel 4.5 miles and turn right onto Rt. 28 (Nokesville Road). Travel 1.5 miles and turn left onto Rt. 619 (Bristow Road). Travel .25 miles and turn right onto Iron Brigade Unit Avenue. The parking lot is located on your left at the traffic circle.

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 are no events planned for Sunday

Specifics – We will be portraying the 3rd US Regular Infantry, Company K. This was a battle in which the company fought in October, 1863. We will demonstrate skirmishing in a socially-distanced and safe manner.

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

Commissary: On you own; Haversack or Handbasket. The site is providing wood and water. There are lots of modern food options nearby.

Uniform: Forage Cap, Sack Coat, Corps Badges (Fifth Corps, Second Division—White Maltese Cross), Light Blue Trousers, Brogans, Full Leathers MINUS CARTRIDGE BOX SLING, Springfield Rifled Musket.
Ammunition: 40 rounds, plus caps. We will have ammunition for sale at the event.

June Event

Ball's Bluff Living History Leesburg, VA

Final Registration with the Company NLT [16 June 2021](#).

Dates: Saturday, June 19 (you have the option of arriving the evening of Friday, June 18, and staying through Sunday, June 20).

Type of event: Living History and potential battle demonstration.

Location: Ball's Bluff Battlefield Regional Park.
Ball's Bluff Road
Leesburg, VA 21076

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 are no events planned for Sunday

Specifics – I have not yet determined the specific impression (1st California, 15th Massachusetts, etc). We will be demonstrating skirmishing, as occurred in the opening portions of the battle.
<https://www.novaparks.com/parks/balls-bluff-battlefield-regional-park>

Commissary: On you own; Haversack or Handbasket.

Uniform: Forage Cap (NO hat brass), Sack Coat (NO Corps Badges), Light Blue Trousers, Brogans, Full Leathers, Rifled Musket.

Ammunition: 20 rounds, plus caps. We will have ammunition for sale at the event.

July Event--TENTATIVE
Union Mills Living History and Battle Demonstration
Westminster, MD

Dates: Saturday, July 17 and Sunday, July 18.

Type of event: Living History and potential battle demonstration.

Location: Union Mills Homestead

3311 Littlestown Pike

Westminster, MD 21158

Registration Fee: \$10 per person. This is what is being advertised. I am seeking clarification from the event organizers.

Schedule: Friday evening: Arrive, set up camp

Saturday: Roll Call 7:30 AM, Living history and battle demonstrations throughout the day until 4 PM.

Sunday: Roll Call 7:30 AM, Living history and battle demonstrations throughout the day until 3 PM.

Specifics – We will be portraying the 3rd US Regular Infantry circa 1861. If you are unable to provide an 1861 impression, we still want you there with a late war or volunteer uniform.

<https://unionmills.org/events/civil-war-encampment/>

Commissary: TBD. We may be able to provide commissary support, but the situation is dynamic with COVID. Bottom line: we will take every precaution to ensure the safety of our members. If COVID is still a concern, we will default to having people provide their own food so as to avoid cross-contamination and infection.

Uniform: Hardee Hat (with hat brass), Frock Coat, Shoulder Scales (NO Corps Badges), Dark Blue Trousers, Brogans, Full Leathers, Springfield Rifled Musket.

Ammunition: 40 rounds, plus caps. We will have ammunition for sale at the event.

Vice President Report – Current and Potential Events for 2021

By: Vice President 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. I am hoping to work with the board and confirm additional events for the Summer, ASAP.

Confirmed Events:

May

Bristoe Station Living History and Demonstrations

Dates: Saturday, May 22nd

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>

June

Ball's Bluff

Date: Saturday, June 19th

Type of event: Living History and Skirmish

Location: Ball's Bluff, Leesburg, VA

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:

June

Fort Myer Staff Walk

Date: Saturday, June 12th (tentative and may become an auxiliary event)

Type of event: Historic Tour/Visit

Location: Fort Myer, Arlington, VA

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>

July

Union Mills Homestead – Civil War Encampment

Dates: Saturday, July 17th

Type of event: Living History

Location: 3311 Littlestown Pike, Westminster, MD 21158

<https://unionmills.org/>

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/>

August

Battle of Kettle Run

Dates: Saturday, Sunday August 28-29

Type of event: Living History

Location: Bristoe Station, Prince William County, VA

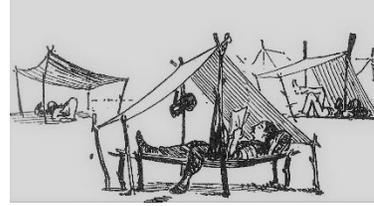
<https://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/park/hp/Pages/Bristoe-Station-Battlefield.aspx>

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>**Cedar Creek Battle**

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

President's Column

Buffsticks,

We are hitting 2021 with a roar! We are two for two with events that have effectively pulled off a Drill Day at Ft. Washington and Marching Through the Ages at Jamestown. I feel like we are on a roll! With that said, the Board continues to find events for the schedule this year.

It looks like May will be Bristoe Station, June Balls Bluff, not finalized but moving in the right direction, and Union Mills in July. Please keep in mind that the schedule may continue to be in flux as organizers hesitate to hold events.

MTA was a big success again this year. We continue to attract solid and experienced recruits to our ranks. I command Lt. White and 1Sgt Burke and a smooth event and getting everyone organized. The 3rd engaged the public throughout the event, with everyone being involved.

YOS,

Neil Carmichael,

President, 3rd U.S. Board of Directors

Commander's Field Desk

Buffsticks,

I have the honor of addressing you after a successful Military Through the Ages. In past years we have done well not only in the area of living history, but in the judged competition as well. This year, that competition was severely curtailed, with no judged firing demonstrations or camp authenticity judging. The only two categories were Audience Choice and Reenactor's Choice. It was a shame that the judging wrapped up on Saturday afternoon. I watched the members of our unit assess what was working and what needed improving, and execute those improvements on Sunday morning. If the voting had happened after our impromptu Bases-Ball game (*complete with a ringer from another living history group*), I have no doubt we very well might have won Reenactors Choice. Similarly, with the adjustments we made to the bayonet demonstration area, we very well could have won Audience Choice if it had been voted on Sunday.

But, this was an odd year. I am just thrilled that we got to see each other for some fun and history. I want to thank everyone who came out to MTA. Every single one of you was crucial to our success.

Looking ahead, 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). The First Call has already gone out for that event. Please stay tuned for updates via email and Facebook.

In May, we will be at Bristoe Station portraying OUR unit, the 3rd US Regulars. We will be doing a one-day living history, and potentially doing battle demonstrations. Stay tuned for more details. One detail you might have noticed is, we will not be wearing cartridge box slings. Thanks to new research, led by Craig Ross, it appears the Regular soldiers did not wear slings after the 1861 campaign, as the War department apparently felt the volunteers needed them more.

I am very pleased to announce that we will be going back to Ball's Bluff in June. We were treated extremely well at our encampment there last October, and we have mutually agreed that coming back is a great idea. We will be skirmishing on Saturday, just as they did on the day of the battle.

We are working on more events for the year. I appreciate everyone's patience. We usually have a full calendar by now. But with things being so dynamic, you can imagine things are much harder to plan for this year. 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.

Please refer to Peter Vaselopulos's article, paying particular attention to our potential events. If you have a strong feeling one way or another about an event, please let someone in the unit leadership know.

YOS,
Lt. Geoff White

1ST SERGEANT CORNER

The Living History Soup

MTA was a little different this year. Some of our features from years past like the bayonet dummy and uniform try-ons were absent and our entire camp was behind "*do not feed the zoo animals*" rope. Despite this warning, we had many members of the public still come and speak with us.

What impressed me most about your performance this weekend is that despite all the restrictions, we still had a full and excellent camp impression that kept the public engaged and interested. It brought to mind the allegory of the Stone Soup. **Stone Soup**, of course, is a story where a person comes to a village with a stone in a kettle and says they are making soup and have the perfect stone for the base, but it would be perfect if it had a little more tang, so if he could just trouble you for one onion... or one carrot... and so on until, without realizing it, the entire village has made a full and delicious meal for all to share together and then World Peace breaks out or something.

In our case, MTA offered you a space, and each individual member brought their own particular interests and talents to full bear and made a wonderful cohesive whole. The Mule Shoe game, the bayonet ring, the Drummer's equipment, and the blanket roll, among other things, all came together in a way that made a camp that was richly full and busy with learning, and it was not any one person but the entire combination that made our MTA display great.

I would like all of us to keep that in mind as we do more living histories. If any of you have a talent, item, or other idea for another ingredient to add to our living history soup, no matter how small, please do not hesitate to bring it up to me or the military and civilian leadership.

The mule shoe game, for example, was just some authentic mule shoes, which I learned are longer than horseshoes and it provided an excellent entrée into discussing the critical role of the humble Army Mule, and tent stakes, and yet it was full throughout the weekend. Please feel free to bring your ideas up to us and we can work together on incorporating them into future events.

1st Neil Burke

Membership Report: Military Through the Ages at Jamestown, March 20-21

My Fellow Buffsticks,

Many thanks to everyone for making this the best day I have had in a long time. It was great to see all of you. I am

looking ahead to when I can make it for another great event with the 3rd US, Co. K. It was nice to catch up with all of you and the best was educating the public on the 3rd. I spoke with very interested folks about my rifle and what we did during the war. What stood out for me was the young kids already in various uniforms. Future reenactors and historians. These young people will certainly keep our nation's history alive and not forgotten.

I hope everyone enjoyed the fruitcake. [*Editor's note: indeed, we did!*] Until we meet again my friends.

Respectfully submitted by a proud member of the 3rd US, Co. K.

Pvt. Glenn Deiters

My attendance has been very spotty over the last 5 years so I was very happy to fall in this weekend with old friends and new friends. Our unit is built to handle new officers and NCO's and the change was seamless. Geoff and Neil did an excellent job and I look forward to attending more events this year! Huzzah
Pvt. Bob Elkins

Few things beat a weekend of wearing Union blue and educating the public. One of my favorite parts was recounting the tale of the 3rd as we had to evacuate Fort Clark and make it in time for First Bull Run, and how the public's eyes grew wide when they realized the stakes at hand. It helps to change their traditional understanding of the war.

Also, is there any other way to spend a Sunday morning than hustling during skirmish drill?

Pvt Patrick Neal

I have to say I had a blast at MTA. It's been ages since I last did Civil War. Though not going for the "*Regulars*" look there, I tried to note the differences between regulars and volunteers. Talked about differences in uniforms and material culture of the 19th century along with the production of those items. Really appreciated everyone sending the public to the blanket setup I had as it felt like a well-oiled machine. So, the highlight of the event (*other than being with an excellent unit of course*), I taught a family of Polish Americans about brigade general of the 11th Corps, Włodzimierz Bonawentura Krzyżanowski who was at Gettysburg. Say that name 3 times fast!

Overall thrilled to get out again and looking forward to Pamplin and other future events.

Pvt. Sean Marcum

Wow, what a great weekend! While not as big as previous years, MTA was still the event to be at in the Living History World! The many positives that I am still thinking about, even though the smell of the coffee fire no longer lingers upon my cloths...

The opportunity to engage with and educate the public, while at the same time falling in with my friends; some of whom I have not seen for many a year, while others I met for the first time. In a word, **Drill(!)** 😊 The group photo of the current and previous company commanders. Enjoying the fiddle and banjo playing of the Lt. and 1st Sgt. while awaiting the supper call on Saturday evening along with the batting

practice on Sunday afternoon. Playing horse shoes with authentic mule shoes, both against each other and involving the public. The chance to visit the other time periods, while confirming that as each period is unique among itself, the questions received from the public are universally the same.

Last but not least, being joined by my blushing bride, who when arriving on site was surprised as to how much Jamestown had changed since we were last together there.

Looking forward to falling in with everyone at Pamplin Park - YOS,
Pvt. Private Stier

I had a great time at MTA! Usually the commander officer (CO) asks us to share our experiences at the events. I arrived at the site Friday night around 7:30PM, checked in, saw how the camp site and the gang of the 3rd US was doing before heading back to the hotel.

The next morning, I arrived on site around 10:45AM, setup my equipment between the awning and the Shelter "Dog" Tents.

I was able to show one child my drum, out of the many civilians who came to our camp that we talked to. Out of that many, two couples I talked to about the participation of the US Colored Troops later the Buffalo Soldiers, one couple Native American Indian Tribes based on the Dances with Wolves film, with mentioning of the Native American Indian tribes (Ute, Paiute, Goshute and Navajo/Navaho) I grew up with in Utah and one young Catholic woman about music and the gospel.

In our conversation about moving pictures, the discussion was which picture was the better one.

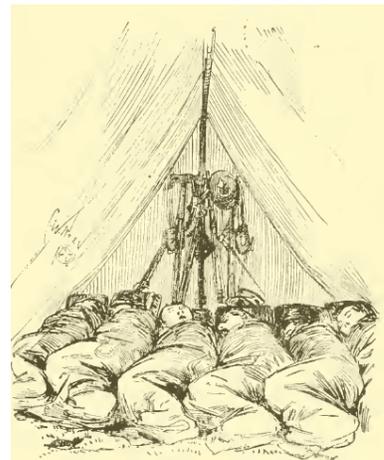
I mention that I was in two moving pictures, Dead west for the Sundance Film Festival in 2004 and the Hayfield the Hollywood film in 2006. Dead West was filmed up at Old Deseret Village at This is the Place Heritage Park in Salt Lake City, Utah. I played the Deseret News Reporter and I reported on the bank robbery, the sooting at the hotel and the carriage accident. My big scene was to check out the scene of the accident and interview the witness. It didn't do well during judging period that it never made it to festival or theaters. The Hayfield was filmed in Idaho in a field outside of Pocatello. My old CO Col. Patrick O'Mahoney was the casting director for the extras. I was original was hired to play "Panicking Private" the soldier who gets beaten up by the sergeant. Unfortunately they didn't film that scene while I was on the set. My big scene was me braking up a fight between two sentinels "soldiers at guard duty." Because of lawsuits flied against the director by the banks for defat on the loan and by the local native American Indian tribes for discrimination. The assistant director had to pay the cast and crew their promised earnings after settling the debits. The film was never picked up by a distributor and hasn't been shown in theaters. For my experiences on the film I received only \$75.00 instead of the \$100.00 that was promised.

It was still a fun experience making these two movies, one as a civilian News Reporter and one as a Union Soldier.

Yours Faithfully
Assistant Chief Mus
Assistant Principle Mus
Mus. Brett M. Talbot



FRYING HARDTACK.



Civilian Corner

Dead Rabbits and Plug Uglies: the Real Gangs of New York

When the movie *Gangs of New York* came out in 2002, it was most people's first and last exposure to New York City's gang culture in the mid-1800's, which is not surprising, since it's a fairly unsavory subject. Oddly enough, I actually first heard of some of these gangs in the children's novel *Charlie Skedaddle*, by Patricia Beatty, which I read twice before I figured out what, exactly a "dead rabbit" was and why you would fight one! Stationed in New York City during the war, the men of the 3rd US and any of their families living in the area might have read about these groups in the newspaper or been aware of their activities throughout the city, depending on how you chose to spend your leave. To round out our understanding of New York City's seamier side, here are descriptions of some of the real-life "gangs of New York".

Dead Rabbits

Thanks to the movie, which focuses on a fictionalized story about this gang, the Dead Rabbits are perhaps the best-known of the New York gangs of this era. The Dead Rabbits gang was formed by disgruntled former members of the "Roach Guards", which had gone out of existence by the mid 1850s. They got their name from an incident in which a dead rabbit was thrown into the middle of the room during a gang meeting; the rabbit was taken by some as a sign that they should form their own gang. The gang was comprised of Irish-Americans, and allied politically with Tammany Hall. They are known for their participation in the 1857 Dead Rabbits Riot and the New York City draft riots. Their primary rivals were the nativist Bowery Boys.

Bowery Boys

The Bowery Boys were an anti-Catholic, anti-Irish gang based in Manhattan. They also appear in *Gangs of New York*, and were known as one of the most notorious gangs in the city. More interestingly, the gang was comprised almost entirely of volunteer firefighters who, as you would expect from a gang, would fight with rival fire companies over the right to put out fires. They had a uniform consisting of a red shirt, dark pants tucked into boots, and a stovepipe hat- basically a fireman's uniform. They were also big theatre-goers, frequenting the Bowery theatre in particular, and a Bowery Boy character named Mose the Fireboy appeared in numerous plays, inspired by the real-life Bowery Boy Mose Humphrey. Mose the Fireboy was portrayed as being 8 feet tall, able to swim the Hudson River in two strokes, rescue babies in his massive stovepipe hat, and rip whole cherry trees out of the ground to use as clubs when the Bowery Boys fought the Plug Uglies gang. Ironically, given the Bowery Boys' anti-Catholic stance, the real Mose Humphrey was a parishioner at St. Andrew's Catholic Church.

Plug Uglies

The Plug Uglies were not founded in New York City, but in Baltimore's Mount Vernon neighborhood, although there was a New York City chapter. They were allies of the Dead Rabbits, but, like the Bowery Boys, grew out of a local fire brigade. Like many other gangs of their day, they were frequently allied with politicians and were involved in multiple riots associated with Baltimore city elections. So why are they included in this list? Because in 1863, they traveled to New York City to join the NYC chapter of the gang as well as their allied gangs in the Draft Riots. The *New York Times* wrote, "the scoundrels cannot afford to miss this golden opportunity of indulging their brutal natures, and at the same time serving their colleagues the Copperheads and secesh sympathizers."

The Shirt Tails

Not to be confused with the "Short Tails", a gang founded later in the century. This gang got its name from the members' habit of wearing their shirts untucked in the style of Chinese laborers of the day, which is particularly interesting, because I haven't found any reason to believe they had any connection whatsoever to Chinese laborers or to China at all. They were also said to wear their weapons underneath their loose shirts, in contrast to other gangs, who preferred to advertise their weaponry and appear intimidating. They participated in fighting alongside the Dead Rabbits during the Draft Riots.

Atlantic Guards

Allies of the Bowery Boys, the Atlantic Guards also had a "uniform"- in their case, red stripes down the sides of their pants, in imitation of military style. They were known to be (only slightly) less violent than other gangs, stopping "just short of murder". They were participants in the Dead Rabbits Riot in 1857, which began when the headquarters they shared with the Bowery Boys at 42 Bowery was raided by their rivals "in celebration of the Fourth of July". This kicked off two days of gang warfare in the city, which ended when the 8th and 71st regiments of the New York State Militia were called out to stop the violence. Interestingly, the Dead Rabbits were insulted afterwards by implications that they had committed theft during the riots and instead blamed the Atlantic Guards, as the *New York Times* wrote: "We are requested by the Dead Rabbits to state that the Dead Rabbit club members are not thieves, that they did not participate in the riot with the Bowery Boys, and that the fight on Mulberry street was between the Roach Guards of Mulberry street and the Atlantic Guards of the Bowery. The Dead Rabbits are sensitive on points of Honor, we are assured, and wouldn't allow a thief to live on their beat, much less be a member of their club."

Chichesters

One of the oldest gangs in New York City, the Chichesters were an Irish gang named after their founder, John Chichester. They began with theft and eventually segued into illegal gambling as well. The Chichesters were allies of the Dead Rabbits, and maintained a membership of between 50-100 for more than half a century. In the years following the Civil War, they were absorbed into the Whyos gang, as many of these groups were.

Whyos

This group was formally founded after the Civil War, but I'm including it here because many of its early members came from other gangs, having participated in events like the Draft Riots and the Dead Rabbits Riot. The Whyos controlled most of Manhattan from the 1860s-1890s when they were defeated by the Monk Eastman gang. Membership required a person to have committed at least one murder, and the gang became so powerful that other gangs required their permission to operate (*which they were apparently open to giving*). Although they were primarily Irish-American, the Whyos were equal-opportunity offenders and when member Piker Ryan was arrested by New York City police, he was carrying a list of prices for which members would be willing to commit violence.

This is only a handful of examples of the gangs that made up New York City's criminal underworld during the years before and during the Civil War. If you're interested in knowing more of this sordid time and place in history, instead of watching the movie, try the book by the same name, *The Gangs of New York, An Informal History of the Underworld*, by Herbert Asbury.

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 May edition of our Newsletter, then you must have your article to me by the 15th of April.

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

Claude Bauer

Jason Eckhart

Brett Talbot

Keith Mumma

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:

President: Neil Carmichael**Phone** 202-892-6344.E-mail: buddy324th@gmail.com**Vice President:** Peter Vaselopoulos

Cell:

E-mail: pvaselop@gmail.com**Treasurer:** Kelly Cochran**Phone** (202) 316-0422E-mail: kellytcochran@gmail.com**Secretary:** Neil Burke**Phone** 703-973-1672E-mail neil.burke2013@gmail.com**Member at Large:** TJ Bradley**Phone**E-mail: bradley.thomasj@gmail.com**Civilian Coordinator:** Rebecca Welker

Phone; 703 973 7367

E-mail: r.welker64@gmail.com**Military Chain of Command****1st Lt., Geoff White Company Commander****1st Sgt. Neil Burke****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

Announcing the Buffstick Debate Society

TONIGHT!

THE REFINED RHETORIC CLUBS OF
COMPANIES F & K*

Will engage in a passionate discussion
for Tonight's topic:

 **THE EXISTENCE
OF THE PLANETOID
KNOWN AS "VULCAN".**

(Or not.)

Can this scientific contest be resolved before Tattoo?

THE DEBATE WILL COMMENCE AT THE

CHAPLAIN'S TENT

AT SIX AND A HALF O'CLOCK.

The discussion to be moderated by the reg'tl adjutant, who shall monitor the oxygen levels of the area to see they are not depleted by horrible reasoning. Expect mathematical models to ensue.

By Order of Lt. Geoff White, commanding, Co. K of the 3rd U.S. Infantry.

*Exempting those on Guard Mount or other necessary fatigue duties. Yes, Cpl. Vasepoulos, you still must put fresh boughs in the officers' sink.

As you may have gathered from reading the poster above, I have a lot of time sit and think. (*To the average, untrained eye, this looks remarkably like goofing off.*)

The poster started as a joke. I am creating a bulletin board which displays official edicts and announcements from the Surgeon/Regimental Hospital, but hopefully, we can have a running joke that "*in-universe*" the board has become a general dumping ground for unofficial announcements, cartoons mocking the surgeon, the occasional naughty pic, &c. The above poster (*printed "in-universe" on a portable printing press in the field by some REMFs at Division*) was posted on the board.

Knowing the Third has a few walking encyclopedias in the ranks, I decided to expand upon the idea. Let's have the announcement on my bulletin board during public hours. The visitors will see it, and those who think they are "*in the know*" will assume we are debating something Star Trek Geek Chic after public hours, and they will get a good laugh. Until we comment that in the 1800s, respected astronomers and scientists thought there might be a planet they called Vulcan (*in orbit between Mercury and the sun*). Hopefully, laughter will fade to disbelief, then stunned silence as we reveal a part of history that few people bother to explore.

Using Our Mutual Friend “*Da Wiki*” as a launch pad, I downloaded several articles and a period diagram discussing the history behind the “*discovery*”. I can send them as pdfs to anyone who is interested. I may try looking for further details at the library.

So – if you are interested, I’d be happy to set up a formal debate in real life, where participants use genuine evidence-based arguments, pro or con. Of course, since this is likely to happen at a living history, we should hold it during public hours. I’d encourage any debaters to read a few period manuals on the art of rhetoric. It’s almost, but not quite, the same as your old high school debate team. I am also open to

suggestions for future debates, both serious (*e.g., does the Constitution specifically permit secession? Is evolution a direct threat to the existence of God?*) to asinine (*e.g. Which actor better portrays Hamlet, John Booth, or Edwin Forrest? The use of syncopation in music – contributes, or detracts from the piece?*)

Feel free to contact me by email theapothecarycat at yahoo dot com or call or text.

Stay safe, and at some point, after COVID is brought to heel, I will join you in the field.

Noah Briggs

Acting Surgeon, 3rd US