

Vol. 29 NO 5

May 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>
Newsletter Editor: Mary E. Ritenour, 10012 Cotton Farm Road, Fairfax, VA 22032-1606 Mritenour1@verizon.net

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. 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.

Vice President Report – Current and Potential Events for 2021

Listed below are *Confirmed Events* that the board has already approved. * represents events waiting on Board approval.

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

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

Location: Ball's Bluff, Leesburg, VA

July*

NPS- Manassas

Date: Saturday – Sunday, July 17-18

Type of event: Living History

Location: Manassas, VA

*this event is waiting on final confirmation from NPS.

September*

Fredericksburg NPS

Dates: Saturday, September 4th

Type of event: Living History

Location: Fredericksburg, VA

Daniel Lady Farm - Antietam

Dates: Saturday, September 18-19th

Type of event: Battle Reenactment

Location: Gettysburg, PA

*the Board is going to promote both events, but Antietam will be an all-hands effort since it is a USV event.

October

Cedar Creek Battle

Dates: October 16-17

Type of event: Battle Reenactment

Location: Cedar Creek, Middletown, VA (USV)

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:

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>

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

Commander's Field Desk

Buffsticks,

So far, it has been an interesting and successful year. Despite the challenges we face from COVID-19 and the attendant social distancing, gathering restrictions, site-closures, etc., we are doing well finding events to attend, and making them work even with all the above considerations.

You all may notice that an event we posted in last month's newsletter is not in this month's. This is because we felt that it did not offer the best value for our time and effort. Peter Vaselopoulos and the rest of the Board are working hard at securing a new event for July, one that we feel will be a great opportunity for everyone.

Looking ahead to September: You'll see we have two events listed. Our PRIMARY event for September is the reenactment of Antietam at Daniel Lady farm. They are limiting the number that can attend the living history in Fredericksburg over Memorial Day weekend, and there will be minimal company support. So please, if you are only allowed to leave the house one weekend each month for Civil War Fun Time®, make it the Daniel Lady Farm Antietam event.

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

Membership Report: Pamplin Park Living History and Battle Demonstration, April 2-4

Zachary and I enjoyed the event. Liked the camp like setting as a staging area, rehearsals and drills. Amazing to be on the actual site. Always a good time falling in with the 3rd US.
Pvt. Stanley Adamus

I enjoyed the event, being on the original battlefield and being with my good friends in the Buffsticks.
Cpl. Craig Ross

Agree it was a fun event. I had a blast, and it was a good site. See you all at Bristoe in May.
Pvt. Jeff Mills

Buff Sticks! What a great event that we were able to experience at one of the premier Civil War Museums, located outside of Petersburg, VA on the grounds of Pamplin Park. It was at this site that the Union Army of the Potomac broke through the Confederate lines on April 2, 1865.

While I was able to enjoy numerous experiences, I just wanted to share some of the following with all of you. Being on the actual ground where the Union forces of First Division/6th Corps were finally able to break through, and within one week affected the surrender of the much vaunted Army of Northern Virginia was a humbling experience. Company Drill, Firing, and Battle Demonstrations against real Confederate Infantry and Artillery was great. Falling in with old friends and meeting new ones; both fresh fish and experienced veterans joining us from other units allowed for special moments throughout the weekend. Spending both nights inside the Union lines, while enjoying our slumber within the confines of their exceptional winter huts, was a great experience. Bottom line, if the opportunity allowed for us to return to this site then I would not hesitate to do so.

I am looking forward to falling-in with ya'll on the 22nd of May at Bristoe Station - YOS,

Pvt. Paul Stier

Civilian Corner

When Historical Accuracy is the Most Practical Option

As reenactors, we all love a good "period moment". There's nothing quite like the feeling of stepping out of your tent in the morning to see the sun coming up, breakfast cooking over the fire, and nothing modern in sight. We put research and effort into our impressions in part because of the awesome rush we get when we have that experience of looking around and seeing the 1860's right before our eyes.

But I think we all have to admit that there really is such a thing as too much accuracy (you can pry modern medicine from my cold, dead hands) and there are "period moments" we absolutely don't want to have. I don't know about you, but top on my list of experiences I don't need is a burn incident in camp.

During the 19th century, while the world was still waiting for electricity to be invented, fire was an ever-present hazard. Cooking, heating, and lighting your spaces all required a lit fire and if you weren't careful, or even if you were just unlucky, you could easily wind up with a disaster. As reenactors, we also spend a pretty decent amount of time around campfires for cooking, lighting, and keeping warm at winter events; because we want to go home in one piece, fire safety is just as important to us as it was to our ancestors.

In some cases, we solve old problems with new methods (like taking modern medication even when we're at events) but in this case, fire safety is best achieved by making sure our clothing is as accurate as possible! In fact, cutting corners and wearing modern materials makes us not only less historically accurate, but also less safe in camp.

I'm going to include a chart below, but here's a pretty good summary of it: If you see the word "melts" in any row or column, don't wear the corresponding material in camp.

In slightly more detail, what you're looking at below is a Burn Test Chart. One way to identify fibers is by burning a piece. Each fiber burns (or doesn't) in specific ways and if you've got an unknown fiber, burning it can pretty quickly narrow down what you've got. Knowing the burn properties of a fiber can also help you determine whether it's a safe choice to wear around a fire, especially if you're talking about a long skirt, a cloak, a shawl, or a greatcoat.

Luckily for us, as people who wear a lot of wool, wool is one of the safest options. Wool doesn't catch fire easily and when it comes into contact with flame, it smolders rather than burning or melting and it stops burning as soon as it is removed from flame. If your wool skirt brushes up against a burning log, it will be damaged but you likely won't!

For the fancy dressers among us, it's good to note that silk is also an excellent option that does not tend to burn easily. Cotton and linen both ignite quickly and continue to burn when they're removed from flame, making them less safe than wool or silk, but most importantly they don't melt.

This is a big deal because when I say that a material melts, I mean it's going to melt onto your skin if it's on fire and touches you. I've actually had this experience doing crafts

with nylon rope (you melt the end to keep it from unraveling) and it is an experience I do not recommend! If you're talking about an entire garment melting because you tripped near the campfire, you're going to end up with really serious burns that "stop, drop, and roll" isn't going to help you with.

When you're making purchases for reenacting, it's worth it to make sure your clothing is historically accurate in

look, but also in material. Even the long johns or socks that you know nobody will ever see can become a health hazard if you've got synthetic materials and a little bad luck. Historical accuracy in choosing materials pays off, not only because a well-done impression is something we take pride in, but because you'll be safer at events.

Adapted from Threads no. 81, "Fabric Lovers Always Carry a Flame," by Mary Elliott and Elaine Zarse.

FIBER	APPROACHING FLAME	IN FLAME	REMOVED FROM FLAME	ODOR	ASH
Cotton	Scorches; ignites quickly	Burns quickly; yellow flame	Continues to burn rapidly; has afterglow	Burning paper	Light and feathery gray ash; ash is black if mercerized
Linen	Scorches; ignites quickly	Burns less quickly than cotton; yellow flame	Continues to burn	Burning paper	Light and feathery gray ash
Rayon, Tencel	Scorches; ignites quickly	Burns more quickly than cotton; bright yellow flame	Continues to burn rapidly; has no afterglow	Burning paper	Light and feathery gray ash
Silk	Smolders and curls away from flame	Burns slowly; sputters	Burns with difficulty; ceases to flame	Burning hair	Round, shiny black bead; easy to crush
Wool	Smolders and curls away from flame; ignites slowly	Burns slowly with small flickering flame; sizzles and curls	Ceases to flame	Burning hair; stronger odor than silk	Crisp, dark ash; round, irregular bead; easy to crush
Nylon	Fuses (melts without burning) and shrinks away from flame	Melts, then burns slowly	Flame ceases and dies out	Celery	Round, hard, grayish bead; won't crush
Polyester, poly fleece	Fuses and shrinks away from flame	Melts and burns slowly	Burns with difficulty	Chemical	Round, hard, black bead; won't crush
Acetate	Fuses away from flame; turns black	Blazes and burns quickly; sputters, melts, and drips like burning tar	Continues to melt and burn	Vinegar	Hard, black ash; irregular bead; difficult to crush
Acrylic	Fuses and shrinks away from flame	Flames rapidly; sputters and melts	Continues to melt and burn	Chemical	Irregular, hard, black bead; won't crush
Spandex	Fuses and shrinks away from flame	Melts and burns	Continues to melt and burn	Sharp, bitter	Soft, sticky, gummy

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

Lester Flores	T.J. Bradley
Kevin Franklin	Alex Wright
Mary Ritenour	

Military Chain of Command

1st Lt., Geoff White Company Commander

1st Sgt. Neil Burke

Corporal – Joseph Gillespie

Corporal – Craig Ross

Corporal – Peter Vaselopulos

Commissary Sergeant Glenn Dieter

Quartermasters-1st Sgt. Neil Burke,

Corporal Peter Vaselopulos

Recruiting Coordinator, Corporal Peter Vaselopulos

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 Vaselopulos

Cell:

E-mail: pvaselop@gmail.com

Treasurer: Kelly Cochran

Phone (202) 316-0422

E-mail: kellytcochran@gmail.com

Secretary: Neil Burke

Phone 703-973-1672

E-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