

Vol. 29 NO 9

"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

September Event (Secondary) Fredericksburg Living History Fredericksburg, VA

Final Registration with the Company NLT September 1.

Dates: Saturday, September 4.

Type of event: Living History and potential firing demonstrations.

Location: Fredericksburg Battlefield
1013 Lafayette Blvd, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Registration Fee: Zero.

Schedule:

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

While we do not have anything planned for Friday or Sunday, you are welcome to come and camp on Friday and Saturday night.

Specifics –We will portray the men of the 3rd US, Co. K. We will be on Marye's Heights—an excellent place for meeting and talking to visitors and potential recruits.

Commissary: On your own; Haversack or Handbasket.

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

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

September Event (Primary) Antietam Reenactment Daniel Lady Farm Gettysburg, PA

Final Registration with the Company NLT September 10.

Dates: Friday, September 17 through Sunday, September 19.

Type of event: Battle Reenactment

Location: 986 Hanover Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325
<https://www.gbpa.org/event/battle-antietamsharpsburg>

Registration Fee: \$20 until August 10.

Link for registration is here:

<https://gbpa.networkforgood.com/events/24749-159th-antietam-sharpsburg-event>

Schedule: Friday evening: Arrive, set up camp

Saturday: Roll Call 6:59 AM, Drill and battle reenactment throughout the day.

Sunday: Roll Call 7:00 AM, Drill and battle reenactment until 2 PM.

Specifics –This is our first post-COVID battle reenactment. For our new recruits, this will be their chance to “see the elephant.”

This is our PRIMARY event for September. If you can only join us for one event in September, please make every effort for it to be this one.

Commissary: On your own for breakfast and dinner (lunch) with a company meal in the evening. We will provide cooking fire, hot water and coffee in the mornings.

Commissary fee: \$5

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

Ammunition: 80 rounds, plus caps. We will have ammunition for sale at the event.

October Event Cedar Creek Reenactment Cedar Creek Battlefield Middletown, VA

Final Registration with the Company NLT October 8.

Dates: Friday, October 15 through Sunday, September 17.

Type of event: Battle Reenactment

Location: This will be at the Cedar Creek Battlefield. I don't have a precise spot for where registration will be. For now, use this address if this is your first time going to Cedar Creek:
8437 Valley Pike
Middletown, VA 2264

Registration Fee: \$30 until August 31.

Link for registration is here:

https://www.ccbf.us/?page_id=3058

Schedule: Friday evening: Arrive, set up camp

Saturday: Roll Call 7:23 AM, Drill and battle reenactment throughout the day.

Sunday: Roll Call 7:24 AM, Drill and morning battle reenactment.

Specifics –This event needs our full support. They have been brave and resilient in the face of a lot of adversity, and have always provided reenactors a perennial battle reenactment that's always worth attending.

<https://www.ccbf.us/>

Commissary: On your own for breakfast and dinner (lunch) with a company meal in the evening. We will provide cooking fire, hot water and coffee in the mornings. Commissary fee: \$5

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

Ammunition: 80 rounds, plus caps. We will have ammunition for sale at the event.

**November Event
Belair Mansion Living History
Bowie, MD**

Final Registration with the Company NLT [November 3.](#)

Dates: Saturday, November 6.

Type of event: Living History and firing demonstrations.

Location: 12207 Tulip Grove Dr, Bowie, MD 20715

Registration Fee: Zero.

Schedule:

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

More details about overnight accommodations TBA

Specifics –We will portray the men of the 3rd US, Co. K.

Commissary: On your own; Haversack or Handbasket.

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

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

Vice President Report

By: Vice President Peter Vaselopulos

To all: Please note the following link on our website that features an event calendar.

<https://www.3rdusreenactors.com/home/organization/event-calendar/>

September

NPS - Fredericksburg

Dates: Saturday-Sunday, September 4-5

Type of event: Living History

Location: Fredericksburg, VA

Daniel Lady Farm – Antietam*

Dates: Saturday-Sunday, September 18-19th

Type of event: Battle Reenactment

Location: Gettysburg, PA

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

October

Cedar Creek Battle

Dates: Saturday-Sunday, October 16-17th

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>

December

Christmas at Fort Ward

Date: December 11, 2021 10am – 4pm

Type of event: Living History

Location: Alexandria, VA

President's Column

Buffsticks family,

As we move to the last part of our reenacting season, I want to update things that are going on behind the scenes.

First, our upcoming few events (Fredericksburg NPS and Antietam reenacting at Daniel Lady Farm), the weather will still be hot and humid. So as a cautionary note, I pulled this from the Mayo Clinic. Heat exhaustion is a condition whose symptoms may include heavy sweating and a rapid pulse, resulting from your body overheating. It's one of three heat-related syndromes, with heat cramps being the mildest and heatstroke being the most severe.

Causes of heat exhaustion include exposure to high temperatures, particularly when combined with high humidity and strenuous physical activity. Without prompt treatment, heat exhaustion can lead to heatstroke, a life-threatening condition. Fortunately, heat exhaustion is preventable. The Signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion may develop suddenly or over time, especially with prolonged periods of exercise. Possible heat exhaustion signs and symptoms include:

- Cool, moist skin with goosebumps when in the heat.
- Heavy sweating
- Faintness
- Dizziness
- Fatigue
- Weak, rapid pulse
- Low blood pressure upon standing
- Muscle cramps
- Nausea
- Headache

Prevention

You can take several precautions to prevent heat exhaustion and other heat-related illnesses. When temperatures climb, remember to:

- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight clothing. Wearing excess clothing or clothing that fits tightly won't allow your body to cool properly.
- Protect against sunburn. Sunburn affects your body's ability to cool itself, so protect yourself outdoors with a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses and use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15. Apply sunscreen generously, and reapply every two hours — or more often if you're swimming or sweating.
- Drink plenty of fluids. Staying hydrated will help your body sweat and maintain a normal body temperature.
- Take extra precautions with certain medications. Be on the lookout for heat-related problems if you take medications that can affect your body's ability to stay hydrated and dissipate heat.
- Take it easy during the hottest parts of the day. If you can't avoid strenuous activity in hot weather, drink fluids and frequently rest in a cool spot. Try to schedule exercise or physical labor for cooler parts of the day, such as early morning or evening.
- Get acclimated. Limit time spent working or exercising in heat until you're conditioned to it. People who are not used to hot weather are especially susceptible to heat-related illness. It can take several weeks for your body to adjust to hot weather.
- Be cautious if you're at increased risk. If you take medications or have a condition that increases your risk of heat-related problems, such as a history of previous heat illness, avoid the heat and act quickly if you notice symptoms of overheating. If you participate in a strenuous sporting event or activity in hot weather, make sure there are medical services available in case of a heat emergency.

In short, please stay healthy, safe and keep an eye on each other.

Second, the board is in the process of acquiring a few larger (44+ or, as recently said, huggable) size Frock coats and Model 1855 hats for loaning to our new members and potential recruits. Peter and Geoff are in the process of researching along with other members of the board. If you

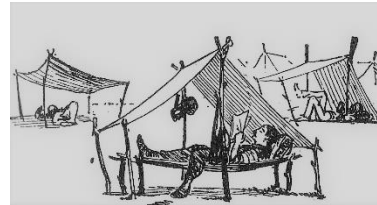
know of any or have one yourself, don't hesitate to contact either Peter or Geoff.

Third, you may see some new members from the Mary Washington Living History club. Several of us met via Zoom over the summer and welcomed them to attend events with us. You may see several at our upcoming Fredericksburg event. Our Civilian Coordinator, Rebecca Welker, and 1Sgtt Neil Burke are coordinating this effort. Please introduce yourself to the members of the HWLH group at the upcoming events and make them welcome as part of the Buffstick family.

Fourth, I will spare the big ad this time for upcoming board positions, but the President, Secretary, and Member at Large are up for election.

Most importantly, the unit will begin taking applications for the Michaeyla Nadeau Living History Scholarship in November. If you know anyone interested, please direct them to our page web page and look for the Scholarship page.

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



Commander's Field Desk

Buffsticks,

I have the honor of addressing you again for our newsletter.

I also have the sad duty of relaying the passing of Walt DeGroot, a long-time member of the Buffsticks. Such a person as him deserves far more of an encomium than I can provide, as I did not know him as well as some of the members of our unit. But it's enough to say that even for the short time I did know him, he made quite an impact. Stories of his personality and contributions were told far and wide.

Beyond that, I don't have much to offer in my article, as we did not have an event this month. But I am extremely pleased with the turnout and the comportment of the membership in our events so far this year. I look forward to seeing everyone at our two events this September.

YOS,
Geoff White
Commanding Officer, 3rd US Infantry, Co K Reenactors

How Tight is Tight Enough?

Cpl Steve Blancard

[Editors Note – This is a continuation of the weapons maintenance articles that were first posted within the June edition of our monthly newsletter]

Over the last 30 years I've worked on a lot of muskets and antique guns. If there is one common denominator among 90% of them, it's that almost all have screws that were over tightened. In some cases this caused damage to the screw slot, screw threads or the wood.

The most common form of over tightening I see is with the 2 long side screws that hold the lock into the stock. These are sometimes tightened to the point of compressing the wood under the lock. This happens because over time, oil from the lock saturates the wood under the lock plate and can soften it. When lock screws are over-tightened, the lock plate is pulled against the narrow wood shoulder that supports the outer perimeter of the lock plate. If that wood is softened by oil and the screws are tightened too much, the wood will be compressed by the lock as it is drawn tight. This can cause a couple problems:

First - the hammer may not strike the cone on center, but rather to the left side of it, possibly causing a misfire. If the edge of the hammer hits the cap rather than hitting in the recessed center of the hammer nose, the exploding cap fragments will not be as well contained and can result in fragments flying into the cheek of the next man in line. Odds are he will not be very happy about that.

Second – The long lock screws are made to a precise length. When the lock is properly tightened, the end of the screw should be flush with or just shy of flush with the outer surface of the lock plate. If the lock screws are over tightened and the lock plate pulled too far in, the screws may extend beyond the surface of the lock plate. This isn't a problem with the forward screw. But the rear screw can interfere with the fall of the hammer, again causing misfires.



In this photo of an original model 1855 rifle musket the forward lock screw (far right) is protruding beyond the surface of the lock plate. The rear screw is just flush.

The other thing that is often over tightened is the cone. I'm sure many of you have seen or heard about someone who couldn't get the cone out of their musket. This is not uncommon in original; muskets that have not been touched in many years - corrosion adds to the difficulty. But on reproduction muskets there is no excuse for having a stuck cone. Using a properly fitting cone wrench is essential.



Note the properly fitting cone wrench and the 2 long lock screws are just below the surface of the lock plate.

So, how tight is tight enough? Well, most of us don't have torque screwdrivers in our kits, so the best way I can answer is with one word - "snug". Whether it's a lock screw or cone, it should be turned in with a properly fitting screwdriver or wrench until you feel it just seat firmly and stop. That should be snug. Anything more than that is likely to do more harm than good.

Speaking of correct tools, a properly fitted standard issue musket wrench appropriate for your musket is all you need for field maintenance. Here is a model 1855 rifle musket tool. It has a wrench for the cone and three screwdriver blades.



Model 1855 musket tool

Look closely at the three blades on the musket tool. Do you know what each is for? The blade to the left is for the flash channel clean out screw on model 1855 and 1861 Springfield pattern muskets. It is very small and narrow to fit the tiny screw.



The smallest blade fits the clean out screw.

Refer to the musket tool photo again, look at the middle blade – notice anything odd about it? The end of the blade is slightly convex, or rounded. Hmm, why is that you wonder? Ahh, the US Army Ordnance department was actually pretty smart. The original large wood screws that hold the butt plate on have slots in them that were plunge cut with a large diameter cutting wheel. The radius of that wheel left the bottom of the screw slot slightly concave rather than flat. The convex screwdriver blade is the same radius and matches the slot in the bottom of the screw head. These screws were pretty tight and they wanted the screwdriver blade to fit perfectly to avoid slipping out of the slot.



The blade with a convex end is for the butt plate screws.

Again referring to the musket tool above, the blade on the right side is of medium size with a straight end. It is for the lock, tang and trigger guard screws.



The medium size blade is for the lock, tang and trigger guard screws.

You may find that your reproduction musket tool will not fit your reproduction musket screws. Reproduction tools vary in quality of manufacture, but are supposed to fit original musket screws – sometimes they do and sometimes they don't. Unfortunately the Italians often use screw slots that are narrower than originals and this creates a problem when trying to use the tool. I often take reproduction musket tool blades and carefully grind them narrower to fit the screws of reproduction muskets. This is easy to do and once completed, a fully functional musket tool results. That's all I use for field cleaning and maintenance of my musket when at an event. Until next time – keep your musket clean and screws *snug!*

Steve Blancard is a retired US Navy weapons specialist who has been building, repairing and shooting antique and reproduction firearms for over 40 years. He has been a reenactor and living historian for 12 years and served as the 3rd Regiment, ANV Ordnance Sergeant for 5 years where he conducted weapons training, safety oversight and field repairs. While he only works on his own weapons now, he gladly shares his advice and experience.

Order of articles on this topic for the remainder of 2021:

OCTOBER – Musket Lock Maintenance – Part 1: Disassembly

NOVEMBER – Musket Lock Maintenance – Part 2: Cleaning and Inspection

DECEMBER – Musket Lock Maintenance – Part 3: Lubrication and Assembly

Opportunity to Shine

Buff Stick Family, starting in 2019, and continuing on into 2021, our current and previous membership have had the opportunity to give historical presentations to various Civil War Round Tables. The below is a recent presentation as given by current member, Geoff White. To add to your reading enjoyment you may also visit the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table website to read other reviews of presentations given by our membership. It is our hope to post more of these articles in the coming months. Should you desire to engage with and educate the public in this manner then please feel free to reach out to me. YOS, Paul Stier

“The Wartime Experience of Orson W. Bennett” by Geoff White

A Review of the May 2019 Program by Greg Mertz Orson Bennett was born in Union City, Michigan and was living in Dubuque, Iowa when the war broke out. Bennett officially enlisted in the 1st Iowa on May 6, 1861 at the age of 19. He joined company I, known as the Governor’s Greys, wearing gaudy grey uniforms. The unit was then accepted into Federal service on May 14 – an important 8-day distinction. John Bates, a politician, was elected the colonel, in a controversial vote. The unit marched through Missouri, including a forced march in extreme heat to reinforce troops under Franz Sigel in Springfield, Missouri, where they had a horrible existence. It was in Springfield that the men of the 1st Iowa took the song “Hard Times Come Again No More” and reappropriated it into “Hardtack Come Again No More.” They named their bivouac “Camp Mush” after the corn mush they cooked there, which was so bad that they added another verse to the song that went: “Oh, hardtack come again once more.” On August 3, 1861, the regiment became engaged in a skirmish at Dug Springs, in which they drove off some Confederate Home Guards and felt they had won a great victory. The 1st Iowa was a 90-day unit, and the members of the regiment thought their enlistments would end August 6th – 90 days from when they formed on May 6th. But because they were mustered into Federal service on May 14, the men of the 1st Iowa could not go home and their commanding general, Nathaniel Lyon, was very severe on the regiment to force it to stay. The men were constantly under arms, day and night, in the heat, with roll call every hour. With a battle evident, the 1st Iowa did not want to head home with their work undone. A fight, called the Battle of Wilson’s Creek, was indeed about to be fought. On August 10, the Federal forces were divided into two wings and attacked Confederates and proConfederate state guard troops under Gen. Sterling Price. The 1st Iowa was on the left flank of the main column under Gen. Lyon, while Col. Sigel marched around the Confederate forces to attack their rear. When Sigel’s column approached troops in grey uniforms, they were fearful that the troops might have been some of grey-clad Federal troops such as the 1st Iowa. The troops were from Price’s enemy army, who fired into Sigel’s cautious men, and put Sigel’s column to flight. When Price turned all of his attention on Lyon, the Union army was forced from the field, and Gen. Lyon was killed. Private Orson Bennett was wounded in the Battle of Wilson’s Creek. The extent of his wound is uncertain. Although Bennett was said to have a fractured left femur, he was not captured on a battlefield which was left in Price’s control, or in the Union hospital in Springfield, which also fell into Confederate hands. This suggests that Bennett was well enough to walk away from the battlefield or the hospital. After he recovered, Bennett joined the 12th Wisconsin regiment on December 12, 1861. After potentially being assigned to participate in some campaigns to have been based out of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, none of them materialized. The regiment eventually found itself participating in the Vicksburg Campaign, and on May 22, 1863 the unit was on the left flank of the Union line in the

siege of Vicksburg. When the Confederate garrison capitulated on July 4, the 12th Wisconsin exchanged their unreliable Belgium Rifles for some of the weapons the Confederates relinquished in the surrender. After the Vicksburg Campaign, Bennett took a leave of absence to study how to become an officer. He took the examination on January 11, 1864, passed all subjects, and was commissioned a 1st Lieut. in the 1st Michigan Colored Infantry – redesignated the 102nd United States Colored Troops. By that time, Orson’s older brother, William Bennett -- who had been living in Australia when the Civil War began – had become a captain in the 1st United States Colored Troops. Evidence suggests that William may have been an abolitionist. He corresponded with Thomas Wentworth Higginson – who was one of the Secret Six funding John Brown’s Raid and attempted insurrection. William took the officer’s examination a few days after Orson had done so, and was commissioned the Lieut. Col. in what would become the 102nd United States Colored Troops with his brother. The regiment was recruited in Detroit. Many of its members were from Canada. Many were former slaves. The were sent first to Annapolis then to Hilton Head, South Carolina and ultimately to Florida, where they saw their first engagement on August 10, 1864 (the three-year anniversary of Orson’s wounding at Wilson’s Creek) near Jacksonville, before returning to South Carolina. In late November, 1864, William T. Sherman’s March to the Sea was nearing Savannah, Georgia. To aid in that movement, the Union forces to which the 102nd USCTs was a part, was assigned to cut the railroad serving as the Confederate supply line running from Charleston to Savannah. Fog delayed the Union transports and allowed the Confederates the time to construct earthworks and prepare a strong defensive position guarding the rail line. On the afternoon of November 30, 1864 on a knoll called Honey Hill overlooking the pine swamps of South Carolina between Broad River and the Charleston-Savannah Railroad, the 3rd New York Artillery held an unenviable position 100 yards in front of the main Union line. The isolated position was under fire from the entrenched Confederate position. All of the Union artillerymen had either been made casualties of the battle or had been driven off. Three of the guns of the battery were abandoned and were in grave danger of being captured. Even though several unsuccessful attacks had been made to recover three cannon, Captain Orson W. Bennett, commanding the small force of company A in the 102nd United States Colored Troops, were the next to receive the assignment to bring in the guns. Three times Bennett led his troops forward, and three times they fell back. Bennett avoided substantial casualties however, because he had earlier been trained in the firing of heavy artillery, understanding just when the enemy was about to fire and directing his men to drop to the ground at exactly the right time. The men did not rise back up as quickly as Bennett demanded, and his orders to his men became more severe. But under his leadership, Bennett successfully brought the pieces back within Federal lines, with the loss of just one man. Twenty-three years later, Bennett was awarded the Medal of Honor for the deed. The Civil War hero’s life ended on January 4, 1904 by suicide. White officers of the USCTs suffered high rates of both divorce and suicide. Grand Army of the Republic posts were

today, segregated and the white USCT officers may have been ostracized by others in the white post to which he belonged. Bennett may have been left with no companions with which to discuss and empathize with the symptoms we recognize as PTSD

Emerging Civil War Symposium at Stevenson Ridge - 2021

A recorded observation by Pvt. Stier

On the weekend of 6-8 August 2021, numerous students of the American Civil War came together just outside of Spotsylvania Courthouse at Stevenson's Ridge.

At this great location they enjoyed each other's company sitting in air-conditioned comfort while listening to over a dozen different speakers give their perspective of this year's theme, "*Fallen Leaders*."

Instead of narrowing the focus of this year's Symposium to just those military leaders who fell on the battlefield, it expanded this topic of discussion to leaders who fell in battle, in public opinion, or in a resulting military investigation for their apparent failure. The below schedule is just a brief outline of who was presenting and what the focus of their topic was at it pertained to this year's theme. Rather than giving a report on each presentation, I would encourage you to visit **CSPAN 3** and enjoy viewing each of this year's presentations, as they have done in previous years, having been recorded and saved.

Now at this point, you might be asking yourself, why should I purchase a ticket to attend these lectures when I can watch them for free? My response to that question is that while you can do that, what you cannot do is to:

- Talk face-to-face with each of the presenters, all of whom are noted authors, and are happy to answer your questions with detailed responses.
- Update your library and have the purchased books signed by the authors, who either presented at this year, or previous years Symposiums.
- Tour two different battlefields:
 - **Payne's Farm** with *Theodore P. Savas*
 - **Longstreet's Wounding at Wilderness** with *Greg Mertz*
- Donate money to battlefield preservation while having the chance to win great Civil War Prints or related door prizes
- The opportunity to purchase the 2022 Symposium tickets at \$175 each, versus the current Early Bird price of \$200
- Last but not least, enjoying the camaraderie with friends new and old, who are just as passionate about this topic as you are

This year the symposium started and finished with Battlefield tours, both of which were not recorded by **CSPAN 3**.

On the morning of Friday the 6th of August, Theodore P. Savas lead those interested attendees on one of the few areas of the Mine Run Campaign where fighting actually took place, at the Payne's Farm. In addition to discussing this little covered battlefield, he also provided incite on its discovery and preservation. Afterwards the participants broke for lunch and regrouped later that afternoon at Stevenson's Ridge for the official start of that evening's programs.

On the morning of Sunday the 8th of August, Greg Mertz, lead those interested attendees on a normally inaccessible walking tour of what lead up to the wounding of Longstreet, the resulting actions afterwards, and how this impacted how the Army of Northern Virginia responded during the remainder of the Overland Campaign. Afterwards, those who were able, visited what is left of the unfinished railroad cut that used on that day's fight. From there, sad farewells were given among the departing participants but with the anticipation of returning for next year.

Speaking of which, the **8th Annual Emerging Civil War Symposium at Stevenson Ride - August 5-7, 2022**

Theme: **Great "What Ifs?" of the Civil War**

Keynote Speaker and other presenters to be announced in the Autumn of 2021.

Early Bird Tickets – \$200.00

Visit <https://emergingcivilwar.com/2022-symposium> to learn more

Friday, August 6th

10:00 am – [Payne's Farm Tour](#) with Theodore P. Savas

4:00 pm – Doors Open, Registration & Hors d'oeuvres

5:00 pm – **Joseph E. Johnston – Presenters: Doug Crenshaw & Bert Dunkerly**

6:00 pm – John Pope – Presenter: Dan Welch

7:00 pm – Award Presentations – Chris Mackowski

7:45 pm – Keynote – J.E.B. Stuart's Mortal Wounding at Yellow Tavern – Gordon Rhea

9:00 pm – Closing Remarks – Chris Mackowski

Saturday, August 7th

8:00 am – Doors Open, Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:45 am – Welcome – Chris Mackowski

9:00 am – P.G.T. Beauregard – Presenter: Sean Chick

10:00 am – John Pelham at Kelly's Ford – Presenter: Sarah Bierle

11:00 am – **Thomas G. Stevenson – Presenter: Chris Mackowski**

12:00 pm – Lunch at Stevenson Ridge

1:30 pm – **Earl Van Dorn – Presenter: Matt Atkinson**

2:30 pm – Fitz John Porter – Presenter: Kevin Pawlak

3:30 pm – Leonidas Polk – Presenter: Dave Powell

4:30 pm – Armistead & Hancock at Gettysburg – Presenter: Tom McMillan

5:30 pm – Conclusion 7:00 pm – [Strangeways Brewery](#) – Fredericksburg, VA

Sunday, August 8th

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Tour: Longstreet Wounding at the Wilderness with Greg Mertz

Civilian Corner

1860s Companies

If you've ever read through a reproduction Harper's Weekly, you've probably seen ads for things like heroin-based cough suppressants. (To be fair, those probably work, in the sense that you'd stop noticing the cough after a while.) But unless you live a really questionable life, you probably aren't getting a prescription for heroin and the ads only serve as a laugh when you're flipping through Civil War-era newspapers.

But there are plenty of companies whose products you could have bought in the 1860s, and still can today! If you hang out with Dave Welker long enough at events, you're likely to be offered a NECCO wafer, or jelly beans, both products Civil War soldier enjoyed that you can pick up at the grocery. (Sorry for offering up your candy ration, Dad- the next round of jelly beans is on me!) What other products might people of the 1860s find familiar in our own time period?

1. **Zildjian instruments:** The largest cymbal and drumstick manufacturer was founded in 1623 in Turkey. The company moved to the US in the 1920s.
2. **Walter Baker & Co.:** The United States' first producer of chocolate was founded in 1780. Today, they're owned by Kraft Heinz as "Baker's Chocolate".
3. **Henry Wood and Co.:** In 1790s Boston, the company imported English-milled flour and in 1896 debuted its line of "King Arthur Flour". The name was inspired by a performance of *King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table* one of the owners had seen. If you can figure out what that has to do with flour, let me know.
4. **Insurance Company of North America:** It was founded in 1792 and you know it better as Cigna.
5. **Old Farmer's Almanac:** This one wasn't a surprise to me- unlike Cigna, for example, I kind of assumed the Old Farmer's Almanac was... old. In fact, it has been published continuously since 1792, making it North America's oldest continuously published periodical.
6. **Dixon:** The makers of the #2 pencil, beloved of back-to-school shopping lists got their start in 1794.
7. **Old Jake Beam Sour Mash:** Americans have been drinking Jim Beam bourbon whiskey since 1795, except during prohibition, of course. The Beam family

renamed the brand after Jim, who revived the company after prohibition was repealed.

8. **Colgate & Company:** During the Civil War, you wouldn't yet have been brushing your teeth with Colgate products. The company was founded in 1806 as a starch, soap, and candle factory in New York City. It wasn't until 1896 that they sold the first toothpaste to come in a tube.
9. **City Bank of New York:** Known today as Citigroup, the bank was founded in 1812 and joined the U.S. National banking system in 1864.
10. **Brooks Brothers:** the United States' oldest continuously operating apparel brand was founded in 1818 in Manhattan. They were pioneers of the ready-to-wear suit and Abraham Lincoln was among their customers. Lincoln was wearing Brooks Brothers clothing at his second inauguration and at the time of his assassination, a coat with an eagle and the words "One Country, One Destiny" stitched into the lining.
11. **R.H. Macy & Co:** Macy's began as a chain of four dry goods stores in Massachusetts in 1843, with its first New York location opening in 1858.
12. **Best and Sons:** If Old Jake Beam Sour Mash doesn't sound appetizing, try Best and Sons (today Pabst Brewing Company). They were founded in 1844 by Philip Best; the name changed in 1889 when his son-in-law Frederick Pabst took over the company.

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*

Head Quarters 3rd U.S. Regular Infantry

Memorandum

Date: Aug 29, 2021
Roanoke, VA

To: Old Guard Regular Newsletter
From: Jim Tate

Subject: Walt DeGroot

Walt DeGroot- Passionate Historian

My friend Walt DeGroot passed away on August 15 this year. I have known Walt since 1994 when I encouraged him to join the 3rd US Regulars. Walt's interest in the Civil War came from his research into his great-grandfather, Willy DeGroot, of the 5th New York Heavy Artillery regiment.

The 5th NYHA was stationed at Harpers Ferry in 1864-65. During that time the regiment participated in campaigns lead by David Hunter, Phil Sheridan and George Crook. This regiment was unusually large and was divided into two battalions. The battalions alternated with one battalion on campaign, while the other one was in garrison at Harpers Ferry.

My favorite story of Walt was about his personal research at Harpers Ferry. Because of his great grandfather's connection with Harpers Ferry, Walt was a volunteer at the NPS at Harpers Ferry. The National Park staff was excavating an old building on the site and discovered hundreds of small metal letters. The staff determined these small metal letters were dies to stamp numbers and markings on military equipment. They showed these metal pieces to Walt who questioned their analysis of the pieces. Walt though these pieces were too soft to be useful as stamping dies. Walt called one day and asked my opinion of the discovery of the dies.

Based on his idea that the pieces were too soft I asked him if he could score them with a knife blade or a fingernail. He asserted that it was easy to score these soft metal pieces. I offered my suggestion that the small metal pieces such as he described might be printing type. He excitedly jumped on this idea. He looked again at the pieces and confirmed this suggestion.

Identifying these pieces as printing type meant that the building in which they were found would be the garrison printing shop. Walt knew from his great-grandfather's letters that there was a print shop in the garrison. The shop printed all the government forms and a camp newspaper. Willy De Groot was detailed to work in the shop when his battalion was in garrison because he was a printers apprentice. Walt had a hand not only in identifying the shop where his ancestor worked; but also had the printers type that Willy would have handled to print up the forms and newspapers. This news delighted Walt and helped the Park staff to identify the building.

Happy Birthday

*Mitchell Simmons
Geoff White*

*Julia Bianchetta-Block
Brian Briones*

Prays

I have recently been diagnosed with an aggressive Malignant Melanoma. I will be starting treatment within the next two to three weeks. I am asking for you prays as I start my treatment for this cancer. As some of you know this my third time fighting cancer since 2006.

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:

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