

Vol. 29 NO 10

October 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

October Event

Cedar Creek Battle Reenactment
Original Battlefield of Cedar Creek
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 22645

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 at \$5 per pack (10 rounds / 12 blanks).

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/>

As I start planning for next year's schedule, please feel free to submit your suggestions for events that the board and military leadership should consider.

October

Battle Reenactment of Cedar Creek

Dates: Saturday-Sunday, October 16-17th

Type of event: Battle Reenactment

Location: Cedar Creek, Middletown, VA (USV)

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

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

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

Type of event: Living History / firing demonstrations

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

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/FortWard>

President's Column

Buffsticks Family,

We got our first battle reenactment under our belt, and many of our new members got to experience their first time participating in an entire weekend event. The event at Daniel Ladies Farm was a mixed bag. The event for the Buffsticks attendance and participation was successful. We drilled, ate very well Saturday night, and as always, had good music and stimulating conversation. I fear that other aspects of the event did not meet a minimum standard for safety and demonstrate the fighting in the West Woods during the Battle of Antietam for the public. It was terrible, but Sunday was the worst I have seen with years of reenacting. The breakdown of leadership at the Bn level and Confederate's refusal to follow the scenario, if there was one, created an incredibly unsafe situation. Despite the military leadership's many challenges, Lt. White and 1st Sgt Burke did an outstanding job during the fight. Our leadership maintained military discipline and provided the necessary guidance to keep all safe. Suppose DLF insists on maintaining the current Union leadership in place for future events. In that case, the board must consider overall leadership before any commitment to attend the event or if the event is added to our schedule.

The DLF site has excellent ground and well-planned scenarios; more importantly, improved leadership at the battalion and Union command levels could provide an excellent reenacting experience. DLF provides wood, water, and clean "sinks." The facility has a lot of potential for future events. In the future, the 3rd must evaluate participation at DLF based on Union overall leadership and the Confederate forces we will engage with on the field. Despite the current engagement with our own USV leadership, which Col. Skaggs is one of the best in the field, it is in our best interests to pass if the decision is not to attend the event. I firmly believe we should support USV's tentative events, which in this case, we did. We, the 3rd, honored that commitment.

The lack of USV leadership at the DLF leads me to the next issue I want to address regarding the 1st Regiment USV leadership's lack of communication in changing the 1st Regiment's attendance priority event to Zoar, Ohio. The 3rd was left to fend for itself and participate with a subpar organization. I've sent the 1st Regiment Adjutant a note

outlining my concerns with the lack of communication and the 1st Regiment's event schedule change without notifying member units of the change. Before sending my note, I shared the draft with the board, military leadership, and civilian coordinator. All agreed with the content and the tone of my note. I am not looking to blame anyone but merely attempting to identify the weakness and ensure better communication in the future. I have asked that Lt. White and I have an opportunity to discuss our concerns with the 1st Regiment Commander and his adjutant at Cedar Creek.

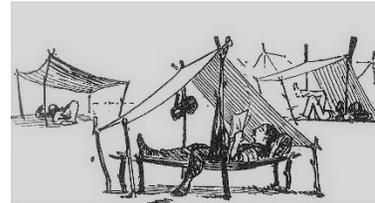
As I mentioned in my note, I suspect COVID has played some part in breaking down communication which has not always been efficient, from the 1st Regiment USV to line commanders and unit reps. The past reliance on in-person communications, new appointments to staff positions, nepotism, and new unit leadership changes may have contributed to the breakdown in the past year. I believe we can do better, and I am willing to ensure good connectivity and flow of information within the USV 1st Regiment.

I hope to report a positive outcome from our meeting, if it occurs, in the November newsletter. I hope to see everyone at Cedar Creek; stay safe. As always, if you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact me.

YOS,

Neil Carmichael

President of the Board, 3rd U.S.

**Commander's Field Desk**

Buffsticks,

It has been an incredible month. I have several people I wish to thank:

Paul Stier, for being the point man on organizing a terrific day of Living History at Marye's Heights in Fredericksburg; Neil Burke, for doing a superlative job as First Sergeant for our first big battle and long weekend reenactment of the year; Larry Kline for being so gracious in giving us the use of his fly, benches, and tables in camp (*seriously, we would not be able to camp as comfortably without his attendance*); TJ Bradley for stepping up not only into the role of a newly-minted corporal, but also as acting second sergeant at Antietam and Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg; we had enough people in the ranks that we actually needed a second sergeant, and TJ took the ball and ran with it, so to speak; Glenn Deiters for coming out, despite his recent surgeries, and treating us to his wonderful period-correct supper and dessert; Max Goligoski for lending a big helping hand during a heat incident at our event in July; and everyone who stuck out the overtime drilling at Daniel Lady Farm for the film shoot. You are all to be commended.

I also want to thank each and every one of you for coming out to our recent events. You are what makes this hobby so rewarding. The battle scenarios come and go, but as I recently put it: we are all attracted to history, and maybe the Civil War or a Regular impression isn't even our primary interest. But what keeps us coming back together is our mutual respect for each other, and the sense of pride in what we do. Our Fredericksburg event went off extremely well. It is always fun to do these one-day living histories and battle demonstrations, especially with such excellent hosts as NPS Fredericksburg.

Our primary event, Antietam at Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg was a mixed bag. The two positives: the site was well-maintained, and provided all a reenactor could wish for. Our unit was superlative, especially given the impromptu film scene the company was asked to be extras for. The men kept drilling, and drilling, and drilling, long after the regulation time had run out. Thank you for putting in that overtime for the sake of what I hope will be an excellent scene in the upcoming movie about *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*.

The one negative was the scenarios themselves. Saturday's battle was a mixed bag, while Sunday's was decidedly ridiculous. The company did well to maintain its composure. It's always interesting how people can lose their cool when the "shooting" starts, especially given that there are no real bullets flying. Safety is always the primary concern. Whether we are being flanked or facing "enemy" fire is not of any real concern, as long as we are being safe and coordinated. I will close my report by saying I am very much looking forward to Cedar Creek and our Living History at Belair Mansion. Reenacting in cooler weather is always enjoyable. I hope we're able to break out the great coats!

Until Cedar Creek, I am,

YOS, Geoff White

Commanding Officer

3rd US Regular Infantry, Co. K Reenactors

Membership Report from Antietam at Daniel Lady Farm (in Gettysburg)

September 17-19

The view from my dog tent was this was an excellent event for our new members to attend. They were able to witness the Charlie Foxtrot, which in some organizations and units is the standard. I think several were shocked that most of the other units attending did not drill, zero. We burned a little powder, got the rust off, and our military bearing during the weekend. Our military leadership did an outstanding job in our first time out and participating in a battle reenactment, and oh boy, was it a treat. Lt. White, 1st Sgt Burke, and Corporal and Brevet Sgt Bradley did an outstanding job of drilling, keeping everyone hydrated and safe. The battles were yawn fest and Sundays; well, still not sure what I participated in on Sunday. It drove me back to the Cowboy and Indian days of the early '80s. I think we made the best of it.

As I have always said, I am more concerned with those I hang out with over the weekend than with who is in charge. I had fun. As usual, Glen's supper on Saturday night was delicious

and hit the spot after a long day. I enjoyed the music and camp talk around the fire. It was good to be back in the field again.

-Pvt Carmichael

"The Taos Hotel Mess"

The 3rd once again demonstrated why it's such a wonderful unit. This event was a great time for (*I think*) all those involved, who enjoyed the camp comradery, the welcoming and supportive unit environment, and dedication to authenticity in historical impression and drill. It was simply great fun to be back in the field with everyone, sweating in the drill field and relaxing in camp and around the evening fire. I can't think of a group--outside my family--that I'd rather hang with, regardless of the clothing I'm wearing. I'll add that the Daniel Lady Farm is an excellent venue for future events and the site organizers met all the key requirements of an event like this (*easy access, good parking, water, johns, etc*). I look forward to future events there.

-Pvt David Welker

Buffsticks,

As I was driving home from our most recent event on Sunday the 19th at O-Dark Thirty, I was left with the feeling that at the company level we did a great job in honoring those that we attempt to represent on a monthly basis. From Drill, to smoothly integrating both the Fresh Fish and the attached soldiers, to how we performed on the battlefield, considering how long it had been since we had last been on a battlefield that big with the numbers involved; a job well-done by all! 😊 Some things that are still pleasantly with me; the meeting of friends, both new and old, listening to the Friday and Saturday evening campfire playing of our *Buff Strings* (*still a name in progress*) while we attempted to accompany them in song, the delicious period correct Saturday supper and desert provided by Commissary Cpl. Glenn Deiters. Both company and marching drill led by our NCO's. Through no fault of his own, our Commander had been called away and without missing a beat 1st Sgt. Neil Burke stepped up and continued to lead us as if he had been doing so at every previous event.

Bottom line I have every confidence that when we meet again in October that we will take the training and experiences received at Daniel Lady Farm and put it to positive affect on the original battlefield of Cedar Creek.

YOS, -Pvt Paul Stier

A great time as always. :)

-Pvt Barney Mahaney

Membership report from Fredericksburg Living History September 4, 2021

Good time had by all. Practicing soldier's manual and company drill very helpful. Leadership at event spot on!

-Pvt Stanley Adamus

My Fellow Members,

It was great to come out and see everyone who participated at Fredericksburg. The last time I was able to attend was at MTA. Since then I have had both of my hips

replaced. Not quite the bionic man as it is still causing major discomfort as I found out. I am still healing. I was unable to participate as much as I wanted but I did get to speak with a few interested people. I saw several young kids with the hats and rifles. A great thing to see.

I did get to watch the "**Buffsticks**" in action from the sidelines. Lt. Geoff and 1st Sgt. Neil did a first rate job on drilling the men. I thought the 3rd did very well and certainly looked excellent on the field. We had some UMW students in the ranks like we used to. I hope they keep coming. Upon arriving I noticed the ground on top of Marys Heights has been cleared recently. There is an area to camp now and parking. What really caught my eye was the view looking east. I was stunned to say the least. If only we could take away the trees and homes we would really have some view. On your next visit to Fredericksburg be sure to check this out. respectfully submitted by a proud member of the 3rd US Reg. Inf. Co. K

-Pvt Glenn Deiters

Buff Sticks,

A big thank you to everyone who supported this event and making it the success that it was. What we accomplished is yet another example of what happens when the National Park Service and dedicated Living Historians, such as ourselves, work together to engage with and educate the public on the multiple facets that make up the period that we study, both military and civilian, in our attempts to make it relevant to the modern spectator of today.

From my arrival on Friday afternoon until my departure on Sunday afternoon I had an enjoyable time. Friday was an easy set-up at our campsite on top of Marye's Heights. Before the sun set that day, everyone there was able to enjoy listening to the **Buff-Strings** rehearse with the **Rappahannock Whalers** for their joint Saturday evening music program in a clearing next to the Sunken Road.

After enjoying a good night's rest sleeping in cool temperatures under the stars, those who wished to either cooked their morning meal on top of the Heights or walked across the street to the Battlefield Restaurant. After rollcall, we enjoyed being led in drill, both on top of the Heights and along the Sunken Road, by the 1st Sgt, Company Commander, and random Privates. Once before the mid-day meal and once afterwards, our programs started with Marching Drill, then Pvt. Welker giving a talk on what we wear and carry. From there each Corporal, Bradley & Gillespie, demonstrated how our weapon was loaded and fired, finishing with our commander, 1st Lt. White leading us in the different ways that he fires his weapon; *meaning us*, the soldiers that make up his company. Before finishing for the day our commander did a great job leading us in Skirmish Drill, both from the Flank and by the Section. Prior to this however I must note that we also learned from Pvt. Carmichael, before he saw the light, on how he learned the commands as in, "*Cap'n, send your sol'jers out as a Scrimmage Line and Ripple Fire them Yankee's.*" 😊 In between we engaged with the public on any number of period subjects. My favorite topic was explaining to the spectators why we were there. Once they learned that from April-August of 1862, that Fredericksburg, VA was a Union Garrison Town you could see the candle flames flickering above their heads.

In addition to our military members having a good time, Civilian Rebecca Welker represented us well with her display and interactive program inside the Stephen's House Site along the Sunken Road as she spun raw wool into yarn that she would then use for knitting.

The entertainment on Saturday evening was topnotch as the above-mentioned groups put on a 90-minute performance. The two groups traded back and forth between their two different styles, educating all that attended about the histories and terms that they would hear, prior to each song being played or sung. This was accomplished with the Lt. on Fiddle & Guitar, the 1st Sgt. on Banjo, and the **Rappahannock Whalers**, a period sea shanty group, singing both their own songs and assisting the **Buff-Strings** when called upon with the songs that we as soldiers are more familiar with. The program ended just as twilight was falling and everyone walked away with a smile on their face. As the majority of the membership had already committed to attending our two-day event later in September at the Daniel Lady Farm, they departed Fredericksburg with some great Drill and Memories as they drove home. For those of us who stayed over for Sunday's programs it was a repeat of Saturday except that the NPS Rangers led the Infantry Drill and that there was no musical entertainment.

If I did not see you later this month outside of Gettysburg, then I hope to see you in the ranks at Cedar Creek in October. YOS - Private Stier

Musket Lock Maintenance – Part 1: Disassembly Cpl Steve Blancard

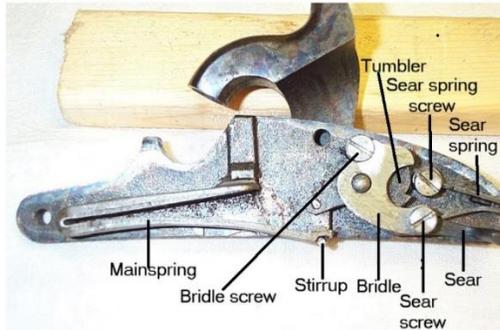
[Editors Note – This is a continuation of the weapons maintenance articles that were first posted within the June edition of our monthly newsletter]

This is the first of a three part article on musket lock maintenance. These articles will appear in succeeding newsletters. Part #1 will discuss lock disassembly, part #2 cleaning and inspection and part #3 lubrication and assembly. Unless you are familiar with this procedure, it is recommended that you read and print all three parts before performing this maintenance.

Ok, be honest – have you every disassembled your musket's lock for maintenance? Been a long time...maybe never? I suspect that most reenactors have never done it. All good soldiers know how to clean their musket after a weekend of battling the Yankee invaders. But after the bore is clean, dry and oiled and the outside is wiped down with an oily rag, the soldier's best friend is often stood in a closet until the next event. That's all well and good. But for a musket that is used routinely in the field, the lock should be removed and completely disassembled for cleaning, inspection and lubrication once a year. This is because fouling, dirt and rust will accumulate inside the lock. These contaminants mix with any lubrication that was there and turn to a grinding paste. This can lead to excessive wear and an unsafe lock.

While our muskets are modern reproductions, the basic lock design is over 250 years old. These locks have proven to be rugged and dependable; however, like all things

mechanical, they need some maintenance from time to time. In part #1 we will go through the step-by-step disassembly of a Springfield Model 1863 lock. While you may have another model, the basic design is the same and you should have no problem following along with your lock in hand. We will also use the standard musket tools discussed in previous newsletters. Here is a diagram of a musket lock with all the internal parts labeled, note the names and location of all the parts.



First off, the lock must be removed from the stock. Some locks are a tight fit and need to be carefully coaxed out. **Step #1** – Place the hammer in the half-cock position. This does two things; it ensures the hammer nose will clear the cone as the lock is removed and prevents damage to the stock as the lock comes out. More on this shortly.

Step #2 – With a properly fitting musket wrench (*screwdriver blade*) unscrew both lock retaining screws on the left side about 2 turns, being sure to leave the screw threads partially engaged in the lock. Now take a non-marring hammer or block of wood and gently tap on the screws alternately to push the lock part way out of the stock. This will break the lock loose from a tight stock. Remove the lock screws completely and remove the lock from the stock.



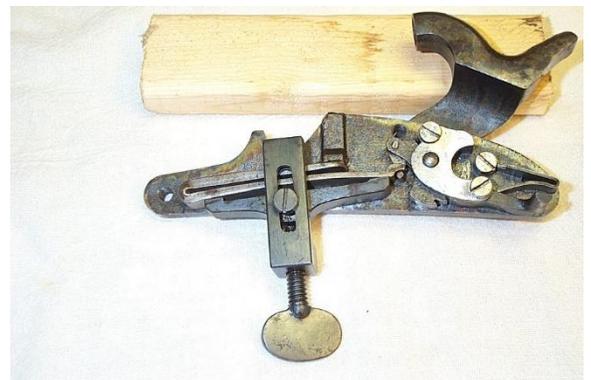
With the lock in your hand, pull back the hammer slightly, press up on the sear and lower the hammer to the rest position. Now look at the lock in the photo below. Notice that at the bottom of the lock, the end of the mainspring attached to the stirrup hangs down below the bottom edge of the lock plate. If you had tried to remove the lock with the hammer all the way down, that protruding piece would have dug into the stock as you removed the lock causing damage to the wood. This is why it is so important to put the hammer at half cock before removing the lock. Not all locks will do this, but originals and some reproductions will.



Step #3 – Put the hammer on full cock. This compresses the mainspring.



Step #4 – Carefully install the mainspring vice on the spring as shown. Don't try to compress the spring any further, just install the vice and tighten the thumb screw until its snug.



Step #5 – press up on the sear to release and lower the hammer to the rest position. The vice will hold the spring compressed and the hammer and tumbler will now move freely. Disengage the end of the spring from the stirrup. There is an alignment pin in the spring near the “U” shaped bend that goes in a hole in the lock plate. Now gently wiggle the spring and vice together back and forth, loosening the alignment pin. Carefully pull the spring off the lock plate as you wiggle it. The spring will pull free. Set the spring and vice aside, keeping the vice on the spring.



Step #6 – Using your musket tool screwdriver, loosen the sear spring screw about 1.5 turns only.



With the screw slightly loose, the sear spring which has a tab on the back that engages a slot in the lock plate, can now be pulled away from the slot and pulled up out of the way.



Now completely unscrew the sear spring screw and remove with the sear spring.

Step #7 – Unscrew the sear screw and remove the sear.



Step #8 – Unscrew and remove the last screw that holds the bridle in place. The bridle has an alignment pin on the back that goes in a hole in the lock plate.



The bridle should just lift off, but if it has been a long time since it was removed, it may need a little gentle coaxing.



All that remains now is the tumbler. The tumbler has a round-to-square shank that goes through a hole in the lock plate. The hammer is a slight press fit on the square shank.

Step #9 – It's time to remove the hammer. First the hammer screw needs to be removed.



Step #10 – Place the lock between 2 pieces of solid wood, allowing the tumbler to hang down between them. You will be tapping the tumbler out of the hammer (not pulling the hammer off the tumbler). So the tumbler needs to be free to be driven out the bottom. Your wire and tumbler punch will be used or other suitable sized punch. On an original US army wire and tumbler punch, the larger of the two punches is the one to use here (refer to Musket tools part #2 in the previous newsletter for a refresher on this tool). The diameter of the punch should be slightly smaller than the threads in the hole. It is imperative that the punch used fit easily down inside the threaded hole without touching the threads. It will seat in the bottom of the hole. Now with your lock plate on the wooden blocks, straddling the tumbler and your punch in place, firmly tap the punch.



It may take a few solid taps to dislodge the tumbler. On original muskets there is a very slight taper to the square end of the tumbler. This allows the hammer to fit snugly and the tumbler to be removed with little effort. Italian repro muskets are not made to the same exacting standards and may not have the taper. However, with a few sharp taps, the hammer and tumbler should separate.

[Musket Lock Maintenance – Part 1: Disassembly]



The lock is now completely disassembled and ready for cleaning and inspection. It wasn't that hard now was it? In part #2 of this article we will discuss how to clean the lock and what to look for when you inspect the parts.

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, in 2019, current member Corporal Vaselopulos had the opportunity to give a great historical presentation to the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table. 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

“Arlington’s Little War”

by Peter Vaselopulos

*** A Review of the June 2019 Program by Greg Mertz

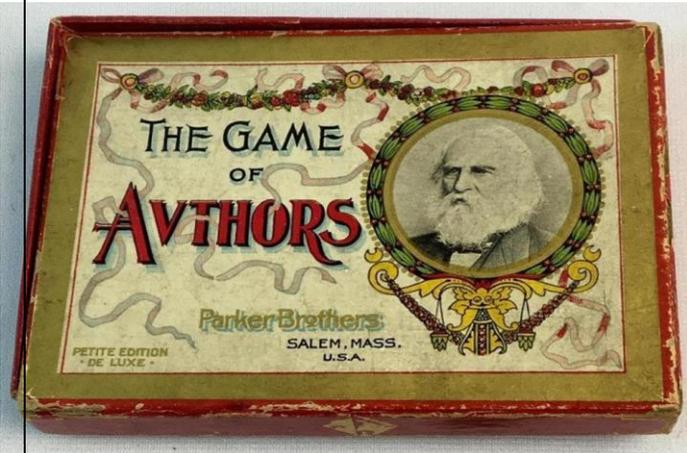
When Arlington County formed a Sesquicentennial of the Civil War committee, our speaker Peter Vaselopulos was pleased to serve as a part of that body. He had been aware that residents of the county had found Minnie balls on their properties and knew of a house that was said to have a cannonball embedded in its walls, but he knew little of the actions that resulted in these artifacts being deposited in area ground and buildings. He hoped that some of the others on the committee might help him learn of the military actions in the county, but found that they focused on the Arlington House – Robert E. Lee’s home – and the forts constructed during the Union occupation of the county. They asserted that no military activity occurred in the county. That started Vaselopulos on a journey to figure out just why there were battle-related artifacts and just what happened. The result is what Vaselopulos feels tells a story of how little things can sometimes have a big impact on what will eventually happen. He discovered that for a period of months in 1861, skirmishing between the opposing forces occurred practically every day. Arlington Mill, built by Robert E. Lee’s father-in-law, was the largest mill on the east coast. It was also the scene of an unusual skirmish on June 1, 1861. The fight occurred just one week after Virginia seceded from the Union. Union troops had been gathering in Washington, DC since the firing on Fort Sumter, and on May 24 – just one day following the secession of Virginia -- 10,000 Union forces surged over three bridges into Virginia. It was important that the Confederates not be permitted to place artillery on Arlington Heights where they could rather easily fire shells down upon Washington. Col. Elmer Ellsworth commanding a unit known as both the 11th New York and the 1st New York Fire Zouaves, was killed in Alexandria on that first day of the invasion of Virginia when he removed a Confederate flag flying from a hotel. That same regiment would later be stationed at Arlington Mill a short time later, and it, along with the 1st Michigan, were the key Union regiments involved in the June 1st skirmish there. That night the Confederates snuck up on the Union outpost by moving along the railroad – perhaps advancing on a railroad hand car – and surprised the Union troops. The Confederates fired into the camp killing one Fire Zouave and wounding another Union soldier. From June to October of 1861, the opposing forces were positioned on opposite sides of the Four Mile Run valley and skirmished every day. Though there was always a potential for a major battle, fighting did not break out

The players' pieces begin on the square marked "Infancy" and the goal is to collect 100 points. You gain points for landing on squares depicting positive events, for example "Industry", "College", "Bravery", or "Truth". The square marked "Fat Office" seems to be a positive square as well, for some reason.

Conversely, a player might lose points for landing on squares depicting negative events, for example, "Ruin", "Idleness", "Intemperance", or "Suicide." Yeah, this version of the game is a little more grim than the one I played growing up. In order to determine the number of squares used, players rolled a kind of top called a "teetotum"; picture a dreidel and you'll have a fairly accurate mental image. This was used instead of dice because dice were strongly associated with gambling, and would have been incompatible with Milton Bradley's vision of *The Checkered Game of Life* as wholesome, family fun. Actually, "Gambling" is one of the bad spots on the game board, in case you weren't sure where Milton Bradley stood on that kind of thing.

Another option for some improving family fun is the game *Authors*, which is basically Go Fish, with the goal being to match up famous authors with quotations from their works. Each game consists of eleven sets of four cards each, representing eleven authors and four works per author. The goal is to collect a full set of four works for each author in your hand.

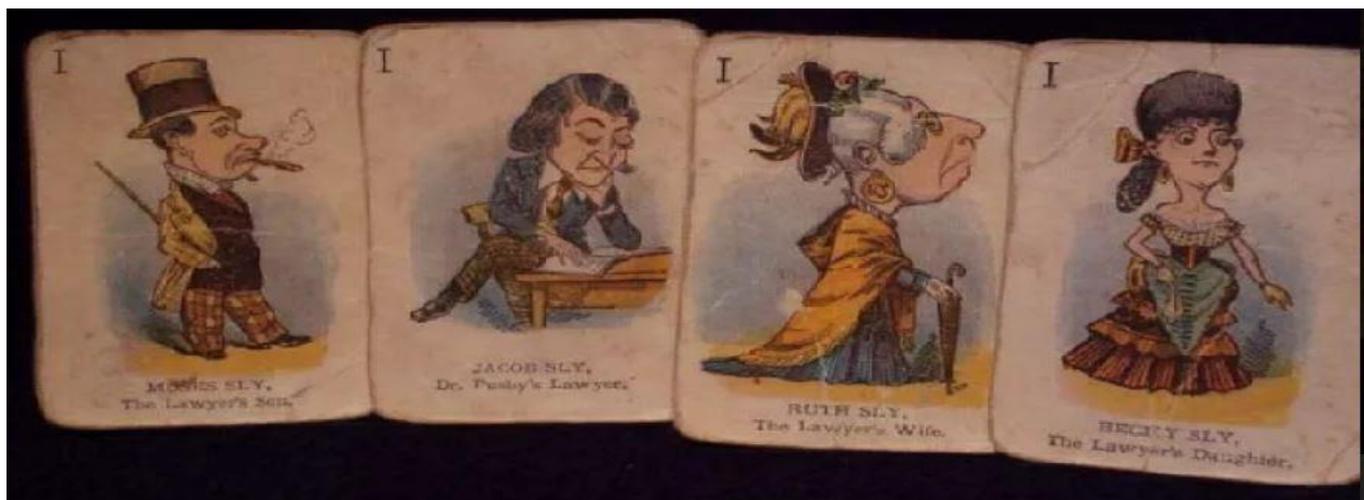
Authors was invented by Anne Abbott, the editor of a literary journal for



young people, and was first published in 1861 by G. M. Whipple & A. A. Smith. Anne Abbott is also said to have invented a game called *Dr. Busby*, although it's less certain that she was the original creator. *Dr. Busby* shares some characteristics with a card game I played as a teenager, called BS (a name which would have shocked the Victorians).

The goal is, again, to collect a full set of cards. In this game, the cards depict members of various families. Players are dealt a hand at random and collect the cards they need by asking others whether they have a given card. If the other person has the card, they hand the card over and the player keeps asking for other cards. If they do not have the card, the player's turn is over and the next person takes a turn.

The real fun of this game is the goofy characters. The families depicted by the game include: the Busby family (brown cards), the Doll (the dairymaid) family (red cards), the Ninny-come-twitch family (yes, really! yellow cards), and the Gardner's family (blue cards). Within each "family" are a variety of interesting characters. For instance, the Busby Family consists of Dr. Busby, his Wife, Son, Servant and Dairymaid's black-eyed Lover. Below is a version including "The Lawyer's Family"



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*

From Civilian to Soldier the Pre-1861 Regular Army

by Neil Carmichael

Introduction

Many years ago, when I was new to reenacting, I talked with an older reenactor portraying a Regular soldier in the Civil War. He described the impression by saying, "*it was different without being overly different.*" I agree. I think my time in the Regular Army when stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, watching Texas National Guard troops coming in for its summer training, and I thought to myself, what an undisciplined mob of hippies. A year later, I was in Germany during a REFORGER. I remember running into members of an Army Reserve unit at the NCO club. They were different but again, you could see that they were not in the Regular Army. They, on average, were older, from the same area, and just interacted differently than most Regular Army members I knew. Honestly, I sit today and can tell you the rank and last names of those I served with, but I only recall a few of their first names. So as Regular Army reenactors, we are different without being Zouave different. We drill, we are "silent" in the ranks, and we exemplify the Civil War's regular professional soldier.

Let me tie this to our period in this way. When I enlisted in the Army, I visited a recruiter, examined by medical staff, made my intent to join (*delayed entry program*), took the oath, and traveled to Ft. Jackson for basic training. This process was not much different from the 1850s. The scenario for my article focuses on the 1857-58 period. This period encompasses our pre-Civil War period with soldiers who would, in cases, service expired in the 1862-1863 time period. However, the U.S. Army recruiting process was not much different from the 1830s through to World War I.

The economic downturn and recession in 1857-1858 witnessed the boom of recruits for the Army. In 1857 over 5,000 privates were added to the U.S. Army rolls, most coming from New York City. In 1857 a man interested in joining the Army would walk into one of the recruiting offices, assessed by the recruiting officer and the doctor, sign the intent to join, and return in a few days to finish the process of enlistment. The next step is to transfer the recruits to the rendezvous and then to one of four general recruit depots, located at Fort Columbus, New York, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, Newport Barracks, Kentucky, and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

The administrative process was the same for all recruits, whether enlisted in the Regimental, Mounted, or General Service recruiting systems. Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers altered the process due to the weight of the numbers of men volunteering. The militia units and national guard were mustered into federal service and transported to Washington, but whose topics are for a later discussion.

I have always been interested in the U.S. Army's organization and administration between the Mexican War (1848-1849) and the American Civil War (1861-1865). I believe a deeper understanding of the administrative process from the initial enlistment, whether from Maine, New York, Kentucky, or Maryland and later serving at one of the many far-off posts in the western territories. As reenactors portraying the regular army soldier, our enlistment and experience differ from those of the thousands of volunteers that answered Lincoln's call to arms and called the Boys of 61. Understanding the civilian to soldier process is an essential step, and understanding that adds to our personal and collectively adds to the overall unit impression.

The General Recruiting Service, Mounted, and the Regimental Recruiting efforts were under the direction of the Adjutant-General Office, which administered the three types of recruiting for the Army from about 1843. The Adjutant-General reported recruiting efforts to the Secretary of War. The three systems were essentially the same; however, the Regimental system enlisted the recruit to the specific Regiment. The General Recruiting Service and Mounted recruited soldiers for the Army, assigning the recruits as replacements to the various Regiments serving at frontier posts. Regiments headquartered near large urban areas established and deployed recruiting details to support the unit's authorized strength.

Under the General Recruiting Service and Mounted, the Army established recruiting districts superintended by field officers that directed the Captains and Lieutenants to lead various recruiting parties. When a Regiment sent its Recruiting parties out into the cities

and towns, the Regimental commander would notify the Adjutant General Officers. The officers' selected and appointment for the General Recruiting and Mounted Service were announced by special order and selected for duty by their regimental commander. Typically, the recruiting parties consisted of one officer, one non-commissioned officer, two privates, one drummer, and one fifer. The U. S. Army Regulations defined the recruiting officer's duties and responsibilities in the recruiting efforts, but the accountability of all funds dispersed. The recruiting officer conducted no other duties other than those directed by the Adjutant-General Office.

The process is much like today as it was in the 1850s. The recruiting efforts before the Civil War have not changed much. Before the Civil War in the 1850s, the Army established recruiting offices, rendezvous, and depots. These recruiting stations were found in rented storefronts or office buildings. The Lieutenant located a suitable location and advertised in the local newspaper, and the office was open for business.

The Captain or Lieutenant completed the required estimates for all funds to the Adjutant-Generals office. Additionally, reports and requests were communicated via the Adjutant office to the Quartermaster, Ordnance, Paymaster, and Substance Departments to distribute required equipment, clothing, and rations. Interestingly, many of the recruiting efforts were concentrated in northern cities where immigrant populations of Irish and Germans made the prospects of gaining more recruits possible to meet recruiting goals.

What was the process?

The critical interaction with the recruit was that of the recruiting officer. The importance was emphasized and stressed via the Regulations. The recruiting officer was not to delegate his duties in general but, more importantly, is the initial contact and in his discussion with the recruit on the nature of the service. According to the regulations, the recruit's age was determined by the officer or at least according to the regulations, "diligence in explaining the service should not lie and be discerning on the age of the potential recruit who presents themselves."

The regulations are clear on who could enlist in the service of the army. The enlistee had to be at least 5'3" in height, "free white male" with a "competent knowledge of English." I think these are relatively straightforward and easily defined. The other "requirements" are less defined and more subject to interpretation and evaluation by the recruiting officer. The other underlying requirement was the age of the recruit. A recruit who was a minor or under the age of 21 needed to get permission from a parent, legal guardian, or master to enlist in the Army.

The other listed issues with recruits needed more defined terms and could be subjective in the officer's opinion. The recruit needed to be "effective, able-bodied, sober, free from disease, and of good character and habits." Two, sober and disease-free, might reveal through the required medical exam, which the recruiting officer attended. It was important for the recruiting officer to talk with the potential recruit and get of sense of honesty.

If the Recruiting Officer believes that the soldier is interested, he would read the following and offer the recruit signature the annexed declaration on each copy of his enlistment. The Regulations required that all enlistment paperwork was to be completed in triplicate.

Enlistment Declaration:

"I, _____, desiring to enlist in the Army of the United States for the period of five years, do declare that I am _____ years and _____ months of age; that I have neither wife nor child; that I have never been discharged from the United States service on account of disability, or by sentence of a court-martial, or by order before the expiration of a term of enlistment; and I know of no impediment to my serving honestly and faithfully as a soldier for five years.

Witness: _____ "

The enlistment declaration highlights several essential requirements or standards for the recruit. The Regular enlistment paper is very different from the Volunteer Enlistment papers you will find with our reenacting community. As Regulars, it is proper for us to use the Government Printing Officer form dated June 1841. If the recruit is under the age of twenty-one and being a minor, the Army requires his parent, guardian, or master to sign the consent.

Consent in case of Minor:

"I, _____, do certify that I am the _____ (father, only surviving parent, legal master, or guardian, as the case may be) of _____;
that said _____ is _____ years of age; I do hereby freely give my consent to the enlisting as a soldier in the Army of the United States for the period of five years.
Witness: _____"

Once the recruit signed the initial intent to enlist in the Army, the recruiting officer would conduct a more "duly examination." When satisfied with the true nature of the recruit, the next step was the medical exam. The medical exam was the first of three the recruit underwent from the recruiting station, depot, and later at his assigned regiment. The medical exam determined the general physical fitness and health of the recruit. This part of the recruiting process could take a few days to conclude.

The medical exam required the presence of the recruiting officer. The medical exam consisted of the recruit being stripped of clothes and made to wash. If the recruit passed the vigorous exam, he would be accepted into the Army. The examining medical officer had a pre-prepared form to complete with the recruit's answers on his medical history. The form accompanied the soldier to Depot and when he arrived at his Regiment.

When accepted, the recruiting officer read the 20th and 87th of the Article of War.

20th Article of War

Art. 20. *All officers and soldiers who have received pay, or have been duly enlisted in the service of the United States, and shall be convicted of having deserted the same, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as, by sentence of a court-martial, shall be inflicted.*

Foot Note: *No officer or soldier in the army of the United States shall be subject to the punishment of death, for desertion in time of peace. Act 29th My, 1830.*

87th Article of War

Art. 87. *No person shall be sentenced to suffer death but by the concurrence of two-thirds of the members of a general court-martial, nor except in the case herein expressly mentioned; nor shall more than fifty lashes be inflicted on any offender, at the discretion of a court-martial; nor officer, non-commissioned officer, soldier or follower of the army, shall be tried a second time for the same offense.*

Foot Note: *So much of these rules and articles authorizing the infliction of corporeal punishment by stripes or lashes was specially repealed by the Act of 16th May 1812. By Act of 2d March, 1853, the repealing act was repealed, so far as it applied to the crime of desertion, which, of course, revived the punishment by lashes for that offense. Flogging was totally abolished by sec. 3 of Chap. 54, 5 August 1861.*

After which time, the recruit will have time to consider his enlistment, and when his mind appears to be made up, the recruit may take the oath of enlistment. The oath was administrated as soon as possible and at least within six days.

An officer of the Army did not administer the oath. The oath required the administration by a justice of the peace, the chief magistrate of any town or city corporate, and a notary public. Only in extreme cases, a judge advocate in the Army could administer the oath of enlistment. In 1861, the Army permitted only Regular army Officers to administer the oath to Volunteers recruits.

Oath of Enlistment:

"I, A _____ B _____, do solemnly swear or affirm (as the case may be) that I will bear true allegiance to the United States of America, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whatsoever, and observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the rules and articles for the government of the armies of the United States."

The recruiting officer was provided with a certificate from the magistrate or justice of the peace signifying that the man enlisted and took the oath or affirmation. Upon completing the oath, the soldier was enlisted in the Army, and his service begun. The soldier was transferred to a rendezvous, waiting for additional recruits to arrive. Once enough recruits had assembled, the recruits traveled to one of the four Depots for training.

Part II of Civilian to Solider will look at the life at the Rendezvous and Depot.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wayne Higdon Lawrence JC Kline III
Mark Block

Military Chain of Command

1st Lt., Geoff White Company Commander

1st Sgt. Neil Burke

Corporal – Joseph Gillespie

Corporal – TJ Bradley

Corporal – Peter Vaselopulos

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
E-mail: buddy324th@gmail.com

Vice President: Peter Vaselopulos
E-mail: pvaselop@gmail.com

Treasurer: Kelly Cochran

E-mail: kellytcochran@gmail.com

Secretary: Neil Burke
E-mail neil.burke2013@gmail.com

Member at Large: TJ Bradley
E-mail: bradley.thomasj@gmail.com

Civilian Coordinator: Rebecca Welker
E-mail: r.welker64@gmail.com