



Frederick H. Hackeman CAMP 85

January 2019

Camp Communicator

Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War

A Message From the Commander

Brothers,

The anticipated January meeting agenda will hopefully include the Induction of two members, Ray Truhn and Keith Chapman. The Induction ritual is and should be a special ceremony for the inductees to connect them to the camp, the state department the national organizations as well as connecting them to the history and memory of the G.A.R. While to some this might seem to be an antiquated ceremony, it really has its purpose and it should be something that we embrace and use whenever we get new Brothers – hopefully more in the future.

This ceremony requires some space to carry out the steps in the ritual which means that we have to be creative in selecting a meeting place for this meeting. The Stevensville American Legion Post charges for their meeting rooms so that is out.

Commander to Page 7



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Next Camp Meetings

January 10, 2019 - 6 p.m.

Location - 10329 California Road, Bridgman

Berrien County in the American Civil War

25th Michigan Volunteer Regiment 1862-1865

It was found, after the organization of the several Congressional District Regiments had been completed, that more companies had been offered than had been provided for, so the 25th was constituted from the surplus. It was ordered into rendezvous at Kalamazoo, H.G. Wells, being made commandant of the camp. Colonel Moore, then a Captain in the U.S. Regulars, who had been Lieutenant Colonel of the Thirteenth Michigan, was appointed its Colonel, under whose direction it had been drilled and disciplined, who also led it into the field.

On the 22nd of September 1862, the Regiment was mustered into the service of the United States. Before the Regiment left Kalamazoo for the front, a silk flag was presented by the Honorable H.G. Wells, on behalf of the citizens of that place. The flag was a regulation standard, with the inscription "This flag is given in faith that it will be carried where honor and duty leads." It was first given the breeze at Green River, Kentucky, on the morning of July 4, 1863, where the Regiment, with less than 350 men, acquired an enviable reputation for a gallant defence, repulsing the attack of John Morgan with 3000 men.

On the 29th of September 1862, it moved from Kalamazoo under orders to report to Louisville, its muster showing a strength of 896 officers and men. The Regiment was stationed at this point until December the 8th, when it was ordered to Munfordsville where it became engaged in a skirmish with the Confederates on the 27th. Thence it moved to Bowling Green, January 8th, where it was employed on provost and picket duty and guarding trains until March 26th., when it proceeded to Lebanon, taking part with the troops General Manson, in pursuit of the Confederates under General Pegram. The southerners having been driven from Kentucky, the Regiment returned to Lebanon, arriving there April 3rd thence proceeded to Louisville, where it was assigned provost and guard duty. June the 10th, five companies, "D", "E", "F", "I" and "K" under the command of Colonel Moore, returned to Lebanon, thence marched on to Green River Bridge, near Columbia. Here these companies repulsed the attack of thousands of Confederates, performing gallantly in the repulse of Morgan's men. A jocular foot note of this action was a letter from the defeated Morgan to Colonel Moore "promoting him to the rank of Brigadier General".

At the time these companies of the 25th were ordered from Louisville, Colonel Moore was Provost Marshal of that city. His administration of affairs, although faithfully rendered, were not agreeable to the large rebel element of the time, bringing down on the Colonel the disapproval of a large segment of the citizens, together with the Louisville Journal, which attacked him most severely. It was also said openly at the time, that influences were brought about, that led to his commanding the 5 companies sent to Green River, with a view to placing him in a position that capture was probable. If this is a fact, his gallant defence of that place, when so overwhelmingly outnumbered, and which, as has been acknowledged, saved Louisville from sack, the Louisville Journal included, was a merited rebuke to his enemy's in that city.

The companies that had remained at Louisville, joined the rest of the Regiment at Lebanon, then commenced the march with the 1st. Brigade, 1st. Division of the 23rd. Corp over the mountains into Eastern Tennessee, camping at Loudon, TN on October 31st.

Marching from its camp on November 9, 1863, under the command of Captain Demarest, the Regiment participated in the defence of Kingston, then on to Mossy Creek, where it was engaged, then commenced the retreat to Knoxville with the rest of the army, arriving there on the 21st. of January., remaining there until the 4th of May, when re-equipped they moved west to join the Georgia Campaign.

During the march south, the Regiment engaged the Confederates at Tunnel Hill on May 7th, Rocky Face on the 9th Resaca the 14th, also the engagements of the army to the Siege of Atlanta.

After Atlanta fell, they moved on Decatur, remaining there until the army set out into Western Tennessee in pursuit of the Confederates under General Hood, moving to threaten Nashville.

Then under the command of Colonel Orcutt, the Regiment marched over 1000 miles through Georgia and Tennessee, being associated with all of the movements of the army. Arriving at Nashville on December the 8th., they took an active role in the defence of the city, losing 1 man killed, with 7 wounded, marching then to Columbia, thence to Clifton, to go by steamer to Cincinnati, to board trains for Washington. From there again on steamers to North



Officers 2018 - 2019

Camp Commander:
Steven Williams

SVC: Rex Dillman

JVC: Charles L Pfauth Sr

Secretary :Ray Truhn

Treasurer : Ray Truhn

Council 1: Charles L Pfauth Jr

Council 2: Keith Chapman

Council 3: Charles L Pfauth Sr

Patriotic Instructor:
Ted Chamberlain

Chaplain : Steven Williams

Graves & Memorials:
Rex Dillman

Historian: Rex Dillman

Eagle Scout Coordinator:
Steven Williams

Signals Officer: Unassigned

JROTC contact: Unassigned

Guide: Unassigned

Editor
Steve Williams
sarwilliamssa@gmail.com

Carolina, to join General Schofields Army in the pursuit of General Johnston's army.

After the surrender of the Confederate army, the Regiment was sent to Salisbury to be mustered out on the 24th of June, then sent by rail to Michigan, arriving at Jackson on the 2nd of July where they were paid off and disbanded.

During their term of federal service, they were engaged at:

Munfordsville, Ky	Tebb's Bend, Ky	Kingston, Tn
Mossy Creek, Tn	Tunnel Hill, Ga	Rocky Face, Ga
Resaca, Ga	Cassville, Ga	Etowah River, Ga
Kingston, Ga	Altoona, Ga	Pine Mountain, Ga
Lost Mountain, Ga	Culp's Farm, Ga	Kenesaw, Ga
Nickajack Creek, Ga	Chattahoochie River, Ga	
Decatur, Ga	Atlanta, Ga	East Point, Ga
Utoy Creek, Ga	Seige of Atlanta	Jonesboro, Ga
Rome, Ga	Cedar Bluff's, Al	Pine Creek, Tn
Franklin, Tn	Nashville, Tn	

ORGANIZATION

Organized at Kalamazoo, Mich., and mustered in September 22, 1862. Left State for Louisville, Ky. September 29. Attached to District of Louisville, Dept. of the Ohio to December, 1862. District of Western Kentucky, Dept. of the Ohio to June, 1863. Unattached, 2nd Division, 23rd Army Corps Army of the Ohio to August, 1863. 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, 23rd Army Corps, Army of the Ohio to February, 1865. Dept. of North Carolina, to June, 1865.

1862-1865

Total Enrollment	968
Killed in Action	22
Died of Wounds	13
Died of Disease	129

Total Casualty Rate 16.9%

Company B

NAME	HOME	AGE
Kimmell, Edwin F.	Berrien Springs	24

Company C

NAME	HOME	AGE
Alden, James B.	Benton	23
Blake, Orange L.	Buchanan	19
Bovee, Peter -or-	Pipestone	37
Bone, Peter		
Brott, Levinus W.	Berrien	31
Brownell, Josephus	Bainbridge	34
Buckley, Porter H.	Pipestone	30
Burke, John A.	Berrien	18
Burke, Samuel C.	Sodus	21
Calbitzer, Reuben	Buchanan	18
Carlisle, Joseph L.	Berrien Springs	21
Chamberlain, Elliott	Pipestone	55
Clark, Hezekiah	Oronoko	28
Conley, Milton	Oronoko	18
Crabb, Eli M.	Benton	24
Curtis, Dorman	Pipestone	18

Daker, Thomas -or-	Oronoko	36
Decker, Thomas		
Denn, Ralph	Berrien	18
Dennison, Wm H.	Oronoko	15
Desler, William	Oronoko	20
Dickerson, Alanson -or-	Oronoko	19
Dickinson, Alanson		
Dougherty, Francis M.	Oronoko	20
Dunn, Ezra E.	Buchanan	27
Feather, Benjamin F.	Oronoko	28
Ferris, Ransler P.	Oronoko	22
Fisher, Jesse	Berrien	20
Freley, Bethuel H.	Berrien	19
French, Alfred O.	Royalton	18
Gano, Francis W.	Pipestone	21
Gilbert, Nathan	Berrien	26
Gilbert, Stephen E.	Buchanan	19
Gilbert, Thomas J.	Buchanan	18
Gorham, John L.	Oronoko	23
Granger, Hartwell H.	Oronoko	19
Granger, James W.	Oronoko	40
Hadlock, Edwin S.	Niles	24
Hartman, William B.	Oronoko	28
Helmick, Eli	Oronoko	22
Howe, Charles M.	Berrien Springs	20
Humphrey, Peter	Watervliet	31
Hunter, William	Berrien	18
Inglewright, William	Buchanan	18
Jennings, Marion W.	Pipestone	26
Jennings, Milo A.	Van Buren	21
Jeru, Frank	Sodus	18
Kegel, Albert	Oronoko	24
Kibler, John A.	Berrien	26
Kimmel, George H.	Oronoko	21
Kimmel, Samuel	Oronoko	18
Lapham, Stephen E.	Berrien	22
Lawrence, Richard	Sodus	27
Leeds, Lodovick C.	Oronoko	20
Locknow, Mottis	Oronoko	35
L Ong, Abram	Oronoko	23
Long, Isaac	Oronoko	25
McDaniel, James	Watervliet	28
McUmbur, Simeon	Royalton	19
Maddox, Isaac	Berrien	30
Mallison, George	Niles	19
Mason, Sylvester P.	Buchanan	46
Mather, George D.	Berrien	24
Moier, Henry P.	Oronoko	20
Mosier, Jonathan	Oronoko	18
Myers, George W.	Berrien	22
Neer, Henry	Sodus	26
Nichols, Merrit	Pipestone	28
O'Brien, Patrick E.	Berrien	22
Olds, William F.	Benton	24
Pangborn, Joel	Oronoko	29
Patterson, William E.	Pipestone	30
Place, William R.	Kalamazoo	20
Pontius, Aaron -or-	Oronoko	31
Puntius, Aaron		

To Be a Re-enactor or not to be a Re-enactor

With apologies to Shakespeare's Hamlet

That depends on who, what, where, and when. It varies from the more informal celebrations where people 'dress up' and engage in historically inaccurate (more or less) 'battles.' Then there are the events that some in the hobby say are run by the 'thread-counters' or in other words: purists.

Threadcounter - A reenactor who insists on a historically correct impression, down to fabric and buttonholes having the same threadcount typical of the time. The derogatory term for this person is "Stitch nazi."

So, in other words, you are not you but someone who was born about 170 years ago and must accurately, down to the tiniest detail, portray that person. Apparently living history is not *representing* it. There is one noted blogger that opines that anyone wanting to be a legitimate re-enactor must do volumes of research to authenticate the clothing for the specific Union unit that the prospect wants to re-live and admits that this will likely take several years to track down the minute details that will be permitted to represent that uniform and the various accoutrements that the prospect will include in the 'kit'. See below for the various problems that this take on re-enacting will entail.

Everyone is in this for the fun and fulfillment of the experience. What that experience is, however, varies, as does "your mileage" for what fun and fulfillment mean. Some prefer as much historical activity as possible, starting with their arrival on site and continuing unbroken until they pack up their gear to leave. That means 1860s food, 1860s and earlier technology, a full agenda of 1860s activities for the weekend, etc. Some prefer battles and drills as the focus and limit of their historical activity, with the rest of the weekend spent eating modern food, etc. The amount of historical activity vs modern logistical support and modern activity varies across that range. Each event is different. Individual events cater primarily to a given part of the reenacting spectrum. Obviously, someone who wants to be issued a slab of bacon and a potato is not going to get that at an event where everyone else brings a camp kitchen, complete with a gas ring and modern food. Conversely someone showing up at a historically intense event with a gas ring is not going to feel at home.

WHY BECOME A RE-ENACTOR?

There's no one single reason. Some people like to act, to become something they aren't. Others enjoy experiencing history. Some are deploying that part of the genetic code that says "Humans will find fulfillment working in small groups to achieve a goal." Others are paying tribute to their ancestors who were in the war or to those people in the war even if they weren't relatives. For some it's simply a vacation away from the 21st Century, a change of pace. Still others enjoy figuring out how people of that time made themselves happy and comfortable under difficult conditions. (It turns out our ancestors were pretty clever folks.) There are still others who deliberately seek to use their leadership skills as part of their own personal development, and in some cases people discovered they actually had leadership ability even though they weren't looking for it

A great many reenacting clubs do their own "living histories" at national battlefield parks, state battlefield parks, public and private museums, country fairs, history venues, community festivals and, also, after parades, especially Memorial Day. Living histories usually involve setting up a model camp and conducting firing, cooking, and drill demonstrations, with or without a formal schedule, and spending a great deal of time interacting one-on-one with spectators. Sometimes it requires a lot of energy and a lot of organization.

Re-enacting To page 10



Meeting Schedule

Our meeting schedule is Alternate months between September through April meeting on the 2nd Thursday of every month except as noted. At 6:00 PM.

Location -

Currently

10329 California Road, Bridgman



7th corps Kepi patch

Berrien from Page 3

Potter, Benjamin F.	Pipestone	32
Reed, Delos W.	Oronoko	20
Ressler, Jonathan H.	Oronoko	24
Richardson, Reuben H.	Oronoko	37
Richardson, Wm P.	Benton	38
Roberts, Myron H.	Watervliet	29
Rogers, Galen R.	Oronoko	38
Roonee, John Paul	Watervliet	32
St. John, Noah	Oronoko	18
Schriner, John A.	Watervliet	31
Shunkwiler, Jacob	Oronoko	23
Shunkwiler, Wm H.	Oronoko	18
Simons, Frederick	Oronoko	28
Simons, Stephen	Oronoko	24
Spink, William F.	Bainbridge	20
Statler, Samuel	Oronoko	22
Taylor, James M.	Pipestone	25
Terriere, Charles C.	Buchanan	18
Tibbs, Andrew J.	Pipestone	33
Trim, Levi	Oronoko	30
Trimble, William M.	Oronoko	20
Van Housen, Michael	Watervliet	24
Van Housen, Peter M.	Watervliet	22
Williams, John	Oronoko	25
Wirick, Benjamin	Oronoko	19
Wirick, Solomon	Oronoko	21

Company D

NAME	HOME	AGE	
Cornwell, Thomas	St. Joseph	23	

Company F

OFFICERS

RANK	NAME	HOME	AGE		
Captain	Lansing, Spencer L.	Niles	n/a		
2nd Lieutenant	Twombly, Arthur M.	Niles	n/a		

NAME	HOME	AGE	
Adams, Henry B.	Niles	25	
Batchelder, David C.	-or- Bertrand	31	
Batcheler, David C.			
Bercet, Peter	Niles	20	
Binns, Thomas D.	Buchanan	37	
Bond, Henry	Niles	22	
Brennan, Henry	Niles	28	
Burbank, Charles H.	St. Joseph	21	
Burke, John	Niles	25	
Clark, Don A.	Niles	43	
Collins, Kellison	Three Oaks	18	
Cuddeback, Peter G.	Berrien	28	
Davis, John	Niles	41	
Doane, Frederick W.	Pipestone	28	
Doolin, Jerry	Niles	23	
Earl, Byron	Niles	26	
Edgin, James	Niles	22	
Fallon, James	Royalton	44	
Garrison, John J.	Niles	34	

Gray, William	Niles	34
Hoover, Levi	Three Oaks	40
Inman, George C.	Three Oaks	26
Inman, John N.	Three Oaks	28
Kimmel, Henry T.	Niles	19
Labby, Mathew	Niles	26
Lahey, Patrick	Niles	n/a
Lahey, William	Niles	26
La Munion, Leroy	Royalton	19
Loshbough, James L.	Niles	23
McClary, John J.	Niles	29
McDaniel, Isaac	Berrien	36
McGurk, James	Niles	36
McKie, John W.	Three Oaks	19
Marshall, James	Niles	29
Moon, Garrison	Niles	31
Morgan, John L.	Niles	26
Nott, Arbuth M.	Niles	31
Otwell, Emery	Three Oaks	41
Otwell, Wm M. -or-	Three Oaks	18
Outwell, Wm M.		
Paddock, Irving	Three Oaks	32
Painter, Andrew J.	Pipestone	20
Platts, Josias	Three Oaks	28
Quigley, Thomas	Niles	20
Richardson, Horatio A.	Niles	27
Serviss, Charles T.	Niles	24
Sharp, James H.	Niles	31
Sheridan, Jesse	New Buffalo	19
Sheridan, Thomas E.	New Buffalo	21
Slater, William H.	Niles	37
Smith, Isaac	Three Oaks	28
Soper, Rowland	Three Rivers	32
Starr, Thomas P.	Three Oaks	36
Thaldorf, Frederick L.	Three Oaks	19
Tittsworth, John P.	Three Oaks	28
Tuttle, Marcus	Berrien	25
Warner, Joel F.	New Buffalo	29
Warner, Orson S.	Three Oaks	34
Webb, Joseph J.	Niles	25
Webb, Julius C.	Niles	19
Wellwood, Ephriam	Three Oaks	20
Williams, Nathan	Niles	26
Wing, John	Niles	19
Woodruff, Charles	Niles	19
Woods, Michael	Niles	22
Woods, Thomas	Niles	25

K OFFICERS

RANK	NAME	HOME	AGE		
Captain	McKinney, Martin V.	Buchanan	25		
1st Lt	Tennant, John	Buchanan	34		
2nd Lt	Weaver, Franklin D.	Buchanan	n/a		

NAME	HOME	AGE	
Aldrich, Simon P.	Buchanan	18	

Upcoming Events

National

The Department of Ohio, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War invites you to the Buckeye State for the 138th Annual Encampment of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic to be held in Independence, OH on August 8 – August 11, 2019. Information will be posted as it is made available.

Department

January 2019

- 1 January, Tuesday - Happy New Year!

February 2019

- 12 February, Tuesday - Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
- 22 February, Friday - George Washington's Birthday

March 2019

- 1 March, Friday - Deadline for submissions to Michigan's Messenger. Articles should be forwarded by email to editor@suvchwmi.org.

April 2019

- 6 April, Saturday - Founding of the Grand Army of the Republic 1866
- 15 April, Monday - Lincoln Death Day
- 27 Department of Michigan Encampment - Okemos, MI

May 2019

- 26 May, Sunday - Memorial Sunday
- 27 May, Monday - Federal Holiday - Memorial Day
- 30 May, Thursday - Traditional Memorial Day



Donations to SUVCW

Can you write off donations to a 501 C 4?

Contributions to civic leagues or other section 501(c)(4) organizations generally are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. They may be deductible as trade or business expenses, if ordinary and necessary in the conduct of the taxpayer's business.



The SVR roots date back to 1881 with the "Cadet Corps" of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) – the largest Union Veterans organization which formed in 1866 after the Civil War. The members of the GAR encouraged the formation of their sons as the SUVCW in 1881. These units eventually became known as the Sons of Veterans Reserve, when the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War moved toward a more patriotic and educational organization in design.

Many of the Sons of Union Veterans Camps (local organizations) formed reserve military units which volunteered their services during the Spanish – American War, World War I, and with the National Guard. Just prior to World War I, over 5,000 men wore the blue uniform of the SVR. As late as the 1930's, several states regarded their local SVR units as a military training component. Since World War II, the SVR has evolved into a ceremonial and commemorative organization. In 1962, the National Military Department was created by the SUVCW and consolidated the SVR units under national regulations and command. Since 1962, there have been five SUVCW Brothers that have held the SVR rank of Brigadier General and have had the honor to serve as the Commanding Officer of the SVR.

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform the members of **Frederick H. Hackeman Camp 85** of activities and events related to the mission of the SUVCW and its interests.

If you wish to place a civil war article or SUVCW item please submit to the Editor at sarwilliamssa@gmail.com

The Editor reserves the right to censor and/or edit all material submitted for publication to the Camp Communicator newsletter without notice to the submitter.

Camp Website

Be sure and visit our Camp Website at <http://www.suvcwmi.org/camps/camp85.php>.

Sutler Links

Link to list of vendors for any items to fill out your uniform and re-enactor accessories.

<http://www.fighting69th.org/sutler.html>

<http://www.csutlery.com/>

<http://www.crescentcitysutler.com/index.html>

<http://www.regtdm.com/>

<http://www.cjdaley.com/research.htm>

<http://www.fcsutler.com/>

<https://www.militaryuniformsupply.com/civil-war-reenactment-clothing-gear>

Department of Michigan Officers

Commander -	Robert R. Payne, PCC
Senior VC -	Terry McKinch, PCC
Junior VC -	Nathan Smith, CC
Members of the Council -	Charles Worley, PDC Kevin Lindsey, PCC Michael Maillard, PCC
Secretary -	Dick Denney, CC
Treasurer -	Bruce S.A. Gosling
Counselor -	Paul T Davis, PDC
Chaplain -	Rev. Charles Buckhahn, PCC
Patriotic Instructor -	David Kimble, CC
Color Bearer -	Edgar J. Dowd, PCC
Signals Officer -	David F. Wallace, PDC
Editor, "Michigan's Messenger" -	Richard E. Danes, PCC
Historian -	Keith G Harrison, PCinC
Guide -	Nathan Tingley
Guard -	Steven Martin
Graves Registration Officer-	Richard E. Danes, PCC
GAR Records Officer-	Gary L. Gibson, PDC
Civil War Memorials Officer-	John H. McGill
Eagle Scout Coordinator -	Nathan Tingley
Camp-At-Large Coordinator -	George L. Boller
Military Affairs Officer -	Edgar J. Dowd, PCC

Commander - From Page 1

After the officer installation and the submission of the Form 22 to the Department Secretary is was returned because we hadn't performed the financial of the camps financial books and banking accounts and had the Council member sign off as purported required by Department Bylaws. What was also not done was the Installing officer not reviewing the camp's financial records and reporting such to the Department. At the January meeting the camp treasurer should bring any and all camp financial records to the meeting for review by the attending Council members and then sign the amended Form 22 for submission to the Department Secretary before the February deadline. The camp does little in the way of financial transaction so this should be a matter of a few minutes.

Agenda items at this time that are to be attended to are (1) the confirmation that the checking account has had the signatures changed (2) reporting on the camp's additional changes to the Bylaws submitted to Department Commander (3) the Bylaw required review by three brothers of any applications to be submitted in January. We should have at least three: Steve Chapman, and two supplementals (me). Plus, I hope to have one more application to have ready for submission by then.

As a result of the email messages concerning the Bylaws changes required after our initial submission, I will be meeting with the Department Commander to develop a closer relationship between the camp and the department. This will hopefully mitigate any future communications difficulties that can arise in handling any issues between the two levels.

Upcoming on April 27th is the Department of Michigan encampment at 2209 University Park Dr, Okemos. This is about 1 hour 42 minutes from Coloma (119 miles). I went to last year's encampment in Lansing and learned what agenda items are discussed by the attendees. It is a single day affair with morning session, lunch break and an afternoon session. This is a meeting that as many of our camp brothers should make plans to attend. The department usually has a hotel nearby where those that want to come the day before can stay overnight, have an early breakfast, and then go to the meeting. I plan on driving over that morning and coming back after the meeting adjourns. Perhaps some of us can carpool? The agenda for 2019's encampment meeting will be sent out probably in mid-March. So put this on your calendar.

See you all at the January meeting

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

Steve Williams,
Frederick H. Hackeman
Camp 85 Commander



All for the Union – Redux

A recent Book Report was submitted for the book *All for the Union* edited by Robert Hunt Rhodes. It was submitted with only half the book reviewed. This is a short revision which gives further insight into the war experiences of the subject, Elisha Hunt Rhodes. If you remember, the book was a publishing of the war time diary of Elisha Hunt Rhodes from his enlistment to his discharge at the end of the war.

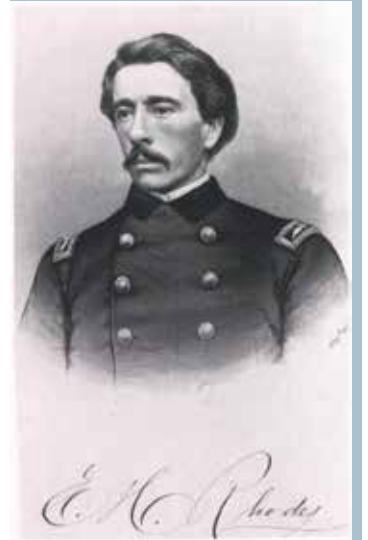
Elisha enlisted as a private in the 2nd Rhode Island infantry at 19. He was discharged as Lt Colonel of the regiment at 22. Along the way he and his regiment were in 20 battles from 1st Bull Run to Appomattox.

While his diary contains the usual expected information of where his unit is camped and where they are going next, he also provides insight into the feelings of the men in his units about the war and President Lincoln as well as the superior officers. He gives us his appreciation of how he and his comrades went about going their duty – doing what it took to get the job done regardless of the personal consequences. His rise from Private to Corporal to sergeant and through the ranks is dealt with in the humble yet honest approach of someone who is performing ‘all for the union’ which he mentions many times. A mantra if you will.

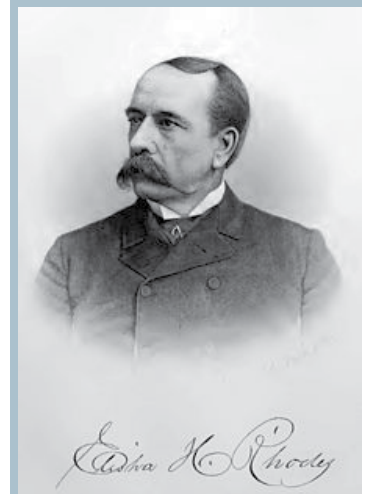
What should be interesting to any reader is his descriptions the logistics of his experiences: Food, clothing, camp life, and other things. Frequently, he purchases food from locals to obtain foodstuffs such as ‘soft’ bread as a distinct change from the hard bread (hardtack?) that was the usual fare. Also, depending on the camp location, they might have foraged for local vittles to include fish from nearby streams or rivers – boiled bread and shad sometimes. There were many times that the army units were not issued their rations for days due to their supply wagon train not catching up to their new campsite.

Likewise with their clothing. A modern person might suppose that they had a uniform issued to them at enlistment and they kept that until it was no longer serviceable. That might seem logical but that wasn’t the norm. As with anything in a war, the routine was interrupted by the war. Expected resupplies didn’t always arrive on time. There was time in 1863, that Elisha hadn’t changed his clothes for 5 weeks. Imagine going 5 weeks in your clothes without changing. Part of the clothing outfits of each soldier included overcoats. Obviously overcoats were not necessary in the warm months and the soldiers could not easily carry something not vital to fighting from battle to battle. Thus, they were issued overcoats at the appropriate time of the fall months when these were necessary – when the nights were becoming too cold without overcoats. Of course the men were required to keep their uniforms in proper condition which means repaired and clean. It was not always possible for the men to wash their clothes and once in their encampment around Petersburg Elisha records that the men were finally able after a long time to bathe and wash their clothes in the river. Elisha provided a bare description of what his officers were wearing in 1862: Dark flannel blouse, light blue pants, and soft black hats.

Camp life varied during the war. As a private he describes the shelter tent that he and his comrade shared. We would know it as 2 half tents buttoned together. He states unabashedly that it provides shade but little else as it is open at both ends and provides a “shower bath when it rains.” Several times he mentions the minutiae of existing in camps when constantly on the move as in once time the men did not pretend to take their boots off when sleeping. As he progressed up the ranks and became an officer, his men would build for him various quarters ranging from not much more than lean-tos to rudimentary log huts typically covered with a canvas roof. The men would install a fireplace of sticks and mud with a barrel for the chimney, pictures of various generals, a rough desk with a shelf for his library, chairs made of cracker box boards, and lastly a bed of poles and boughs. Too frequently he was able to spend little time such ‘fancy’ quar-



Elisha Hunt Rhodes



ters due to his unit being ordered to vacate and march somewhere else.

In recording other matters, he describes his experiences in witnessing the fighting abilities of colored units (in Petersburg especially). In one July 1864 incident he details that 40 of his men received Spencer Repeating rifles from the 37th Mass and how they used them effectively against the Rebels. The Rebels were used to Union troops using muskets and there being an interval between volleys that would enable the Rebels to pop up and return fire. With the 7 shot Spencers, his troops were able to do severe damage to the unsuspecting Rebels troops. After this encounter Elisha does not mention that his men kept the Spencers but they were probably returned to the 37th Mass. In January 1865 in front of Petersburg his unit received new American and Rhode Island state flags and guidons.

Elisha described how in January 1865 he was attacked by one of his men. It seems that this soldier was a 'bounty jumper' and would enlist in a unit to collect a bounty, pretend to be crazy to get a discharge (for insanity), then enlist in another unit for another bounty. What was the final straw was the fact that this soldier bragged about how he was fooling everyone. That put an end to the soldier's life in the army.

He also describes his very unpleasant experience that same January of an execution of a deserter. This New Jersey soldier was paraded before the entire camp, taken to the execution field, seated upon his coffin in front of the grave and then executed. The entire camp was ordered to be assembled on three sides of the field to witness the execution. Afterwards, the battalion was ordered to parade past the coffin and given the 'Eyes Right' command. Elisha states that he would rather have been anywhere else than to have to witness this.

One of the most regularly recorded experiences was his almost daily recitation of the weather and how it seems to rain to frequently for his liking. This is understandable since any roads or paths that they had to traverse were dirt and dirt turns to deep mud when thousands of soldiers pass by along with the horses and caissons which need to have help in getting through the morass.

All in all, this diary is worth the read to begin to grasp the conditions that the ordinary soldier dealt with on a day-by-day basis.

Boyce, William L.	Buchanan	24
Carr, Charles R.	Niles	18
Chinn, Oliver J.	Bertrand	35
Colvin, George W.	Buchanan	37
Conradt, Andrew G.	Buchanan	23
Conradt, William	Buchanan	20
Cook, James A.	Weesaw	26
De Armond, Walter C.	-or- Niles	30
Dearmond, Walter C.		
Dodds, Nathan	Berrien	23
Dunham, Hiram	Royalton	27
Fancher, Charles W.	Buchanan	19
Fancher, Franklin B.	Buchanan	20
Ferrey, Emory F.	Buchanan	28
Force, Lewis B.	Buchanan	29
Furney, George	Weesaw	28
Garlanger, Jacob J.	Buchanan	24
Gonder, James S.	Buchanan	18
Gonder, William R.	Weesaw	19
Hanover, William H.	Buchanan	28
Harris, J. Warren	Buchanan	19
Harris, Joseph H.	Buchanan	27
Helms, Martin V.	Weesaw	18
Henderson, Wm J.	Buchanan	29
Homer, Henry A.	Oronoko	21
Inglewright, Wm Sr	Buchanan	29
Juday, Andrew	Buchanan	19
Juday, Harvey H.	Weesaw	24
Kempton, Williston W.	Weesaw	33
Kirby, Barton	Three Rivers	22
Knight, Rodney	Buchanan	22
Lee, James S.	Buchanan	20
McDaniel, William	Weesaw	18
Meeker, James M.	Buchanan	19
Merrill, Norris H.	Buchanan	21
Paxton, James M.	Buchanan	21
Penwell, James	Weesaw	20
Pierce, George W.	Weesaw	30
Pratt, Nathan	Weesaw	20
Randall, Amandus A.	Weesaw	34
Redding, Benjamin H.	Dayton	20
Rose, James M.	Buchanan	22
Rundell, Henry	Buchanan	20
Slater, James L.	Weesaw	25
Snodgrass, James H.	Bertrand	22
Spennetta, John C.	Buchanan	20
Sperry, John A.	Royalton	26
Strong, Charles W.	Weesaw	26
Swanger, John Q.	Weesaw	30
Taylor, John	Weesaw	19
Totten, Emmet S.	Buchanan	18
Ulery, Solomon	Buchanan	35
Van Denburg, Volney O.	Buchanan	20
Wade, Timothy I.	Buchanan	18
Walworth, William H.	Royalton	26
Washburn, John	Weesaw	19
Watson, Francis M.	Buchanan	22
Watson, George H.	Buchanan	18
Weaver, John	Buchanan	21

Weaver, Noah	Niles	20
Weaver, Noah	Buchanan	23
Wells, Abraham	Weesaw	27
Wirt, Everet	Buchanan	25
Witter, Noah M.	Buchanan	21
Wood, Waldermee P.	Buchanan	24
Woodworth, Oscar A.	Buchanan	40
Wray, Alvertus	Buchanan	20
Wray, Emereth	Buchanan	18

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Re-enacting From page 4

Big crowds can really keep you on your feet and talking. This is often the place, however, where units pick up new recruits, so it serves several goals.

Most generally the event organizers will provide the ground rules for those wishing to take part in the event. These can run from the numerous to simple – depending on the level of seriousness that is expected. Some rules may require that any modern coolers be placed into period correct barrels/ammunition cases or covered up and inside closed tents or not used at all. Some reenacting events do not permit the general public to attend as the event is only for reenactors who come to ‘live the life.’ Likewise any vehicles must be completely out of sight from the event grounds. NO flashlights, cameras, or cell phones (except for event coordinators and for emergency situations only). Similarly, the Porta-johns must be out of sight which might be a healthy hike to find them. Company ‘streets’ are laid out as they were during the war; tentage as well.

What is missing from the thread counters in their zeal for that exhaustive requirement for accuracy in their inspection of your threads and accoutrements is that modern life intervenes. People engaged in these activities have certain aspects of modern life that must be maintained – medications as one example. Are these thread Nazis going to tell a reenactor to leave heart medications at home for 2 or 3 days - or any other medications needed to control health issues? If not, then they’re being hypocritical since the soldiers that are being reenacted did not carry around or even have available such things.

Secondly they mistakenly assume that

1. Clothes were hand stitched. **WRONG!** Union clothes were issued to the soldiers and were of three types: Too big, too Small, and doesn’t fit. These came from mills that sewed the uniforms and not from thousands of ladies in a cottage industry. The stitching was not irregular as might be the case with a hand sewn article but by using a machine to sew the stitching was exactly the same.

2. Soldiers did not repair their clothes but had ready access to ‘new’ uniforms. Soldiers had a sewing kit to repair their uniforms which means that button holes or hems or anything else repaired by the soldier will not have the same threading that the mill produced clothing had. Thus, a discrepancy between the two. And now something to complain about when a reenactor shows up with the wrong number of threads for a button hole.

They also don’t have an issue with reenactors using tentage made from modern canvas which *has* to be fireproof. That wasn’t available then either.

So where do you fit in? On the side of having fun within the realm of providing a historical context of the civil war soldier for the public – or – being a purist.



Infantry Uniform (above)

Naval uniform (below)



WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR CONTENT SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS, BOOK REPORTS, FAMILY CIVIL WAR STORIES, ADVICE.

Send your contributions to the Editor at sarwilliamssa@gmail.com

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Member Ancestors

Compiled from current and past member information.

Current Members				
		Ancestor		Unit
Theodore J	Chamberlain	Chamberlain	Jeremiah M	Pvt, Co B 176 th OH Vol Inf
Keith Alan	Chapman	Stillman	Samuel	Pvt, Co B 94 th IL Inf
Rex	Dillman	Yaw	Benjamin Franklin	Pvt, Co G 26 th MI Inf Reg,
Richard	Gorske	Hackeman	Frederick H	Cpl, Co L 1 st IL Lt Artillery
Glen	Palen	Palen	Charles	Pvt Co E 128 th IN Inf
Charles L	Pfauth Jr	Shopbach	Henry	Pvt, Co F 52 nd PA Vol Inf
Charles L	Pfauth Sr	Shopbach	Henry	Pvt, Co F 52 nd PA Vol Inf
Ray	Truhn	Goodenough	Alonzo	Pvt, Co A 2 nd VT Inf
Steven A	Williams	Carter Mountjoy/ Munjoy Wetmore	Oren George W Abiather Joy	Pvt, Co B 186 th NY Vol Inf Pvt, 11 th MI Vol Cavalry Pvt 66 th IL Inf
Past Members				
		Ancestor		Unit
Roger C	Gorske	Hackeman	Frederick H	Cpl, Co L 1 st IL Lt Artillery
Kenneth A	Gorske	Hackeman	Frederick H	Cpl, Co L 1 st IL Lt Artillery
Dennis L	Gorske	Hackeman	Frederick H	Cpl, Co L 1 st IL Lt Artillery
Michael	Gorske	Hackeman	Frederick H	Cpl, Co L 1 st IL Lt Artillery
Irving	Hackeman	Hackeman	Frederick H	Cpl, Co L 1 st IL Lt Artillery
Richard	Horton	Horton, Jr	William	
Virlin	Dillmam	Mason	Daniel W	
Daniel	Stice	Pegg	Henry R	
Amasa	Stice	Pegg	Henry R	

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