

2nd Regiment USV

United States Volunteers

March 2007

New Newsletter for the 2nd Regt. USV



Commanding Officers Note

I am pleased to see the beginnings of a newsletter for 2nd Regiment. My thanks in advance to Major Klein for putting it together, and to all of you for your future input.

Just today, in cleaning out my reenacting files, I came across old newsletters from the 93rd PVI, 50th PVI, and our Regiments, as far back as 20 years ago (where does the time go?). In addition to bringing back fond memories, they remain informative after all this time.

Like those old newsletters, Tom has some terrific ideas for this one. Please don't hesitate to contribute information about your units, activities, and how-to information you may be versed in, as the reading is enjoyable, informative and helpful to all.

March 9th weekend brings a weekend at Officer's school, hosted by the Liberty Rifles at Old Bedford Village in Bedford, Pa. In addition to myself, Major Klein, Captain Simmons, and Lieutenant Chambers will be attending. Lt. Chambers and I were there 2 years ago, and can truthfully say it is one of the best training experiences we've had the honor to attend. It has a lot of influence on the concepts for our own School of the Battalion, and we will undoubtedly incorporate

some of the knowledge gained into this year's School.

Our January meeting in Grantville was quite successful. The cooperation among units even in the very early '07 season has been outstanding. This year, I am much more aware of civilian activities (now that I share quarters with the Civilian Coordinator), and must say that the influx of cooperation and desire to be involved from the civilians of our units is, likewise, outstanding.

While on the civilian topic, this newsletter is not just for the military. Articles, recipes, and how-to's from the civilian aspect of our hobby would also be welcome and useful.

Remember, our goal this year is to improve our impression as much as we can. This involves everyone – rank and file, civilians, music, officers – all of us. It includes our impression on the field and in camp. It involves the way we maneuver and how we conduct ourselves in camp. It involves the way we look both on the field and in camp.

The result is not just a quality impression for the spectators, but more importantly, a quality impression and a quality experience for US.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in the field.

**From The Ranks of the
2nd Regt.
3rd Maine, Company A**

Company A, 3rd Maine Regiment Volunteer Infantry is a nonprofit educational and living history organization dedicated to preserving the memory of Maine's role in the American Civil War.

The 3rd Maine, Company A was a regiment that was recruited early in the war from several communities of Maine's Kennebec River Valley. The regiment was therefore known as the "Kennebec Regiment". Company A was formed from a Bath, Maine militia unit called the Bath City Grays, which mustered into federal service on June 4, 1861. Shortly before traveling to Virginia and their first encounter with Confederate troops at the Manasses railroad junction, Company A exchanged their gray militia uniforms for Federal Blue.

During the next three years, the 3rd Maine participated in most of the major campaigns in Virginia and Pennsylvania. They operated as part of the Army of the Potomac. By the time it mustered out of service on June 28, 1864, a total of about 1600 men had served in the regiment, of which 134 had been killed or mortally wounded in battle, 149 had died of disease and 33 had been incarcerated in Confederate prisons. A great many more were discharged prior to the end of their term of service because of serious wounds or chronic illness. You can learn more of the history of the 3rd Maine by visiting their website.

The modern day resurrected Company A, 3rd Maine live in coastal Maine between the Kennebec

Rick

Valley and Portland. They are a family oriented group which include not only the infantry but their renown musicians. Their drummers and fifers provide displays and support the infantry on the field. Company A also has a surgeon, hospital steward and matrons who provide excellent impressions of the Civil War medical care. They also play active roles in caring for unit members in the field. The chaplain oversees the spiritual and moral well being of the men. The civilian ladies portray members of the Maine Camp and Hospital Association as well as the United States Sanitary Commission. The 3rd Maine has acquired a reputation for historical authenticity both within and outside of the state.

For more information on this group, please visit www.thirdmaine.org.

The Preservation Front

Cedar Creek Battlefield Quarry Expansion

O-N Minerals Company which owns property adjacent to the Cedar Creek earthworks is seeking to expand their quarrying operations by rezoning 639 acres from agricultural to extractive manufacturing. This is the area where the Federal Sixth Corps was located during the battle of Cedar Creek, and directly up-stream from the XIX Corps earthworks and Panther Cave. Another huge mountain of dirt would impact the view shed as well as disturbing the water table and threatening neighboring wells. As of this date, the rezoning application, (which was denied by Frederick County planning Commission last year), has not been resubmitted to the Board of Supervisors.

I-81 Expansion

Virginia Department of Transportation is proposing to expand I-81 from a four lane interstate highway to eight lanes with tolls. This

Authenticity

For those of us who attended the 2nd Regiment's meeting last January in Grantville, will remember that authenticity was one of the items that was talked about. With this in mind, I hope to have some articles to help in this area. The idea is not for the 2nd Regiment to become a bunch of super authentic's, or to tell anyone that this is the way it is going to be done, but to try to improve our overall impressions.

There are many ways of improving our impressions. Some may think that it would be by obtaining high end gear. This is really not the case at all. There are many ways to improve an impression that are no cost or maybe of a small cost. With this in mind, I have added a column for Civil War recipes.

Some of the things that our colonel talked about at the meeting:

Cell phones - If there is a need to use one, then take it out of camp or talk discreetly in your tent, but please turn the ringer off when not using your phone.

Cigarettes - Being that these are non period, they should be treated like cell phones. If you have a need to smoke, then take it out of camp or smoke in your tent.

As our colonel stated at the meeting, camp cooking is the hardest time to maintain an authentic camp. This is the time when see the modern containers. You know, the plastic wrap, plastic containers and such. The majority of us have seen this or are guilty of this (myself included). A simple solution is to take the item out of it's modern wrapper in a tent and place it in a "period" bowl or container to set out on the table. The biggest complaint I have

will directly impact 430 acres of the Cedar Creek Battlefield as well as the entire Shenandoah Valley. As of this writing, only improvements, (bridge repairs, entrance ramp extensions), are underway.

heard over the years is that meal time sometimes give the impression of a modern picnic or Bar-B-Que. The fix for this is of no cost, but may take a couple of minutes of your time.

I would like to take a poll. If there is one thing that you would like to improve on, what would it be. This can be a personal improvement to an improvement you would like to see in camp. I will make a list to share with everyone, but will not include any names. You can send me an email to xlegion@localnet.com with your comment. If you



would like, you can also call me at home at 845-482-3986.

If anyone has an article they would like to submit to our newsletter, please send it to the same email as above. I look forward to seeing you all over the course of this season and am looking forward to another great season.

Take care
Tom Klein

Civil War Recipes
Sailors Hard Tack

In a bowl combine;

2 ½ cups old fashioned or quick oats

3 cups flour

1 tsp baking soda

In a separate bowl combine;

1 ½ cups buttermilk

3 tbsp honey

½ cup bacon drippings or shortening

Combine the two sets of ingredients. When dough is thoroughly mixed, roll out on floured board to ¼ to ½ inch thick. Cut into circles. On a lightly greased cookie sheet, bake 4 to 5 minutes at 450 degrees. Try serving with jelly.

