

THE UNION VOLUNTEER 7TH

NEWSLETTER OF THE 7TH MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY, CO. B, INC.

Volume XXXII No. 1 January 2013



First Loading –
Pontoon Crossing of
the Rappahannock
150th Anniversary
Battle of
Fredericksburg, VA
Photo Credit:
Col. Peter Berezuk



President's Report

From my family to you and yours, my hopes you had a joyous and Merry Christmas. Looking back on 2012 it seems such a blur. What remains in my memory is the love and support of my friends in the 7th and the reenacting hobby in general. What a tremendous group of people who dedicate themselves to the portrayal of history we have in the hobby. We are truly blessed to have such fine men and women to call our friends.

I have passed the "decade" mark as a member of the 7th and it is remarkable that in this amazing group I am but a "newbie". I have benefited so much from the guidance and patient tutoring of those who have been with us for so long. I am so proud to be able to be a part of this group through the 150's and am honored in the trust afforded me. Most importantly, 2012 was FUN! Isn't the point to share our passion with friends? In a good life we love well and laugh often. I'm sure 2013 will once again provide us with campfire stories, laughter and the fellowship of good friends. I believe you will find some photos of "days gone by" in this issue. Let's not miss the opportunity this season to make it as memorable as the tall tales and stories told of events and years past.

I remain your most obedient servant,
Doug



Reminder!

2013 club membership dues are due!

Make checks payable to:
7th Michigan Vol. Inf., Co. B

Mail to:

P.O. Box 16206
Lansing, MI 48901-6206

Next club Meeting:

1:00pm Sunday, January 20
Robbins UMC, Eaton Rapids
Voting on policy revisions



Andrew McComas has been named by the Jackson Citizen Patriot, "High School Soccer Coach of the Year" for the Jackson area. McComas' Columbia Central High School team put together a fat record this season by going 19-3-1 and winning the Independent Soccer League championship with a 10-0-1 league mark. The Golden Eagles carried a 10-game unbeaten streak into a Division 3 district final before falling 2-1 to Jackson Lumen Christi in a shootout.

----- submitted by proud parents,
Doug & Jackie McComas
Text credit: Jackson Cit Pat/
Mlive.com 12/25/12 issue



2013 Leadership

New Member co-Chairs:
Jeff Verstraete (military)
jbvisme@gmail.com
Heather Jarrett (civilian)
btjarrett@aol.com

President: Doug McComas
Vice President: Steve Hainstock
Secretary: Bill Jarrett
Treasurer: Dick Williams
Military: Tom Emerick, &
Dave Slayton, Co-Captains
Civilian Coordinator: Katie Everett
Board Members-at-Large:
Don Everett, Pat Downing, Jeff
Verstraete

Annual Membership Dues:
\$16.00 – single
\$19.20 – family
\$6.00 – to receive newsletter as
non-participating/non-voting
member

Website:

www.7thmichigan.us

Newsletter Submission Guidelines:

Thanks to all who submitted info for this month's issue. Deadline date for submissions is the 25th of each month. Please have all reports, articles, notices, etc. in print-ready form. I am able to accept documents in most of the usual word processing programs or formats. If accompanying maps or images are needed, please include (in jpg format), if possible. Be sure to ascertain that any items coming from another source are properly credited, or have obtained reprint permission. Personal news items are welcomed and encouraged, or photos of special events. Original articles (800-1000 word limit) pertaining to Civil War or reenacting are also desired.

Email submissions to me at:
7thminewsletter@gmail.com
Or mail to:
736 Gettysburg Ave.
Jackson, MI 49203

Thank-you.


Ellyn Painter, Editor

Remember Chamberlain, the reenacting cat? I received this Christmas card from C and his owner, Melinda Berriman (now Dickinson) after sharing a tent with them at the Lawton, MI event in September, 1996. -----The Editor



See more photos from the 7th Michigan's illustrious past on page 13



To Our Friends in the 7th Michigan, Co. B

Thank you for your many cards and thoughtful statements of condolence on the recent passing of Carol's father, Chuck Allen. Chuck "hung out" with the folks of the 7th on a number of occasions everywhere from Copper Harbor to Jackson. He always had happy memories of those times and often asked about the people he had met in the 7th. We appreciate very much the way the group always included him in get-togethers he attended.

Sincerely,

Bob and Carol Smith

At right is a cartoon illustrated by John Braden (3rd Michigan, Co. F) who fell in with us at Fredericksburg.

Patrik (Gustafsson) has brought us so many sharp-edged tools that John decided to commemorate it for posterity.

-----submitted by Tom Emerick



PATRIK AT THE AIRPORT



Military Minutes – December 2012



Greetings and Merry Christmas!

On December 1st, we enjoyed our annual Christmas Party which was arranged, decorated and organized by the lovely ladies of the 7th Michigan. Ladies, you always put a lot of thought, time and effort into making that day so enjoyable. Thank you all! And thanks to First Sergeant McComas, we were able to serenade Captain Emerick with a heart-felt song called “Don’t Fear the Raptor”. It was probably the high point of the military members singing career. And the last. The food was good, but the fellowship as always is the thing to cherish and remember.

On December 8th, the military personnel that could make the trip enjoyed one of the best events that I’ve been to, and one of the most unique. We were able to participate in the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg. Truly a remarkable experience to cross the river in a pontoon boat, fight in the streets, see where the 7th Michigan actually crossed the river in 1862, and fight at Maryes Heights on the actual battlefield. Thank you, Captain Emerick, for arranging this once in a lifetime opportunity.

2013 Military Activities

February 16 - Winter Drill Sessions – Leslie, MI

Most of each day’s drill will concentrate on Casey’s School of the Company and School of the Battalion. Tom Emerick is planning to dedicate time at the beginning of each day to review School of the Soldier basics especially for the benefit of “fresh fish” in the ranks. We will also be practicing “Skirmish Drill” by the bugle”. Contact is Tom Emerick at 517-669-5607 or tomjoanemerick@hotmail.com

March 9 - Winter Drill Sessions – Leslie, MI

Most of each day’s drill will concentrate on Casey’s School of the Company and School of the Battalion. Tom Emerick is planning to dedicate time at the beginning of each day to review School of the Soldier basics especially for the benefit of “fresh fish” in the ranks. We will also be practicing “Skirmish Drill” by the bugle”. Contact is Tom Emerick at 517-669-5607 or tomjoanemerick@hotmail.com

POSSIBLE – March 23 – Drill with 12th South Carolina - Charlton Park

We have been contacted by Ben Cwayna to do company drill in the morning, and then practice skirmish drill against the two companies for training and practice. We need to discuss and decide if we’d like participate.

Live Shoot – April 20th – Eaton Rapids

POSSIBLE - May 4-5 – Gettysburg National Park Battelfield

Invited by the Black Hats to camp with them on the battlefield and do living history for the National Park Service.

POSSIBLE - May 4-5? – Walker Tavern

May 25-27 – Greenfield Village

June 2 – Rose Parade

July 4-7, 2013 – 150th Battle of Gettysburg – Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

The Club will be participating in the re-enactment hosted by the Gettysburg Anniversary Committee (GAC) at the same location as the 145th Battle of Gettysburg. We will be falling in with the Black Hat Battalion under the command of our good friend Col. Craig DeCrane. Battalion Headquarters is requesting we each bring both a properly accoutered Hardee hat and a forage cap for the planned scenarios. Registration is now \$35 per adult and \$0 for children under 12 through February 28, 2013. When you register individually, be sure to complete the ***Organization Affiliation** by specifying **3rd Division/Black Hat Battalion**. The event website is at <http://reenactor.gettysburgreenactment.com>

The registration form in PDF is at <http://reenactor.gettysburgreenactment.com/ReenactorRegForm.pdf>

The online registration form is at <http://reenactor.gettysburgreenactment.com/index.htm>

In your humble service,
Captain Tom Emerick
Captain Dave Slayton

The Gettysburg website recently posted an extension to early registration.
You can now register for \$25 up to February 15th.



“A CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS”



CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AT HISTORIC FORT WAYNE



Christmas at Historic Fort Wayne 1862

by Keith Harrison

DECEMBER 8, 2012

TOURS 3-6:15 PM - EACH LAST ABOUT 1.5 HOURS

**COMMEMORATE AMERICA'S CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL
BY LEARNING CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS FROM THAT ERA.
MEET INTERPRETERS PORTRAYING THE MEN WHO SERVED
AT FORT WAYNE, THEIR CONFEDERATE OPPONENTS AND
THE CIVILIANS THEY LEFT BEHIND.**

We had a great time at Historic Fort Wayne on December 8th; first the skirmish, which was fun, followed with our (Union and Confederate reenactor) interaction with the spectators, then lunch provided by the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition, and then all the evening tours. The tour guides were great, but so were the people taking the tours - they all seem very interested in the history that was being shared. The theme for the tours was Fredericksburg and Christmas from both Northern and Southern perspectives. They also had a hospital set up providing a glimpse of what an impromptu hospital looked like and how it operated during 1862. Unfortunately, I did not get to see the hospital or Christmas scenarios as I was part of the group in the Barracks talking to tour groups as they came through the Fort. I heard though that the people were quite impressed with the hospital and the Christmas scenario scenarios.

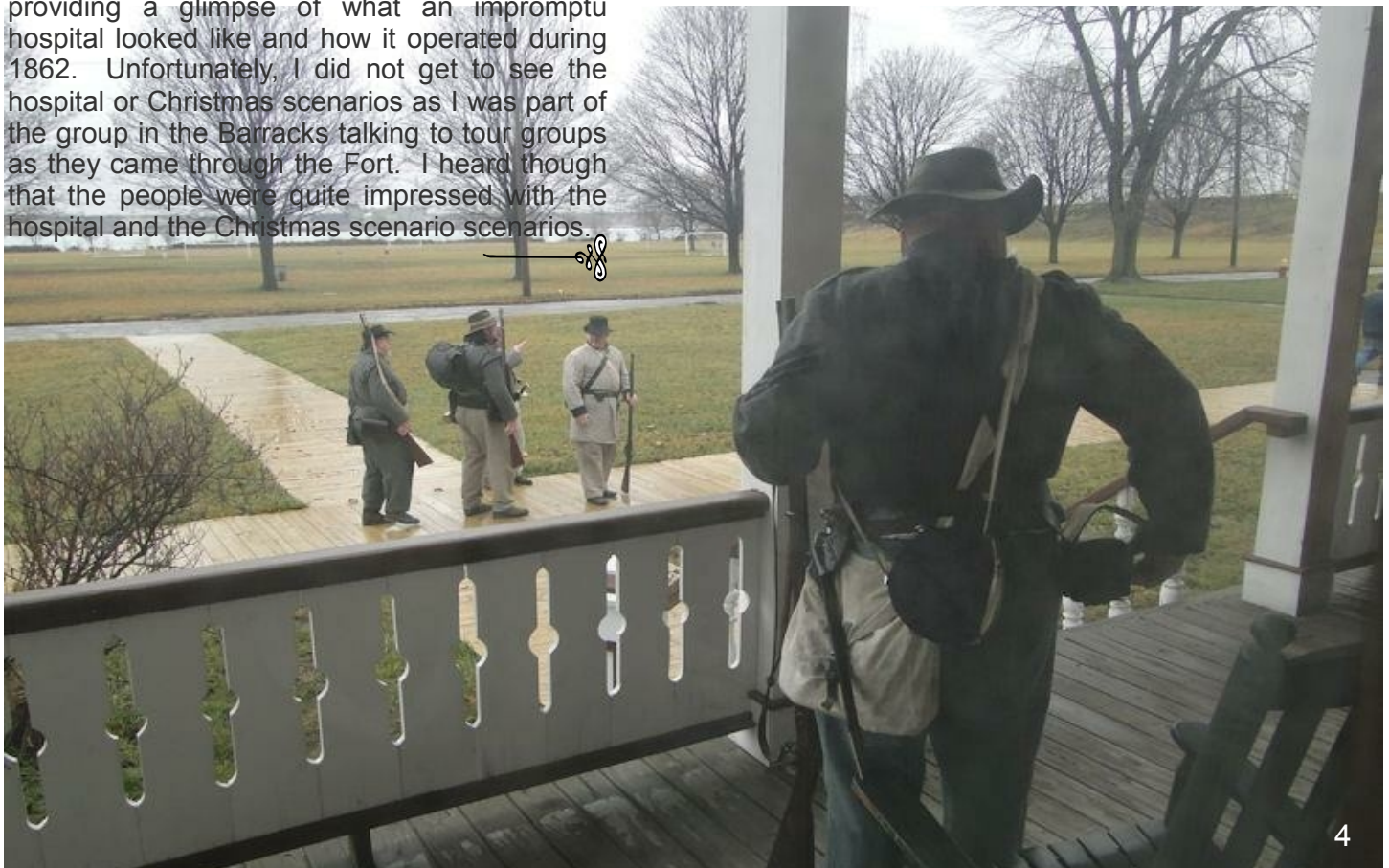


ADMISSION:

**\$5.00 - ADULTS
\$3.00 - CHILDREN 15 & UNDER
\$5.00/CAR - SECURED PARKING**



**INFO: WWW.HISTORICFORTWAYNECOALITION.COM/CHRISTMAS.HTML
6325 W. JEFFERSON AVE. DETROIT, MI 48209**





Christmas at Historic Fort Wayne 1862



"Fire on the Rappahannock"

150th Anniversary Battle of Fredericksburg
December 7-9 2012

by Tom Emerick

Saturday December 8, 2012 was **the best single day** of Civil War re-enacting I have had the privilege of participating in 23+ years! The original 7th Michigan earned its moniker "Forlorn Hope" 150 years ago at the 1862 Fredericksburg battle. The 7th Michigan crossed the Rappahannock under fire at the Upper Bridge to establish a foothold for the Union Army to enter town. We recreated that gallant effort whilst portraying the 89th New York's amphibious assault at the Middle Bridge location. The opportunity to participate in this historic, once-in-a-lifetime crossing in pontoon boats was the singular reason we were so excited to attend the event. The current 7th Michigan Vol. Inf., Co. B had a fantastic time. And now, the rest of the story...

"Betty" and "Mary"

Peter Berezuk and his volunteers (to include our own John and Mark Chamberlain) utilized period plans to construct the boats. Each weighed 2,000 pounds and is rated to support up to 18,000 pounds. We loaded up to 25 infantry and 7 engineers per boat for the crossings. The battle scenario directed the Engineers to transport 117 men across the river in 45 minutes. The boats were so efficient and crossing the modern pontoon bridge so slow that the Engineers transported more troops to total 175 men in less than 30 minutes.

The Union Army

Union Army participation was limited to 500 infantry. Col. Mark Herzog was overall commander and ably served by A.A.G. Capt. Michael Schaffner. Lt. Colonel Peter Berezuk commanded our battalion, the 89th New York, with Sgt. Major Pat Gaughan and myself serving as his staff. Col. Scot Buffington (Irish Brigade) and Col. Andrew Dangel (20th Massachusetts) led the other two battalions. Lt. Michael Doyle commanded the 15th New York Engineers.

Period Civilians/Casualties

We observed overwhelming numbers of excellent, first person impressions. All of them maintained a specific persona and could carry on a conversation with you all day long. During the street battles there were tremendous numbers of casualties in the streets from both armies. Civilians and Medical staff were extensively involved with tending to the wounded, carrying off the dead, searching for loved ones, etc. as we fought our way through town.



First Crossing



First Off-load
Photos by Peter Berezuk

Thursday – December 6th

Union Camp was located at the Ferry Farm where George Washington lived part of his childhood years. We encamped next to the 15th New York Engineers and became fast friends with them by the end of the weekend. Soon after our arrival, Patrick Gustafson (our "Swedish" contingent) and his father met up with us. We proceeded to set-up up most of the Company's tentage and drove to the Fredericksburg Fairground to register. For supper we dined at the **Colonial Tavern: Home of the Irish Brigade** where we partook of a good meal and a few large IPAs each (excepting the designated driver). When we returned to camp there were approximately 50 of the expected 500 troops present when we retired for the night. The temperature dropped into the 20's during the night but we all managed to stay warm.

Friday – December 7th

The day dawned bright and warm (if 40's can be considered warm). Patrik and I donned our uniforms and assisted the Engineers in educating 500+ elementary school students for the next 4-1/2 hours. In the late afternoon I finally met our benefactor and commander, Col. Pete Berezuk. Peter and I had never met beforehand. We communicated via email and telephone since June when the 7th Michigan was invited to join the Pontoon Adjunct (89th New York) and I accepted his offer to serve as Adjutant. Peter is one of the primary co-hosts who organized the event.

That evening bulk rations were issued to each company. They consisted of ground coffee, grits, oatmeal, hardtack, uncooked beef, vinegar, butter, etc. and instructions for cooking same. Each company provided their own set of cooking kettles and two volunteers to stay up all night to boil the beef, keep the fires going, and prepare breakfast for the men to eat after Saturday morning reveille. Cpl. Lakin and Pvt. Gustafsson volunteered for this duty in 4th Company. Unfortunately, somebody's watch was a few hours early and most of breakfast was overcooked but still edible. The coffee was so thick you could stand a spoon in it (no kidding). The boys were so hungry they ate all of their marching rations at breakfast just as our ancestors did

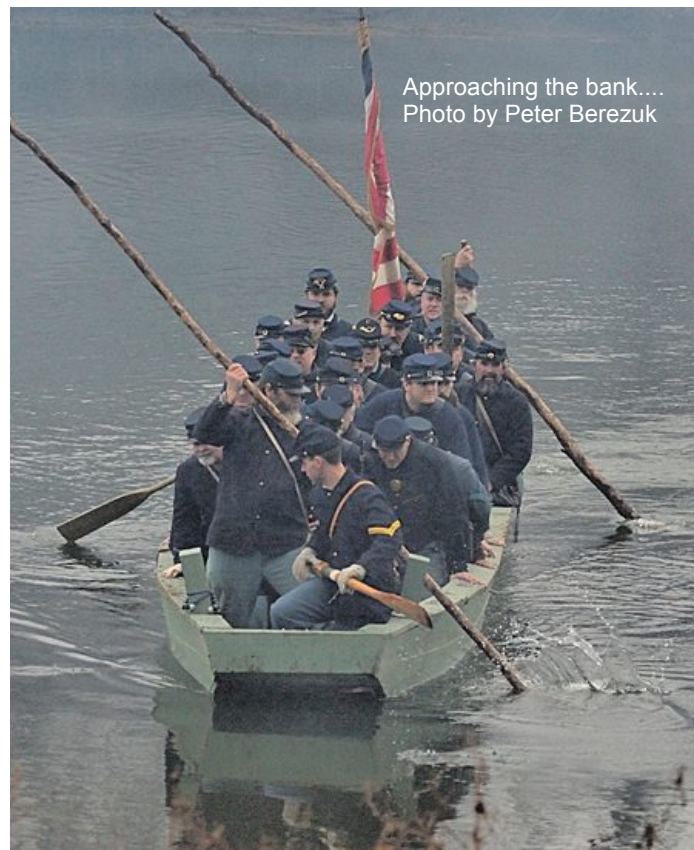
Saturday – December 8th

Crossing the Rappahannock & Street Fighting

The day dawned bright and warm. Our battalion was posted on the riverbank as skirmishers beginning at 8:00. For the next two hours we observed the Virginia ANG maneuvering the modern pontoon bridge into place. As with Burnside's Army there were many problems to overcome. On our side of the river the deck of the bridge was 10 feet below the top of the steep river bank. Modern ingenuity and supplies were used to construct a ramp for soldiers to "rappel" down to the bridge deck. On the Fredericksburg side of the river the deck fell short of touching the shore so the Irish Brigade and 20th Massachusetts had to "wade" ashore to join in the fight. The battle commenced at 10:00 with the first two companies the 89th New York filling the boats under fire from the Secesh on the Fredericksburg side of the river. Col. Berezuk honored the memory of the men of the 7th Michigan by assigning 4th Company to one of the first boats to cross. The first wave of two boats was quickly followed by the crossing of the remaining two companies and a beachhead quickly established. For a while it was the 89th New York versus the entire Confederate Army. The modern bridge problems delayed the Union Army leaving us to fend for ourselves the next hour. Reinforcements arrived in the nick of time with the 20th Massachusetts driving half of the Rebel Army towards downtown. The Irish Brigade engaged the other half of the Rebels in a vicious running street battle up Sophia Street almost to the other side of town. We processed prisoners at the beachhead and then proceeded to follow the Irish Brigade at supporting distance. We had to carefully step over many dead and wounded in the streets as both period civilians and spectators jammed the sidewalks to watch us. The Rebels used structures to either side of the road to attack and impede the progress of the column. Eventually the fight changed direction and proceeded south towards downtown Fredericksburg. For our battalion the fighting ceased for the morning and our "occupation" of the town commenced.

7th Michigan Monument

Col. Berezuk surprised us all by marching the entire battalion to the 7th Michigan monument located at Sophia and Hawke streets. We broke ranks and the 7th Michigan men fell out to pose for pictures and to inspect the monument most of them had never seen up close before. After a brief break, Col. Berezuk called the battalion to attention, permitted me to say a few words in honor of the original 7th Michigan, and we proceeded to march to the residences selected for our "occupation" duties.



Approaching the bank....
Photo by Peter Berezuk

Occupation Duty

Each battalion company was assigned a period home to "occupy" during the early afternoon hours. 4th Company (Capt. Roscoe) invested the Rising Sun Tavern on Caroline St., 3rd Company (Capt. Corse) the Kenmore Inn on Princess Anne St., and 1st Company (Capt. Bowser) the Mary Washington House located on Charles St. The Field Staff and 2nd Company (Capt. Owens) commandeered the Kenmore Plantation and grounds located on Washington Ave. There were approximately a dozen civilians at each site who portrayed civilians of various backgrounds to include spies, politicians, refugees, home owners, cooks, Unionists, etc. Most were strong Southern supporters and outspoken about reminding us we were trespassers. Items at each residence were marked and soldiers encouraged to confiscate or destroy them. 1st Company arrested over a dozen citizens and escorted them to the Kenmore Plantation where they were interrogated and in turn harassed the troops. Surgeon Noah Briggs recreated a Field Hospital at the Kenmore Plantation to include medical treatment and surgeries of the wounded. At dinner time the battalion reunited at the Kenmore Plantation. The men were fed a period meal prepared by the civilians. The Field and Company officers were treated to a period, cooked meal at a table set with fine china and silverware.

March to Destiny

At the appointed hour the battalion reformed and began the long march to the privately owned location on a portion of Marye's Heights. Part way through town we fell into the line of march of the Irish Brigade. The music from their Fife & Drum Corps made our boys forget their troubles and step out in fine style. We rested in several places and struck up

conversations with period civilians and homeowners alike. At one point a spectator of the female persuasion taunted us by singing a version of Dixie much to the consternation of the men. In response, the entire battalion replied with a boisterous version of Battle Hymn of the Republic. The shamed spectator retired from our presence posthaste.

Marye's Heights - The Grand Finale

We finally approached the final battlefield which was a grass covered lot approximately 100 x 100 yards in size. The west and north sides of the square were bounded by paved streets and homes. The east side was delineated by woods. The entire lot rises steeply to the south where a reproduction four foot stone wall stands at the top of the hill. Behind this wall were a few cannon and 500+ Rebels five to six ranks deep awaiting our attack. The other three sides of the square were hemmed in by spectators and period civilians also standing four to five rows deep. The 20th Massachusetts attacked up the hill closely followed by the 89th New York. The rifle fire was unceasing as the Rebels behind the wall were loading and handing rifles up to the front ranks to fire. The Harvard Regiment suffered massive casualties and left half their numbers on the field. The 89th New York rushed in as the Massachusetts men retreated from and suffered the same fate. The volume of fire was so intense we could not hear Colonel Berezuk screaming commands. The remnants of our battalion rallied on a side street and a lull in the fighting occurred.

It was at this time one of those magic re-enacting moments occurred for me. As the Irish Brigade approached down a side street you could ascertain their progress by the increasing volume of cheering. Spectators joined in the impassioned cheering of troops along with period civilians. When the head of the Irish Brigade column deployed into view the noise was almost deafening as you had thousands of spectators and re-enactors, gray and blue a like, screaming at the top of their lungs. You could feel the power in the Irish Brigade advance. You knew, that in spite of the previous carnage, the "Irish" would claim final victory for the Union. The Irish attack advanced further than the prior two battalions but could not survive the volume of fire coming from behind the wall. The field was carpeted with Union dead and wounded when the battle ended.

Taps was sounded to honor those who made the greatest sacrifice past, present, and future. Finally, the antagonists exchanged pleasantries and the Union Army marched back to camp over the pontoon bridge and was dismissed for the weekend.

Final Tally

The organization, Military leadership, amenities, Civilian involvement, first person impressions, boat/bridge crossings, street fighting, comradeship, traveling companions, weather, etc., etc. made it all special. At <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqYgmbkrOpc> is a 25 minute video of the Marye's Heights battle. <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/309909-1> is a CNN report on the event.

Please remember to take every opportunity to thank the men and women who serve in our Armed Services.



September 2003
Fredericksburg
Road trip -To
Dedicate new
7th Michigan
monument



Top two photos: 7th MI monument dedication day Bottom: The Rappahannock just below our monument. Lady is former 7th MI member Annie Bond DeTavernier

Notes on Fredericksburg:

Link with music forwarded by John Braden covering the Marye's Heights scenario and our battalion is in the first few minutes. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqYgmbkrOpc>

This from Captain Slayton: "Thanks for the link. Lots of pictures of our hero, Captain Emerick, who did his usual great job of organizing this national trip. Thank you very much, Tom.

I also noted the following pictures with some of our boys. # 735, 737, 751, 768, 773, 824."

From Captain Emerick: Here is a better video clip courtesy of Steve Hainstock.

<http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/309909-1>

It is not as jerky and loong as the first one and even shows the boats going across the river.



More from Captain Slayton:

"Here's two pictures I found on Flickr. I can pick out Jim McKinnon, Dave Slayton, Don Everett, the side of Nathan Kolmoe's head, Doug McComas, Steve Hainstock, Patrick Gustafsson and maybe Steve Church. Might be more in there. The other picture shows the pontoon boat Tom Emerick was in. If someone wants the full size version of these pictures, please let me know. They are about 3 Mb in size, and of course much more clear than these small size versions that are attached."



Tom Davison images can be found at:
http://tgdavison-photography.smugmug.com/Other/Fredericksburg-150th-Civil-War/26993684_3CxMSP#li=2264945724&k=vsxjW86

Trudging through Virginia-A private's tale of the journey to Fredericksburg and beyond

By Pvt. Doug McComas

The troop train left Eaton Rapids at an indecent hour making stops in Leslie at 4:30 am and Brooklyn before 6 am.

The hearty messmates fortified with donuts and coffee added eggs and bacon to the tummy rations and worked our way to the southern climes. Our 10 hour transport was smooth until arrival to the outskirts of Fredericksburg. The local citizens (citizens of Washington DC coming to see battle, we supposed) had commandeered the local roadways to park their buggies and this added an hour to the trek, putting the mess into camp after the setting of the sun.

After wandering aimlessly for a while we stumbled into our company and hastily put up the Sergeant's tent that the 4 of us would pile into that evening. A round of welcomes that included various liquids followed. Our Swedish private provided entertainment throughout the evening, such as when our Tennessee bred corporal offered Patrik "goobers". The language barrier became quite clear (Patrik speaks English, not Appalachian) so our Corporal offered "nuts". Patrik without missing a beat quipped, "My mother told me not to touch a stranger's nuts" and heartily grabbed a handful. Of peanuts. Rations of beef were cooked on the fire and the boys experimented with pickling beef with whiskey, moonshine and other unknown liquids.

Our evening slumber was serenaded by local trains and a rather balky chainsaw that seemed to be emanating from within our own tent. Upon waking, a breakfast of grits, beef and coffee was waiting---the rations being well cooked as the cook's timepiece was on a thing called "daylight savings time" and prepared a full hour before needed. For the first time this private was forced to say "It is possible to have coffee too strong".



The company formed and we moved to the river for picket duty and crossing under fire. As we arrived on the river bank we learned a new game, "mud bowling a private", due to the steepness of the slippery clay river bank. Our own messmate Don Everett was grabbed by the waist belt and hurled towards the impending fray like a seal on ice in a Disney true life adventure.

I will leave it to others to recount the tremendous battle and as this piece is not intended to be a depiction of the wondrous fray.

The commanders even marched us to see the 7th Michigan, Volunteer Infantry monument. Upon return from an amazing magical day the boys drew lots and changed sleeping arrangements for the evening.

Sunday dawned clear and camp was broken for the long carriage ride home. First we reencountered the Fredericksburg battlefield and part of the original stone wall the Confederates used. When honored the fallen by walking through the Federal cemetery, reading names of quite a few Michigan men, who made the supreme sacrifice.

Then our messmate Don was able to send us to the winter quarters of the 7th at Falmouth and we toured Union Church. As picture shows, the boys must have been a bit thinner than this private. →

A decision to reroute to Harper's Ferry was made by the mess and in a light drizzle the boys purchased "practical souvenirs" almost costing this private a month's pay after leaving his wallet on the merchants counter (safely retrieved). A carriage ride about town with a knowledgeable soldier let us to the important knowledge that there were but 3 privies for the town in 1860 and that waste, by order of the government, could not be disposed of in the street; instead, it should be placed in the back yard (progress is a wondrous thing). One of our mess did not have head gear and found in an old shop a relic from the revolutionary period which he donned for the duration of our visit then gallantly presented it to a young patriot as a gift upon our leaving.





Harper's Ferry

We viewed John Brown's fort, purchased period candies and good food before continuing our trek home. Upon return to Michigan one other stop in Tipton was made. The boys visited the first Michigan monument to the war that was paid for by the citizenry and had our image cast in front. In all, one of the most memorable trips I have taken with knowledgeable and personable friends. My thanks to my messmates Don Everett, Steve Hainstock, and Dave Slayton.

-----submitted to the editor by Dave Slayton



Civilian Report

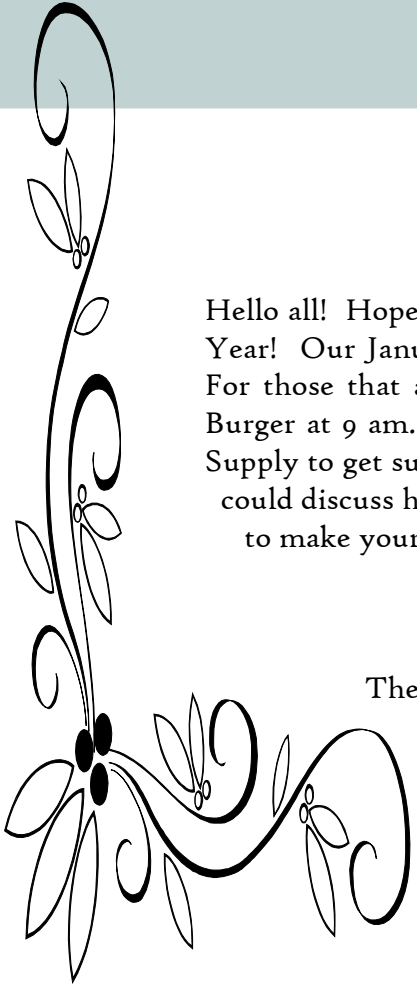
Hello all! Hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a Happy New Year! Our January sewing party will be at Lorrie Roland's house on January 19th at 10 am. For those that are interested some people will be meeting for breakfast at John's Country Burger at 9 am. There was some talk of going to Luxe Beauty Supply and Young's Beauty Supply to get supplies for hairpieces if anyone is interested. To go with that I thought we could discuss hairpieces at our breakout session during Sunday's meeting. If you are trying to make your own hair piece bring it with you to the meeting and we can work on it.

Lorrie's address is: 2921 W. Holmes, Lansing, MI 48911 (517)316-5754

The address for John's Country Burger is: 3109 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, MI 48910

I want to thank Lorrie for hosting the sewing party and Ellyn for hosting the one in November. I would also like to thank Joan, Pat, and Julie for helping during my absence at the meeting. Hope to see you there!

Katie Everett
Civilian Chair



QUARTERMASTER REPORT

As you can see we still have a large selection of merchandize. We now have a supply of parts for reproduction muskets. Unfortunately we couldn't afford everything, only the parts that usually break. Later this off season I will again be showing how to disassemble a lock and perform basic maintenance on your musket.

If any one hears of another re-enactor or that have surplus equipment or is leaving the hobby and wants to dispose of their gear please contact me or have them contact me. We are willing to look at and make an offer on what ever they have.

We are planning a live shoot next April at the Eaton Rapids Conservation Club. For those of you that have not live fired a musket this is your chance to do so. You may bring any rifles and hand guns you wish to shoot. There will be minie balls to use with your muskets as well as .31, .36 and .44 cal pistol balls. Our members are willing to share their modern guns as well. Last year we had weapons from 17 American wars. Remember all members and prospective members are welcome. **THAT INCLUDES ANY OF THE WOMEN THAT WHIS TO COME AS WELL!**

I would like to know if there is any interest in Tee shirts, Sweatshirts, or Tote Bags. Think about it and we will start the process of getting a new supply. We can make the decision at the next meeting. We have the following 7th Michigan clothing for sale: Tee shirts blue, 1 2XL- \$9. Sweatshirts, blue, 1 medium- \$18.50, 1 Large- \$18.50, 2 X large- \$18.50, 1 2XL- \$21.50. Tote Bags, 1 navy- \$6, 2 red- \$6, 2 black- \$6 and Ball caps- \$15. These will be available at the next meeting.

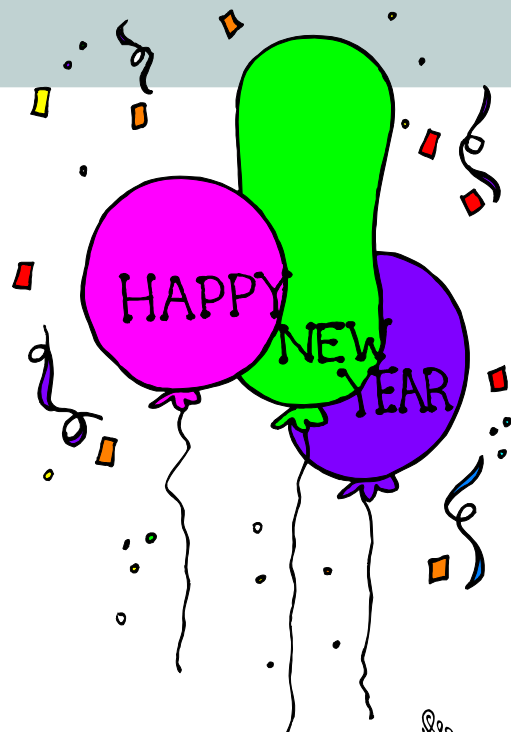
There is powder, paper and caps available as well. The new supply of caps is the CCI copper 4 wing style and the new price will be \$7 per tin of 100. They are in real tins, not plastic. Price of 1 pound cans of FFFg powder has increased to \$14.

EDUCATION DIRECTOR REPORT

We already have 2 confirmed dates for next years school programs. Birney Middle School in Southfield April 19th and Ovid Middle School May 3rd. We may also have programs at Midland Academy, Dexter Middle School, and Mason Middle School.

We always welcome all presenters, men women and children. We try to present a more complete picture of the Civil War by showing both military and civilian life styles when ever possible. This is one way the Club creates income to provide for materials and programs that we provide through out the year.

-----submitted by Don Everett





Bill Warren – year??



Greenfield Village – 2005?

Our lads at Copper Harbor – Aug. 2003



Ft. Wayne, IN - 2005?

Woldemar Nature Center – 1996?



For Auld Lang Syne



Greenfield Village



7th Mi Military & Civilain Conference – Okemos March 2004



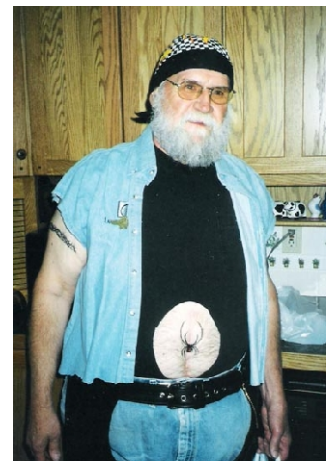
Toledo - 1997



“The Darryls” - at Lawton 1997???

Remembering Good Friends....

.....Past and Present



August 2004

Here is a bit of nostalgia that should remind us all of why one of our New Year's resolutions should be to hone our skills as reenactors year by year. ---The Editor

MY ANNUAL LIST OF STUPID QUESTIONS ASKED TO REENACTORS

by Dave Downing

We've all heard them before, outrageous questions from spectators at events. For the past several years I've been keeping a list of questions that have gone "above and beyond" the usual queries we hear all the time, like "aren't those clothes hot?" For example, while at Gettysburg the last time, I overheard a tourist ask where the statue of Grant on his horse Traveller was located...(for those of you who need help here, Grant wasn't at Gettysburg, and Traveller was Lee's horse). By the way, while on the subject, how many of you have been asked if the horses are real?

So--here is a listing of the most stupid questions I overheard or was personally asked. Here we go:

"Who was it that supplied the portajohns during the war?"

"Where is the smoldering rope you use to fire the cannon?"

"Are you Mother Goose?" (Directed to a female member of our unit dressed in mourning)

"Is that food real? Are you going to eat it?"

"Do you use real bullets in those guns? Where is the magazine clip?"

"This is the war where South America invaded North America, isn't it?"

"Well, you are the bad guys, right? Well, then THOSE are the bad guys, right?"

"Is that your 'home' or 'away' uniform?"

"Are you guys supposed to be from the Titanic?"

"Who is going to win the battle today, the Confederates or the British?" (For some reason, people keep wanting to get England into this mess...)

"The British are coming!" (referring to a company of Zouaves).

On a similar note... I was asked this: "Now, you're the Americans, right?" Then, pointing at a Zouave, "And they're the British?"

And these...

"Where are the ghosts kept?"

"Are you a ghost or Amish?"

"Is that real canvas?"

"Are ya'll like the village people or something?"

Noticing some soldiers in the company street who didn't have their shelter halves up, and were sleeping out 'campaign style,' one spectator decided: "These are the poor reenactors; they can't afford tents."

Parents teaching their kids about history: "Look son, they're pretending to cook!"

Every once in awhile you do get a good question...but this one came not from a parent but from a 6th grader: "What were the socio-economic ramifications of the battle between the Kearsarge and the Alabama?"

Uhhh...

The last question in this next exchange has to take the prize for the most stupid question of all time. While in civilian camp at a reenactment in Atlanta, I overheard this conversation between a spectator and a reenactor:

"Is that fire real?"

"Why, yes, of course. We use the fire to cook our food during the weekend."

"How did you make the fire?"

The reenactor kindly explained the procedure for making a fire.

"Is the furniture you have here real?"

"Of course; my wife and I actually made most of the furniture you see here."

"What about the clothes, are they real?"

"Yes, the clothes too. We research the clothing of the time period and make our own clothes."

"How do you make them?"

Again, the reenactor explained.

"Is that baby real?"

"Yes, that's our daughter."

"Where'd you get her?"

"Well, like most stuff out here, my wife and I made her, too!"

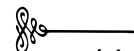
"How did you...?" (Need I go on?)

Each year I try to make a point about the most outrageous question or statement on that year's list. This year, the one that qualifies is also the one that's most sad, as it reflects the dismal state of the general public's understanding of history:

"What's the big deal about a war that was 140 years ago?"

This should be a lesson to us all; it's something we should all think about when talking to spectators at events. Don't assume that they know anything about the time period you are portraying, or about history in general, for that matter. Take your time, be patient, and invite ALL questions.

Dave Downing is a member and past president of the 7th Michigan Vol. Inf., Co. B. This article was originally published in the December 2002 issue of "Living History News," an online newsletter for reenactors put out by Heritage Books, Inc. that lasted only a year; Eilyn Painter was the editor.



January 2013 Civil War Sesquicentennial Report

Of the 72 Sesquicentennial events already listed on the state-wide reenactor calendar for 2013 on the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners' website (www.micw150.us), there are 6 events listed for January and 6 for February. Additional information on each of these events may be obtained by going to www.micw150.us/2012events.htm and clicking on the month in question. Events for 2013 can be added anytime by contacting pcinc@prodigy.net.

January 2013 Sesquicentennial Civil War Events

- 1 - 2013. Civil War Exhibit: *Michigan and the Civil War: the 150th Anniversary*** (Heritage Gallery, Michigan State University Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan). Contact: Val Roy Berryman at berryma2@msu.edu.
- 1 - October 2013. Civil War Exhibit: *The Brave and the Faithful: Michigan in the Civil War*** (Flint Cultural Center Campus, 1221 E. Kearsley Street, Flint, Michigan). Monday-Friday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Saturday & Sunday Noon to 5:00 PM. Website: <http://www.sloanlongway.org/SloanMuseum/ExhibitsAndGalleries/CivilWar.aspx>.
- 10. Presentation: *Women in the Civil War*** (Flint Cultural Center Campus, 1221 E. Kearsley Street, Flint, Michigan). 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Website: <http://www.sloanlongway.org/SloanMuseum/ExhibitsAndGalleries/CivilWar.aspx>.
- 16. Presentation: *Railroad Men of the Civil War*** (Lily Theater, Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, 13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers, Indiana). 7:00 PM. Contact Paul Watson at pwatson001@indy.rr.com.
- 21. Presentation: *Why Did He Wait So Long? President Lincoln discusses the Emancipation Proclamation*** (Clinton-Macomb Public Library, 100 Brown St, Clinton, Michigan) 6:30 PM. Website: <http://cmpl.org/WhatsHappening/default.asp>
Contact: Fred Priebe at alincolin@comcast.net.
- 24. Presentation: *Flint Area Soldiers in the Civil War*** (Flint Cultural Center Campus, 1221 E. Kearsley Street, Flint, Michigan). 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Contact and Reservations: 810-237-3409.

February 2013 Sesquicentennial Civil War Events

- 7. Presentation: *Michigan in the Civil War*** (Flint Cultural Center Campus, 1221 E. Kearsley Street, Flint, Michigan). 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Contact and Reservations: 810-237-3409.
- 10. Presentation: *Michigan and the Civil War - A great and Bloody Sacrifice.*** (Flint Cultural Center Campus, 1221 E. Kearsley Street, Flint, Michigan). 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Contact and Reservations: 810-237-3409.
- 12. Annual Abraham Lincoln Birthday Commemoration** (Lincoln Memorial, Washington, DC). Sponsored by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. Wreath laying. Website: <http://suvchw.org/mollus.htm>.
- 20. Presentation: *From Riding with Morgan's Raiders to General Counsel of the L&N Railroad -- The Adventures of a Southern Rebel from the Hoosier State*** (Lily Theater, Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, 13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers, Indiana). 7:30 PM (Doors open at 7:00 PM). Contact Paul Watson at pwatson001@indy.rr.com.
- 23. 17th Annual Mid-Winter Civil War Grand Ball and Swap Meet** (Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capital, Lansing, Michigan) Swap Meet 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Ball: 6:00 PM. Music provided by the Golden Griffon, Dance Prompt conducted by Karen Dunnam. Sponsored by the 8th Arkansas/22nd Michigan. Tickets cost \$15.00 per person. Contact: Diana Means at Dmeans13@hotmail.com or by Telephone at 810-599-5935.
- 26. FREE Sesquicentennial Civil War Seminar: *Abraham Lincoln*** (Sunfield United Brethren Church, 8436 West Grand Ledge Hwy (M-43) in Sunfield, Michigan). 7:00 PM. Website: <http://suvchw.org/mi/017/announcements.htm> Contact: Paul David Arnold at arnoldsuvchwmi@sbcglobal.net.

Keith G. Harrison, Chair
7th Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee

The Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners is composed of individuals, organizations, and communities throughout the state interested in commemorating and promoting the Civil War Sesquicentennial (2011 - 2015) and Michigan's role in that war. Comprising the Civil War History Partners are over 1,000 Civil War reenactors and living history historians; Civil War patriotic and hereditary organizations; Civil War scholars and educators, Civil War Roundtables; local and statewide libraries, historical societies, genealogical societies; local and statewide museums; and numerous local Michigan communities that sponsor special and annual historical programs related to the Civil War. On April 22, 2010, the Michigan Historical Commission unanimously approved the partnership between its Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee and the Civil War History Partners Steering Group for the purposes of carrying out, and as decreed in, Executive Order 2007-52, the commemoration of Michigan's role in the Civil War. This action formally recognized the role of the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners in assisting the state in the planning, promotion, and implementation of the Civil War Sesquicentennial activities in the state. In addition to assisting the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission/Committee during the Civil War Sesquicentennial, one of the primary goals of the Michigan Civil War History Partners is to help facilitate among all the History Partners communications, coordination, and promotion of their special events, programs, commemorations, etc. for the Sesquicentennial.

The 7th Michigan Sutler

The 7th has, over the last year, obtained a collection of Military gear that is for sale to club members. After obtaining some more gear recently we have taken inventory of what we have for sale. The list follows. Most of the equipment is used and sold as is. The gear and prices are for 7th Michigan members only. **New items are in red.**

CLOTHING, MEN'S

Trousers, US, 40/42...\$35
 Trousers, US, need repair, 34/34...\$20
Trousers, US, 32/34, need repair...\$15
 Trousers, US, 36/29 /w braces...\$40
 Trousers, US, 36/29, NEW ...\$45
 Trousers, US, Officer, sky blue, 34/36...\$20
 Trousers, CS, 32/34...\$35
 Shell jacket, CS, 38/40...\$40
 Shell Jacket, CS, 38/40...\$35
 Sack coat, US, 40R...\$35
 Sack coat, US, 46/48...\$35
 Sack coat, US, 42/44...\$30
 Sack coat, US, 50/52...\$20
Frock coat, size 40...\$55
Great coat, size 42 dark blue...\$75
 Great coat, size 44 sky blue...\$100
 Civilian frock coat, double breasted,
 gray pinstripe, size 42...\$45
 Civilian trousers, B/W check, 34/29...\$20
 Civilian dickey vest. Light gray...\$5
 Shirt, off white, XI...\$2
 Long drawers, 40/42...\$10
 Short drawers...\$1
 Shirt, red bib front, XI ...\$15
 Shirt, blue check, XI ...\$10
 Shirt, blue dot...\$15
 Shirt, Blue check, Lg...\$10
 Shirt, Red calico, Lg...\$10
 Shirt, pillow ticking...\$20
 Shirt, collarless, red pillow ticking...\$20
 Suspenders...\$3
 Suspenders...\$3
 Suspenders, elastic, (2)...\$1ea
 Wool sock, white...\$5
 Wool sock, rag...\$5
 White gloves, wool...\$1
 Socks, cotton (4)...\$2pr

HATS

Amish straw hat...\$10
 Slouch hat, black /w cord & bugle...\$25
 Slouch hat, black...\$15
 Slouch hat/w cord, black, lg...\$15
 Hat civilian, tan, lg...\$15
 Kepi, US, med...\$15
 Kepi, US, lg...\$15
 Forage cap, US, McDowell size 7 1/8...\$15
 Forage cap, US, 1858/ w bugle & letter...\$15
 Kepi, CS/w bugle...\$30
 Kepi, CS...\$25
 Kepi, CS...\$15

SHOES

Jefferson bootees, size 8...\$30
 Jefferson bootees, size 10...\$55

WEAPONS

Springfield 1861 rifle /w bayonet, scabbard,
 & sling, Armi Sport...\$625
 Springfield 1861 rifle /w case, tompon,
 bayonet, scabbard, & sling, Armi Sport...\$625
 Springfield 1863 rifle, Navy Arms...\$450
 Enfield 1853, rifle/w case, bayonet, scabbard,
 & sling, Armi Sport...\$550

ACCOUTERMENTS

Cartridge box/w/ plate & tins...\$25
 Cartridge box/w plates & tins...\$30
 Waist belt, US...\$10
 Cap box ...\$20
 Waist belt, US, (2)...\$10ea
 Waist belt, CS...\$10
 Waist belt, CS, canvas...\$10
 Holster, rt hand, (2)...\$5ea
 Officer's sword belt, CS, NC buckle...\$15
 Tompion, brass...\$1
 Cartridge box tins...\$2
 Haversack, white muslin, (4)...\$5ea
 Haversack, tarred...\$15
 Canteen, SS bulls eye, dark blue...\$20
 Canteen, tin, smooth side, dark blue...\$20
 Canteen, SS smooth side, sky blue...\$15
 CS buckle...\$3
 US buckle...\$3
 NCO sword...\$75

COOKING UTENSILS

Porcelain basin...\$0.50
 Tin cup, large...\$3
 Tin cup, small...\$1
 Tin cup, small...\$1
 Tin cup, large...\$2
 Tin plate ...\$7
 Copper cup, large...\$5
 Tablespoon, fiddle back (2)...\$0.50
 Teaspoon, fiddle back...\$0.50
 Fork...\$0.50
 Knife...\$0.50
 Knife, bone handle, (2)...\$2ea
 Fork, bone handle, 3 tines, (4)...\$2ea

HAVERSACK STUFFERS

Handkerchief...\$0.50 ea
 Poke sacks, various sizes each...\$0.50
 Poke sacks, white muslin, (5)...\$1ea
 Poke sack, pie carrier...\$2
 Poke sack, muslin...\$.050
 Poke sack, pillow ticking, small...\$1
 Soap, period w/ poke sack...\$1
 Pill case, tin...\$1
 Pill case, wood...\$1
 Scissors in muslin bag...\$1



Haversack Stuffers, cont....

Housewife...\$3
 Housewife, pillow ticking...\$3
 Sewing kit, in cap tin...\$3
 Mirror...\$1

MISCELLANEOUS

Canteen sling, muslin...\$1
 Folding table \$20
 Iron lamp pole...\$15
 Coleman cot/w air mattress...\$50
 Cleaning rods, wood w/ jag &
 shotgun brush
 adapter...\$7
 Oil bottles, tin...\$2
 Bottles (5)...\$1 ea
 Trigger lock...\$2
 Box of Paper Ladies...\$5
 Musket nipple wrench...\$3
 Musket nipple wrench...\$3
 Tompion...\$1
 Fly, 10 x 12 /w poles & stakes...\$65
 Shelter half (1)...\$17
 Lantern, wood...\$15
 Lantern, wood, need repair ...\$5
 Federal knapsack, double bag...\$60
 Camp shovel, folding...\$5
 7th MI ball caps, original logo, (6)...\$10ea
 EZ Clean, black powder cleaner...\$1
 Tent stakes (6)...\$2ea
 Gaiters...\$20
 Cartridges (150)...10 for \$2
 Cleaning kit, collapsible cleaning rod, jag,
 brush, adapter, Moose Milk, oil in
 tackle box...\$10