

Marching



Along



"Thank God for Michigan!"

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President's Report

Of Bayonets & Bonnets

By Mike Gillett



Just the other day, after dropping eldest daughter, Corrie, off at her summer job up at *Springhill Camps* in Evert, MI, I took advantage of being in the neighborhood and was going to stop by and see Randy and Joyce on the shores of lovely Sanford Lake, outside of Midland. I had some time to waste before Randy would be home from work, so I went into "town" to get gas and take in the sights/sites.



I get kidded about finding any and every reenacting event "the best ever". I plead guilty and say, too, "so sue me." Because, I had a wonderful, *wonderful* time. Again. The best ever. Now, granted, a large portion of that was because I got to see Randy and Joyce... but even before I got that far, I was having a great time. Maybe because I have a nose for such things... or because God likes to keep me busy and happy... but, I found a wonderful little historical museum there in Sanford.



Unfortunately it was closed, so all I could do was snoop around and take pictures. **The Sanford Centennial Museum** (<http://www.sanfordhist.org>) is a tiny, *tiny* little treasure. And all the more tiny compared to our recent *best time ever* at the humungous **Greenfield Village**. They have just nine historic buildings on the cramped grounds... including two schools, a general store, log cabin, township hall, church and train depot. And a building that houses, I gather from the website, all sorts of wonderful old things.



As I meandered about, delightfully (and expectantly) killing time, I went down a country road - "Irish Road", over an old bridge - "the Salt River Bridge", and found a little (and I do mean little) cemetery up on the ridge ("Cemetery! I win!"). Of *course*, I turned around and parked, got out and took pictures and nosed around a bit. There were only a few headstones... though I imagine there were more graves than that. The sunken ground suggested I was right. And it looked to be a *family* cemetery. The modern sign said, "Sullivan Cemetery" and "Sullivan" was on each headstone. It looked like someone had lovingly, in recent years, tidied up a bit... there was a wooden foot bridge built nicely crossing the wide ditch, stairs up the hillside and had put up a chain-link fence and such. And as I was leaving I saw on the *back* of the sign that it had been a Boy Scout project in the summer of 2001 (you got to love those Boy Scouts!).



I "googled" the name and found a tidbit or two on-line (www.mifamilyhistory.org is a *sweet* website). I quote it heavily here... There are seven known graves, according to a Sullivan descendant. **Patrick and wife Catherine O'Sullivan** and their five sons, **Edmond, Matthew, Patrick, John and Michael**. Patrick at some point took the "O" in his last name and used it as a middle initial and became the Sullivan Clan.

The story is told that three of the sons died in a three-year span and the family moved their house to a different location, hoping to flee their bad luck. Apparently there arose a problem, soon after time, with the State of Michigan and private cemeteries. So Patrick and Catherine deeded the land to the Pope with the stipulation that only *Catholics* be buried there.

And only those Catholics with the last name of *Sullivan*.

What a great story, isn't it?

With a little more internet sleuthing, I found some census records for the Sullivans. From which, I can deduce that father Patrick was born in Ireland ca. 1820... mother Catherine also was born there as well... perhaps abt. 1825 . They immigrated first to Canada where the boys were (all?) born, and then came to Michigan a few years after the Civil War. Patrick was alive at the time of the 1880 census, as was Catherine and the two remaining sons, Michael and John. Sons Edmond had died in 1875 at fourteen, Patrick in 1877 two days after his twenty-second birthday and Matthew in 1878 at nearly twenty. Michael would live to be seventy-eight or so, dying abt.1932. John would die in Saginaw at some point.

You might ask, not only why am *I* interested in the Sullivans... but why I would assume *you* all would be as well? They are not kin to me. Nor to any of you. Nor did any of them serve in the Civil War, let alone in the *21st*. Why gush on about a tiny - and closed - museum I'll likely never, ever be inside of?

Indeed, why have I written *any* of my overly long and overworked "president's letters" for the last year and a half?

Because I am a *nut*.

Because, like many of you, history (be it family, Civil War, American, state or local), makes my heart race just a little faster. And it inspires me to delve deeper into my *own* family history, my own little piece of Civil War as a Union chaplain. And because, like any pastor, I want to excite and inspire my congregation. Ah, you can take the pastor out from behind the pulpit, but, well... you know...

Just a few weeks ago, we "began" our reenacting season. Greenfield Village - for all its concrete and Model T's and A's, is always a grand time. I cannot sit still for long and find myself out and about. I am much afraid that I might just miss something (or someone) if I "just" sit in camp all the time. Oh, I'll admit, I do my fair share of sitting. And the public *needs* to find us there. But I have discovered the thrill of hanging out at the main gate and greeting the public as they enter. Standing in front a building or leaning up against a tree, always brings a promise fulfilled. I have discovered the thrill of watching a young boy grin from ear to ear as he poses next to me (I can easily, I am sure, be cropped out later) as he proudly holds my saber (a couple of years back, JEB, up at Pointe Aux Barques, posed a couple of small boys for their parent's camera... holding *his* musket and wearing *his* forage cap. I imagine those kids are *still* grinning!) I have discovered the thrill of meeting someone I haven't before met. Be it in the public or a different unit (or even in butternut or gray!). I have discovered the thrill of learning something about something I didn't know before.

It excites me to see others excited. The public certainly. Other reenactors most especially. There was one fellow... in our own unit... I won't name him, sitting in camp... but close to the walkway, if front of the dog tents, by himself. Happily polishing his musket and looking pretty sharp. When I inquired what he was up to, he said, "sitting here waiting to have my picture taken and to answer questions!"

It excites me to see us receive mail from home (thanks Ken for coordinating that)... and having that help bring what we do alive (not for the public, but for us!). As I walked around, I "helped" read a letter from home to a guy in another unit. I hadn't realized until I was done, that we had attracted a crowd.

As I walked around, a Marine (whom I had gotten to know because I went to an event that *wasn't* on the 21st's calendar), felt impressed upon his spirit to unburden his soul before battle and confess to me some recent sins. Again, it wasn't until later did I realize we had attracted a crowd.

As I walked around, I accompanied Ken as he delivered a letter to a young Reb in the Confederate Camp. A Reb officer confronted me and questioned what I was doing in *his* camp. I tried to explain that a *man of the cloth* was *neutral*... He argued not when the cloth was *BLUE!* Again, the public notices such exchanges.

A few years ago, at Fort Wayne, Bruce yelled to me - after my prayer before the battle and in front of the public - "If I die, Preacher, would you let my wife know?!" It is all small stuff. But adds so much. Like a pinch of a spice, you notice the flavor is enhanced. Something special is added. If it isn't there, something is lacking beyond just that...

Randy's son, Randall, was gracious enough to doff his prosthetic foot and grace Doctor Ramus' tent for a time as an authentic wounded soldier. Wow. The public was impressed and I *still* have goose-bumps. Randy was indeed bothered (thanks, Randy... I know that was an all too fresh and pained feeling for a father to see again). Certainly not all of us are, literally able to pull something like this off, but use your imagination. As I "ministered" on the battlefield, as was praying over a fallen and obviously wounded Ray, he writhed and moaned the whole stinking time. And I will tell you - it really, really creeped me out. Could the public see this from a distance? I don't know. But it is certainly far better than having the dead laying there on their sides, leaning on their elbows looking totally stupid... talking and laughing all the while. The public definitely can see *that*. It always impresses me when a fallen soldier reaches out for his pard as he passes by... Again, it is just a simple gesture... but a powerful one as well. *And one that would be missed.*

Remember, the public is used to multi-million dollar movies with special effects and CGI... we have to work especially hard to convince them of our authenticity. We can't afford to be cheesy and slipshod. Dare I say bored and lazy? If we've stopped learning and stretching... we risk - no we insure - that we become lethargic and atrophy!

Because I get around, I don't miss as much. Opportunity presents itself far more often. It keeps me excited and it keeps me sharp. I don't do this because of the office I hold - or the rank and position either. I do it because I am a nut. I am proud to be a small part of the 21st (and, on a quick side-bar, I've never been prouder of the 21st - military and civilian all - than I was at Greenfield Village this year. The fresh fish acted like veterans and the veterans acted as excited as if it was their first event!). I am proud as well to be a reenactor. I love being in my blue woolies and in Kroger or pumping gas on my way to an event. I love saying with unabashed pride that I am with the 21st when talking to someone from another unit. Because of being a chaplain, I get to hang around with the 21st as well with other units. I get to know people and they get to know me. And use me on the field and off.

Do all of you appreciate that? I don't know. I suppose it is like when I was a pastor... I didn't try to get everyone I met to come to *my* church. I worked for *God*. My *paycheck* just happened to have the church's name on it. I ministered to people where they were at, encouraged them to fellowship afresh at the church they were members at. If I felt they would be more comfortable with a liturgical church, I pointed them that direction. If something more contemporary, I encouraged them in that search. My job was to increase the Kingdom. Not pad the membership rolls at my church. Not everybody at my church appreciated my approach or applauded my efforts.

Not everyone wants to be military. Not everyone wants to be civilian. Not everyone wants to be infantry. Not everyone wants to be *Union*. But how blessed we are that our hobby has so many avenues and facets available. A friend from Art School, a terrific illustrator, is involved with *the Bohemian Brigade*... and portrays an artist for one of the Civil War era newspapers. I couldn't picture Ralph as a soldier. But I can easily see him quickly sketching on the battlefield or leisurely drawing in camp. If being military was his only choice, he'd likely not reenact at all. If the muskets don't make a big enough **BANG!** for someone, the Artillery would be a great fit. If someone knew their way around horses, there's the Cavalry. How boring if everyone dressed like the Governor or a Senator or their wives. Or dressed like a servant or debutante. But we have the *choice* to pick what gets *us* cranked weeks before an event and keeps us stoked for weeks after.

It doesn't take much to keep us sharp. Books and movies and music can inspire and teach. Reenacting has some great magazines too. Talking with each other - and others from other units - can challenge us. As I walk around I see camps and faces... watch scenarios... watch how others take hits on the field (or run from the field)... Some of it shames me... some encourage me... some convict me.

If you want to know military history of the Civil War, Erv, JEB, Bruce and Ray are an especially blessing to the unit, for example. What treasures they are.

Talk. Listen. You will be impressed. And your impression will pop!

As I walked through Greenfield Village, I couldn't help but notice those who were excited at the thought of yet another event, yet another season. Yeah sure, you can tell from the degree of fading in the uniform... the stiffness of the haversack and condition of the slouch hat and canteen, who might be new to the hobby and who might have been around for a few seasons. But we shouldn't be able to pick out the ones who done this for years by the look of lost love and luster for the hobby. Portraying a shell-shocked soldier might well be a great impression. But to look like you want to be *anywhere* else but at a reenactment is a crime. Sure *I'd* go to an event every weekend if that were possible. And I understand that even with just a two-day event, not everyone can make it both days.

I'm not talking about *frequency*. But *intensity*. I always want to *learn* something new. *Do* something new. Okay, and for a guy who *hates* to shop... I *love* to *buy* something new for my impression. Even if it is just a deck of cards - to be confiscated of course - or a McGuffey's Reader to help the boys with their lessons in camp. I always want to think, on Thursday, "Hey! Whoopee! Thus and such is *this* weekend." I cannot imagine ever thinking, "Darn. *Crap*. Thus and such is *this* weekend..."

I cannot wait until the next event. Heck. I cannot wait until I am older and I can get a Mexican-American War uniform and portray an old and patriotic veteran during the Civil War. Or grow even older and wear a tattered and tight War of 1812 uniform and portray a spunky and goofy geezer who's an embarrassment to his family. Heck, I've been working on that part of my impression for quite a while now.

I've said it before... think of the things you'd know if you were the age you are during the Civil War. What has gone into making you the you you are. Education and economy. What would you see too in the next forty or fifty or sixty years? Maybe it isn't anything shared with the public. But like a good (reen)actor, you ask yourself, "What is my motivation".

We all have a lot on our plates, in the real world. And wouldn't you know it, the week before an event, work is *especially* overwhelming, the kids *particularly* fussy, the spouse (...well, I'll stop there), and it is always difficult to get to an event. But, for me, the world is forgotten long before I get to the event.

I saw somewhere, something about reenacting losing its attraction, the proof of which is when you look for and find *excuses* to stay *at home*. As I say, when you aren't at an event, you are much missed and missed much. But that is true too if you come with the wrong attitude.

I hate to dance. With a *passion*. It is too much like gym class. The balls are the bane of my reenacting existence (along with cast iron). I don't want to look clumsy and goofy (yeah, yeah - I know - much too late for that), especially in front of my wife.

But it is *my wife* that wants me to take her to the ball. It makes her happy. And the Lord knows I am much bereft in that department. So off I go, clopping about like an aged and asthmatic bear with a hernia. And do you know - if I have prepared myself adequately and decide that I am *going* to have a good time, I *do*.

And Karen - precious Karen almost three years cancer-free now - is delighted.

And if I go miserably, Karen is miserable... and most the people I come in contact with, I contaminate. Enthusiasm is contagious. Unfortunately, apathy and antipathy are as well.

After Action Report: Oakwood and Romeo



May, the month that the reenacting season really begins to take off.

Our first event this month took place on Friday the 16th at Oakwood Middle School in Eastpointe.

The turn out of 21st Michigan members was not as good as in the past but, for those that did participate, they certainly gave their all to the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders that attend the school.

This year the organization was much better and the school kids were not quite as noisy as they had been in previous years. Most began their historical journey at the military camp that our soldiers had set up. Between 1st Sgt. Bednarz and 2nd Corporal Giorlando, the two covered just about every aspect of the Civil War soldier, from the battles to the clothing they wore to marching and drilling.

And, of course, the firing of the muskets was the biggest thrill for the youngsters.

Some of us in the civilian contingency also gave the kids an idea of what life was like on the home front by describing what folks in battle towns had to deal with after the armies moved on. Mrs. Sherman gave the girls a lesson in period clothing and etiquette, while Mrs. Jones gave a lesson on period music. Also, Mrs. Keeney (with her very willing son, Sterling) gave a lesson on butter churning and its importance, especially during the “starving time” of the year. This was, by the way, the Keeney’s first ever taste of reenacting. They both did great!

At one point we had a group of 6th graders come to the civilian area before visiting the military. Naturally, they heard (and jumped at) the musket firing by our six military members. That’s when I came up with an idea: I asked them if they would, during their turn to listen and watch the military guys up close, be willing to fall dead to the ground when the muskets were fired. Of course, they were very willing to do so and, upon the **Bang** of the musketry, about a third of them (20 kids or so) fell. It was great seeing the look on the 1st Sgt.’s (and the rest of the guys’) faces when they saw the kids on the ground!

I really enjoy doing school presentations. It gives us the opportunity to go forth and teach these young Americans in such a way that history books cannot. And, giving them the chance to ask questions is probably my favorite part of this type of presentation. I would love to see more of our membership show up at this type of event, given the opportunity.

The very next day, Saturday May 17, another event took place – the Romeo Victorian Festival up in Romeo, Michigan. For those of us that attended, this day of living history was a great precursor to Greenfield Village; it gave many in our military the opportunity to fire their muskets for the first time since last year, and for a few, for the first time ever.

We set up an encampment in the park just off Main Street where we were able to relax on a beautiful mostly sunny day and speak with festival-goers about life during the Civil War for both military and civilians. Ashley and Emily were asked (and readily accepted) the task to head the period children’s games, and Tom even had time to sing with his vocal group, Simply Dickens.

Of course, as with many festivals, the obligatory parade took place, with the musket firing being the highlight for many of the patrons watching from the sidelines, including the legendary William “Uncle Billy” Stidham. In fact, to honor Uncle Billy, our military members did a ‘present arms and eyes right’ in his honor as they marched past.

Thanks to all who came to both events. I realize there are no battles at these presentations but they are just as important to the public as a Hastings or a Jackson battle. So many of these folks have never seen history, as we present it, up close. So, my hat is off to all who participated.



Greenfield Village After Action Report

Ken Giorlando

It's hard to believe that another Memorial Day/ Remembrance Day/Decoration Day Weekend at Greenfield Village has come and gone.

The three days spent at this event always seems to fly by. And what a great weekend it was – “The Best Ever” (if I may quote our President). But, you know? I do believe this year's Civil War Remembrance truly was **the best ever**.

The weather was perfect – sunshine for all three days with daytime temps in the 70's and low 80's –

OK, yes, I found out first hand just how cold nighttime can be - - - brrrrr! - - - but, I/we survived! And seeing friends from the many different units after the long, cold winter is always a good thing.



We had a strong showing of our military once again this year – strong enough to form our own company each day. That in itself is impressive, and I know our drill team and board members were thrilled at the count.

As postmaster, I think I surprised many in our military by having the members of our civilian contingent write letters and even send a few packages to our men in blue. I know the good chaplain had to read a few to those who did not know how to read. One young soldier did not even know the letters of the alphabet and had to be told what the letter “I” was! As in the past, the tacticals were the usual overview of the complete Civil War scenario, and the crowd loved it, especially when the Yankees charged the Rebs right off the battlefield. I had heard poor Ray writhed in pain when he was shot during one of the battles. Ahhh...authenticity.

One of our drill team members told me that our fresh fish did an exceptionally good job and that he was very impressed with how well they did their first time out in battle.

On the homefront, it seemed to me that the 60 or so (!?!) civilian members of the 21st Michigan did a fine job all around. I know that our midwife was extremely busy explaining her occupation to the many patrons that came her way. And your friendly postmaster was kept busy either explaining the ways of mail delivery in the early 1860's or actually delivering mail to many of the units in the military camps. Word seemed to have gotten out about my postmaster impression because I even had many folks from other units stopping by either to drop off letters or to see if they might have anything a-waiting them.

And, did anyone else notice a brand-spanking new tent situated at our camp sight in the grove of trees? Oh - and did I mention that I became an honorary member of the funny hat club? One more – did anyone catch Private Jonathan Cary sleeping in a tree?

By the way, we had a bit of excitement on Monday morning when one of our pre-teen members found himself lodged between two branches of a tree and could not free his leg. It took numerous reenactors and a visitor to figure out how to get him loose. The crowd of 20 or so patrons watching all of this clapped once he was freed and a few even asked when we were going to do that scenario again. No lie. I told them in an hour.

Also, for the first time, the powers that be at Greenfield Village saw to it that there were sutlers – real honest to goodness sutlers – selling their wares. I agree they needed a military sutler – that's a suggestion for next year. But, it's a start.

Once again, just as last year, Tom pulled out his guitar and sang period-appropriate songs, such as “Wayfaring Stranger,” “Hard Times,” and “Just Before the Battle Mother” on Saturday evening.

And poor Robbie had blisters upon blisters – so much so that he could not participate in Monday’s battle. The young ladies in camp helped to nurse him.

The parade and Memorial Day service, including the laying of the wreaths, brought a tear to many participant’s eyes. This truly brings home to what this weekend really means, and I am proud to play a small part in honoring those who fought and still fight for our country.

There were quite a few patrons I spoke with who showed a strong interest in joining our unit, both military and civilian. It seems that every year this event at Greenfield Village truly piques the interest of many who may otherwise not be aware of our hobby. This is truly a great recruiting event.

This was my first year as the lone coordinator for this longest of events (three days!) and I apologize if I made any mistakes. If so, please let me know so I can correct them for next year. From what I have heard, Saturday and Sunday were record-breaking days for Village attendance.

That’s because of us, the reenactors.

That’s because, for the most part, we take the time to dress ourselves authentically and show life as it was for soldier and civilian of the 1860’s.

That’s because we care enough to put our all into this passion and do it right!



That is also why the powers-that-be at Greenfield Village continues to ask us back – this is an exclusive event, folks, not inclusive. We are invited – one cannot just show up to participate. And I want to thank each of you who put their all into perfecting your impression, attend the drills, dress accurately and authentically no matter what the cost, and speak to the patrons, sharing with them your knowledge of a soldier and/or civilian life so we can continue to be a part of this great event. In fact, here is what the GFV Coordinator wrote to me just two days after it ended:

Hello Ken, Despite all the stress and long days and nights put into the program, we, as a staff are delighted as to how the event turned out. We had excellent attendance from our visitors and positive feedback from nearly every unit. We're glad that you and the rest of the 21st Michigan enjoyed the event and all the activities. It was a pleasure to meet reenactors from different units and see the organization have such a successful event.

We look forward to seeing you and the rest of the 21st next year!

***Abby Boggs
Creative Programs Registration Leader***

What a great start to what promises to be a fantastic season! See you in Lexington.

Publisher's Note

Several of the normal columns like member spotlight are not in this issue of the newsletter. Due to the wonderful number of submissions from the membership I didn't have the room. They will be back next month. I would also like to mention that the newsletter will be published later in July as well, to give people a chance to submit their after action reports from the events early in July.

About the Military

What every 21st Michigan Volunteer Infantry unit member should know.

As members of the 21st Michigan, we all should have a basic understanding of the unit we portray, this includes our civilian membership. While there are many ways of obtaining this knowledge, I've found that individual research using several primary sources is the best method.

Therefore, I've assembled a list of questions that we should all be able to answer. If you don't already know the answer, you can find the answers on our website.

In a future issue, I will provide my responses to these questions or one of you may wish to respond before I do. Hopefully you have the time to find the answers on your own, learning other valuable information about the men of the 21st Michigan along the way.

So in no particular order of importance...

When and from where was the unit formed?

When was the unit mustered into Federal service?

At what camp was the unit trained at?

Where is this camp located and how is it commemorated today?

Who was the first Colonel of the regiment and tell a little of his history?

Who commander Company H - our company?

What are the names and ranks of several of the commanders of the 21st Michigan?

What was the first battle the 21st was engaged in?

What major battles and campaigns did the 21st participate in?

How large was the 21st when it departed Michigan?

What route did the unit take from Michigan?

What is the "Ladies of Ionia Flag?"

Did any 21st Michigan soldiers end up in Andersonville?

What was the primary firearm carried by the 21st and what other arms were issued to the companies?

In addition to knowing the answers to these questions, members should read the first person accounts of 21st Michigan veterans available on our website (<http://www.21stmichigan.org/history/firstper.htm>) and the official correspondence of the 21st Michigan (<http://www.21stmichigan.org/history/hist-official%20corr.htm>).

These accounts provide a very good insight into the unit during the war. A collection of period news articles is also available on our website. They make for very entertaining reading (<http://www.21stmichigan.org/history/histarticle.htm>).

Happy researching,
Bruce Robere

Manual of Arms

The following manual of arms should be memorized by all 21st Michigan Soldiers. You need not memorize the order presented here unless you are an NCO or officer.

Private soldiers should be able to execute all movements without hesitation. If you are rusty or don't know any of these movements, you may consult your 21st Michigan Drill Manual or the drill manuals posted on the 21st Michigan website. (<http://www.21stmichigan.org/history/manual/drillhome.htm>).

If you do not have a 21st Michigan Drill Manual and would like one, please let me know. I will need to order these from the secretary so please don't request one the day before an event.

Manual of Arms

For instruction purposes, the company will normally be formed and will open ranks to execute the manual of arms. This allows the instructor a better opportunity to observe and correct deficiencies noted in the rear rank. After the instructor feels the unit is proficient, the manual of arms, minus *Ground arms*, will be executed in closed ranks. Generally, we will not execute the last command, *Load in nine times*, for safety reasons.

Note: This manual of arms is taken from Casey's. Other period drill manuals may vary in not only the content of the manual of arms but also in the procedures for execution of each movement. Whenever the unit formed with another unit, it's important to recognize that they may have learned to execute the movements differently. They are not necessarily wrong just as we are not necessarily wrong. We should attempt to conform to the execution of the movements as conducted by the unit we are attached to. This should be done without arguing over which technique is more appropriate or correct. Save that conversation for the campfire after the drill or battle.

Your Servant,
Bruce Robere

<i>Present arms.</i>	<i>Shoulder arms.</i>
<i>Order arms.</i>	
<i>Ground arms.</i>	
<i>Raise arms.</i>	<i>Shoulder arms.</i>
<i>Support arms.</i>	<i>Shoulder arms.</i>
<i>Fix bayonet.</i>	<i>Shoulder arms.</i>
<i>Charge bayonet.</i>	<i>Shoulder arms.</i>
<i>Trail arms.</i>	<i>Shoulder arms.</i>
<i>Unfix bayonet.</i>	<i>Shoulder arms.</i>
<i>Secure arms.</i>	<i>Shoulder arms.</i>

237. (*Second motion.*) Draw the rammer as has been explained in *loading (see below)*, and let it glide to the bottom of the bore, replace the piece with the left hand opposite the right shoulder, and retake the position of *ordered arms*.

Draw-Rammer.

One time and three motions,

167. (*First motion.*) Half draw the rammer by extending the right arm; steady it in this position with the left thumb; grasp the rammer near the muzzle with the right hand, the little finger uppermost, the nails to the front, the thumb extended along the rammer.

168. (*Second motion.*) Clear the rammer from the pipes by again extending the arm; the rammer in the prolongation of the pipes.

169. (*Third motion.*) Turn the rammer, the little end of the rammer passing near the left shoulder; place the head of the rammer on the ball, the back of the hand to the front.

238. The instructor will then inspect in succession the piece of each recruit, in passing along the front of the rank. **Each, as the instructor reaches him, will raise smartly his piece with his right hand, seize it with the left between the lower band and guide sight, the lock to the front, the left hand at the height of the chin, the piece opposite to the left eye; the instructor will take it with the right hand at the handle, and, after inspecting it, will return it to the recruit, who will receive it back with the right hand, and replace it in the position of *ordered arms*.**

239. When the instructor shall have passed him, each recruit will retake the position prescribed at the command *inspection*, return the rammer, *unfix the bayonet*, and resume the position of *ordered arms*.

The second command I would like to present is the Fire by File command. It's very noticeable when we get this one wrong so please review it here and we will practice it during our drill sessions at living history and reenactment events.

TO FIRE BY FILE.

282. The fire by file will be executed by the two ranks, the files of which will fire successively, and without regulating on each other, except for the first fire. (For the first firing of each file, the rear rank man will command "Aim" and "Fire" for their front rank partner. This will enable both men to aim and fire at the same time.)

283. The instructor will command:

1. *Fire by file.* 2. *Squad.* 3. READY. 4. COMMENCE FIRING.

284. At the third command, the two ranks will take the position prescribed in the direct fire. (Everyone will come to the position of "Ready")

285. At the fourth command, the file on the right (The first file, see diagram above.) will aim and fire; the rear-rank man in aiming, will each carry the right foot about eight inches to the right, and towards the left heel of the man next on the right, inclining the upper part of the body forward.

286. The men of this file will load their pieces briskly and fire a second time; reload and fire again, and so on in continuation.

287. The second file will aim, at the **instant** the first brings down pieces to reload, and will conform in all respects to that which has just been prescribed for the first file.

288. After the first fire, the front and rear rank men will not be required to fire at the same time. (Again only for the first firing will the rear rank man need to command aim and fire for their front rank partner.)

289. Each man, after loading, will return to the position of *ready* and continue the fire.

I hope this helps.

Your obedient servant in the cause of freedom,
Bruce Robere



June During the Civil War

1861

- Jun 8** Tennessee voters approved secession, ratifying what the legislature had already decided.
- Jun 10** Battle of Bethel Church, Virginia (Confederate victory).
- Jun 11** Pro-Union delegates met in Wheeling, western Virginia. They formed a pro-Union government that led to the admission of West Virginia as a state in 1863.

1862

- Jun 1** Conclusion of the Battle of Seven Pines (Fair Oaks), Virginia.
- Jun 3-5** Confederates evacuated Ft Pillow, Tenn, the last stronghold before Memphis.
- Jun 6** Federals captured Memphis.
- Jun 12** JEB Stuart (the *other* JEB!) began his ride around McClellan's army on the James Peninsula.
- Jun 16** Battle of Secessionville, SC.
- Jun 19** Congress prohibited slavery in the territories.
- Jun 25-Jul 1** The Seven Days Battles - Oak Grove, Mechanicsville, Gaines' Mill, Savage's Station, White Oak Swamp, and Malvern Hill.

1863

The 21st Michigan was on picket duty and guarded forage trains in the vicinity of Nashville for most of June 1863. The Siege of Vicksburg continued for all of June 1863, with numerous small battles and skirmishes.

- Jun 3** Robert E. Lee started moving the Army of Northern Virginia west, out of Fredericksburg, Va. This is the first movement of what will become the Gettysburg Campaign.
- Jun 9** Battle of Brandy Station, Va, the largest cavalry battle in American history.
- Jun 14-15** 2nd Battle of Winchester, Va.
- Jun 16** Confederates began to cross the Potomac River into Maryland, Lee's second invasion of the North.
- Jun 20** The pro-Union northwestern counties of Virginia were admitted to the Union as West Virginia.
- Jun 24** The 21st Michigan Infantry advanced with the army to Tullahoma, Tennessee. They would see intermittent skirmishing for the rest of the month.

1863 cont.

- Jun 25 JEB Stuart's cavalry began their long ride around the Federal Army.
- Jun 26 The first shots were fired in Gettysburg, as a portion of Jubal Early's Confederates briefly skirmished with a handful of Federal militia. Early then advanced toward York, Pa.
- The *CSS Archer* captured a US revenue cutter in the harbor of Portland, Maine, then was herself captured. This was the northern-most action of the war in US territory.
- Jun 27 Maj Gen George G. Meade replaced Maj Gen Joseph Hooker as commander of the Army of the Potomac. Confederates occupied Chambersburg and York, Pa.
- Jun 29-30 Federal and Confederate forces converged in south-central Pennsylvania, with minor skirmishing.

1864

- Jun 1-10 The 21st Michigan continued to serve on engineer duty near Chattanooga. They built a bridge over the Tennessee River and built storehouses in Chattanooga.
- Jun 3 Charge at Cold Harbor. The Federals lost 7000 men in under an hour.
- Jun 8 The National Union Convention met in Baltimore, and nominated Abraham Lincoln for President, and Democrat Andrew Johnson for Vice-President.
- Jun 11 The 21st Michigan was ordered to Lookout Mountain, where they built a hospital and performed picket duty for the remainder of the summer.
- Jun 12 Army of the Potomac crossed the James River to advance on Richmond.
- Jun 15 The Siege of Petersburg began.
- Jun 19 The *USS Kearsarge* sank the Confederate raider *CSS Alabama* off Cherbourg, France.
- Jun 27 Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia

1865

- Jun 2 Confederate General Kirby Smith officially surrendered the remaining Confederate armies west of the Mississippi.
- Jun 8 The 21st Michigan Infantry was mustered out of federal service.
- Jun 13 The 21st Michigan Infantry returned to Detroit.
- Jun 22 The 21st Michigan Infantry was paid off and disbanded.
- Jun 22-28 The *CSS Shenandoah* captured 19 US whaling ships in the Bering Sea.
- Jun 30 The 8 "Lincoln Conspirators" were all found guilty by a military tribunal.

Surviving Gettysburg

By J.R. Schroeder

The 145th Gettysburg is shaping up to be one of the largest reenactments ever held. Gettysburg isn't like a local event, only bigger - there are conditions that are unique to this event. Most of the members of the 21st that will be attending the event have never been to a national event before. So, in the hope that you may be a little better prepared for what to expect, here are a few tips to make the experience more enjoyable...

* This event is going to be HUGE. Expect 20,000 participants, and several times that many spectators. This many people will require a large amount of physical space. Expect to go long distances anywhere you go, and plan on extra time to walk there. Expect a long walk between military and civilian camps, to the sutlers, to the battlefield, even to the porta-johns.

* To the military - you are strongly encouraged to sleep in military camp. If you need to sleep in civilian camp, plan on a LONG walk each way. Our schedule won't permit you to run back and forth, so plan to leave civilian camp early, bring lunch with you, and don't plan to go back until evening.

* Cooking can be a challenge due to the heat, the length of the event, and the necessity to carry gear a long way. Try to eat cold or pre-cooked food as much as possible.

•The weather will be HOT. Drink lots of water, take advantage of shade, drink lots of water, know your physical limits, and drink lots of water.

•Oh, did I mention that you should drink lots of water? For the boys in uniform, this is especially important, since we will be away from a ready water source for a good part of each day.

•It is VERY important that you keep your canteen filled, and have it with you at all times. If you leave camp for any reason, you MUST take your canteen. If you go to the sutlers, to visit another camp, I don't care if you're just going to the porta-john - take your canteen. And don't even THINK of showing up for drill or battle without it completely filled. If your canteen is not full, you may not fall into line. Period.

*Drink water even when you're not thirsty. By the time you feel dehydrated, you're already in trouble. If you haven't gone to the bathroom all day, or if your urine is dark yellow, it's a sign you're dehydrating. Avoid coffee, pop, and alcohol - these will actually dehydrate you more.

*The battles can last 2 hours, and a canteen may not last the whole time. When the "water angels" offer you a drink, take it, even if you still have water in your canteen.

*This event is very physically demanding. Plan on lots of walking/marching over hilly terrain, 2-hour battles, and a busy schedule. If you're not in shape, get in shape fast!

*When you go to battle, travel light. Take off your vest, open your coat, and don't wear your knapsack or bed roll. Remove everything from your haversack that is not necessary for the battle.

*Know your limitations. Know when to sit down and rest. Know when to say "I've had enough." If you feel dizzy, if the ground moves under you, if you can feel each heartbeat pounding in your head, if you feel tightness in your chest, SIT DOWN IN THE SHADE NOW.

- *Watch your pards and your family members. Since we're all too stubborn to admit that we've overdone it, we need to rely on each other. If you see someone looking bad, tell them. Check each other regularly. Watch for signs of heat sickness - headache, dizziness, red skin, difficulty breathing, nausea, disorientation, garbled speech. If someone's skin is dry and red, and they have stopped sweating, they need medical attention NOW - this is heat stroke, which can kill you.
- *Make sure you eat regularly. Include carbs for energy, and a small amount of salt. Potassium is important, too, for muscle and heart function. Profound muscle weakness is a sign of low potassium. Orange juice, milk, and bananas are high in potassium. Gatorade is a great source, too.
- *Bring lots of rounds. Plan on firing 75-100 rounds per day. When you go to battle, fill your cartridge box, and put extra rounds in your haversack.
- *Be patient. Plan on taking a long time to do anything. Registration, especially, can take up to several hours to get through the line. The earlier you register, the faster it will go.
- *Plan on a LONG line to leave camp and Gettysburg after the end of the event. It's not unusual to take several hours to get from camp to being truly on the road. You may want to consider staying an extra night and leaving Monday morning.
- *Watch the children. Make sure they drink plenty of water, and don't get overheated. The Schroeders will have a wash tub that can be used to cool off in. All are welcome to use it, even the adults.
- *Make sure your children know their names, your names, and our unit name. Think of making a "dog tag" for them with names and contact info on them, and make sure they wear it. Make sure you know where they are at all times. And if someone does get lost, make sure you rehearse with your children how to find help and how to get back to camp.
- *To sum up - be smart, plan ahead, but have a good time. As my old Scoutmaster used to say - "Be prepared, but don't be scared."

Don't let all this intimidate you. This can be one of the most memorable events you've ever attended, and you'll bring home a lifetime of memories. Just use your head.

If you have ANY questions at all, even at the event, feel free to ask Erv Rock or me!

Additional notes for Civilians going to Gettysburg

Wendi Schroeder

1. Read the previous article. A lot in it applies to civilians as well, especially the cautions about the water. In an event this size, even though there will be EMT's and ambulances on site, there are not going to be enough for everyone there. Take care of yourself and take care of those around you especially the children. They don't pay attention to drinking water or staying out of the sun if they are playing. (That goes for the big kids in wool as well.)
2. Since we are all traveling together, we need to work up a plan so that a few people are in civilian camp at all times. Not only does this allow for someone to be on hand if there is an injury to one of the children etc... It also provides for security for our equipment.

Fortunately, unethical people in the hobby are a very small percentage, but with an event of this size that percentage goes up just because you have more people at the event. Exchanging cell phones is also a good idea, we can have some in military camp and some in civilian camp, in case there is a medical or other type emergency.

This might present something of a problem during Pickett's charge, (which I HIGHLY recommend that the civilians go watch...even if you aren't into the battles so much this one is well worth seeing) so if you truly worry about an item growing legs, leave it at home.

3. Don't plan your menus around a lot of cooking. It's July in Pennsylvania and there are 15,000 people in the space not including spectators. (The last Gettysburg I went to the reports were, that over 100,000 spectators cycled through in three days.) That's a lot of body heat. Lots of fruit, raw vegetables, stuff you don't mind eating when it's hot. Macaroni salad is good too. Remember Thomas Jefferson had macaroni long before 1861.
4. Finally, don't let the size of this event overwhelm you. There is a lot to see and do, opportunities you don't get at a normal size event. Take the opportunities. You can learn a lot. Have Fun. Anyone with questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call (517-437-1094) or drop me an email.

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After Action Report Richards Middle School

By Mike Gillett

The Richards Middle School event was moved this year to Historic Fort Wayne (the first school program like this in some twenty or twenty-five years – but not the last certainly, next year another school will join Fraser for the day) from the school grounds in Fraser. And it certainly allowed for a more intense and extended experience for the kids...and the reenactors as well.

It was a terrific, if humid time. From the moment, earlier in the day on Saturday, when literally, busloads of kids unloaded at the entrance to the fort, it was a long and busy day. I stayed – as long as I could – till midnight...though the kids and parental chaperones would spend the night in the barracks and leave around eleven on Sunday morning.

The 21st greeted the “boys” in blue as they disembarked – as did some decidedly Confederate troops met those in gray...some feminine civilian reenactors met the ladies who desired the more dressy long dress. There were blue and gray uniforms and “kepis” and “muskets” handed out. It looked like many of the young had raided their mom's and big sister's closets for prom and bridesmaid dress. Farby, sure...but the kids were thrilled and thought they looked the part.

Rules were established and drilling began. The kids rotated several times throughout the day in smaller groups too...listening to General and Mrs. U.S. Grant, Senator Jacob Howard, the Regimental Band and the Blockade Runners. There was also a period games area, a cavalry exhibition and a night firing of two cannons, in addition to the battle – fought gallantly by the fresh-fish from the school...with the “real” reenactors interspersed. It was very impressive – the kids did a terrific job on the field and off. Artillery teams were chosen early on in the day and trained and fired (under close supervision, of course) the cannons. Those kid's faces still, I would assume, have wide grins firmly affixed.

Everyone was fed well...stew for lunch and there was roast hog for dinner. The day was ended with tours of the fort, a bonfire, and stories. The students, through their fund-raising efforts, presented some 2500.00 to the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition for further renovations and restorations...and another check to the Tuskegee Airman Museum as a thank you...the museum, there on the grounds, initially had a large event scheduled for this same weekend and quite graciously rescheduled so the students could have this event.

As school events go, this is the best one ever! Teacher Amy Cloyd is a Godsend to Civil War Historians and Reenactors. The impact on the next generation is truly unimaginable. One thing I heard multiple times by reenactors, was “imagine if we had a teacher like Amy when We were fourteen or fifteen!” Yes, imagine.

Certainly, you were much missed – and missed much – so plan on attending next year for sure!