



CHAMPLAIN VALLEY HISTORIC REENACTORS
2nd Vermont Volunteer Infantry, Co. A;
1st Vermont Cavalry, Co. K;
Vermont Brigade Field Dressing Station
and associated Green Mountain Citizens

MAY 2010

"It is well that war is so terrible, else we should grow too fond of it."
~General Robert E. Lee

Hello CVHR!

Well, after Mother Nature played her cruel little Aprils' Fool joke on us, hopefully we will be moving on to nicer weather! We also want to send out Get Well Wishes to Sheila Coogan for a very speedy recovery and just to let her know she is in our thoughts and prayers! If you are looking for something to do on Sunday, May 9th, head to the town green in Castleton! Company F, the Magnolia Rifles (which is part of CVHR) will be there doing a reenactment at 2 p.m. This is a free event. In case of rain, the demo will take place in the basement of the church!

Andrew White Grave Dedication June 19

~Whit Maxfield
476-4017

The 2nd Vermont has been asked to participate in a grave side dedication for Civil War soldier Andrew Whitehead at Hope Cemetery in Barre on Saturday, June 19 at 10:00. This is part of the Flags for Veterans program. Reenactors from the 2nd Vermont, 3rd Vermont and 5th New York have been asked to attend. This is a great opportunity to honor one of the "boys of '61."

Whitehead was born in Scotland, emigrated to the United States as a young man, did a hitch in the US Navy then joined the 5th NY (Duryea's Zouaves) at the start of the war. Eventually he rose to the rank of acting commander of Co H in the 5th NY. He mustered out then enlisted in the 9th US Veteran Volunteers where he served to the end of the war. After the war he became a stonecutter in Barre. He died in 1897.

Please contact Whit for any information needed and to let him know you plan on attending.

CVHRI 2nd VT Calendar 2010

May:

May 1-2: DRILL WEEKEND W/ 55TH VA IN HAGUE, NY

May 4: Monthly drill at Cpl. Hendee's in Starksboro

May 15-16: Mountwood Campaign Ride VA-WV (Cavalry)

May 16-17: TBA Clinton County Civil War Days, Peru, N.Y.

May 29: Lakeview Cemetery, Burlington, VT

May 30: Orwell Memorial Day Parade (campaign style sleepover at Brown Farm in Benson)

May 31: Middlebury (Infantry) Memorial Day parade

May 31: Vergennes (Cavalry) Memorial Day parade

June:

Jun 1: Monthly drill at Cpl. Hendee's

Jun 5-6: Mountwood Campaign Ride VA-WV (Cavalry)

Jun: Salisbury, NY Reenactment/Encampment

Jun 11-13: Rally for Norlands, Livermore Maine

Jun 11-13: Battle of Trevilian Station, Louisa, VA (Cavalry)

Jun 19 : Andrew Whitehead Grave Dedication

July:

July 2-5: **Annual Gettysburg Civil War Battle Reenactment (USV)**

July 4: ?? Parade in Bristol (Cavalry)

July 4: Parade in Richmond (Infantry)

July 6?: Monthly drill at Cpl. Hendee's?

July 16-17: Genesee Country Village & Museum - Mumford, NY

July 24-25: Massena, N.Y. Civil War reenactment

August:

Aug 3: Monthly drill at Cpl Hendee's

Aug 6-8: Upper Canada Village; Ontario, Canada - 2nd Miss. Magnolia Rifles

Aug ?: University Mall Event

Aug 13-14: Wilmington Parade and Living History, Wilmington, VT

September:

Sep 7: Monthly drill / meeting - Shelburne Firehouse

Sep 10-12 Or 17-19 Battle of Shelburne Crossroads (Our premier event!)**

Sep. 16-19: Tunbridge World's Fair

October:

Oct 1-3: Living History, Dover, Vt

Oct 5: Monthly drill at Cpl Hendee's in Starksboro

Oct 16-17: Cedar Creek 146th Anniversary (cavalry)

November:

Nov 6?: Boy Scout Veterans Day Parade - St. Albans, VT

Nov 20: Remembrance Day & Illumnata, Gettysburg, PA

December:

Dec - TBA Executive Board Planning Meeting

Dec - TBA CVHR Annual Business Meeting

The Medicine Chest

~ Dan Celik

Treatment

A severely wounded soldier needed to go through three stages of treatment before discharging could occur. The first stage of treatment was the field dressing or primary aid station, which was located dangerously close to the battles. It was placed just beyond musketry range preferably on a tree line to utilize the shade. A red flag or piece of cloth was tied to a branch which acted like a beacon for the stretcher bearers and walking wounded. Staffing the station was an assistant surgeon, hospital steward, orderlies, and stretcher men. First aid techniques were applied when the wounded arrived. The surgeon accessed the injury, stopped the bleeding, and administered an analgesic which usually consisted of alcohol or an opium-based medicine. The field dressing station was a precursor to the Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (M.A.S.H.) units that are formed and now used in current conflicts. The soldier that needed more detailed care was then loaded onto an awaiting ambulance wagon and transported behind the lines to the field hospital. The second stage of treatment was the field hospital. It was normally located two to three miles beyond the enemy's artillery range. The hospital was routinely a local house or barn, but occasionally the armies used large canvas tents. James P. Sullivan of the 6th Wisconsin Regiment, Company K, stated, ". . . In due time I was put together with sticking plaster and bandages and was served with some good strong coffee that the citizens brought in"

Staffing the hospital was two or more surgeons, depending on the extent of the battle. Making up the rest of the staff were two assistants, one hospital steward, and 30 to 40

men to handle the stretchers and nursing.

The final stage of medical care was the military general hospitals, which were located in the urban areas. Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Baltimore, Richmond, and Nashville all boasted large general hospitals. Hospitals like Chimborazo in Richmond, Virginia hosted 8,000 beds and Satterlee in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania hosted 3,500.

In those hospitals men received care and comfort much like they would have at home. That was largely due to the presence of women. (*Coming in the next issue!*)

Boots and Saddles!

~Robin Severy & Jean Audet

AAR (After the Action Report) ~1st VT Co K

On April 15, Robin Severy & Jean Audet along with our two trusty steeds head out to Scio, Ohio to join the 6th Ohio in their Spring Drill. The trip took close to 13 hours including the time out to change a blow out tire on the horse trailer. Other than that little blip, the trip was uneventful & we arrived at Dave Mungo's farm, the site of the Spring Drill, ready for action. Dave's farm is located in a very hilly section of Ohio and rivals Vermont for its rural beauty. Immediately we saddled our horses & did a tour of the farm & were able to reconnoiter the future battle sites.

The next day, Friday, brought the arrival of more cavalry & we had 35 horses on the picket line. The 151st NY came with about 80 infantry, and 40 artillery soldiers came from Ohio with 7 cannons. We all camped around Dave's house which had been built by a Civil War veteran in the 1890's. Most of the cavalry slept in the barn. We did lots of drilling on Friday, learning precise techniques for wheels, left into line, etc.

On Saturday, we worked on saber techniques & ran a course practicing shooting at balloons & capturing rings with our sabers. In afternoon, we had a judged tactical & then another tactical Saturday night. On Sunday morning, we had yet another tactical which required Robin & I to deliver a message to the General of the infantry.

Unfortunately the judges deemed the General dead before we arrived which left everyone in chaos as what to do. I heard one infantry man say, "This is not fair. They are not playing the way they told us." Ah, nothing is fair in war!

We left Ohio about 2 pm & stayed over in Allegany State Park, in New York & arrived

back in Vermont by 3 pm on Monday.

The Rebel Yell

~ Lt Steven Smith, 2nd Mississippi

Race, Religion, and the Bayonet

I can't remember when I first noticed the impact of civil war history in my childhood. That's ironic since I grew up in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and civil war history was certainly not hard to notice. The Vicksburg National Military Park is just a couple of miles down the road from my parent's house. There's Pemberton Mall, Confederate Avenue, Battlefield Hampton, and countless souvenir shops downtown that hawk everything from minnie balls to sketches of Grant and Pemberton meeting under a tree discussing the rebel defenders terms of surrender. However, in those days there were other things on a young boy's mind.

I remember frustrating my mom when I would ask, "Why was something this way or that." She would usually reply with something like, "Well, that's just the way it is." Unsatisfied, I would ask my dad, but he would usually say, "Go ask your mom." I was especially curious about the black folk. In my really younger days I had a black nanny who took care of me after school because both of my parents were away at work. Her name was Cornelius, and I remember her as being very kind. I also remember her scratch made apple pies. I gain a couple of pounds just thinking about them. She had two children of her own and at times we would play and do things together. It was the usual kids stuff like playing tag, throwing rocks at signs, fishing, building forts and tree houses. But Cornelius's boys never played in my neighborhood. It was always at times when I would go with my mom to visit Cornelius. No one really ever questioned it, and I didn't know any better. I just supposed that's just the way it was.

Unlike like some kids, I wasn't able to go to a summer camp. Instead, my parents would pack me off to visit my dad's mother in a little town called Sturgis in the northeastern part of Mississippi. Some of the best memories of my life where of those weeks at her house. Everyone called her Miss Hettie but you could have called her Miss Moses for the way she carried the bible everywhere and quoted scripture at every opportunity. Eventually, I would ask her questions about things often while picking peas and okra out in her large garden. "I remember her usual response would be something similar to, "It's not always easy to understand God's ways. You just have to trust in the lord and everything will turn out right." I recall coming across two outhouses behind the town library. One was labeled "Colored", the other "Whites Only." Hmm... I thought. I guess God does work in mysterious ways, and I took it for granted that it was just the way it was.

The earliest memory I have of how the Civil War played a part in my hometown's history came when the USS Cairo was discovered in the Yazoo River. It's raising from the river bed was turned into an event where hundreds of people came to this cotton field on the edge of the river and watched as huge cranes attempted to pull the wreck up and onto a barge. The attempt was butchered as the cables cut through the wreck damaging it severely, but at the time I didn't care. I was more interested in the vendor selling sno cones. My favorite was the grape which hit the spot at 90 degrees.

As I grew older the Vicksburg Park finally entered a place of significance in my mind, but not for the reason you may think. In those days the Park didn't close at night, and for young teenagers driving their first car and out on their first dates.....well.....I guess that's why they called it the Vicksburg Park. It was also a

place where a boy's manhood could be tested in other ways. Tales of a "Hook Man" were common who would chase kids if they awoke him from his slumber by rubbing the face of certain monuments in the Park. It was a spooky place and it was great adventure. That's just the way it was.

But Port Gibson, Grand Gulf, Raymond, Big Black River, and Champions Hill never became part of my world. Neither did Cedar Creek, Antietam, and Gettysburg. That didn't happen until many years later. By that time my life's adventure had taken me to the Northeast. Then, I started to connect to my roots, but I always considered that more of a default natural occurrence. I noticed that up here people spoke funny and winters were a lot colder, but more than anything, I missed the grits, cornbread and chicory flavored coffee....and Cornelius's apple pie. Then came Ken Burn's Civil War documentary series and everything changed. I started reading anything and everything to do with the Civil War. To say I was captivated and inspired is an understatement. I caught a National Geographic special on TV on the Cedar Creek reenactment, and I remember saying to myself, "Boy, I bet that's fun!" It wasn't until a few years later that I stumbled across a few guys dressed as Confederate soldiers at a National Guard muster at the Champlain Fairgrounds. They dressed me out and allowed me to run around during a small skirmish action in the afternoon. I've been hooked ever since.

It's a strange twist of fate I suppose with a healthy dose of irony that after all these years all the loose ends finally get connected. The southern heritage so often overlooked in younger years finally gets joined with a northern experience from which many new friendships have been made and a wonderful hobby enjoyed. Maybe it's a metaphor of a nation divided and then reunited. I'm lucky to continue to feel the passion of a hobby, but I also feel a responsibility to the history which is our shared history as Americans. And that is simply just the way it is!

Civil War Era: Ingredients for homemade Union Army liquor

bark juice

tar-water

turpentine

brown sugar

lamp oil

alcohol

Did you know???

African Americans made up less than 2% of the northern population in 1863-65 yet by the war's end made up 12% of the Union Army. Out of the total of 180,000 – four out of five freedman volunteered for service. With the highest proportional loss of any ethnic group (40,000 died of disease alone) they clearly in the words of Grant, "...spelled the difference in victory for the Union." Yet you have to travel over 4 miles down the road at Arlington National Cemetery to view their segregated burial places, along with the over 75 Medal of Honor recipients that lie sleeping there in the overgrown graves. It's quite moving to make the trip.

Can't remember them all? There were over 1,200 generals in the civil war, among the youngest one CSA at 22 and one George Armstrong Custer before his 24th. (Custer actually went from 1st Lt to General in less than two weeks!) 75 Confederate generals and 47 Union generals were killed or mortally wounded in action, meaning 18% of Confederate generals and 8% of Union generals died from battle wounds.

A fully loaded standard cartridge box with live ammo weighs over 7 ½ lbs a reenactors less than half that. With the extra 60 rounds Grant specified that troops should be carrying"on or about their person" meant the well-equipped Yankee was toting over 9 lbs of lead. The average destitute CSA soldier by May 1864 had largely thrown away the box and keep his cartridge reserve in the front pockets of his pants.

Don't know William Jones? He was US Grant's slave until 1854 when Grant deciding that farming was not his destiny gave him his "unconditional" freedom.

Contributed by ~ Stephan Gunlock