



# The Fugelman

The Newsletter of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association, Inc.

Volume 13 Number 2 - May 2003

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fu gel man - A well-drilled soldier placed in front of a military company as a model or guide for others.

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## A CARD

*April 10, 1863*

*Camp, 2d Wis. Vol's, Belle Plain, Va.,*

I hereby acknowledge the receipt, through Capt. Hill, of various and divers bottles and cans of fruit pickles and other luxuries from Mrs. F. H. Ellsworth, Mrs. A. P.

Bennett and

Mrs. McGregor; also, Messrs. S. S. Branman, J. B. Wells, A. M. Craig and A. P. Bennett, for which I tender my most sincere thanks.

It is highly gratifying to know that while we are periling our lives for the protection of that government, we are kindly remembered by friends at home.

The only return I can at present make for such favors is to

continue in the faithful discharge of my duties in aiding to crush this rebellion and restoring peace to our once prosperous and happy country.

*S. H. Morrison*

*Co. "G" 2d Wis. Vol's.*



# Pass in Review

By Gary Klas

Once again it's time to get ready for another reenactment season. I would like to remind everyone that now is the time to go over your equipment and make the required repairs.

Fix the buttons on your shirts or uniform that may be loose or missing. And what about your tent, does it need sewing or waterproofing?

Did you lose any tent stakes last year that need to be replaced?

How about your leathers and brogans, is a trip to the shoe repair store in order for sewing or blackening? Any repairs that you can make now will save you down time in the field.

Now for the most important piece of your reenacting gear, what shape is your musket in? Did you experience misfires last year? When did you clean it last? Was the side plate taken off then cleaned and oiled?

If you have any concerns about your musket take it to a gunsmith and get it fixed. Do you need any gunpowder or primer caps?

There is nothing worse than getting to a reenactment and not being able to participate because your musket does not function.

Last of all do you have all your haversack stuffers?

You know what I mean, the things that you are always looking for and can not find in your haversack. Things like matches, jack knife, sewing kit, insect spray, and a small emergency kit.

In closing, I wish all of our members and their families a safe and enjoyable 2003 reenactment season.

And, I will see all of you soon on the tented fields.

*Your obedient servant,  
Lt. Col. Gary Klas*

## CALENDAR 2003

May 17-18, 2003  
**Drill Black Hat Battalion Event**  
Co. K  
Tier 2, Event, Ill

May 21-23  
**Roaring Camp - School Days**  
Co. H, Cal

May 24-26  
**Roaring Camp - Battles and stuff**  
Co. H, Cal

May 23-24, 2003  
**Madison School Day and Living History**  
American Family Insurance  
Co. K  
Tier 2  
Madison, Wis

May 24, 2003  
**Memorial Day Parade**  
Co. C  
Tier 2  
Sharpsburg, Maryland

May 26, 2003  
**Memorial Service**  
Co. K  
Forest Hill Cemetery, Madison, Wisconsin

May 27, 2003  
**Memorial Day Parade**  
Battery B  
Waukesha, Wisconsin

May 23, 2003  
**Green Bay Living History Day**  
Co. E  
Green Bay, Wisconsin

May 31-June 1, 2003  
**Wood VA Hospital Living History Fund Raiser**  
Civil War Hospital Help save it!  
Co. A  
Tier 2  
Milwaukee, Wis.

June 14, 2003  
**Appleton Flag Day Parade**  
Co. E  
Appleton, Wis

June 14-15, 2003  
**Gettysburg Brigade Drill**  
Culver Military Academy, Ind.

June 21 - 22, 2003  
**Escanaba, MI Reenactment**  
Civil War Days  
Co. E  
Escanaba, MI

June 14-15  
**Casa de Fruta, Hollister**  
Co. H, Cal.

June 28-29  
**Pollock Pines Auxiliary Event,**  
El Dorado County, Co. H, Cal.

July 4, 5, 6, 2003  
**140th Anniversary Reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg Reenactment**  
Regimental Event  
Gettysburg, PA  
July 5, 6, & 7 - 139th Anniversary Reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg.  
See <http://www.gettysburgreenactment.com> for details.

July 19- 20, 2002  
**Hastings, MI Reenactment**  
Tier 1  
Black Hat Event

\* July 19-20  
**Duncan's Mills, Co. H, Cal.**

Aug ?  
**Ft. Tejon Invitational, Co. H, Cal.**

Aug. 1-3, 2002  
**Boscobel Reenactment**  
Co. K  
Boscobel, Wis

Aug. 8 - 10, 2002  
**Green Bay Rail Road Museum Reenactment**  
Co. E and Battery B  
Tier 1  
Green Bay, Wis

Aug. 8 - 10, 2002  
**Living History Renfrew Park**  
Co. C  
Tier 1  
Waynesboro, Pennsylvania

Aug. 16-17, 2003  
**Irish Fest**  
Regimental  
Tier 3

Aug 30-9/1  
**Moorpark or Huntington Beach**  
Co. H, Cal.

Sept. 6, 2003  
**Dozer Day Reenactment**  
Battery B  
Dousman, WI

Sept. 7, 2003  
**Iron Man**  
Battery B  
Madison, WI

Sept. 13-14  
Nevada City, Co. H, Cal.  
Sept. 26 - 28, 2003

**Wade House**  
Reenactment, Regimental, Tier 1 Greenbush, Wi  
Note: register through Doug Pettit.

Sept. 28-29  
Fresno NCWA event Black Hat Extravaganza!  
40+ in line, Co. H, Cal.

Oct. 10 - 12, 2002  
Norskedalen Reenactment  
Co. B, Tier 1  
Coon Valley, Wis

Oct. 19-20  
Marysville, Co. H, Cal.

Nov 15, 2003  
Annual Remembrance Day Parade  
Regimental, Gettysburg, PA

\* Nov. 15  
Black Hat/Victorian Invitational Ball,  
Sonora, Cal., Co. H, Cal.

December 6, 2003  
Annual Antietam Battlefield Illumination  
"Remember those that fell" Co. C,  
Antietam Battlefield, MD  
(Antietam Battlefield Annual Illumination. This is not a reenacting event, but is recommended. 23,000 plus luminaries are put on the battlefield ground--one for every casualty at Antietam on 17 September 1862. You tour the battlefield in your car. The event is usually scheduled for the first Saturday in December, but the weather may dictate a change of schedule. For information from last year's event, go to: <http://www.nps.gov/anti/Luminary.htm>)

"While copying a letter from the (Wilmington) Delaware Republican, of November 24, 1861, I noticed a reference to the grave of a soldier of the Second Wisconsin. Thought you might like to see it. The letter was very long, so I copied only from the mention of the graves to the end. The writer, a member of the 4th Delaware, signs with the pseudonym Leonidas. I have not yet identified him. Jerre Garrett, Hockessin, Delaware"

In the afternoon I took a stroll with Q. M. Jefferis, and Color Sergeant Armstrong, to the late residence of the rebel Gen. Lee. The General, it will be remembered, ran away from his splendid mansion and about 8,000 acres of land, to make a fool of himself in a bad speculation. The house is situated on the banks of the Potomac, opposite the city of Washington, in a romantic and lovely spot, surrounded by neat, well built quarters for his slaves, having owned about 1,000. The mansion bears some resemblance to the one formerly owned by Dr. Thomson in Wilmington, except that the pillars in front are more massive. Beautiful scenery once adorned the passage ways throughout the house, but war, with its ravaging finger, has nearly obliterated them. Below the house, on the brow of a hill, I found a tomb walled in with brick, on the slab of which I deciphered "Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Mary Rudolph." The interior of the tomb has fallen to decay and the bricks have tumbled in. I mused on the scene in silence and passed on. About 200 yards from the rear of the mansion, I discovered a miniature grave yard, where I counted eleven graves of departed Union

soldiers, who died in defense of their country. I took a few notes, and thinking it would be interesting to your readers, I give the names and regiments of those whom their beloved comrades marked for future recognition. Some were so obliterated by the weather that I could not decipher them:

Marshall, Co. E, 1st Wisconsin; "Blessed are they who die in the Lord, for they shall live forever." "Stephen McHugh, of Madison, Wisconsin, private, 2nd Reg. Wis. Vols., died Feb. 14, 1862." "Charlie S., he gave his life for his country." "T. D. Cousins, Sedwick, Me., private, Co. K, 16th Me. Vols, died Sept. 4, 1862. A few yards from the remains of these deceased patriots, I observed two marble monuments, enclosed by a board fence, and learned from their inscriptions that beneath them reposed, "George Washington Parks Custis, died Oct. 10, 1857, and Mary L. Custis. I could not but mark the difference between the former and the latter; and thought that while the descendants of the great "Father of His Country," were entombed beneath marble columns, those noble youths who were sacrifice upon the altar of that country, have reared monuments of glory that will remain perpetual to the end of time. I could not but meditate as I gazed upon those humble tombs, and my mind reverted to their homes. Had they a kind mother? Did a sister mourn their demise far from home? Did a father weep for a lost son, he hope of his declining years? Alas! did a loving wife and her tender babes realize that the paternal head of the family would never return? Heart-sick I turned away, fearful I might imagine the affirmative. But such is the use to which a portion of the Rebel Government's grounds have been applied. The mansion itself is in the occupancy of Gen. Heintzelman and staff, as head-quarters, with a body of infantry and cavalry. The horses and wagons for our regiment have arrived. They embrace 29 horses, six baggage wagons, two ambulances, and a horse for Q. M. Sergeant Jefferis. The wagons are constantly employed transporting commissary stores, forage, hay, &c. The horses could not be compared in any particular to beautiful Arab steeds, as most of them are but libel on the name of that noble animal, having been broken down in cavalry service. However, we have an order for their exchange for better stock. "Ned's" mule, it has been proposed, we should keep, on account of his proclivities to stand on his forefeet and perform gyrations innumerable in the air with his hind ones; he is a valuable acquisition about the Q. M.'s department, when we wish to disperse a crowd. The 15th Maine Regiment, adjoining to us, struck their tents on Friday, and departed for Alexandria. A portion of our regiment has been detailed for duty at the aqueduct [sic] bridge over the Potomac, and will start to-morrow morning, to report at the bridge at 8 o'clock. I fear my letter will weary you by its length, so I will reserve the balance for a future issue.

Yours, Leonidas

## Battle Flag Exhibits -

April - June —

6th Wisconsin Infantry

July - September —

2nd Wisconsin Infantry

July - September —

7th Wisconsin Infantry

October - December —

26th Wisconsin Infantry

Coming to the Wisconsin Veteran's  
Museum, located on the Square in  
Madison, Wisconsin

## Co H at Gettysburg

Looks like we have a minimum of 16 this summer, including our sisters from So. Cal. Looking forward to seeing all of you again.

Steve Bechtold, Co. H

Nov. 1, 1863

Editor *State Journal*:—Rumors have reached me from time to time that the remains of those men of the "Iron Brigade" and of the 56th Pennsylvania and 76th New York volunteers who fell at Gainesville in the bloody fight of August 28th 1862, were carelessly buried.

Upon examination, a few days since while passing the battlefield on our way to Thoroughfare Gap, it was found to be true.

I have today had details from all the regiments who fought there sent to the ground under the charge of Capt. Richardson of the 7th Wisconsin. They have carefully interred the remains. Many of them of them could be recognized by the positions where they lay or by the articles found about them.

As the friends of those who fell there will doubtless hear of the loose manner of the first burial, I write this to assure them that all has been done that could be to give them decent burial.

Videos from the 2001 National  
Railroad Museum Event in Green Bay  
are now available....

If you are interested in acquiring a video please contact David Dresang at 920/338-5048 or e-mail "[tdresang@milwpc.com](mailto:tdresang@milwpc.com)".

There is a suggested donation of \$5 per video and shipping would be \$2. If you are not familiar with our videos from past events, they run about 2 hours long and are not a profit making venture for Company E but a special opportunity for the reenactors.

Thanks, Theresa

# Second Regiment on Expedition

## "Army of the Potomac"

Near Pratt's Landing, Virginia

March 14, 1863

La Crosse Weekly Democrat

March 17, 1863

The 175,000 men constituting the Army of the Potomac, are not idle; from nearly every regiment the available quota can be daily seen repairing and building corduroy roads; forming new roads, building docks along the Potomac-while some are scouring the neck of land between the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers, east of us, for the purpose of gathering such mules and horses as are fit for the service from rebel sympathizers. Verily, there are numerous other duties we could enumerate, but defer for fear of tiring your patience- it is enough to know that we are as busy as the bee when May flowers adorn Mother Earth.

The Second Wisconsin Regiment has been particularly employed; besides furnishing men for the above duties, as well as for picket, details from the Second have been made for secret expeditions.

Recently 1,000 of the best fighting men were called from the Army of the Potomac. The Second and Sixth Wisconsin and Seventh Indiana regiments were chosen. The Second and Sixth repaired in "light marching order", to Pratt's Landing, and embarked on board the beautiful steamer Alice Price, and steamed down the Potomac at night - as Erebus - we anchored near Matthias' Point, and all lay down to rest.

Early dawn found us again plying our way down stream. At 10 o'clock A.M., we were hailed by one of Uncle Sam's gunboat's - run alongside, made things right and pursued our journey. The gunboat was a sentinel guarding the Potomac at that point, watching smugglers and escaping deserters.

The width of the Potomac from Matthias Point to the Maryland shore is twelve miles. We run along sufficiently close to see the earthworks that were built and used by the enemy, last spring, at Matthias Point, causing considerable anxiety for the safety of our boats traversing the river by that point.

On either shore dwellings and plantations could be seen, presenting every appearance of comfort and happiness - such did we look upon it at least - the scenery quite picturesque!

At 11 A.M., we reached the mouth of the Potomac and endeavored to land just opposite Point Lookout, but it was impossible, there being no dock - half a mile from shore was as near as we could get. The Chesapeake Bay lay in front of us, and naught could be seen save a vast sheet of water. Off to our left a black object can be descried, and as we move nearer, it proves to be a merchant ship.

We "about faced" and run up Cone river - a stream renowned for furnishing the finest oysters in the world, landed and threw out skirmishers- awaited two hours for the result. Presently a civilian was brought to the boat on horseback, from whom was obtained beneficial information. His horse was taken charge of, and he was requested to go aboard and point out the channel of Cone river up as far as Heathsville landing. Ere we shoved from shore, however a great many contrabands flocked to the beach and told us all they knew. (In our opinion, "intelligent contrabands" are played out.) We moved cautiously upstream, under the guidance of our stranger friend, (passing nice little plantations on either side-the river is about the width of the La Crosse,) until we reached the dock-a distance of six or eight miles from the mouth. Here all disembarked, except one company who were left to protect the boat from surprise, and marched as rapidly as possible towards Heathsville, the county seat of Northumberland county, where we arrived about 2 o'clock p.m., and found everything

prepared for the comfort of the Southern conscript officers, who has only left four or five hours prior to our appearance in Heathsville.

Col. Fairchild, who was in command of the expedition, questioned the citizens, searched the post office, and captured a mail bag full of letters, etc. etc., while some of the soldiers were cooking their dinner in the streets, others dining at the hotel, the remainder partaking of oysters at a restaurant, who told us that he had gathered and prepared the same in consequence of an anticipated meeting of the citizens in the vicinity to confer with the conscript officers, but that they had left and he was glad of it, for he liked our money best.

After the hour's duration, we retraced our steps and arrived at the boat, a distance of

Four or five miles, at dusk, and camped along the shore. We had not long been there, however, when orders were given to repair to neighboring plantations and gather up the large quantities of bacon that we were informed were stowed away for the use of the Southern army. Soon could be seen at least a dozen "go-carts", drawn by oxen, driven by contrabands, wending their way to and from the boat, hauling us the finest bacon extant, principally hams. Thus 15,000 hams were secured. In the meantime, a squad were out gathering up mules and horses, and come in with fifteen or twenty.

Not being able to take the live stock on board, it was necessary that other arrangements be made; therefore, a detail of thirty men from the Second was resorted to, that some might return to camp by land, taking the captured mules and horses with them.

At daylight the detail started out into the interior, and such a squad never was seen before-some on horses with bridles and saddles, and some without either managing their steeds with ropes-other on mules, with straps for bridles, and believe me, in two or three cases bridles were manufactured out of an old wail torn in strips. Thus

were mounted thirty infantry of the Second Wisconsin Regiment, wending their way through the enemy's country, eighty five miles outside of our picket lines.

On route we passed through the counties of Northumberland and Westmoreland and King George, picking up horses, mules, saddles and bridles.

We "gobbled" up a Lieutenant of the Ninth Mississippi regiment, O.H. Cox, who was on a "leave of absence" visiting, and a gentleman purporting to be a contractor for the Southern Confederacy. He had on his person a large amount of Southern money, and a "pass" signed by Gen. Lee.

We were three days and nights on the way, arriving at camp during a very heavy snow storm, with eighteen horses and thirty-one mules.

Our arrival was indeed gratifying to Gen. Meredith and Col. Fairchild, both of whom had become somewhat alarmed about us.

The steamer returned with the Sixth and a portion of the Second, the day we left them. The Seventh Indiana did not land, but returned the same day.

The whole expedition pecuniarily benefited the government to the amount of \$12,000 besides dispersing rebel conscript Officers, and learning a portion of the country, which is magnificent....

HAWKEYE

By the way, HAWKEYE is Charles C. Bushee of the 2nd wisc. (That's who Charles Wood portrays.)

## La Crosse Editor ordered out of Army lines

*La Crosse Weekly Democrat,*  
April 7, 1863

**Headquarters Dist. Eastern Ark.  
Helena, Ark., March 24, 1863.  
GENERAL ORDER No. 19**

M. M Pomeroy, a citizen of Wisconsin, having been found within the lines of the army, in this district, as correspondent of the "La Crosse Democrat", a newspaper published at La Crosse, Wis., and there being ample evidence in the possession of the General commanding that he has been communicating to and publishing in said paper, over his signature as such correspondent, articles containing disloyal sentiments, and filled with remarks calculated to discourage and demoralize the army.

And that he believes the war for the restoration of the Union, to be 'a murderous crusade for cotton and niggers,' and the loyal soldiers of the armies operating in the Mississippi valley to be a band of thieves and robbers, said M.M.

Pomeroy is hereby ordered to leave the lines of this army immediately, and not return under penalty of arrest as a spy.

By order of

Brig. Gen. Prentiss.

*Thanks for the above articles from  
John Dudkiewicz Co. B*

*Here is another story of the adventure in Virginia in early 1863*

February 1863  
WAR CORRESPONDENCE -  
2D REGIMENT  
WE HAVE RECEIVED A  
LETTER FROM OUR OLD  
CORRESPONDENT IN CO. E.  
DATED BELL PLAIN, VA., FEB 17.  
AS IT IS QUITE LONG WE ARE  
OBLIGED TO OMIT THE FIRST  
PART AFTER SPEAKING OF THE  
WEATHER, HIS OFFICERS, &C., HE  
PROCEEDS:

**The "Old Second still lives."**

We now turn out something over two muskets.

The reputation of the "*Iron Brigade*" is still above par in army circles.

We were unfortunate enough to be rear guard in the late fruitless effort at another demonstration against Fredericksburg, which is one of the most unenviable positions in which a

regiment can be placed although it is considered a post of honor.

The storm (more severe than any which I ever experienced) commenced the first day.

The roads were never worse and men and teams suffered fearfully. The first night, from being compelled to wait, the movements of artillery, teams, &c., which stuck in the mud in advance, it was 12 o'clock at night when we camped, the rain falling in torrents, accompanied by a severe Nor'easter.

The storm continued three days which put an effectual check upon any further movement at that time.

The troops were ordered to return and take up their old positions.

It was some time, however, before all the artillery, wagon, &c., could be got back, so bad were the roads, which for miles were completely blocked up with army wagons, artillery, dead mules and horses.

T'was a sad failure to say the least, and venture the assertion that government lost as much by it in men, (through desertion, sickness, &c.) and material, and that esprit-d'-corps, so essential to success, as when we failed to take impregnable batteries at the point of the bayonet in Burnside's first attempt on Fredericksburg.

Since then we have been doing picket and fatigue duty - such as building "corduroy roads, bridges, docks, &c.", so that the men are on duty almost every day.

Some changes have taken place in the command of the 2d.. Lieut. Col. Allen is now Col. of the 5th, and Maj. Stevens in now Lieut. Col. with Capt Mansfield, -"G" Co., Portage City Light Guard, as Major.

We now have a Brigade band composed mostly of the old members of the 2d's Band that was discharged last summer.

They met with a most hearty welcome from the boys who had never forgiven our venerable Uncle Samuel for depriving us of the only source of pleasure ever afforded them.

The present band is a good one, and under the direction of their gentlemanly leader, Mr. Fischal, discourses

most excellent music.

The last "grand movement" of the 2d, was a foraging expedition down the Potomac, in company with the 6th Wis, under command of Col. Fairchild, the plan of the expedition was this: the 2d and 6th Wis, and the 7th Ind. (not in our brigade) were to take transports at the landing not more than half a mile from the camp, sail down the river and canal in Northumberland Co., where, at Heathsville, the county seat, we were to meet and act in conjunction with a force of cavalry, who were to have taken the overland route.

Thursday, the 12th, the infantry force embarked - the 2d and 6th on the Alice Price, and the 7th Ind. on the Edwin Lewis.

It was 4 o'clock P.M. before we left the dock and steamed down the river. Our picket line (the left of which rests on the river about three miles from point of embarkation,) was passed, and from that point to the mouth of the Potomac, the country is in the possession of the rebels. By 10 o'clock the second day, having run up what is known as Cove Creek, we effected a landing at a point about 3 miles from where it empties into the Potomac. I will state here that the boat with the 7th Ind. on board failed to land and returned without accomplishing anything and our force was consequently much weakened. "E" Co. was first ordered to land and instantly pushed out into the country picking up horses, mules, forage and suspicious looking citizens and not returning to the boat until late in the evening, having captured 26 mules, six horses, four thousand lbs. bacon, ham shoulders, &c., not a bad day's work for a company of 11 privates, 6 non-commissioned officers and one 2d Lieut.

The remainder of the force in the meantime having marched to Heathsville and although behind time some three or four hours the cavalry we were to have met there had not arrived; neither did they arrive at all having been badly frightened soon after leaving our picket lines by indications of the presence of a large force of the enemy's cavalry in the vicinity.

Their loss was not felt for although our cavalry in this division is probably as good as any in the field, it isn't what it should be; in fact, our cavalry is the most ineffective arm of the service.

At Heathsville we broke up a conscript meeting and made several valuable captures. At night "E" Co. was on picket. Having more horses and mules than we could take back on the boat early in the

morning of the second day, volunteers to the number of thirty were called for to take the extra stock to camp by land - a most hazardous undertaking, as you will acknowledge when you consider that the distance to be traced was near ninety miles and that through an enemy's country, "E" Co. being on picket was only represented by one man, Geo. E. Smith, who, having been on duty away from the co., was on hand and made one of the party. At day break the cavalcade started under the command of Lieut. Daily, "B" Co., LaCrosse L. G.

It was a daring feat and the well wishes of those who remained for the safe arrival of each and all were given with many a sad foreboding.

What the Col. thought of it may be implied from this: When asked why he didn't send more than one commissioned officer with the troop he remarked, "I thought one was enough to be captured!"

"Those who remained embarked in the afternoon of the second day with all the horses, mules, bacon, &c., the boat could carry and the next day, at night, found us at our quarters.

The second day after our arrival the land force reached camp having, by judicious management, eluded the enemy's cavalry at every point and bringing with them an additional number of horses and mules besides making some very important captures of rebel officers.

Many interesting incidents are related by the boys - hair breadth escapes, romantic adventures, first experiences at bareback mule-riding &c., but for fear of trespassing too much on your space will mention but one.

The first day out from Heathsville, through information received from a conscript who had for some time been making it his headquarters in the woods thus eluding the authorities whose business it was to enforce the conscript act, - they became apprised of their near proximity to the house of a Col. Claybrook - noted secessionist and a man prominent for his exertions in enforcing that act and consequently no special favorite with its victims. Determined upon his capture; Lieut Daily disposed his men so as to surround the home before approaching close enough to alarm the inmates and then gradually closing in; thus effectually preventing an escape.

On arriving at the door and before the Lieut. could dismount, the party were suddenly confronted by a specimen of female chivalry as represented in the indignant persons of the old lady and two

remarkably fine looking daughters - the most beautiful of which demanded, with revolver leveled, what was wanted.

The Lieut., respectfully touching his cap, (a tribute to the youth and beauty of the fair secessionist) replied that it was the Col. they were in quest of, begging them not to alarm themselves assuring them that Union soldiers never war upon women. With pistol still pointed she then asked - "What's your name, sir?"

The Lieut., who had dismounted in the meantime, replied: "My name is Lt. Daily, 2d Wis. Vol. "O!" then exclaimed the young lady with a good deal less asperity "so you are Wisconsin men.

I thought you were eastern troops", at the same time dropping the pistol by her side and assuming her own proper character of the refined and accomplished lady.

She then informed the Lieut. that the Col. was not in and gave them permission to search the house which they did but no Col. was to be found.

I mention this as it is only one of the many tributes paid to the superiority of western troops.

The expedition was most successful as the result will show. We captured ninety-eight horses and mules, several thousand pounds of bacon, ham, &c., broke up a gang of smugglers, burned a rebel schooner and returned without the loss of a man.

This letter is much longer than was at first intended but I will strive to avoid a repetition of the offence.

Members of "E" co with the Reg. are all well and on duty.

The health of the Reg. is good

Yours W. S. R.

EXPEDITION TO NORTHERN NECK A LARGE QUANTITY OF SUPPLIES CAPTURED, &C. HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

MARCH 30, 1863

The expedition of Col. Fairchild of the Second Wisconsin to the Northern very successful trip.

The command consisting of two hundred and forty on from the Second Wisconsin regiment and twenty cavalry left Belle Plain in steamers on the night of the 25th and arrived at the landing on lower Machodoc. In Westmoreland County, the next morning at daylight, Lieut. Col. Kriss immediately stated across the Neck with the cavalry for the purpose of breaking up the ferries and capturing rebel cavalry reported to be in this section while the infantry debarked and marched up to

Newton's plantation where a large quantity of grain was stored. A few shots were fired at the infantry by the bushwackers; but the scouts sent out after the guerrillas returned unsuccessful.

At night Colonel Fairchild surrounded his force with a breastwork of cordwood in anticipation of an attack; but no hostile demonstrations were made; the next day the work of loading the barges was resumed. Three hundred pounds of bacon, one thousand pounds of pork, two hundred and thirty bushels of wheat, three thousand bushels of corn, fifteen bushels of white beans and a large quantity of oats were secured. The teams of the farmers were impressed; and the slaves, jubilant at the prospect of freedom, worked faithfully. A number of the latter returned with the expedition. The cavalry seized a number of valuable horses and mules, captured several prisoners and broke up the ferries at Union wharf and Rappahannock. Colonel Fairchild also burned a schooner engaged in smuggling contraband goods into Virginia, bringing away her anchors, chains, cables &c.,

A number of citizens begged permission to come on board the steamers and come up to Belle Plaine. They report terrible suffering on the part of those suspected of loyal sentiments and state that there are now on the Neck, hundreds on the poorer classes who would rejoice at an opportunity to escape from the rebel army.

Some of the leading inhabitants have oppressed the populations most outrageously and are employed as tools by the rebel authorities to enforce the conscription and spy upon the movements of our army.

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Letter from the 7th Wisconsin  
HEADQUARTERS, 7th Wis. Vols,  
Camp in the field, May 12th, '63

**FRIEND COVER:** Again we are called upon to record and name the loss of some of the officers and men of the old 7th; our thinned ranks and officers posts vacant tell a sorrowful story of the past. On the night of the 28th of April at 12 o'clock when all was quiet in camp we received notice that the old "Iron Brigade" had been assigned the duty of repairing at once to the river crossing in boats and storming the enemies works on the opposite bank; the order was given and every man was up and ready for the work; we marched in all haste to the point designated for the crossing, but for some reason unknown to me the boats had not arrived ready to launch until the dawn of day; and when the Pioneers attempted to launch the boats, it then being daylight and the enemy by their pickets or otherwise having been apprised of our intentions, were ready to

receive us; the Pioneers, however, commenced the work which drew a murderous fire from the enemies earth works which caused the Pioneers to fall back for a time, about 8 o'clock our brigade made a rush for the river with a full determination to cross and charge their works at all hazards; we rushed to the river banks launched the boats and crossed the river, received a shower of bullets from the enemy and a storm of enthusiasm went up from the "Iron Brigade." We succeeded in carrying the work with the loss of eight officers and men, killed and wounded in the 7th Regt.; among the killed were Capt. Alexander Gordon, Co. K, Lieut. W. O. Topping, Co. C, (of Grant Co.) Private Wm. Ross, Co. F, (of Grant Co.; among the wounded were Lieut. Ryan, Co. A, Private Benjamin Hayden, co. F, (slight) and others whose names I cannot now call to mind.

Capt Gordon was the last of the original Captains of the Regt.; a fine officer, a true patriot and a genial companion. May the God of the widow and the fatherless strengthen his family in this the hour of their deep affliction and sorrow.

Lieut. Wm. O. Topping was a promising young officer who was always at his post for duty, ever ready to lay down his life (as he did) for his country; he had thus won the love of all the officers and men of the Regt., who now deeply mourn his loss. Major Finnicum received a slight wound from a shell but is still on duty.

On the 2d day of May we received intelligence that our right was sorely pressed and orders to recross the river and march at once to U.S. Ford, above Fredericksburg to reinforce the right. We did so, Col. W. W. Robinson covering the crossing with 4 companies of the 7th without the loss of a man; we crossed the river again and marched into the line of battle; while the battle was raging with unparalleled fury it so happened that the enemy did not undertake to break that portion of the line barricaded by the "black hats" (as they call us) of the "Iron Brigade," it seeming to be their determination to brake our center and we being a little to the right of the center were in constant expectancy of and ready for an attack on our front; we remained in this situation for two days and nights while the terrific strife was going on immediately in front of the left of our brigade the rebels made some 15 charges on our center and were repulsed each time with terrible loss; our lines never gave way but once and that was when the 11th Corps broke, (an almost irreparable calamity.) I see that some of the papers say it was all the fault of the "d—d cowardly Dutchmen;" now, I think it very unkind, ungenerous and ungentlemanly to indulge in such personalities,

for the same number of any nation of people on earth might have done likewise under like circumstances; and I must say that my own observation has proven to my satisfaction that this army cannot produce more devoted and daring soldiers than the Germans, who I have seen tried in the fiery furnace for the past 21 months of my service.

You have heard a great deal said about the "Irish Brigade;" and no doubt have thought the story exaggerated; but Cover, I tell you the true story of their fighting qualities cannot be told; a man must see it in action and then he will know what kind of a picture to made of them. I think I never saw such devils to fight a bloody fight as the Irish of the famous "Irish Brigade." In the battle above Fredericksburg the rebels in charge killed every horse in one of their batteries; whereupon a hand-to-hand conflict was had for the guns and gunners all having been killed, thereby rendering the guns of no other service than as a boon to fight for; the rebel's in overwhelming numbers rather got the better of the Irish at first and took possession of the guns some of them having first been spiked; but in the attempt to take them off the field the hatless, coatless, gun less and bloody Irishmen resolved to rally and retake the guns if in on other way by a regular smash-nose knock down and in they went - and out they came with every gun, each gun taking 40 man team to haul it through the mud; they saved the guns but with heavy loss; those that got out with the guns were the bloodiest, muddiest, nakedest, most savage looking men I ever witnessed; the Irish Brigade against the world in a hand to hand conflict!

I am told the enemy lost 18,000 and our loss will not exceed 10,000; Hooker has done just what he started out to do and can do again at his pleasure; we are quietly reclining on the north side of the Rappahannock, ready for any order.

*John B. Callis*

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*April 17, 2003 - Warner has revealed a July 15th street date for the recent Civil War epic 'Gods & Generals', however it's not yet known what version of the film the DVD will include or what the special features will be. The theatrical cut of 'Gods & Generals' was well over three hours in length, but there was also a six hour "mini-series" version of the movie put together for an eventual release on DVD. The announcement of the street date doesn't reveal what cut of the film will hit stores on July 15th, although it's very likely that it'll just be the theatrical edition with the six-hour version following later in the year*

May 31-June 1, 2003

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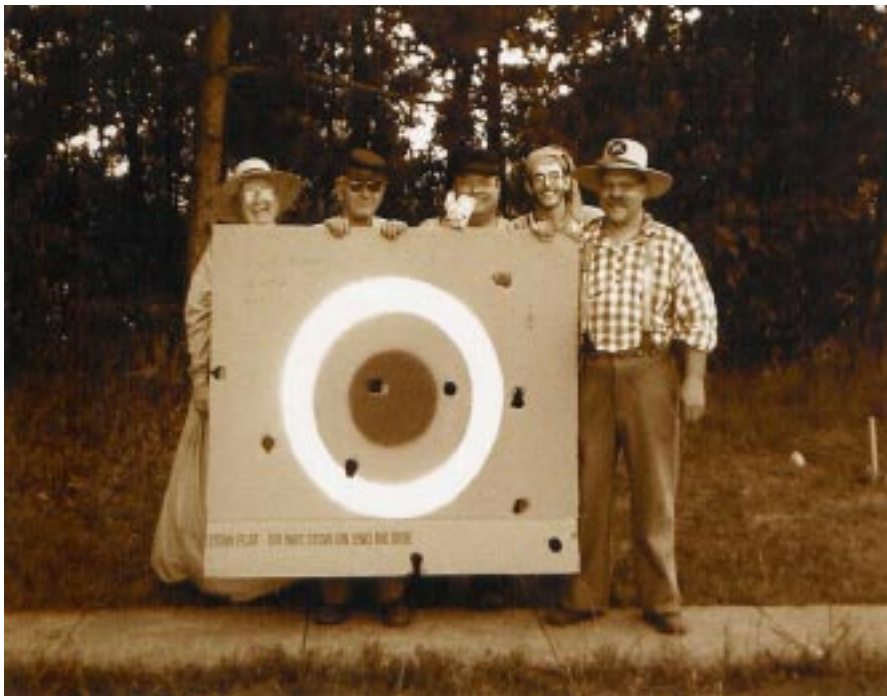


Photo to the Left.

Here is a picture from Gary Van Kauwenbergh from Boscobel's skirmish last year, in which the 2nd Wis. took 1st place over the 8th Wis. cannon crew.

This target was shot with Gary's 3/4 scale iron 6 pounder.

The crew serving it is standing behind the target.

They include his wife Darlene, Roy Nelson, Gary, Matt Barboour and yours truly.

Terry Brown

## “Fox Lake’s Civil War News and Letters”.

*A book review by Gary Van Kauwenbergh*

Fox Lake, Wisconsin's is center-pieced in this local effort to encapsulate their town's rich Civil War history. The book is a compilation of newspaper articles and letters from Fox Lake and the surrounding area who sponsored companies in the 2nd, 8th and 29th Wisconsin, along with many members in Company G of the 1st US Sharpshooters and other units. The book is 553 pages long, including the index.. It is an oversized, soft cover book, typed double spaced on 8 1/2 x 11 paper, using a 12 pitch serif font. I recommend readers begin this book about a third of the way in, and come back to the first part of the book later. The first third of this book is composed almost entirely of newspaper "patriotic puff pieces" that have very little information other than mentioning names. The last two thirds of the book are filled with letters from the front, that I found far more interesting. Readers beware; while most pieces are in arranged chronological order, many of them that are out of sequence.

Here are pages I found particularly interesting: Pg. 58. Letter from CPT Ely of the 2nd WI, describing the battle of Antietam Pg. 210 Coverage of the 2nd leaving Camp Randall Pg. 123 2nd WI's CPT Colwell's last words, after South Mountain Pg. 109 2nd WI's invalids stave off supply train attack at Catlett's Station, VA Pg. 276 Iron Bde bivouacs together at Ft Tillinghast. Two anecdotes about 2nd WI pickets foraging Pg. 325 list of casualties from the battle of South Mountain Pg. 338 great quote from 21st WI soldier "... Until they make a distinction between men and mules no man should ever enlist, or go into service unless he has a constitution equal to a mule and likes to be treated like a Dog." Pg. 340 Mention of brigade composed completely of Wisconsin regiments (14th, 16th, 17th and 18th Regts.) in the Western theater. Pg. 365 Account of the Iron Brigade flag being presented to the unit, including the text of COL Robinson's acceptance speech. Pg. 392 Departure of the 2nd for home. Pgs. 401-428 Extensive coverage of the return of the 2nd Wis. Descriptions of the parade and dinner. Complete texts of Gov. Lewis's address, GEN Fairchild's remarks, keynote speaker Supreme Court Judge Cole's speech, letter from BG Cutler and Resolution by Mr. Rublee. Pgs. 429-447 Accounts of the 2nd Wis at first Bull Run Pg. 451 Two letters about Brawner's Farm Pg. 470

GEN McClellan's letter describing the battles of South Mountain and Antietam I believe I paid over \$40 for this book. With that hefty price tag, and the content of the book, I can't recommend everyone purchase a copy. I do think Company A reenactors and those of us with an appetite for original source material will find this book worth the price. All communities do not enjoy a Civil War heritage as rich as Fox Lake, but I hope Fox Lake's example will inspire other towns to compile and publish similar accounts of their local history.

### YOUR WEBSITE

<http://www.secondwi.com>

### **The Fugelman**

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## *Gentlemen,*

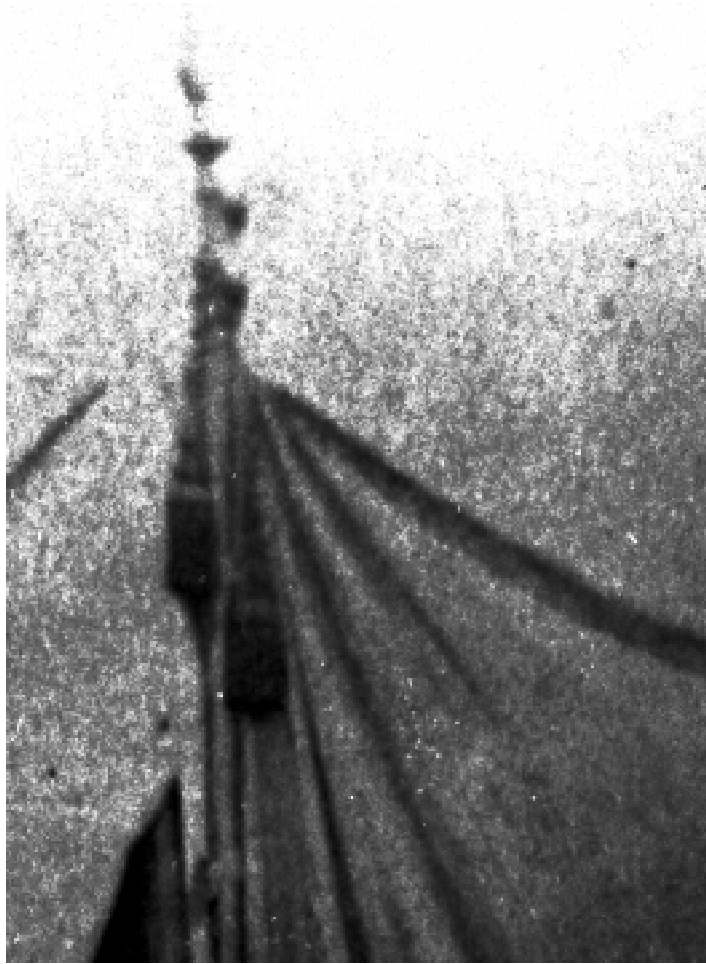
The short version of this report is the association's flag project is running a little behind schedule, and we're having problems replicating the regimental flag pole finial. I'm pleased to report that the committee is on top of the situation though, and the project is running as smoothly as can be expected.

After the flag committee made its report at the annual meeting, we discovered the regimental flag pole finial was different from the one on the National pole. It is not only different, but half of it is missing and we have not been able to find anyone who can redo its thin-walled brass construction. We only know of one surviving photograph of the finial before it was broke, and that image is not clear enough to definitively say what the finial looked like.

The original regimental finial not a standard issue finial; none of the early unit's had standardized flags or finials. The finial is a multi-piece, hollow, thin-walled brass construction. We have detailed photographs and drawings of the surviving piece, and have obtained a high-resolution digital image of the only known photograph from the Wisconsin Historical Society archives. The Historical Society will not let me publish the photo without charge, but if you look in Nolan's book, "The Iron Brigade", at the photo of the 2nd Wisconsin Officers sitting outside their tents opposite Fredericksburg, you'll see what the committee is coping with.

The digital image does not clearly show what the missing part of the regimental finial looks like. We're still trying to find an image of the flag among some of the post-War reunion photos, but as of this writing none have been located.

We're asking for help from Association Members: If anyone knows of another photograph of the finial on the first-issue regimental flag, or knows an artisan who is capable of copying the piece in the original thin-walled brass construction, please contact Gary Van Kauwenbergh at [Garyvank@aol.com](mailto:Garyvank@aol.com),



Above Photo 2:

An enhanced excerpt from the only surviving photo of the complete finial. Taken from the picture of the 2nd Wisconsin officers sitting outside their tents across from Fredericksburg, near Falmouth.

If we have not found a clear image, or an artisan who can replicate the original thin-walled brass by the time the flags arrive we intend to have just the surviving piece replicated on a lathe out of a piece of solid brass.

I e-mailed a request to Steven Hill for a brief progress report April 15, but as of this writing, I have not had a response. When I checked with him last January, he reported that he was behind schedule, and still working on someone else's flags, but that ours were next in line.

Fred Cook has delivered the iron finial for the National flag back to Rod Dary, who is reducing the size of the ball below the spearpoint to match the original. Scott Frank traveled to LaCrosse and now has the plans for the authentic flag cases. They are made from vulcanized ground cloths, and are machine sewn. Scott will have both the authentic, and the modern, PCV tube cases made after we re-

ceive the flags, know their exact measurements. Scott Sonntag found us the correct sized brass tubing to reinforce the end of the wooden National flag-pole. This project may take a little longer than I originally anticipated, but I am confident that once complete, the new flags will be the best possible reproductions available. I encourage anyone with concerns or questions to either contact me, or any of the committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

By Yr. Obt. Srvt.

*Gary Van Kauwenbergh*

**UPDATE:** I just received an e-mail from Steve Hill of the DuPage Flag Company saying he expects he'll be painting 2d Wisconsin flags in June, and hopes to deliver them first or second week July. That's later than his original projection, but I thought that date was optimistic considering the number of flags he had in the works. Quality takes time.

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53186