



THE FUGELMAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE SECOND WISCONSIN
VOLUNTEER
INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

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PASS IN REVIEW

A month has passed since the 145th Gettysburg event and I am still reading positive reports from the commanders and company newsletters. I am overwhelmed by the amount of cooperation from each and everyone who took part in the event. We were led by very good general officers i.e. Dave Shakelford and Craig De Crane. The company officers in our battalion gave special attention to their men. Above all, the rank and file performed beyond expectations and made this particular officer very proud.

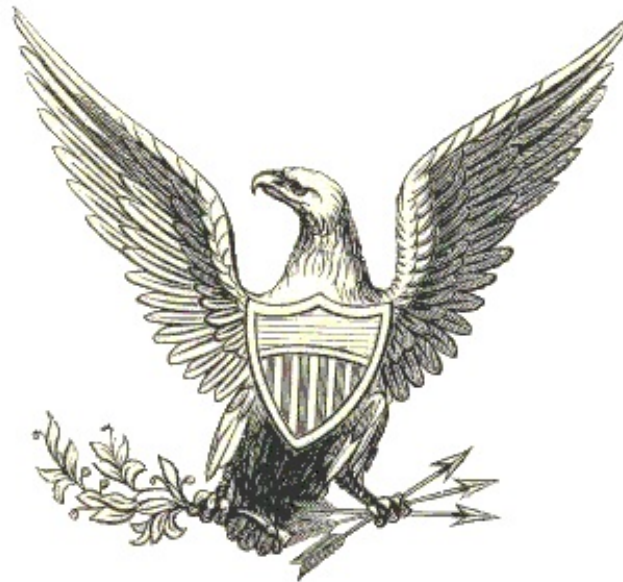
During one of our many drills while we were deploying the battalion from a column companies, we missed the marker and were misaligned by a company width. Our brigade commander came to me visibly upset and asked why I had improperly placed the battalion on the marker. I apologized and we continued our drill. What happened next surprised me. While in march, Lt. Col. Bolden approached the General De Crane and said that it was his fault we missed the marker. Shortly afterward I heard Captain Blakeley of first company mentioned to DeCrane that it was his fault and that he should have brought his company up to the marker correctly. All the time I'm thinking these guys are taking the heat for my mistake. I should have been at the head of the battalion directing the lead company. Then it dawns on me that this is the kind of esprit de corps that men experience while performing their duty. All working together for the good of the battalion and its men.

As the event fades to memory I will speak of our Black Hat Battalion at Gettysburg and I will stand a little taller and

smile a little more. Although we didn't have the three years of hardships, I like to think we would have made the original men of the Iron Brigade proud. The early battalion drill this year, the noticeable effort to minimize modern intrusions and the over-all camaraderie while in camp and on the field produced a memorable event of the 145th Gettysburg.

'Although I love you all, I cannot embrace you all' to all of you who made my command at Gettysburg a treasured experience, "Thank you!" I look forward to seeing you in the field and around the campfire as we continue our campaigns.

Your Obedient Servant,
Lt. Col. P. D. Seielstad



Friday, May 30, 2008

Footnote on **FAIRCHILD**

A little more on my Civil War hero: it occurred to me that I hadn't mentioned, in the caption of my Fairchild photo in my last post, the obvious fact of his "empty sleeve". It's a very good story and I wanted to share it [we tell it to the Museum groups if we have time].

It was in the Battle at Gettysburg that Fairchild led his men into battle, where - unrelenting in spite of great losses, they carried on, earning them the name "Iron Brigade". Also on that occasion, Fairchild took a shot in his left arm which shattered the elbow. The medics were called, and he reputedly ordered bandaging that would permit him to continue on with his men. [I cannot imagine the scene without a catch in my throat: the smoke, the pain and shock of the wound, the shouts of the men around him...it's the "overactive imagination of the reenactor".]

But his men, whose devotion is referred to in countless letters, insisted that he be borne off.. the field where he would have access to laudanum to dull the pain of the inevitable amputation.

He was in fact taken to the home of a minister in the town of Gettysburg who was a friend of the Fairchild family. There, his vest was cut from shoulder to arm opening and removed, and [we are told] sufficient laudanum was administered and the arm was removed above the shattered elbow. We can only assume some form of cauterization [I'm not taking my above-mentioned imagination there, if you don't mind] and the wound was bound up. There is, in the file, a letter

written the next day; the text is thick and black and huge, indicating either the effects of the laudanum . . . or the pain as it had worn off, I will assume the former, thank you.

We also read that the morning following his surgery he insisted on stepping out on the front porch of the home to salute his men as they marched past. His dismembered arm had been discreetly buried in the back garden of the minister's home.

Lucius returned to Madison and his family. He was feted as the returning hero he was and, as previously mentioned, in time served three terms as the 10th Governor of the State of Wisconsin. Later in his life, he went into Government Service and served as diplomatic Ambassador in Spain and England; I haven't here at hand details and years, but I do have John Singer Sargent's rendering of Diplomat Lucius Fairchild , which painting shows what a splendid figure of man he was in his later years.

But there is [as you might suspect, what with me telling it and all] more than that to the story. Upon his return to Madison he and Frank took up residence in the old Fairchild home, and the reputation for the very best hospitality continued. But he was troubled...badly troubled...by "ghost pains". He concluded that they must be caused because surely, when the arm was buried in Gettysburg, it must have been put in a box causing it to be in a cramped position. So he wrote to his family friend and asked that the arm be disinterred and sent to him at home, here in Madison.

The story goes, the arm was returned, and he repositioned it and buried it in his own yard of

the house on Lake Monona. The treatment was successful, and he was bothered no more.

Now - when Mr Dearling tells the story at the Museum, he sometimes makes some reference to going to visit the State Office Building now on the former site of the Fairchild home after a heavy rain and looking to see if there are fingers poking up in the flower beds around that building.....the 4th graders absolutely RELISH stories like that! He does, however, continue by saying that, in fact, when the old Governor died his wishes were followed: the arm was disinterred again and buried with him, so that he was "returned to dust" as a whole and complete man.

During the Civil War, as we all know, amputations were the only way to deal with wounded limbs; there was no treatment guaranteed to forestall infection followed certainly by death. It is also known that, in the 19th century, men who lost limbs were considered disfigured, incomplete, indeed "only a part of a man", and records indicate a very high rate of suicide among men who were sure they no longer had their virility and usefulness.

Lucius Fairchild is credited to changing that image, by wearing his empty sleeve pinned not underneath as was the custom, but rather to the front of his coat, as you see in my previous illustration and his Sargent portrait above. He wore it as a point of pride and convinced other veterans to feel the same. There is one biography of Fairchild appropriately called "The Empty Sleeve" by S. Ross. I do not concur with everything he says, but it is a fairly complete biography paying, of course, the greatest attention to the Civil War years.

Lucius and Frank had three beautiful daughters and the Historical Society has a picture of a merry group in the backyard of the Fairchild home, an elderly Lucius and his daughters and some of their young friends. The letters indicate that all of the girls' friends loved spending time during the summer "up at Madison among the Fairchilds".

In conclusion, a note about Frances Bull Fairchild, the beautiful young orphan girl Lucius met in Washington DC and eventually married. She was some years younger than her husband, was Frank Fairchild, and a girl uncharacteristically forthright for the 19th century. My favorite story about her, which I think reveals not only her character but what a fine wife and First Lady she was, is as follows:

It is a little-known fact [I daresay unknown, outside of the state] that, on the day of the Chicago fire, a desperately serious fire obliterated the town of Peshtigo in northern Wisconsin, destroying 2,400 square miles and taking over between 1,200 and 2,400 lives [there was no way to accurately account for lumberjacks, trappers, homesteaders and native people were in the area.

News of the Chicago fire was wired all over the country, and upon receiving the news Lucius was given funds, got on a train and travelled to Chicago to offer whatever aid he could and to see if there might be ways the people of Wisconsin could help. However, he no sooner stepped off the train than he was handed a telegram from his wife saying, in essence, "Peshtigo in flames, all is lost!" He immediately

returned to the train and came straight back to Madison. Here is where Frances Fairchild, the lady-like much-touted hostess of the Governor's home, showed her true colors....

By the time Lucius Fairchild returned to Madison, Frances had gathered together as many wagons as she could, seen them provisioned with food and clothing, drafted every available physician in the city of Madison and rounded up a large corps of volunteers -- and sent them on their way north to Peshtigo! She did not wait for her husband's directive or instruction but acted on her own, guaranteeing that assistance was on its way immediately.

By the way - in her portrait Frances is wearing a court gown designed by Charles Frederick Worth of Paris, France, which she wore when they were presented at the Spanish court of King Alfonso XII and Queen Teresa, Madrid, Spain, 1880.

I imagine you can tell now why I'm so enamored and fascinated by this wonderful First Family of Madison and of Wisconsin!

NOTE: If you'd like more information on the Peshtigo Fire in northern Wisconsin [October 8, 1871 same as Chicago, don't ya know], there are at least three excellent books about it which can no doubt be found in the local libraries.

I will now resume normal programming.

Posted by dale-harriet at [3:21 AM 3 comments](#)

**A MESSAGE FROM BETSY
UVENRVEN REGARDING
THE GREENBUSH SCHOOL
DAY PROGRAM**

The following information comes from Betsy Urven, the organizer of the school day associated with the Old Wade House event in September. The Association has made the Greenbush event a maximum effort event. Please keep the need to assist with this event in mind and if you can arrange to help out, please do so!

Hello everyone,

Well here we are July already. I just wanted to touch base so you don't forget about me. We are already over 800 registered for our 2nd school day. I'm still shooting for 30 stations so if you know of others who would like to participate let me know. Enjoy the summer and we'll talk again in August.

Betsy Urven

AFTER BATTLE REPORT ON THE GETTYSBURG CAMPAIGN

THIS IS A DIFFICULT AFTER ACTION REPORT TO WRITE. SO MANY PEOPLE CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE EVENT, SO MANY MADE SACRIFICES THAT WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY. I HESITATE TO MENTION ANY NAMES BECAUSE I WILL FAIL TO MENTION SOME VERY WORTHY FOLKS WHO DESERVE TO BE NAMED FOR THEIR EFFORTS.

BUT.....HERE GOES:

Planning-this was a well planned event. Attending three meetings prior to the event [including the trip when Jim Dedman and I drove in a blizzard on a police-closed I-70], the planning was extensive and contingency plans existed for every possibility. It paid off during the event!

Registration-This was effortless for me and I heard no complaints from anyone.

Campsite-WOW!-It was, in my opinion, the best location possible. I regret the 1st Brigade encountered some poison ivy in portions of their camp. My walk through their area in the early spring did not reveal any problem...probably because it was too early for it to bloom. My apology to anyone who was affected. [On the other hand, the field we drilled in was covered with milkweed, the juice of the plant cures the effects of poison ivy. Nature always provides our needs.]

Camps-They sure looked like an army on the march. No company streets and lots of shebangs reflected a Division who was told to halt and pitch their camp. Good job, lads. I personally saw few modern items and thought everyone pitched in to maintain a military appearance.

The 3rd Division-Smaller than planned due to various causes, the 3rd had nothing to apologize for. The two brigades functioned well and it was difficult to tell that they had never done this on such a scale before.

3rd Division flag-That beautiful flag that flew at headquarters and on the battlefield was provided by Keith Harrison, at his own expense. The brigade commanders were asked to take up a collection from volunteers to help offset the

cost. Hopefully, some of you felt the pride that flag stirred inside you and gave a little donation. If you still wish to chip in, send it to me and I will get it to Keith. Thanks goes to Marvin who carried the flag without faltering. He really demonstrated unfailing loyalty.

Division staff-You guys would be amazed to know the details Keith, Stan and Jim had to deal with. Granted, it was all military oriented and mostly authentic, but the volume and the never ending reports were burdensome, though necessary. They really did a great job. Jim had tire troubles on the way home and it took 20 plus hours.

Old & new friends-Did you know we had troops from England, Germany and Sweden in the ranks? Men traveled from 14 states to march with the 3rd. Many new friendships were created and old ones renewed. **The 2nd Wisconsin arrived enmass by bus. Boy, when they walked into camp it was a sight to behold. It seemed like there was no end to the column of new arrivals.**

Ticks-I pulled 6 off of me and many folks had to deal with the little critters. I am not aware of any major problems-but they were a constant threat and nuisance. **Mobile dandruff.**

1st Michigan Engineers-these guys never cease to amaze me. As you know, they built the Dave Shackelford Memorial Bridge and the Alan Baldwin Memorial Approach. It really made it much easier to cross the creek for the two Brigades to interact. They also brought a field forge and was seen using it to make metal items that were needed at the time. Their conduct in the battles was flawless and reliable.

Brigade commanders- Will Eichler

and Craig DeCrane did such a fine job, it was tough to remember they had never been Brigade commanders before. I apologize for any impatience on my part...I simply forgot that was your first time because of the fine manner you handled your troops. Will had to leave early Sunday and Tom Downes took over 1st Brigade and it was his first time as well. Craig, You were right regarding that bet we made on Sunday and I owe you a beer.

Division drill-You guys made reenacting history with your three Division level drills. Never before has that been done. Division reviews and parades, yes. But the drills you did were the first for the hobby and will set the standard for other organizations. The square on Sunday was simply awesome. As I told you, there were at least 13 squares formed in the real war and that drill showed you the time it takes to get one formed. Now imagine a couple of thousand cavalry galloping at you.

The massed volleys were beyond description and demonstrated what a real regimental volley would have sounded and looked. It certainly gave me a...um, uh,.....typical male response to a stimulating experience.

Battles-well, we had our share of action, that's for sure. All in all, they went well and without serious problems or injuries. I am told the counter-attack on Sunday was to simulate the success the 8th Ohio had in pushing the Confederates back....but because they overlapped the position of our 8th, we had to make the attack as we did. Sometimes the effort to replay historical events have to be more by concept rather than literally. I notice on the reenacting forums that everyone is trying to take credit for burning the Bliss Farm prior to Pickett's Charge. Rest assured, it was our

8th Ohio and the entire venture under the command of Tom. The other units were there to support the 8th because they were there historically.

The road-a rough and rutted road outside our camp caused at least two debilitating injuries. Our Division clerk, Don Everett and the captain of the 2nd Wisconsin both were hurt when they fell on the road. The organizers response was to bring in a bulldozer, a front end loader and several loads of gravel. It looked like a major road construction project and within an hour of bringing it to the attention of the army commander, we had an interstate-like lane running to the battlefield.

My second star-many laughs were the result of several good-natured folks providing several versions of stars to play along with my indignant demand for my second star as a result of promotion to Major General. Thanks for the pranks and laughs.

General Baldwin-I am telling you guys, this man went out of his way to make us "westerners" feel welcome and comfortable. On Friday night, when a TP shortage struck our 11 portajohns, he pulled a 20 out of his pocket, gave it to one of his staff and ordered them to go to Wal-Mart and buy some. He called me at 10 PM that night to tell me the purchase had been delivered to our camp. Think about that...the Army Commander taking the time and effort to address our problems personally. He is a good friend and deserves your thanks...he certainly has mine.

Army Staff-these fellows did an exemplary job of providing support to the various Divisions in the course of the weekend. I was even able to convince one of them that battalions have spaces between them. Thanks, fellows,

for all that you did.

Guard duty-everyone chipped in and pulled their weight in providing guards for Division Headquarters. Many fell prey, though, to the question of "Will a guard surrender his weapon if asked by a Division staff officer or commander?". Let's just say that many learned not to relinquish their weapon to anyone while on duty. My apologies if anyone was embarrassed by their blunder..it was an effort to test their resolve and meant to be somewhat good-natured training. Probably the most amazing incident was when the Sergeant of the Guard emphatically told the guards to not give up their weapon to anyone, including the General. While he stood there and within a minute of his speech, the guard gave me his musket upon request.

RJ Samp-bugler extraordinaire-This man moved and motivated the Division with his bugling all weekend. It is one thing to move a Division but another to have such a talented man to move it by bugle! Thanks, RJ, for your efforts, injured knee and all.

Authenticity-Personally, I never observed any blatant violation of the authenticity standards of the event. While far from perfect, I feel like it was a dramatic improvement from the past and a good sign for the future. Most, if not all, seemed to appreciate the prevalent attitude of the hobby of improving your impression. All are urged to never cease your efforts to improve your personal impression.

Personal sacrifices-The most moving story came from a member of the 19th Indiana, Company A who learned his father passed away. Efforts to obtain a rental car or a flight were unsuccessful. After consulting with his family members, this unselfish man

refused to make the other 8 men who drove out to the site to have to give up their experience. Please keep his loss in your prayers. I still tear up when I think of his anguish.

Summarizing the AAR, I am sure I have left out some folks who deserve much praise. There is likely to be a supplemental report issued soon. Thank you for all that you did. Never forget the pride in our hearts as the 3rd Division marched onto the field.

Former Brevet Major General, now just plain old Colonel, Dave.

"MUSKETS AND MEMORIES" EVENT IN BOSCOBEL

The weekend of August 1st through the 3rd, 2008, is the annual civil war weekend in Boscobel, Wisconsin. This popular event is always enjoyed by the reenactors who attend.

This year the scenario is based on the Battle of Malvern Hill, fought during the Peninsula Campaign in 1862. The Second Wisconsin wasn't with McClellan on the Peninsula. They were to be included in the troops assigned to Pope's Army of Virginia.

The skirmishers will also be holding a competition the same weekend. The schedules of both the reenactment and the competition can be found posted below for your review. The Fugelman thanks Gary Vankauenbergh for providing the information and schedules for the skirmish teams.

**BOSCOBEL SKIRMISH
16TH ANNUAL MUSKETS AND MEMORIES
CIVIL WAR WEEKEND**

**SKIRMISH DIRECTORS □ BECKY BAIRD □
STEVE SHERRY**

Friday, August 1st

5:00 Mortar Competition

Saturday, August 2nd

9:00-12:00 Individual Competition

12:30 Carbine Team Commanders Meeting

1:00-3:00 Carbine Team Competition

3:00-3:30 Gatling Gun Demonstration

3:30-3:45 ACWSSA Shooters vs. Boscobel Sportsman Club All-Stars

3:45 Cannon Demonstration

Sunday, August 3rd

9:00 Musket Commanders Meeting

9:15 Opening Ceremonies

9:30-11:30 Musket Team Competition

11:30 Clean-up and Closing Awards Ceremonies

Individual Fees

Unlimited Re-Entry □any two guns□ \$5.00

Unlimited Re-Entry □three guns or more□ \$10.00

You will indicate at target registration how many guns you plan on firing, and initial the registration form.

Team Fees

Carbine Team \$24,00 or \$6.00 per shooter

Musket Team \$36.00 or \$6.00 per shooter

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Each individual is asked to fill in a registration form provided by the organizers of the Civil War Weekend.

These will be available at the Target Registration table, or in town Friday.

Usually T-Shirts and other commemorative items are available at the Target Registration table during the weekend.

If the Sportsmen Club provides grub [breakfast and lunch], you are asked to support them during the weekend.

Any assistance you could provide in subsidizing the tent expense, would be greatly appreciated by the host teams.

Any donation could be made at the Team Registration table.

The town events Saturday are usually quite interesting and provide for a nice diversion from a weekend of shooting.

Check the activities posted in the Club House or at the Target Registration table.

Individual Awards

Class I [1-2-3 Place] Class II [1-2 Place]

Musket [50 & 100 yd] Musket [50 & 100 yd]

Carbine [50 & 100 yd] Carbine [50 & 100 yd]

Revolver [25 yd] Revolver [25 yd]

Unclassified [1-2-3 Place]

Breechloader [50 & 100 yd]

Smoothbore [25 & 50 yd]

Ladies Carbine [25 yd]

Aggregates:

Musket

Musket-Carbine

Breechloader

Smoothbore

Grand

Carbine Team Targets

50 Yard

Pigeon Board [16 ea.]

4" Hanging Tiles [8 ea.]
 Water Bottle [Rolling Thunder] [1 ea.]
 Hanging Pigeons [8ea.]
 Hanging Pots [8 ea.]
 100 Yard
 6" Hanging Tiles [6 ea.]
 Musket Team Targets
 50 Yard
 Pigeon Board [24 ea.]
 4" Hanging Tiles [12 ea.]
 Water Bottle [Rolling Thunder] [1 ea.]
 Hanging Pigeons [12 ea.]
 Hanging Pots [12 ea.]
 100 Yard
 6" Hanging Tiles [9 ea.]
 ACWSA vs. Sportsman Targets
 50 Yard
 Pigeon Board [24 ea.]
 4" Hanging Tiles [12 ea.]
 Water Bottle [Rolling Thunder] [1 ea.]
 Junk yard [24 ea.]

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES, AUGUST 1-3, 2008

Subject to Change

Fri 8/1	Activity	Location
8:00 am	Reenactor Registration begins	Kronshage Park
9:00 am - 4:30 pm	GAR Hall open to public	GAR Hall

5:00 pm	ACWSA Mortar Competition	Sportsman's Club
5:00 pm	Officer's call	Kronshage Park
Sat 8/2	Activity	Location
8:00 am	Reenactor Registration continues	Kronshage Park
8:30 am	Officer's call	Kronshage Park
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Camp opens to public/Living history demonstrations	Kronshage Park
9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Guided Encampment Tours, on the hour	Kronshage Park
9:00 am - 4:30 pm	GAR Hall open to public	GAR Hall
9:00 am - noon	ACWSA Indvl.Comp. "Hands on history" public participation	Sportsman's Club
10:00 am	Workshops throughout the day	Kronshage Park
10:00 am	Infantry drills, regular	Kronshage Park
10:00 am	Cavalry drills	Kronshage Park
10:00 am - 2:30 pm	Children's activities	Children's Tent
11:00 am	Artillery drills, regular	Kronshage Park
12:00 noon	Family Dance Lessons	Event Tent
12:30 pm	Safety inspection	Kronshage Park
12:30 pm	ACWSA Team Commanders Meeting	Sportsman's Club
12:45 pm	ACWSA Carbine Team Competition	Sportsman's Club

1:00 pm	<u>Battle Reenactment</u> - Malvern Hill	Kronshage Park
2:00 pm	Feature for Youth, Robert Welch, entertainer	Event Tent
2:15 pm	Medical scenarios at encampment hospitals	Kronshage Park
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Ladies' Garden Party (period dress required)	Patricia Murley Residence - 1514 Mound St.
3:00 pm	Gatling gun competition	Sportsman's Club
3:00 pm	General's War Council	Kronshage Park East Shelter
3:30 pm	ACWSA Shooters vs. Boscobel Sportsman Club All-Stars	Sportsman's Club
3:45 pm	Cannon Demonstration	Sportsman's Club
5:00 pm	Camp closes to public	Kronshage Park
7:30 pm - 10:00 pm	Pie & Ice Cream Social	Tuffley Center
8:00 pm - Midnight	Military / Civilian Ball (period dress)	Downtown
9:45 pm	Grand March	Downtown
Sun 8/3	Activity	Location
8:00 am - 10:00 am	Pay call	Kronshage Park
8:30 am	Officer's call	Kronshage Park
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Camp opens to public/Living history demonstrations	Kronshage Park

9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Guided Encampment Tours, on the hour	Kronshage Park
9:00 am - 4:30 pm	GAR Hall open to public	GAR Hall
9:00 am	Church Call, 1860's service	Event Tent
9:00 am	ACWSA Team Commanders Meeting	Sportsman's Club
9:15 am	ACWSA Opening Ceremonies	Sportsman's Club
9:30 am	ACWSA Musket Team Competition	Sportsman's Club
10:00 am - 2:30 pm	Children's activities	Children's Tent
10:00 am	Infantry drills, regular & competitive	Kronshage Park
10:00 am	Cavalry drills	Kronshage Park
10:00 am	Fashion Show & Period Garment Displays	Event Tent
11:00 am	Memorial service, 1st WI Cav.	Cemetery
11:30 am	General's War Council	Kronshage Park East Shelter
11:30 am	ACWSA Closing Ceremony and Awards	Sportsman's Club
12:00 noon	Band Concert; Marengo Iowa Civil War Band	Event Tent
12:00 noon	Artillery drills	Kronshage Park
1:00 pm	Safety inspection	Kronshage Park
1:30 pm	<u>Battle Reenactment</u> - Snodgrass Hill	Kronshage Park
2:15 pm	Medical scenarios at encampment hospitals	Kronshage Park

4:00 pm

Camp closes until August 2009

Home-cooked breakfast & lunch, Sat. & Sun. at camp entrance.

Admittance to the encampment by the public during "closed" hours is by invitation only.

Note: Everyone is invited to honor the Civil War Veterans by visiting their gravesites, which are marked with flags, during daylight hours in the Boscobel Cemetery, adjacent to the encampment area.

NOTED CIVIL WAR AUTHOR DIES

JULY 8, 2008

By Christi Mathis 07 08 2008
16:13:11

CARBONDALE, Ill. -- John Y. Simon, the award-winning historian and longtime Southern Illinois University Carbondale professor who served for many years as the executive director of the Ulysses S. Grant Association, died this morning [July 8]. He was 75.

Simon earned his bachelor's degree in 1955 from Swarthmore College and a year later he received his master's from Harvard University. He earned his doctorate at Harvard University in 1961 and taught at The Ohio State University before beginning his long association with SIUC and the Ulysses S. Grant Association.

A noted authority on Grant, Simon led the association since 1962. He collected hundreds of thousands of documents about Grant, editing and organizing them over a period more than 40

years into an unrivaled collection, "Papers of Ulysses S. Grant". The Association is currently wrapping up work on the 31st and final volume. SIUC's Morris Library houses both the collection and the Association.

Within the University's history department, Simon was an associate professor and later a professor. An authority on the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln as well as Grant, Simon was a popular public speaker. He wrote and edited numerous historical works, served as a consultant on numerous occasions and held variety of offices, primarily in historical organizations.

"Dr. Simon's contribution as a scholar, a teacher and a historian is well recognized nationally and worldwide," Interim Chancellor Samuel Goldman said. "He has brought credit and renown to Southern Illinois University."

Simon won a number of awards, including the lifetime achievement award from The Lincoln Forum, the Award of Merit from the Illinois State Historical Society, the \$20,000 Lincoln Prize from the Gilder Lehrman Foundation, the Distinguished Service Award and the Julian P. Boyd Award

from the Association for Documentary Editing, and the Delta Award from the Friends of Morris Library.

Arrangements for Simon are pending. Wife Harriet, daughter Ellen and two grandchildren survive him.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE BOSCOBEL CIVIL WAR WEEKEND

Scenarios, support for troops in Afghanistan for Boscobel Weekend

On Saturday, August 2nd, the battle scenario will be based on the rebel attack on the famous gap created in General Rosencrans line during the Battle of Chickamauga.

The Sunday scenario will be based on the Battle at Malvern Hill during McClellan's Peninsula Campaign in 1862. General Grant informed the editor that he was hopeful that he could get some rebel artillery units to galvanize for the scenario so that, like during the actual fight, he could have cannons lined up hub to hub to pour forth shot and shell on the attacking rebels!

Patricia Lynch sent the following request to members of Company K. The editor thought

that since many Association members also attend the Boscobel event everyone might like to take this opportunity to say thank you and support our current fighting men in Afghanistan! Pat Lynch will be in Company K's camp and you can make arrangements to deliver the requested items to him there. The following was included in Patricia's e-mail to the editor:

I'm wondering, though, if some of you could help us out. Our USMC friends in Afghanistan (2/7 Battalion) have been having a rough time (10% casualties in the last 3 months) and have put out an emergency appeal for protein bars and protein shakes. One writes: "The rations we get 'way out' here just don't provide enough. We're all skinny as hell where I am."

This is the concern of all soldiers from all wars. Certainly it was a lament of the Civil War soldiers we honor in all we do. During the Civil War the folks back home pitched in to ship foodstuffs, clothing items and other things to support their families, friends and neighbors serving far away. Please consider that example by those long ago aid societies and help out with this effort. On behalf of Patricia Lynch and her group the West Side Soldiers' Aid Society and those brave men and women overseas thank you for any assistance you can provide!

[Editor's note] 2008 marks the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the noted Lincoln-Douglas Debates. One hundred and fifty years ago Abraham Lincoln and Senator Stephen A. Douglas agreed to a series of seven debates during their contest for the Illinois Senate. The first debate was held on August 21, 1858, in Ottawa, Illinois. The debates were remarkable for a number of reasons, but the following article isn't intended to be an analysis of the discussions during these joint debates, it is but a poor effort to look at the individual events surrounding that day for the citizenry as they traveled to the debates and the carnival atmosphere of that special day. For the editor it is an unusual foray into the realm of creative writing. I would also point out that I was born in Ottawa and grew up

in Marseilles, Illinois, only seven miles east of Ottawa. All my life I was exposed to the event itself and the historical significance of this debate.

Lincoln and Douglas Debate in Ottawa, Illinois: August 21, 1858

It was an early Saturday morning on the fertile plains lying in the heart of the Illinois Valley. The sun was already a large golden orb on the eastern horizon and farm families throughout the valley were up and at work caring for the livestock, gathering vegetables from the ever present kitchen gardens, and milking the cows. Mother was in the kitchen preparing a hearty breakfast of eggs, cakes and bacon. There was something special in the air this particular morning. There was an excitement, born of expectation, on the countenance of all the family members. All day the 20th, the family had watched a huge number of four-horse wagons stirring up dust as they traveled past the farm headed towards Ottawa. Some of the wagons carried political clubs from the surrounding communities. These wagons were festooned with banners and those on board were loud and boisterous for their favored party.

To the children it felt much like the kind of morning when the family would pack up the wagon and head for the county fair or a special Sunday picnic following services at church! Mothers and daughters were not only engaged in making the family breakfast, but preparing food for what seemed like a picnic lunch.

After breakfast the children were scrubbed clean and dressed in their Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes. Dads scrubbed the dirt from their hands and put on their best shirt and trousers, their frock coats and cravats. Moms and daughters fussed with their finest frocks and bonnets. There was no doubt this was a special day, but only the adults understood the significance of the pending day. Some of these families were Democrats, others were members of the dying Whig Party and some were avowed Republicans. And they were heading into the county seat for LaSalle County, Ottawa, to hear the champions of their respective parties do verbal battle on the major issues of the day in debate.

The debate was scheduled for 2:00 P.M. in Washington Park on the north side of town. People would be flooding into the prosperous town of 7,000 souls to watch the antagonists do battle for the U.S. Senate seat for Illinois. The newspapers had reported that special trains would be conveying folks into Ottawa from as far away as Joliet and Chicago to view the events of the day. The city would be full of friends and acquaintances, as well as hundreds, even thousands, of strangers from around the central and northern part of Illinois. There would be music, stilt-walkers, magicians, bands, food vendors, and more

excitement than these simple folk had experienced in years. The population of the city would double by the time the actual debate took place! As it was reported later in the papers, 12,000 people had gathered to hear the speeches and enjoy the events of the day.

Ottawa was established at the junction of the Illinois and Fox Rivers. There were manufacturers, quarries, stores, restaurants, lawyers, doctors and purveyors of farm equipment providing an economic base for the community. The surrounding farm land was rich and bountiful. The courthouse located in the heart of the city had served as the Illinois State Supreme Court until that court had moved to the new state capitol in Springfield. One of the debaters this day, Abraham Lincoln, had argued cases before the Supreme Court here and was well known in and around Ottawa. Douglas, too, was well known and admired. The County was already a Republican stronghold, but a large contingent of Democrats kept the political wars exciting at election time!

The roads leading into town were crowded with horses and wagons as a steady flow of locals rolled into the town. A cloud of thick dust rose from the roads and a cacophony of sound assaulted the ears as friends and neighbors shouted greetings to one another. The sky was a dark blue with white wispy clouds and the sun beat down on the folks with a building heat that would draw sweat from every pore!

Washington park was festooned with banners and flags. A militia company was executing a drill in the southwest corner of the commons. On the northwest corner of the park a grandstand facing south had been erected for the debate adversaries and guests to sit during the proceedings. Empty now, children used it as a playground clambering over and under the wooden structure. Bands supporting the rival political parties marched through the streets of the city trying to outdo one another in spirit and sound! Everywhere folks gathered and visited or argued about the merits of their favorite candidate. Truly there was a carnival atmosphere pervading the whole city!

Suddenly there was a great stirring among the throng as "Judge" Douglas (Lincoln refused to refer to him as Senator Douglas), the Democrats' champion and sitting Senator, made his way to the park from the west side of town, coming in from Peru, Illinois. Douglas had traveled by boat to Buffalo Rock, about four miles from Ottawa and there he would travel to Ottawa with a huge procession prepared by his political supporters. Great huzzahing and cheering accompanied by band music announced his arrival! Folks along the streets and in the park cheered wildly as Douglas rode up in a fancy carriage pulled by four magnificent horses. Behind the carriage was a brass band playing patriotic music. Wagons decorated with banners supporting Douglas followed. One wagon had 20 young ladies carrying Douglas banners and American flags followed the procession. Douglas would go

to the Geiger House hotel where he would spend the night preceding the debate.

As Lincoln entered the city from the northeast by train, accompanied by bands, floats and 33 young ladies on horseback carrying American flags, each representing one of the 33 states in the Union. The crowd erupted in cheers and singing a campaign song as Lincoln, the Republican challenger, made his way to the speakers platform. The unruly young men and children were climbing over and around the platform. The debate was scheduled for 2:00 P.M., but it would take 30 minutes to clear the platform for the special guests and the speakers. When order was finally restored, Senator Douglas stepped forward as the first speaker and was greeted with hearty cheers from the Democrats in the audience. Douglas called for silence and things settled down. The Audience listened with rapt attention and with a sense of anticipation.

Douglas began by informing the audience of the purpose of this debate and the others to follow. He asked for quiet as his time to speak was limited.

“Ladies and gentlemen: I appear before you to-day for the purpose of discussing the leading political topics which now agitate the public mind. By an arrangement between Mr. Lincoln and myself, we are present here to-day for the purpose of having a joint discussion, as the representatives of the two great political parties of the State and Union, upon the principles in issue between those parties and this vast concourse of people, shows the deep feeling which pervades the public mind in regard to the questions dividing us.”

And thus the issues were joined. Douglas’s plan of attack throughout the debates would be to try to align Lincoln with the abolitionist wing of the Republican Party and by inference a proponent of equality among the races.. He initiated this approach by quoting resolutions adopted by Republican organizations around the state. Either Lincoln would have to admit that he held the same views, and thus align himself with the radical element of the Party, or repudiate the resolutions, thereby alienating that wing of his Party. Douglas, dressed in an expensive tailored suit, read out in his strong deep voice the resolutions adopted by the fledgling Republican Party for Illinois.

“Resolved, That we believe this truth to be self-evident, that when parties become subversive of the ends for which they are established, or incapable of restoring the government to the true principles of the constitution, it is the right and duty of the people to dissolve the political bands by which they may have been connected therewith, and to organize new parties upon such principles and with such views as the circumstances and exigencies of the nation may demand.

2. Resolved, That the times imperatively demand the reorganization of parties, and repudiating all previous party attachments, names and predilections, we unite ourselves together in defense of the liberty and constitution of the country, and will hereafter cooperate as the Republican party, pledged to the accomplishment of the following purposes: to bring the administration of the government back to the control of first principles; to restore Nebraska and Kansas to the position of free Territories; that, as the constitution of the United States, vests in the States, and not in Congress, the power to legislate for the extradition of fugitives from labor, to repeal and entirely abrogate the fugitive slave law; to restrict slavery to those States in which it exists; to prohibit the admission of any more slave States into the Union; to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia; to exclude slavery from all the territories over which the general government has exclusive jurisdiction; and to resist the acquisitions of any more Territories unless the practice of slavery therein forever shall have been prohibited.

3. Resolved, That in furtherance of these principles we will use such constitutional and lawful means as shall seem best adapted to their accomplishment, and that we will support no man for office, under the general or State Government, who is not positively and fully committed to the support of these principles, and whose personal character and conduct is not a guaranty that he is reliable, and who shall not have abjured old party allegiance and ties.”

Douglas then asked Lincoln if he held or agreed with those resolutions adopted by his party.

Lincoln, when his turn came to speak, would be on the defensive and his responses to the queries would be in the realm of a technical denial of participation in formulating the resolutions. Lincoln argued, and proved, that he wasn't present when the resolutions were adopted. This avoided the necessity of agreeing with the resolutions or outright rejecting them.

Maintaining his plan of attack in the debate, Douglas turned his arguments to the logical implications of Lincoln's position on the Dred Scott decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. Douglas tried to convince the audience that Lincoln ultimately opposed the Dred Scott decision because it would block "negro rights" to citizenship. This was a frightful concern to most whites in 1858! The following portion of Douglas's rebuttal to Lincoln is notable for a couple of reasons. Notice the reference to "Black Republicans" used by Douglas. It was an excellent way of again tying the Republican candidate to the goals of black equality and abolitionism, playing on white fears.

“We are told by Lincoln that he is utterly opposed to the Dred Scott decision, and will not submit to it, for the reason that he says it deprives the negro of the rights and privileges of citizenship. (Laughter and applause.) That is the first and main reason which he assigns for his warfare on the Supreme Court of the United States and its decision. I ask you, are you in favor of conferring upon the negro the rights and privileges of citizenship? (“No, no.”) Do you desire to strike out of our State Constitution that clause which keeps slaves and free negroes out of the State, and allow the free negroes to flow in, (“never,”) and cover your prairies with black settlements? Do you desire to turn this beautiful State into a free negro colony, (“no, no,”) in order that when Missouri abolishes slavery she can send one hundred thousand emancipated slaves into Illinois, to become citizens and voters, on an equality with yourselves? (“Never,” “no.”) If you desire negro citizenship, if you desire to allow them to come into the State and settle with the white man, if you desire them to vote on an equality with yourselves, and to make them eligible to office, to serve on juries, and to adjudge your rights, then support Mr. Lincoln and the Black Republican party, who are in favor of the citizenship of the negro. (“Never, never.”) For one, I am opposed to negro citizenship in any and every form. (Cheers.) I believe this Government was made on the white basis. (“Good.”) I believe it was made by white men for the benefit of white men and their posterity for ever, and I am in favor of confining citizenship to white men, men of European birth and descent, instead of conferring it upon negroes, Indians, and other inferior races. (“Good for you.” “Douglas forever.”)

Alas, Douglas had played the race card and would continue to do so throughout the debates that remained. Douglas was convinced this was the key to defeating Lincoln in the election. It addressed the prejudices that were deeply ingrained in the Illinois electorate, especially when the debates moved to the southern part of the state. At times mummings would flow through the crowd as they pondered the concept of “nigger equality”. At the completion of an hour Douglas relinquished the platform to tremendous cheering and shouting from the Democrats in the crowd!

Abraham Lincoln uncoiled his 6 feet 4 inch frame from his seat. Dressed in an ill-fitting black suit. His appearance was quite different from the resplendent Douglas. Large ears stuck out from his head which was topped with a crop of coarse, unruly black hair. His face was lean and craggy. This ungainly looking man, however, knew how to entertain and hold the attention of a crowd. He would do so for the next hour and more!

LINCOLN'S RESPONSE:

First, Lincoln began by asserting his belief that slavery was a moral wrong. Those folks who formed the crowd knew that slavery was somehow a wrong headed institution. These simple farm folk, however, did not tie an end to slavery with the necessity of equal political or social rights. Lincoln was on safe ground here.

"This declared indifference, but, as I must think, covert real zeal for the spread of slavery, I cannot but hate. I hate it because of the monstrous injustice of slavery itself. I hate it because it deprives our republican example of its just influence in the world—enables the enemies of free institutions, with plausibility, to taunt us as hypocrites—causes the real friends of freedom to doubt our sincerity, and especially because it forces so many really good men amongst ourselves into an open war with the very fundamental principles of civil liberty—criticizing the Declaration of Independence, and insisting that there is no right principle of action but self-interest."

Lincoln understood that racism was prevalent in Illinois, as most everywhere else in 1858, however, northerners still opposed the institution of slavery. Lincoln would argue that blacks were human beings imbued with the natural rights under the Declaration of Independence of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. To Lincoln that did not necessarily translate into political or social equality.

"When Southern people tell us they are no more responsible for the origin of slavery than we, I acknowledge the fact. When it is said that the institution exists, and that it is very difficult to get rid of it, in any satisfactory way, I can understand and appreciate the saying. I surely will not blame them for not doing what I should not know how to do myself. If all earthly power were given me, I should not know what to do, as to the existing institution. My first impulse would be to free all the slaves, and send them to Liberia,—to their own native land. But a moment's reflection would convince me, that whatever of high hope, (as I think there is) there may be in this, in the long run, its sudden execution is impossible. If they were all landed there in a day, they would all perish in the next ten days; and there are not surplus shipping and surplus money enough in the world to carry them there in many times ten days. What then? Free them all, and keep them among us as underlings? Is it quite certain that this betters their condition? I think I would not hold one in slavery at any rate; yet the point is not clear enough to me to denounce people upon. What next? Free them, and make them politically and socially our equals? My own feelings will not admit of this; and if mine would, we well know that those of the great mass of white people will not. Whether this feeling accords with justice and sound judgment, is not the sole question, if, indeed, it is any part of it. A universal feeling, whether well or ill-founded, cannot be safely disregarded. We cannot, then, make them equals. It does seem to me that systems of gradual

emancipation might be adopted; but for their tardiness in this, I will not undertake to judge our brethren of the South.”

In this section of Lincoln’s response to Douglas, there were two lines of argument to be considered. The first was a way to move away from the typical avenue of abolitionists’ arguments that blamed southerners for the institution of slavery. (Lincoln would incorporate this avenue of argument in both the Cooper Union Speech and his famous Second Inaugural Speech) It also laid the ground work for his oft stated concern that slavery needed to be hemmed in so that it would ultimately become extinct under adverse economic conditions, his “ultimate course of extinction” principle. The second path reflected a part of Lincoln’s genius, a commonsense recognition of the practical, it was clear that even if a politician believed that political and social equality were appropriate goals the electorate would not accept that approach.

“... If so, then I have a right to say that, in regard to this question, the Union is a house divided against itself; and when the Judge reminds me that I have often said to him that the institution of slavery has existed for eighty years in some States, and yet it does not exist in some others, I agree to the fact, and I account for it by looking at the position in which our fathers originally placed it—restricting it from the new Territories where it had not gone, and legislating to cut off its source by the abrogation of the slave-trade thus putting the seal of legislation against its spread. The public mind did rest in the belief that it was in the course of ultimate extinction. [Cries of “Yes, yes,]” But lately, I think—and in this I charge nothing on the Judge’s motives—lately, I think, that he, and those acting with him, have placed that institution on a new basis, which looks to the perpetuity and nationalization of slavery. [Loud cheers.] And while it is placed upon this new basis, I say, and I have said, that I believe we shall not have peace upon the question until the opponents of slavery arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or, on the other hand, that its advocates will push it forward until it shall become alike lawful in all the States, old as well as new, North as well as South. Now, I believe if we could arrest the spread, and place it where Washington, and Jefferson, and Madison placed it, it would be in the course of ultimate extinction, and the public mind would, as for eighty years past, believe that it was in the course of ultimate extinction. The crisis would be past and the institution might be let alone for a hundred years, if it should live so long, in the States where it exists, yet it would be going out of existence in the way best for both the black and the white races.” [Great cheering.]

Douglas had challenged Lincoln on his “house divided” speech in 1854. Douglas had argued that Lincoln wanted to impose uniformity on all the states. In the previous section from the Ottawa debate, Lincoln simply pointed out that if the slavery issue wasn’t resolved, it would continue to be a source of agitation for generations to come. The crowd was fully cognizant of the misadventures in Kansas and the decades of crisis over slavery and could share Lincoln’s concern.

MR. LINCOLN-Yes; no doubt you want to hear something that don't hurt. [Laughter and applause.] Now, having spoken of the Dred Scott decision, one more word and I am done. Henry Clay, my beau ideal of a statesman, the man for whom I fought all my humble life- Henry Clay once said of a class of men who would repress all tendencies to liberty and ultimate emancipation, that they must, if they would do this, go back to the era of our Independence, and muzzle the cannon which thunders its annual joyous return; they must blow out the moral lights around us; they must penetrate the human soul, and eradicate there the love of liberty; and then, and not till then, could they perpetuate slavery in this country! [Loud cheers.] To my thinking, Judge Douglas is, by his example and vast influence, doing that very thing in this community, [cheers,] when he says that the negro has nothing in the Declaration of Independence. Henry Clay plainly understood the contrary. Judge Douglas is going back to the era of our Revolution, and to the extent of his ability, muzzling the cannon which thunders its annual joyous return. When he invites any people, willing to have slavery, to establish it, he is blowing out the moral lights around us. [Cheers.] When he says he "cares not whether slavery is voted down or voted up"-that it is a sacred right of self-government-he is, in my judgment, penetrating the human soul and eradicating the light of reason and the love of liberty in this American people. [Enthusiastic and continued applause.] And now I will only say that when, by all these means and appliances, Judge Douglas shall succeed in bringing public sentiment to an exact accordance with his own views-when these vast assemblages shall echo back all these sentiments-when they shall come to repeat his views and to avow his principles, and to say all that he says on these mighty questions-then it needs only the formality of the second Dred Scott decision, which he indorses in advance, to make slavery alike lawful in all the States-old as well as new, North as well as South.

At the completion of his one hour and a half allotted for his rejoinder, Lincoln returned to his seat amid thunderous applause and hearty cheers. Men in the crowd threw their hats in the air and the ladies waved handkerchiefs as a sign of approval. Senator Douglas again stepped forward to commence another half-hour rebuttal to Lincoln’s

remarks. Douglas immediately resumed his attack on Lincoln by calling for answers on the party resolutions he pointed out in his first presentation.

MR. DOUGLAS - Fellow citizens: I will now occupy the half hour allotted to me in replying to Mr. Lincoln. The first point to which I will call your attention is, as to what I said about the organization of the Republican party in 1854, and the platform that was formed on the 5th of October, of that year, and I will then put the question to Mr. Lincoln, whether or not, he approves of each article in that platform ("he answered that already"), and ask for a specific answer. ("He has answered." "You cannot make him answer," &c.) I did not charge him with being a member of the committee which reported that platform. ("Yes, you did.") I charged that that platform was the platform of the Republican party adopted by them. The fact that it was the platform of the Republican party is not denied, but Mr. Lincoln now says, that although his name was on the committee which reported it, that he does not think he was there, but thinks he was in Tazewell, holding court. ("He said he was there.") Gentlemen, I ask your silence, and no interruption. Now, I want to remind Mr. Lincoln that he was at Springfield when that Convention was held and those resolutions adopted. ("You can't do it." "He wasn't there," &c.) [Douglas was wrong about this fact and would admit it at the following debate in Freeport.]

[MR. GLOVER, chairman of the Republican committee - I hope no Republican will interrupt Mr. Douglas. The masses listened to Mr. Lincoln attentively, and as respectable men we ought now to hear Mr. Douglas, and without interruption.] ("Good.")

Douglas went back to his strategy of trying to paint Lincoln and the Republicans as an abolitionist. He would continue to try and pin Lincoln to a response indicating an abolitionist bent or not, Douglas really didn't care. Either way Douglas would be satisfied.

The Black Republican party stands pledged that they will never support Lincoln until he has pledged himself to that platform, (tremendous applause, men throwing up their hats, and shouting, "you've got him,") but he cannot devise his answer; he has not made up his mind whether he will or not. (Great laughter.) He talked about everything else he could think of to occupy his hour and a half, and when he could not think of anything more to say, without an excuse for refusing to answer these questions, he sat down long before his time was out. (Cheers.)

Now you see that upon these very points I am as far from bringing Mr. Lincoln up to the line as I ever was before. He does not want to avow his principles. I do want to avow mine, as clear

as sunlight in mid-day. (Cheers and applause.) Democracy is founded upon the eternal principle of right. (That is the talk.) The plainer these principles are avowed before the people, the stronger will be the support which they will receive. I only wish I had the power to make them so clear that they would shine in the heavens for every man, woman, and child to read. (Loud cheering.) The first of those principles that I would proclaim would be in opposition to Mr. Lincoln's doctrine of uniformity between the different States, and I would declare instead the sovereign right of each State to decide the slavery question as well as all other domestic questions for themselves, without interference from any other State or power whatsoever. (Hurrah for Douglas.)

The debate was now over and the crowd was stirred with admiration for the speakers, but they wanted more. They shouted for additional speeches from the dignitaries on the platform. After a couple of short speeches the Republicans in the audience surged forward, swept Lincoln up onto their shoulders and carried him to the Reddick Mansion where he was to stay the night. Douglas, too dignified to be carried through the streets, walked the hotel but his partisans accompanied him to the local hotel with cheers and shouts of praise!

Arguments between political partisans, fistfights, music from various bands, dancing and food continued the excitement and entertainment of the visitors and locals for the remainder of the afternoon. Folks in the crowds discussed the merits of the positions of the candidates. It had been a hot day, but one of thrills and melodramatics. It was also a day that everyone there would never forget!

With the early eventide coming on, many of the local residents began their homeward trek. The babbling sound of discussions and political arguments filled the cooling end of the day. The clouds in the west glowed red as folks headed home from the activities of the day. Many had no idea that they had just been a witness to history. They were, however, aware of the extraordinary nature of the debate between the Democratic Senator and his Republican challenger! It would be the center of discussions for weeks to come.

[\(<http://www.nps.gov/archive/liho/debate1.htm>\)](http://www.nps.gov/archive/liho/debate1.htm)



The Color Guard for the Third Division, Second Brigade at Gettysburg