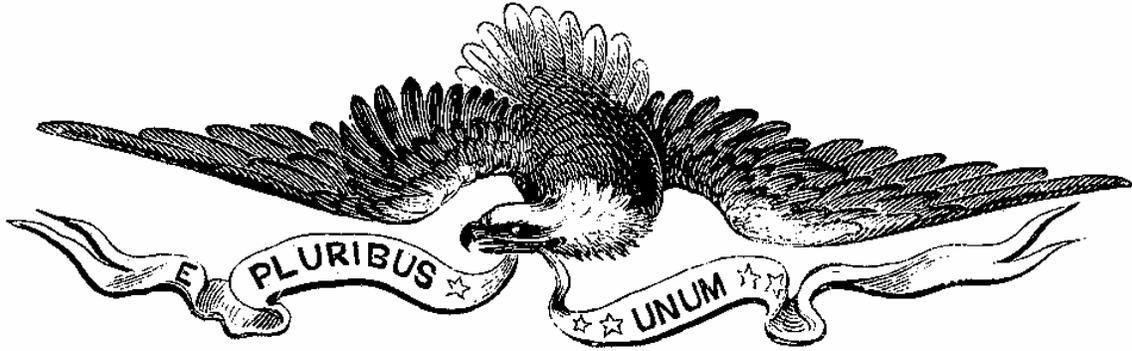

THE FUGELMAN



**A PUBLICATION OF THE SECOND WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER
INFANTRY ASSOCIATION**

VOLUME XVII

ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER, 2009

PASS IN REVIEW



Bugler, sound the general, followed by the assembly! We will be preparing to break camp and march into our 2010 campaign. What a great year the Second had. I have reviewed many drafts of after action reports and it seems we had members of the Second Wisconsin Association in many camps and campaigns this year.

As we look forward to the New Year and the events that will be offered, let's first look back and thank our people who made each event possible. The organizers and hosts have given us all an opportunity share our knowledge and recruit. We were able to do all this and have fun doing it. Be sure to thank our own support group who endured the weekends with the vacant chair at home. A special thank you goes to our auxiliary group who attends the event and provides a warm meal for our boys. I have shared many

a meal with them and cannot thank you enough. (My culinary skill leaves much to be desired).

Gentlemen, now is the time to clean and service your equipment. Tear down the rifle and inspect it for wear and repair it now. Uniforms need to be cleaned. Rips and tears need to be sewn, leather needs to be treated, brass polished. We all know the routine but always seem to push it off till later.

Veterans' Day is November 11th. Let's not forget our own. Remember to say thanks for their service to our country.

Your Obedient Servant,

Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad

THE VIEW FROM THE RANKS

THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

The reenacting season, for most of us, is over for another year. The cold, crisp November winds will soon give way to the freezing temperatures and snow of another winter. In 1863, the Army of the Potomac was settling into its winter camps.

It had been a hard year for the troops. During the past year the bloodletting had been unprecedented! Chancellorsville and Gettysburg were behind them. Comrades were gone who had stood with them in the ranks in the early spring. The First Corps had been virtually destroyed at Gettysburg. New men were coming into the camps, bounty men and conscripts, who seemed to lack the patriotism and determination to put down the rebellion. There was a level of distrust among the veterans for these new men which was unsettling.

During the previous 18 months the men of the Second Wisconsin regiment had endured the fights at Brawner's Farm, Second Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. Now the regiment

was badly decimated and there were too few to veteranize so they would be going home in June, 1864.

Much had been lost, but the "cause" still burned in their hearts! In the coming year their determination to preserve the Union and expand the concept of freedom would not dim.

These warriors would also have seen hopeful signs for the future of the struggle. Vicksburg had fallen, they had won a major battle at Gettysburg, albeit a costly one. The appearance of their prisoners suggested the destitute nature of the Southern armies and the rising tide of the Union armies' fortunes. These men would have been informed by their families back home that despite the hard work and difficulties the harvest had been a very good one! To many of these soldiers it would seem that God was finally blessing their struggle. They also knew that 1864 would be filled with much hard fighting and victory could only be accomplished through the mighty arm of God.

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches once again we have much to be grateful for. No matter how uncertain

our future as Thanksgiving approaches, we have much to be grateful for!

Your officers would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your dedication to the regiment. They are thankful for the time and effort you contribute to this important work in which we are engaged.

Although your sacrifices are different from those young men who flocked to the defense of the Union, like the boys of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, by giving of yourselves with the many who attend our events you demonstrate that spirit that moved them to serve!!! Literally thousands of people this year have interacted with our members. The editor has watched our men put huge smiles on the faces of the children who come through our camps. He has seen the reluctant approach of kids quickly turn into interest and then excitement as a result of the efforts of the men! I have repeatedly talked with parents who were so pleased with the reaction of the children.

TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS, civilian and military, we hope you have a great Thanksgiving. You deserve that!!!

PROCLAMATION OF THANKS - GIVING

Washington, D.C.
October 3, 1863

This is the proclamation which set the precedent for America's national day of Thanksgiving. During his administration, President Lincoln issued many orders like this. For example, on November 28, 1861, he ordered government departments closed for a local day of thanksgiving.

Sarah Josepha Hale, a prominent magazine editor, wrote a letter to

Lincoln on 28, 1863, urging him to have the "day of our annual Thanksgiving made a National and fixed Union Festival." She wrote, "You may have observed that, for some years past, there has been an increasing interest felt in our land to have the Thanksgiving held on the same day, in all the States; it now needs National recognition and authoritative fixation, only, to become permanently, an American custom and institution." The document below sets apart the last Thursday of November "as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise."



Sarah Josepha Hale

According to an April 1, 1864, letter from John Nicolay, one of President Lincoln's secretaries, this document was written by Secretary of State William Seward, and the original was in his handwriting. On October 3, 1863, fellow Cabinet member Gideon Welles recorded in his diary that he complimented Seward on his work. A year later the manuscript was sold to benefit Union troops.

**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

A PROCLAMATION.

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battlefield; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for

our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the Unites States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln

William H. Seward,
Secretary of State

**A REMINDER
THAT
ASSOCIATION
DUES ARE DUE
ON OR BEFORE
JANUARY 1,
2010**

Dear Company Officers:
It may be a little early to start thinking about paying your Association dues, but unlike the past few years where I have asked for the dues by April 1st (this was an incorrect date) the dues (and this is in the Association handbook) need to be collected and turned in by January 1st to your respective Company's treasurer.
You need to get the word out now, so that the membership will have a chance to get use to the changes, and have a chance to get it into their minds that dues are coming up. I am asking each company to post this on your website(s) (if you have one) and in your newsletters, often.
It is up to you to get the word out to your entire company.
At the annual meeting, please do not just hand me a piece of paper with names on it, and a check, I need the information that is set for you below.
Also, for any company that has their lection of officers, both military and civilian I will need that information also.
Again, below you will see what is needed.
Thank you for your time and attention to this.

sincerely
David Dresang
Association/Corporate Secretary

**A FURTHER UPDATE ON
PAYMENT OF DUES AND
ROSTERS FROM THE
ASSOCIATION SECRETARY**

A change has been made in the amount of dues, here are the changes:

Full Military membership remains at \$20.00

Family Military membership is now \$30.00

a Any Household that has more than one military member will now pay \$30.00

b Military members MUST reside at the same address for Family rate

The Deadline is now January 1st for dues. In the past I have mistakenly stated the deadline as April 1st, **PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THE CHANGE!**

Company Presidents/Treasurers:

I will collect the dues at the annual meeting January 30th, 2010

The information that I will require along with the dues Please have this information with you!

Association General Roster

- 1) Name (must have)
- 2) Address (must have)
- 3) Phone number (optional)
- 4) e-mail (optional)
- 5) Rank and or position (must have)
- 6) Dues paid & amount (must have)

This information is kept confidential and only the Association leadership will get a copy. If anyone wishes information form the general roster will need to get permission from either the Vice President or President of the Association.

Civilian/Military Officers

- 1) Name (must have)
- 2) Address (must have)
- 3) Phone number (must have)
- 4) e-mail address (must have)
- 5) Rank and or position (must have)

The reason for all the "must haves" is simple, this information goes out to all companies for the main purpose of contact and information.

Each Company

President/Commanding Officer

will get a copy so they know who is in charge, and how to contact them.

If company(s) has a problem getting the dues to me by the designated time, I must be contacted with the reason for the delay.

My address is;

David Dresang
2890 Monroe Rd
De Pere WI 54115
920-338-5048

ddresang@sbcglobal.net

If you have **ANY** questions regarding this, please, either the Company President or Company Secretary can contact me, and I will try to answer any question regarding this matter.

Do not send me any names of persons that you feel will pay past the deadline, I only want those that will actually pay. I will then check the amount that is sent to me against the names sent in.

In the past, we have had more members on the rolls than dues paid.

Thank you for your time in this matter, and I look forward to seeing you at the Association meeting.

David Dresang
Association/Corporate Secretary

Last month the newsletter published the following information from the Association secretary, Dave Dresang, regarding the payment of dues. **NOTE** that there are changes that all should be aware of as our annual meetings begin to occur.

This is intended to be a reminder to all our members.

ASSOCIATION DUES

Dear Association Members:
It may be a little early to start thinking about paying your Association dues, but unlike the past few years

where I have asked for the dues by April 1st (this was an incorrect date) the dues (and this is in the Association handbook) need to be collected and turned in by January 1st to your respective Company's treasurer.

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a) Any Household that has more than one military member will now pay \$30.00

b) Military members **MUST** reside at the same address for Family rate

The Deadline is now **January 1st** for dues. In the past I have mistakenly stated the deadline as April 1st, **PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THE CHANGE!**

COMPANY

PRESIDENTS/TREASURERS:

I will collect the dues at the annual meeting January 30th, 2010

The information that I will require along with the dues Please have this information with you!

- 1) Name (must have)
- 2) Address (must have)
- 3) Phone number (optional)
- 4) e-mail (optional)
- 5) Rank and or position (must have)
- 6) Dues paid & amount (must have)

If company(s) has a problem getting the dues to me by the designated time, I must be contacted with the reason for the delay.

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David Dresang
Association/Corporate Secretary

NOVEMBER MILESTONES

- Nov. 1, 1861 McClellan replaces Scott as commander of US forces
- Nov. 3, 1816 Gen. Jubal A. Early CSA, born
- Nov. 5, 1862 McClellan removed from command
- Nov. 6, 1861 Jefferson Davis re-elected president of the CSA
- Nov. 7, 1861 Union forces capture Port Royal
- Nov. 8, 1861 Wilkes seizes CSA commissioners at sea
- Nov. 9, 1825 Gen. Ambrose P. Hill CSA born
- Nov. 9 1864 Lincoln re-elected to second term
- Nov. 11, 2009 VETERANS DAY
- Nov. 12, 1814 Gen. Joseph Hooker US born
- Nov. 15, 1864 Sherman begins "March to the Sea"
- Nov. 19, 1863 Lincoln delivers Gettysburg Address
- Nov. 24, 1863 Battle of Chatanooga
- Nov. 25, 1863 Battle of Chatanooga

Nov. 26, 2009 THANKSGIVING DAY

Nov. 28, 1861 Missouri formally admitted to the CSA

Nov. 30, 1864 Battle of Franklin

COMPANY AND REGIMENTAL CAMPAIGN CALENDAR

- Nov. 7-8, 2009 Company H.
Moor Park,
CA
- Nov. ? Company E,
Green Bay
Holiday
parade, Green
Bay, WI
- Nov. 21, 2009 Company E,
Company C &
Company K,
Remembrance
Day,
Gettysburg,
PA

DISPATCH FROM JEFF MURRAY AT OLD WADE HOUSE

The following communication was received from Jeff Murray at the Old Wade House. It is a message for all our folks who attended the Old Wade House civil war weekend. It is safe to say the gratitude expressed herein is heartfelt. Well done fellas!

Hello to all who attended the Wade House event Sep. 25-27,

A very BIG THANK YOU to everybody who came and made the event the spectacular affair it was!!!! While numbers were down slightly from last year, they were right in line with the 2007 event which was a good year in itself. The rain Friday and again on Sunday may have kept the large crowds away, but it didn't damper the enthusiasm or

attention to detail given by you and your fellow re-enactors.

We were very pleased with the four skirmishes and the use of the natural landscape. I heard many comments from the public about how this year was the best ever!!

Again, THANK YOU so much for all that you do!!!! We couldn't make this event happen without people such as yourself!!

Jeffrey Murray
Curator of Interpretation
Wade House Historic Site
P.O. Box 34
Greenbush, WI 53026
(920) 526-3271
fax (920) 526-3626

**SCHEDULE OF
ACTIVITIES
FOR THIS
YEAR'S
REMEMBRANCE
DAY EVENT AT
GETTYSBURG**

Pards,

Here's the schedule for Remembrance Day. I'll be filling out the paperwork for the permits tonight.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY
ACTIVITIES
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21,
2009**

0800 Assemble at Holiday Inn parking lot, march to National Cemetery w/ colors and music (drum and/or fife if musicians attend), no arms will be carried

0830-0900 Place small flags (US and Wisconsin) on graves of Wisconsinites interred in cemetery

0900-0930 Return to parking lot and carpool to Reynolds Avenue

0930-1000 March to Reynolds monument, place wreath(s), reflect, etc

1000-1030 Walk to other Iron Brigade monuments, reflect, etc

1030-1200 Free time

1200 Assemble for parade

1300 Parade

1700-1800 Return to National Cemetery and Reynolds Monument and retrieve flags, wreaths, etc

after 1800 If anyone is interested in a company dinner somewhere like the Irish pub, please feel free to arrange it.

Your humble servant
Sgt. Bill Acheson
2nd Wisc Vol Inf, Co C

The newsletter was privy to an exchange of dispatches between Sgt. Acheson and Capt. Mickelson of Company K. Apparently some tasteless individual stole the wreath used at the Iron Brigade monument. Company generously offered to replace the wreath and will bring it to the event. A special thank you goes out to Sgt. Bill Acheson for his sacrifice in preparing for this event. If you haven't attended this event in the past, the editor highly commends it to your consideration! It is a moving

tribute to those Wisconsin soldiers who gave their lives during the epic struggle at Gettysburg. And it must be said the fellas from Company C are gracious hosts! Finally, if one has not been to the cemetery to view the luminary you are indeed in for a wonderful, sad experience!

Also thank you to Company K and Captain Mickelson for the generous donation of a wreath for the Gettysburg event.

**UNKNOWN
CIVIL WAR
SOLDIER WILL
BE BURIED
WITH SOIL
FROM 18
STATES**

**GARY
VANKAUWENBERG
SENT THE FOLLOWING
ARTICLE TO THE
FUGELMAN AND WE
THANK HIM FOR THIS
CONTRIBUTION**

***BY KEVIN WALTERS, THE
TENNESSEAN***

FRANKLIN - Back in May, the shovels of archaeologists revealed the bones of a soldier buried alone one day sometime in 1864 along Columbia Avenue.

On Saturday, he'll return to the earth still a mystery man. But he won't go without fanfare.

Re-enactors will give him a full military burial, lay him to rest under a marker made of limestone columns and scatter the soil of other Civil War battlefields into his grave.

Those soil samples come from 18 states that have significant sites represented by Union or Confederate troops in the

Battle of Franklin. They were collected by volunteers who want to mark the occasion by remembering the lives and homes of all the soldiers who fought in the battle, as well as Franklin's mystery man.

"The point is to include soil from the unknown soldier's native state in his burial. By covering all 18, we will include his home soil," said Jay Sheridan, Franklin Battle Field Task Force member. "His remains never made it back home, and this is one small way we can honor his service and sacrifice - as well as the sacrifice of his family - even though we will never know who he was or for which side he fought."

Based on the federal insignia decorating the brass buttons found with the skeleton, historians believe the man likely fought for the Union. Historians are divided about whether the soldier died during the Battle of Franklin on Nov. 30, 1864, or later, around Dec. 17, 1864, during the pursuit of Confederate soldiers back through Franklin after the Battle of Nashville.

Ceremony not unprecedented

Adding the various soils from other battlefields is a tradition found in other modern burials of Civil War soldiers. Union and Confederate re-enactors will perform the ceremony for the respective states.

"In a sense, symbolically they will be filling the grave," said Sam Gant, task force member and a descendant of a Union soldier.

Among the sites where soil has been gathered are the Confederate Memorial Hall in Louisiana, Camp Chase military prison in Ohio and the battlefield of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania.

The idea of bringing the home soil of a dead soldier who was not buried in his homeland is one that's been passed down through the ages.

David Fraley, interim executive director of the Carter House, recounted how the family of a Georgia soldier brought soil from their garden in Georgia to lay over his grave.

Talk of the reburial ceremony left Fraley feeling humbled by the experience.

"It's a chance to refocus on literally the flesh and blood and the lives that made this country the one that we've come to know and love," Fraley said.

Contact Kevin Walters at 615-771-5472 or kewalters@tennessean.com

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

**FINDING YOUR CIVIL WAR
ANCESTORS, 1:30 - 3:30PM**

Think you might have a Civil War ancestor? Join genealogist, Jean Hoffman, and learn the basics of genealogical research using U.S. records and the Internet. Discover ways to track down your illusive ancestor or the wife or daughter of a veteran from military records and/or census records.

Advance registration requested.
\$15 (\$10 FOM)

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 -
VETERANS HERITAGE DAY
10AM - 4PM -**

Memorabilia Display from all branches of service in the Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korean War,

and Vietnam War in Freedom Hall.

11AM - Soldiers & Veterans Brick Dedication, Veterans Terrace

Military Vehicles will on Display in the Civil War Museum Parking Lot.

Free Family Event sponsored by the Southern Wisconsin Airborne Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division

NOVEMBER 10 AND 17 -

**WISCONSIN IN THE CIVIL WAR--
THE BEGINNING
6:30 - 8:30PM**

Join Author, Historian Lance Herdegen for this two-part course on Wisconsin in the Civil War. Learn about Wisconsin's early involvement in the underground railroad, the sinking of the 'Lady Elgin,' and the Port Washington draft riot. Also examined is how Wisconsin's military tradition included such unlikely figures as Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln. This class will take place at the Kenosha Public Museum.

Advance registration required.
\$20 (\$15 FOM)

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 -
FOR A VAST FUTURE ALSO -
THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN
BICENTENNIAL, 1PM**

Join Tim Townsend, Historian of the Lincoln Home National Site, Springfield, IL, as he presents Lincoln's view of slavery. Using quotes from Abraham Lincoln, Townsend will illustrate Lincoln's view of slavery, his steadfast stand against its spread, and show how Lincoln ultimately championed slavery's demise. Townsend will further illustrate Lincoln's stand on slavery through quotes from

political contemporaries such as Stephen A. Douglas and abolitionist Fredrick Douglass.

Townsend then brings the Lincoln story to the twentieth century by illustrating the interconnectedness between the Civil War and the Civil Rights stories.

\$10 (\$5 FOM)

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 -
CIVIL WAR
SATURDAYS - THE STORIES IN
PICTURE
2 - 4PM**

A picture is worth a thousand words. We are going to prove this! Look for the stories in the portraits in the

"I had my likeness taken...Portrait Photographs from the Civil War" exhibit. Create your own self-portrait. This is a free family event. Drop in anytime during the hours listed. Sponsored by The Friends of the Museums.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 -
CURATOR TOUR
AND THEATRE PROGRAM**

**CAROLINE QUARLLS AND SE
WISCONSIN IN THE CIVIL WAR**

7PM

As a 16-year old girl, Caroline Quarlls escaped from slavery in Missouri. Join her for an evening of theatre as she recounts her thrilling journey through Illinois and Wisconsin. The curator tour looks at the artifacts and stories presented in the Fiery Trial gallery that relate directly to Southeastern Wisconsin. Advance registration Requested.

\$15 (FOM \$10)

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
"ANTEBELLUM SLAVE
REVOLTS"**

NOON

Join Brett Lobello, Curator of Education at the Civil War

Museum, as he examines the influences of slave revolts on the psyche of South Carolinian fire-breathers. Special interest is paid to the Stono Rebellion, Haitian Revolution, and the Denmark Vesey Conspiracy. This noon time presentation is free and open to the public.

of the Potomac, reporting on the **Battle of Chancellorsville**, Virginia, April 30-May 6, 1863. - At the **Battle of Gettysburg**, July 1-3, 1863, Meredith was severely wounded on the first day, and the "Iron Brigade" was decimated, suffering a total of 1,153 casualties.

**REPORT BY
BRIG. GEN.
SOLOMON
MEREDITH ON
THE ROLE OF
THE IRON
BRIGADE IN
FORCING A
CROSSING OF
THE
RAPPAHANNOCK
RIVER DURING
THE
CHANCELLORS-
VILLE
CAMPAIGN**

"At 9 a.m. 9 [April 29] the brigade was ordered to cross the [Rappahannock] river in boats and drive the enemy from their position, the [6th] Wisconsin and [24th] Michigan moving in the advance, immediately followed by the [2nd] and [7th] Wisconsin, and the [19th] Indiana Volunteers moving up in double-quick. A part of the [2nd] Wisconsin had been ordered to bring forward the pontoons, which it performed in fine style, under a shower of musketry. The [2nd] and [7th] Wisconsin and [19th] Indiana Volunteers

opened fire on the enemy, which was continued for a few minutes, until the pontoons could be placed in the water, when the whole brigade crossed, under a direct and enfilading fire, charged the rifle-pits, killing 30, wounding a large number, and capturing nearly 200 prisoners Of the troops of this command I cannot speak too highly. With heroic fortitude and bravery, on the bloody fields of Gainesville, Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and their late gallant struggle in forging a crossing of the Rappahannock River, they have won for themselves imperishable honors."

— **Brig. Gen. Solomon Meredith**, native North Carolinian, U.S. Army, commanding 4th Brigade ("Iron Brigade"), 1st Division (Wadsworth), 1st Corps (Reynolds), Army of the Potomac, reporting on the **Battle of Chancellorsville**, Virginia, April 30-May 6, 1863. — At the **Battle of Gettysburg**, July 1-3, 1863, Meredith was severely wounded on the first day, and the "Iron Brigade" was decimated, suffering a total of 1,153 casualties.

<http://www.nccivilwar150.com/history/nvoices/union-voices.htm>

**AFRER
ACTION
REPORTS
FROM THE
REBEL
CAMP AT
THE
NORSKEDALEN
EVENT!**

**AN INTERCEPTED
CORRESPONDENCE REFERRING
TO THE ACTION AT POPLAR
CREEK, COON VALLEY (I.E.
NORSKEDALEN)**

Lt. Col. Seielstad has revealed the contents of

dispatches from the Rebel forces following the late action near Norskedalen, in Coon Valley, at a place called Poplar Coolie.

Camp at Florence, Tennessee River, October 12th, 1864

Sir,

I have the honor to report to you the actions of my command on the 9th, 10th and 11th, inst. Pursuant to your orders of the 8th, company A, D & E consolidated, marched in the afternoon of the 9th toward and into Poplar Coolie near this place. Arriving after dark we took possession of a small farm known locally as the Bekkum farm. After our arrival it became evident, by the numerous campfires visible, that the enemy had possession of the east side of the valley and were separated from us by a creek.

As our orders where to hold this place until your arrival, expected later in the day on the 10th, we sent out squads of men to reconnoiter the surrounding hills the following morning. We soon encountered small patrols of the enemy moving about the surrounding woods and fields, no doubt with the intent of looting and molesting the loyal citizens of the valley. Our men were able to engage the enemy and in short actions take several prisoners and inflict casualties against the enemy with little loss to our own men. Amongst the prisoners was a Federal Officer who was in need of medical attention. As we had no surgeon and no way to transfer him to the rear, we paroled him to the care of the enemy who were evidently able to treat him.

Around noon of this day the enemy could be seen forming up across the creek and the beat of the drum heralded the ensuing attack. I quickly divided our company, placing Lt. Haskell in command of second platoon,

and he moved his men to good position on our right flank and above the approach of the enemy. Prisoners taken earlier in the day had informed us that were now to face companies B and E of the 21st Wisconsin who had entered the valley earlier on the 9th.

The enemy advanced in fine martial array and marched toward our position at the Bekkum cabin. At the most advantageous moment Lt. Haskell coolly ordered a brisk and effective fire on the enemy's left flank. As they turned to answer 2nd platoons fire, I ordered the first platoon into action and we attacked on their exposed right.

The resulting crossfire sent the Enemy in retreat and we pushed them nearly back to the creek. Our pursuit resulted in our coming under the range of a battery of three-inch guns positioned across the valley. At the same moment a second company of the enemy came up in support of the first company and began to push Lt. Haskell from his position. We quickly consolidated our position at the edge of the Bekkum farm and held the enemy, now in superior numbers, under a steady fire. Without the support of their guns they could advance no further and soon retreated back across the creek. The fields east of the Bekkum cabin were littered with the Federal dying and wounded. A quarter was called and agreed to; and the enemy allowed to collect their wounded and book the dead.

That night, because of the unseasonably cold temperatures the pickets became quiet and the messes prepared what provisions could be found. Although not authorized by this command, some contact with the enemy ensued where provender was exchanged and drink received to warm the chill.

This strange quiet continued into the morning of the 11th and allowed the men to attend Divine Services.

However, soon after the pickets reported the enemy was again sending scouting parties forward and for a second time Lt. Haskell and I responded in force to throw them back. Once again we were successful and took additional prisoners with little to no loss. With the valley west of the creek once again clear of the enemy and expecting your imminent arrival, we threw up quick breast works across the Bekkum field East of the cabin and set careful watch.

It was shortly after midday that enemy massed for another assault. The company was formed and marched toward the breast works. We broke in to platoons with myself commanding first platoon at the works and Lt. Haskell taking command of the reserve. There we held off the advancing enemy until their three-inch ordinance, which had moved up in the night, began to find its range. I ordered the men back from the works and toward the farm where once again we were able to pour an effective fire into the advancing Federals. It was then that the enemy produced a battery of mountain howitzer and prolonged it onto the field. About the same moment several companies of the Enemy arrived and advanced and we were forced back to the farm. Our losses were then becoming heavy and many of our men were down to only two or three cartridges.

I then suffered a spent round which struck my left shin and, although it drew no blood, caused complete loss of feeling and use of the limb. Another round struck my left arm and I was forced to turn command over to Lt. Haskell. From the front porch of the Bekkum cabin I could see the brave Lieutenant command the men with skill and honor and was proud to see the men respond with equal ability. I witnessed the shot that struck at Lt. Haskell's feet and

carried him over the fence and into the farm yard where he died shortly after. Never have I had the honor to serve with such a fearless and admirable officer and his loss will be felt by this command deeply.

Acting First Sergeant Ledvina then took over command. However, the men were now out of ammunition; except a handful who had but one round. Being under fire from the battery and now being flanked on both sides by the newly arrived federals, Sergeant Ledvina could hold only a short time before he was forced to retreat through the back of the farm.

I along with the wounded were quickly captured and soon found ourselves at the hands of the Federals. Things may have gone badly except that soon after our capture the very same officer that I had exchanged the day before appeared and insisted upon equal treatment of the wounded as his own men were receiving. The feeling now returning to my leg I was able to stand where I was soon spotted by this noble enemy. I was treated quickly and then marched under guard to the edge of the farm, where to my surprise and everlasting gratitude I was allowed to return to our own lines and thus have the honor to write this report. I learned his name was Drezange and if we should ever become his "host" again I would hope he would be treated with equal respect.

We entered the Poplar Coolie with twenty-three men and two officers. Upon roll call this morning we can muster only eight men and myself -- with many of the men being wounded to at least some degree; though none enough that they would not pick up the rifle at once and bring retribution to the Enemy if they could. It is my sincerest wish that my command should meet with your complete approbation. And it is with this hope that I remain,

Your most obedient
Servant,
Capt. Edward A. Gray,
Company A, D & E,
consolidated, 16th TN.

ANOTHER AFTER ACTION REPORT:

AFTER ACTION REPORT: COON VALLEY - NORSKEDALEN, OCT 2009

This last weekend is to be one of the most memorable of any I have had in my re-enacting 'career'. I can rank this event right up there with nearly any National I have gone to. The weather was cold, but thanks to the hospitality of the former "Widow Dawn" the boys were granted a warm place to sleep at night. On Friday night sitting in the Parlor of the 1860's Bekkum cabin, with the wood stove throwing off ample heat, frost on the windows, the oil lamps bathing everything in a golden glow; and of course us, at the table or in rockers, a drink at our elbow, enjoying a pipe, at ease in our vests and collars - was like being in a movie!

It was cold at night - someone said 24 degrees! But this meant the days were cool but very manageable and considering the amount of marching and fighting we did, the temperature was a pleasure. Speaking of fighting, many of the boys came close to emptying their cartridge boxes before noon. We took many Yankee prisoners and it was great fun to bundle them into the corn crib for a quarter of an hour or so before paroling them back to their side. There was one Lt. who was captured so many times that we finally offered to give him a pass so he could come over anytime he wanted and save us the

trouble! Thanks Dave for being such a great sport! The battle on Saturday afternoon found us with a strategic victory, holding the farm and keeping the civilians safe.

Saturday night was the Mess Cook-off. Our mess was given ham, apples, "some kind of beans" in pods, carrots, tomato and a potato to cook. We could also add what we could find around the grounds and what we carried in our haversacks. All we had to turn in was a single plate of food before the time limit expired. We would be judged for Taste, Originality and Presentation. We competed against five other messes - all Yankee. The prize: a fine bottle of Whiskey!

Chad grabbed the reigns and took mastery of the ham. He prepared an apple glaze and began the baking. Jamie 'flanked' the potatoes and sliced them the long way, and Brandon charged in to the carrots and grabbed a fry pan. Norb and Keith assisted wherever needed. I figured out something to do with the 'beans' inside the pod - some variety of purple monsters that none of us had either seen or could put a name too. The last thing started was a set of corn cakes by 'meself'.

When everything was done Jamie and I laid out the plate. To cleanse the palate, a cold bean-salad with carrots, tomato, onion and a wine-vinaigrette was rested at the top. We had three slices of apple-glazed ham at the bottom to anchor the meal. The pan-roasted potatoes with onions were laid down overlapping each other and complimented the ham in color and shape. Next, the fire-roasted carrots in a brown-sugar glaze were placed in the middle. The two corn pone were examined; the best went on the plate; the other was quickly tested for taste and

texture. The baked apples [not all used in the glazing] had been improved into a desert and finished the plate off wonderfully. Jamie dubbed it "The Fall Colors Festival of Flavors" -- or something close to that. It was a thing of beauty. When we brought it in to the judge, Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad was visibly impressed at the look of our culinary fare. We could see a few of the other dishes on the side-board [some resembling gravel and dirt] and our dish did indeed look grand! Some of the boys were pretty cock-sure of a solid victory at this point.

But that was not to be.....

On the other side of the creek, in the Yankee company of 'E' there was a mess that was bent on winning. "Team 3", known as the "Iron Mess", were a formidable foe! They had taken second place last year and knew how to impress the judges. Their secret ingredients included a partridge. They roasted the bird to perfection and rested it on a bed of rice. They gathered cherries from the trees and raspberries from the wood's edge to make a dessert. They worked and cooked and delivered their dish before ours. A camp rumor quickly circulated that they had achieved the highest score in the history of the competition! I walked over to their camp to reconnoiter the enemy. To my dismay they had, in their minds at least, already tasted their first sips of the prize.

At about 8:00pm the scores were announced. We were now informed that we had been judged by Taste, Originality, Presentation, AND "Difficulty". Certainly the poor blokes who had been handed an unskinned squirrel might have had a harder time than those that had ham; but we wondered what else might be going on and why "Difficulty" had been added. We listened intently as the judge

continued. He read scores like 19, and 25 and 30. Then came the score of the Iron Mess; "45 Points!" A winning score clearly! We looked at each other. We had dubbed ourselves "What-a Mess" and now wondered if we had only lived up to the name. Our mess was the last to be announced. "Team 6: also 45 Points!" --- A tie had resulted! There were shouts of "Recount!" and cries of "You just had HAM!" and our retort of "Partridge is just 'chicken!'" Someone called for a cook-off to break the tie. Then things started to get ugly and may have come to blows when the Judge announced that there would be a coin-flip to determine the winner. Jug [a.k.a. Chad] was called in for the honors. The flip was made - heads was called, and Jug won! The bottle was ours! More importantly the Victory achieved was sweet and savored by the Confederate forces for the rest of the weekend! The Glory lived on - but the bottle, sadly, perished that night.....

On Sunday's battle, I thought - for just a second or two, I could hear coming from the enemy lines as they approached, a rising chant of "ham, ham, Ham, Ham, HAM, HAM!" And with that as their "Battle Cry" there was no stopping them and we were pushed from the field with many wounded or killed and many others ending up as prisoners. They searched and rooted; but the bottle they were looking for had already 'left the farm'.

It was my pleasure to command an excellent unit. I really mean it when I say it

was an honor and responsibility I value greatly. Thanks Bob & Brandon for being great Sergeants. Thanks to Ian, Shawn and Matt along with the others I have already mentioned who fell in to the ranks. Thanks to Dawn and Family for being more-than-patient hosts. And to Johnathan, he did great as a soldier but his fiddle playing on the porch on Sunday as the 'taters gathered around us, was sublime! All of our guys did fantastic! The 1st South Carolina boys that fell in with us were all blessed with excellent enthusiasm and character. Their Captain, Bill Haskel who acted as our Lt., was a great all around guy and I loved the way he wanted to take his rifle in to the hills rather than a sword and pistol! The Yankees were great foes and joy to fight against and compete with. They had the best officers and men one could hope to meet at an event. My hats off to them!

Of course it was a proud moment when I was talking with the Federals and they commented that it seemed like we were everywhere during the morning tacticals! We seemed to be getting so lucky: taking prisoners, catching Yankees in cross-fires, etc, etc, that I asked Lt. Dresang if we were "not playing fair". "No!" he snapped - with a smile, "You're playing like Confederates!"

Capt., E.A. Gray, 16th
Tennessee, Commanding.



Untitled

The Ladies of New Orleans before General Butler's Proclamation.

After General Butler's Proclamation.

Artist: John McLenan

Benjamin Butler's most famous (or infamous) connection with the Civil War was his tenure as commander of the Union occupation forces in New Orleans in 1862. In particular, he gained international attention for issuing his "Woman Order," which instructed his troops to treat as a prostitute any woman of the city who insulted them. Shockwaves from the order rippled throughout two continents, provoking vilification in the South, amused support in the North (as in this cartoon), and disdain in Britain.

Butler was one of the more colorful and controversial characters of the late-nineteenth century. At the onset of the Civil War, he quickly volunteered his services to the Union cause. As a brigadier general for his home-state Massachusetts Militia, he led forces that secured Baltimore for the Union in May 1861 and, as a major general, captured Forts Hatteras and Clark in North Carolina in August 1861. On April 28-29, 1862, a Union naval squadron commanded by Admiral David Farragut and assisted by Butler's union army forces captured New Orleans, the South's most populous city and important port.

On May 1, 1862, Butler began his command of occupied New Orleans. The Union blockade of Confederate ports

and runaway inflation in the South had impoverished the once vibrant metropolis, whose residents bordered on the brink of starvation. Although Butler actually brought some relief for the suffering, a majority of the city's white population remained committed to the Confederate cause, and were deeply resentful of the Union troops in their midst.

After setting up headquarters at the posh St. Charles Hotel, Butler soon learned firsthand about the bitterness of New Orleans natives. The innkeeper ignored the general's call for breakfast until Butler threatened to take over the entire hotel. The indignant mayor, John T. Monroe, spurned the general's initial request for a meeting at the hotel. A loud, angry crowd outside the establishment made so much noise that an irritated Butler ordered artillery brought in to disperse them. Merchants at first would not deal with the Union forces until Butler confiscated the property of one boycotter, selling it cut-rate at auction. He also closed a newspaper, the *True Delta*, which would not print an official Union Army document. After these incidents, the businessmen of the community reluctantly served and traded with the Union troops.

In his first official address, Butler placed New Orleans under martial law, ordered the confiscation of firearms, forbid public assemblies, and sanctioned the flying of only the Stars and Stripes; yet, he allowed the city government to continue functioning. Mayor Monroe futilely argued for hours with Butler against the proclamation. Butler considered such measures to be necessary, but otherwise he did not want to antagonize his enemies. The general reopened the *True Delta*, dispersed his troops widely (leaving a relative few in the city proper), strictly prohibited looting, allowed postal and railroad service (the latter bringing much needed food and supplies), and requested a lifting of the blockade (which occurred on June 1). Some Northerners criticized his rule as too lenient, while some Confederates grudgingly gave him credit.

Nevertheless, most of the city's white residents remained acrimonious. While businessmen could not overtly rebuff the Federal troops, their wives and daughters could. When Union soldiers approached on the street, the women gathered up their skirts to signify avoidance of dirt; when the Federals boarded streetcars, the women departed contemptuously. There were also reported incidents of spitting, as depicted in the cartoon above.

Butler himself walked past a balcony on which six young women shrieked and turned their backsides toward him, prompting him to observe, "These women evidently know which end of them looks the best." The final straw, however, came when a woman in the French Quarter emptied a chamber pot onto the head of Admiral Farragut.

On May 15, 1862, Butler issued General Order No. 28, which thereafter became known as the "Woman Order." It announced that any female who insulted a Union soldier by word or deed would be regarded and held liable as a prostitute ("a woman of the town plying her avocation"). The general had hit right at the valued Southern concepts of honor and ladylike gentility. Horrified Southerners assumed the order encouraged the Federals to violate the city's women as prostitutes. The order was read to Confederate troops to stir their blood, and one Southern newspaper put a \$10,000 price on Butler's head. Jefferson Davis, the Confederate president, denounced him as "brutal."

In Britain, where the upper class was already sympathetic to the Confederacy, the *London Times* characterized Butler's Woman Order as a "military rule of intolerable brutality." The prime minister, Lord Palmerston, condemned it as "infamous. Sir, an Englishman must blush to think that such an act has been committed by one belonging to the Anglo-Saxon race." His foreign secretary, Lord Russell, agreed, and sent an envoy to the American secretary of state, William Henry Seward, who stood firm behind Butler's action.

Yet, for all the stinging criticism heaped upon Butler and the Woman Order, it proved to be effective in shaming the white women of New Orleans into suppressing their insulting words and behavior. Butler insisted that his men treated violators like all well-bred persons who encountered prostitutes in public, by ignoring them.

The Woman Order also helped expedite the political end of Mayor Monroe. The mayor had already angered the general by opening the city to a French fleet, a move the flabbergasted Butler countermanded. Butler remarked in a letter to Monroe, "The offers of the freedom of a captured City by the captive ... [is a] novelty." The same day, Monroe assailed Butler with complaints about the Woman Order until the exasperated general threatened him with prison. When evidence surfaced a few days later that the mayor was financing a Confederate

company, the Monroe Guards, Butler jailed him and several other city officials in Fort Jackson. When the City Council refused to swear oaths of allegiance to the Union, it was suspended, and Butler's command of the city became more complete.

Within a few months, charges of rampant corruption by Union officials under Butler's watch (including his brother) reached intolerable levels. No proof of wrongdoing touched the general personally, but rumors of his graft earned him the nickname "Spoons" (for allegedly stealing silverware from the mansions of the wealthy). On December 16, 1862, President Lincoln recalled Butler as commander of New Orleans and replaced him with General Nathaniel Banks.

In late 1863, Butler was given the command of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina. In October 1864, he was sent to New York City to prevent or control election riots. Criticized for his inability in the field, Butler retired from the army and returned to Massachusetts in December 1864. After the war, Butler served as a congressman, governor of Massachusetts, and the presidential nominee of the Greenback-Labor party in 1884.

For cartoonist John McLenan's perspective on the conclusion of General Benjamin Butler's command of the occupation forces in New Orleans, see the cartoon of [January 17, 1863](#).

Robert C. Kennedy

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/harp/0712.html>

REGIMENTAL DISPATCHES

This year the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association awarded two \$500.00 scholarships to promising students. The recipients were announced in the October *Fugelman*, but details were unavailable when the paper went to press.



Figure 1 TIANA DRESANG--SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

One of the recipients of this year's scholarship was Tiana Dresang. Ms. Dresang's picture appears above. Tiana is in her third year at IIT-Green Bay with a focus on game design. Once again we extend our heartiest congratulations to Tiana and wish her much success in her studies and her future career.

COMPANY A
AFTER ACTION REPORT
FROM GETTYSBURG BY TOM
KLAS WITH HIS
COMPLIMENTS

Last month *The Fugelman* published some photos and a report by Colonel Decrane from the Black Hat Battalion. This month we are glad to have an after action report and photos from Tom Klas from the same event!

Gentlemen of the Association,

Below is a brief report on the detailed orientated company raised by the Hard Head Mess with several Association men present at Gettysburg National Military Park July 31st - August 2nd, 2009. Association members Scott Frank, Brad Argue, Rich Propp, Bret Jaeger, Gary Klas, Daryl Koehn, Al Ferranto, and myself from the Association were all part of this accuracy driven company from from all over the United States. We had fairly high standards to

be part of the company (very similar to the ones Company A currently has) and all were pleased with what we were able to accomplish for the weekend.

I was complimented by Lance Herdegen on the quality of the men at the event in our company (36 men which was only two more than the original Citizens Guard at Gettysburg) and our interest in an overall accurate portrayal from using Chandler's Tactic's for the Manual of Arms, to our ration issues which the public was able to witness, everyone needed to attain accurate uniform & equipage standards (similar to the Authenticity Guide of the Citizens Guard) and having over fourteen original Austrian Lorenz Rifle Muskets in the ranks. Our descendants from Company A Second Wisconsin - Dan & Gretchen Farwell and Kate & Dennis Denny were thrilled and honored to be part of our weekend. Our company this weekend made the Citizens Guard come alive for them & the public that attended and the Daniels & Denny families wanted me to tell you how they appreciated our attention to detail. They noticed and were proud to be with us to share in the story of both Jasper Daniels and Robert Welch of the Citizens Guard - Company A Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment!

Many thanks to everyone for coming out and with a good attitude toward our limitations with the NMP and carpe eventum in general. Steve Acker on rations (although he could not attend Steve was with us in pork shanks!), Dave Gerow and Brad Argue for their officer skills during the weekend, our NCO's (Frank, Weed, Mink, O'Dea, Krogh, Propp, Ackeret) whom worked hard and tried to help teach Chandler's tactics to the best of their ability. Also thank you to Andy Roscoe and the 24th Michigan for allowing us to come out with them. The 24th were fine hosts and made our Cordi Farm March happen with the NPS which was a memory I will not forget.

I want to especially thank Lance Herdegen for coming out and being with us on Saturday morning. It was a treat I think many of us thought was worth coming to the event in the first place - a great experience.

We hoped those present in our company enjoyed the battlefield tour with Lance, the Cordori Farm march, the docent readings on Culps Hills, the honor ceremony with the descendants laying wreaths on the graves of the Citizens Guard members, and overall a chance to accurately portray a company of the Second Wisconsin Vols at Gettysburg which to my knowledge has not happened for quite some time at the park.

For those that thought about being part of this company and were a touch worried about making the requirements, we had several gents fall in with us that worked on upgrading their kit to attend. One in fact was my father whom is still gleaming about the event and Daryl Koehn whom worked hard to upgrade his kit to make the event standards. If you ever have interest in attending events with more attention to detail, feel free to let myself or other members of the Citizens Guard know. We are here to help other Association members that have an interest in a very accurate portrayal no matter what company you are in. That is part of the idea as well of having our Suggested Uniform and Equipage List for Association Members to use. It will open up doors to other events that you may not have even known about and have interest in attending.

Thanks gents,

Tom Klas
Company A Second Wisconsin
Citizens Guard

Attached are 5 pictures from the Gettysburg Living History on July 31st - August 2nd, 2009 and an After Action Report for an upcoming Fugelman.

DSC03677 is a picture of Kate & Dennis Denny at the Grave of George H. Stevens founder of the Citizens Guard, Company A 2nd Wisconsin buried at Gettysburg. Kate's great-grandfather Robert Welch fought at Gettysburg and was killed at the Wilderness. He was a member of Company "A" Second Wisconsin.

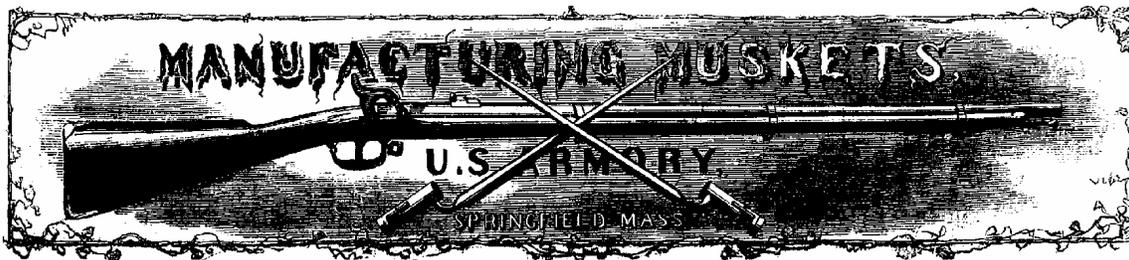
DSC03682 is a picture of Dan & Gretchen Farwell at the Grave of George H. Stevens founder of the Citizens Guard, Company A 2nd Wisconsin buried at Gettysburg. Dan's great grandfather Jasper Daniels fought at Gettysburg with the Citizens Guard, Company A 2nd Wisconsin during the battle as part of the Iron Brigade Guard.

Our group picture with Lance is from the Railroad Cut with our Company hosted by the Hard Head Mess portraying Company A 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry for the weekend.





THE SKIRMISHERS



The editor has had the opportunity to visit the websites suggested by Gary Vankauwenbergh below and it is worth the time to visit, even if you are not a skirmisher. The photos are very good and the videos were also enjoyable. Thank you Gary for keeping us abreast of the shooters' activities!

Ladies and Gentlemen

Here are two videos well worth watching. The first is our last [ACWSA/N-SSA](#) Friendship skirmish, The second is from the Wade House reenactment.

Bravo, bravo! They make me want to start skirmishing again....

- The American Civil War Shooting Association (ACWSA), which the 2nd Wisconsin team belongs to, more than doubled it's membership in 2009. Many new members were added to the roster with a "first year free membership" program, but the biggest reason for the increase was the addition of 11 teams from Michigan. Plans for an ACWSA championship skirmish are in the works.

- The ACWSA web site has had a lot of updates. If you haven't visited it recently at <http://acwsa.org/> you should browse it. The 11 new teams are now listed, and the 2010 skirmish schedule is posted. Don't miss all the great photos and videos on the news page, <http://acwsa.org/news.htm>

Yr. Obt. Srvt.,
Gary Van Kauwenbergh
ACWSA Adjutant