



THE FUGELMAN

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND
WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY
ASSOCIATION**

THE BLACK HATS

**THE IRON BRIGADE
1861-1864**

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JULY, 2011

FU-GEL-MAN: A well-drilled soldier placed in front of a military company as a model or guide for others.

PASS IN REVIEW



Here we are poised to attend the first national event of the sesquicentennial anniversary of the American Civil War. Bull Run or

Manassas, depending on whose side you're on, is the battle that changes the notion that it will be a 90-day war. As historians we know all too well the account of the 2nd Wisconsin.

Our regimental colors will be unfurled at this event and we will take time to commemorate the 2nd's contribution and sacrifices at Bull Run. Officers, please have ready a list of those who fell from your company at Manassas. We will read a roll of honor in a brief regimental ceremony.

General Irvin McDowell warned Lincoln that his army was unprepared to fight, too raw and not ready for battle. Lincoln's response: "You are green, it is true. But they are green, also. You are all green alike". This is perhaps the one event we don't need to be very accomplished in our maneuvers. But, we will still need to keep an eye on safety in handling the musket and in our own health. Keep the canteens filled and drink plenty of water. Have a pard who will look out for you as you will look out for him. Our officers and NCOs will be instructed to maintain a vigil for safety during our engagements but it is up us as individuals to keep safety in the forefront.

My compliments to the membership as we continue to educate others in the American Civil War while having enjoyment living it. Our brotherhood as the 2nd Wisconsin Association is unique because our goal is the same throughout. Because we will remember and we will educate, we commemorate the soldier and civilian of this time in America's history.

Your Obedient Servant,

**Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad
2nd Wisconsin Vol. Inf. Regiment**

Below is a response to last month's article by Lt. Col. Seielstad with a contribution by Jeff Blakeley in his "Pass In Review" by a comrade, Robert Sienkowski. Thank you Bob for taking the time to comment on the article. I think we all agree wholeheartedly with you point of view!

Sir: Great article by Lt. Col Seielstad. I am a Vietnam Era veteran having served in the U.S. Navy and Connecticut Army National Guard during that time. I would like to also inform the Colonel that there is a fifth armed service, the United States Coast Guard. Although our

mission is primarily Maritime law enforcement and search and rescue, members actively served in WW2, Korea , and Vietnam .

Respectfully;

Robert W. Sienkowski

Yeoman First Class

United States Coast Guard (Retired)

INDEPENDENCE DAY AND THE UNFINISHED WORK OF THE CIVIL WAR

The editor recently traveled to Springfield, Illinois, with his granddaughters and Mrs. Pvt. Dumke, to introduce them to Abraham Lincoln in a concrete way. We took the girls to Union Station Square and took the obligatory photos of the girls with the 2 statues of Mr. Lincoln in the park. It was while they were taking a break and testing the benches that I observed two new obelisks near the old train depot. These were beautiful black marble tones that were placed in the park to remember the Springfield race riot of 1908.

As the pictures below reflect, the base relief of incidents during the riot moved the editor to contemplate their meaning and their location.

Springfield was the home of Abraham Lincoln. While Lincoln accorded blacks the elemental human rights designated by Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence, the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, it wasn't until late 1863 that Lincoln seemed ready to consider political rights for blacks, especially black soldiers. At the same time, back in his home state of Illinois, the white citizens in central and southern parts of the state held deeply racist attitudes which would inflame an anti-black backlash as the concept of social and political rights for the race were being advanced by Congress.

The seeds of the riot began on July 4, 1908. A white man named Clergy Ballard was awaked during the night by an intruder in his home. Ballard chased the intruder from his home, but when he caught up with the man he had his throat cut with a straight razor.

Before he died the following day he identified his attacker as a black man named Joe James. Mr. James was arrested and held in the Springfield jail. On August 14, 1908, a woman was raped by a black man she identified named George Richardson. Richardson was also taken to the Springfield jail. Anger was running high and the sheriff arranged to have the two black men moved secretly to a jail in Bloomington, Illinois.





A white mob gathered at the jail demanding that the two black men be turned over to the crowd. At that point they were told the men were no longer there and they had been transported to Bloomington. The crowd then turned their anger and frustration on the black community in Springfield burning homes, destroying businesses and killing or beating blacks. Local law enforcement officers were unable to control the violence and the governor sent in the state militia to quell the riot. By the end of the riot seven were dead and over \$200,000 in damages had occurred.

The story of the riot isn't the surprise, the location might seem to be. After all this was the hometown of Abraham Lincoln! It also points to the fact that white folks had not necessarily agreed with Lincoln's view that blacks were entitled to those essential rights whites took for granted. It was part of that unfinished work that Lincoln talked about at Gettysburg in November of 1863 and in his second inaugural address in March, 1864.

Many historians point to a conversation President Lincoln had with black leaders in 1863. Lincoln was meeting with these men to encourage them to support Lincoln's colonization plan. Lincoln was trying his utmost to convince the border states to emancipate their slaves. Lincoln told these men that in his opinion blacks could never truly be free in a country where prejudice would bar them from all aspects of freedom and that for the benefit of both races they should be separated. The current analysis of this speech is that it demonstrates Lincoln's personal animosity to the black race. There is another reading of this speech that comes to mind. Lincoln perceived

the reality, based of his life experiences in his old hometown of Springfield and his political challenges in two Senate campaigns and the voters in the southern half of Illinois. Acknowledging the overt racism he had encountered there Lincoln knew that acceptance of blacks as citizens would be virtually impossible and there could be violent opposition from the white community. Some would identify this as political prescience and not overt racism.

The Civil War was a war primarily for Union, but it was also a war for freedom. The nearly 200,000 black Union soldiers recognized this more than any other soldiers in the Union army. Freedom comes at a steep price all too often. Democracy is also at times a messy process. But in the United States the two principles work hand in hand. It would take an additional 100 years for the unfinished work of the war to come to fruition for blacks, but the fact that it did come proves Lincoln's claim that this nation is indeed the last best hope of mankind for all men and women to achieve and rise in society.

As we celebrate Independence Day this year let us remember the struggle and cost of freedom and those who have paid that price!

COMPANY AND REGIMENTAL CAMPAIGN SCHEDULES

July 9th	Hixon House Living History (Co. B)	Lacrosse, WI
9th- 10th	Wauconda Reenactment (Co. K)	Wauconda IL
16th-17th	56th VA (2nd WI skirmish team)	Bristol WI
16th-17th WI	Old Falls Village Reenactment (Co. E & Battery B)	Menominee Falls
21st-24th	*National Event-First Bull Run (National Max effort event)* Manassas VA it is also our BHB Max effort event*	
30th-31st	Copper Harbor Living History (Co. E)	Copper Harbor MI
30th-31st	Living History Kenosha Civil War museum (Co. K)	Kenosha WI

COMPANY REPORTS

COMPANY B

HIXON HOUSE EVENT TO TAKE PLACE IN LACROSSE JULY 9TH, 2011

On July 9th, 2011, Company B will be taking part in a special event at the Hixon House in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. This is a one day event that runs from noon until 4:00 p.m. The Hixon House and museum are located at 7th and Badger Streets, in LaCrosse. Below you will find a list of activities going on during the day.

Company B extends an invitation to any of their comrades to join them for this event. This is obviously a living history event and low key. Company B can use every man to stand his post for this event. If anyone has a question about the event they can contact John Dudkiewicz at (608) 780-8977. This is a beautiful part of our state and worthy of a trip to do some sightseeing and help our comrades out for a day.

- **Free entertainment & admission to the grounds**
- **Hot dogs & ice cream for purchase, tickets for other activities**
- **Hixon House tours led by costumed docents - \$2 off**
- **Music, juggling and antique cars**
- **Company B 2nd Wisconsin Civil War re-enactors**
- **608.782.1980 or www.lchsweb.org**

COMPANY B MEMORIAL DAY EVENT IN LACROSSE

On Memorial Day 2011, Company B participated in a commemorative parade in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. The company was joined by Venture Crew #2 for the Memorial Day activities. The Company and the Scouts would create essentially two different color guards. The lead color guard was made up of those who were clad in the state militia gray uniforms from 1861. They carried the 1861 state and national colors. This lead group also carried the 1860 Light Guard flag of the unit that would eventually become Company B of the 2nd Wisconsin.

The other color guard was composed of members in the Federal blue uniforms and they carried the 1863 state and national colors. The pictures, which are pretty darned awesome were taken by Robert Taunt at the LaCrosse Oak Grove Cemetery and passed along to *The Fugelman* by our comrade John Dudkiewicz.





COMPANY E

OLD FALLS VILLAGE EVENT IN MENOMINEE, WISCONSIN

As the time for our Civil War encampment approaches, July 16th and 17th at Old Falls Village , I need to get some details ironed out. The first one is the number of people we will have participating in this event and on which days. This count is needed for the meal at 5:30 on Saturday night. I know some of you have told me in the past just how many of your group will be attending and others said that they wouldn't know until closer to the date. I apologize for asking for this information again but it gives me the information in only one location. Could you please e-mail myself and the co-chair with your information. She is Irene Lape (iglape@wi.rr.com).

If you are setting up a camp or a display I would like to know when you would like to set up. The event starts at 10:00 am on each day so I would like to have everyone set up no later than 9:00 am each day. If you would like to set up on Friday we will have some people on site Friday to tell you where to set up. If you want to set up earlier please let me know and I will make arrangements to accommodate this.

Our brochure lists Weapons drills, Cooking demonstrations, Storytelling, Civil War memorabilia, Food and More. We will take care of the food, but I need some reenactors to do the weapons drills, cooking demonstrations and if possible storytelling. If anyone would be interested, either as an individual or a group, please let us know. If you have any other demonstration you would like to do, please let us know also.

If anyone sees any thing that I may have overlooked or that needs to be addressed please don't hesitate to let me know.

Will get back to everyone as needed.

**Respectfully,
Jack Tindall**

SECOND WISCONSIN SKIRMISH TEAM

ITEMS SOUGHT BY NEW MEMBERS OF THE SKIRMISHERS

Members of the Second Wisconsin: Gary Van Kauwenbergh has asked for some assistance for new members on the skirmish team. The Skirmish Team has some new members who need to complete their kits for their participation. If anyone has the following items they may be interested in selling please contact the individuals as indicated below.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 2nd Wisconsin skirmish team has a number of new members needing equipment on a budget. They do have muskets and revolvers, but need to get the rest of their kits together.

Needed:

One set of Union leathers

One belt and cap pouch

Frock coats

Hardee hats

Pants (dark or light blue)

If you have any items available, please contact: Jan at buck300savage@hotmail.com.

Sizes:

Jan

Chest 40 coat size 44 fits

head 21.5

waist 32-34

pant length 33-34

arm length 22

neck 16.5

Brennen

Head-20.5

waist-25

chest-28-30

arm length-20

pant length-30

a little larger is ok for Bren as he is growing.

Randy - 1XL

DISPATCHES FROM REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

CIVIL WAR MILESTONES

JULY

July 1, 1863

A. P. Hills troops encounter John Buford's cavalry along the Chambersburg Pike and the Battle of Gettysburg commences. Late in the afternoon and long into the night reinforcements under General Hancock's and General Meade's direction arrive on the battlefield.

July 2, 1863

Late in the afternoon the rebels under General James Longstreet attack Meade's left wing. After a desperate struggle the attack is blunted and the Union troops hold their positions on Cemetery Ridge. Troops under General Ewell's command attack the right wing on Culp's Hill but to no avail as the Union forces hold.

July 3, 1863

The battle at Gettysburg comes to a conclusion when the Pickett-Trimble-Pettigrew attack on the Union center fails with the rebels suffering great losses in the attempt. The attack was preceded by a huge artillery contest for over an hour.

July 4, 1863

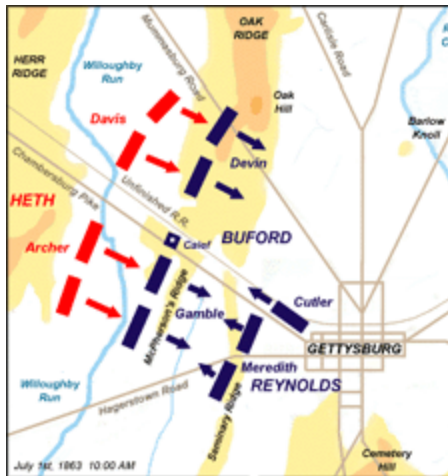
Grant compels the surrender of Vicksburg after a siege of over a month on the fortified city.

July 5, 1801	Admiral David G. Farragut, U.S.A., born.
July 9, 1863	Port Hudson surrenders.
July 13, 1821	Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, C.S.A., born.
July 13, 1861	Union forces secure West Virginia.
July 21, 1861	THE FIRST BATTLE OF BULL RUN—this is the 150th anniversary of the battle.
July 29, 1862	The CS Alabama sails out of England.
July 30, 1864	The Battle of the Crater.

AUGUST

Aug. 5, 1864	Battle of Mobile Bay
Aug. 9, 1862	Battle of Cedar Mountain
Aug. 10, 1861	Battle of Wilson's Creek
Aug. 17, 1862	Uprising of Sioux Indians in Minnesota
Aug. 21, 1821	Gen. William Barksdale, CSA, born
Aug. 28, 1861	Fort Hatteras falls
Aug. 28, 1862	BATTLE OF BRAWNERS FARM. . . the men forming the Black Hat Brigade and Battery B engage in their first engagement as a unit. Col. Edgar O'Connor mortally wounded.
Aug. 29, 1833	Col. Edgar O'Connor, USA, born
Aug. 29, 1862	Battle of Second Bull Run begins
Aug. 30, 1862	The second and last day of the Battle of Second Bull Run

Day 1: July 1, 1863 - The Battle Begins



The first Confederate troops to enter the vicinity of Gettysburg were BG James **Archer**'s and BG Joseph **Davis**' (the nephew of Confederate President Jefferson Davis) Brigades of MG **Heth**'s Division (General A.P. **Hill**'s Corps). At approximately 8 AM, **Heth** reached the crest of Herr Ridge and surveyed the approach to Gettysburg. Observing minimal resistance, **Heth** ordered his two Brigades (**Archer** and **Davis**) to march southeast along Chambersburg Pike and occupy Gettysburg. Heth decided to deploy **Archer** to the south and **Davis** to the north of the pike.

But, unknown to **Heth** (pronounced "Heeth"), Union BG John **Buford**'s cavalry held the town with two Brigades. In fact, **Gamble** and **Devin**'s Brigades were deployed just east of Willoughby Run, northwest of town and supported by Lt. John **Calef**'s horse artillery). The battle began when **Gamble**'s dismounted skirmishers (who were armed with [Sharps' breech-loading carbines](#)) were attacked by **Archer**'s Infantry Brigade. They managed to hold off the Confederate advance for over an hour, but eventually, **Buford** was gradually forced to retreat.

At the same time of **Buford**'s retreat, BG **Meredith**'s Brigade (known as the "Iron Brigade") and BG **Cutler**'s Brigade arrived to relieve **Buford**'s cavalry Brigades and occupy McPherson Ridge.

General **Reynolds** (the Commander of I Corps), the senior officer on the field, saw the initial Confederate troops and sent word to the other nearest Corps (XI Corps and III Corps), to move towards Gettysburg at once.

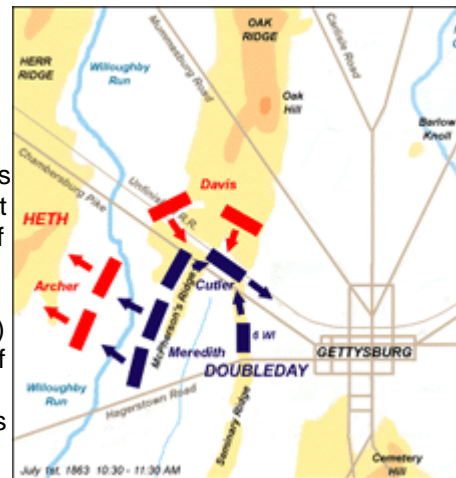


While personally positioning **Cutler** and **Meredith**'s Brigades on horseback, **Reynolds** was shot and killed (see photo to the left). This left **Doubleday** (who had arrived just moments previously), as the senior officer on the field.

Archer's Brigade now continued on the attack down Herr Ridge, across Willoughby Run, and up McPherson's Ridge. But, not knowing that **Meredith**'s Brigade had now taken up the position that **Gamble** had vacated, the Brigade (**Archer**) marched straight into the fresh infantry Brigade. **Meredith**'s Brigade surprised **Archer** and forced his Brigade to retreat back across Willoughby Run, but not before the capture of

Archer and much of his Brigade. Despite **Meredith**'s success, **Cutler**'s Brigade (which was in the process of positioning along Chambersburg Pike and the railroad cut) was attacked hard by **Davis**' Brigade and soon found itself outflanked. **Wadsworth** (the Division commander) seeing that he was being outflanked on the right, ordered **Cutler**'s

three Regiments north of the Pike to retreat and reform along Seminary Ridge. Unfortunately, the runner tasked with this message was killed and was not able to deliver the order. Instead, **Cutler**'s Regiments along the railroad sustained heavy casualties and were only then forced to retreat. **Davis**' Brigade, seeing **Cutler**'s collapsed right flank, broke ranks in pursuit, but quickly lost its fighting integrity. At this time, the 6th Wisconsin Regiment (held up to this point in reserve and later supported by the 84th and 95th NY), was sent by **Doubleday** against **Davis**' pursuing Brigade. **Davis**' Brigade, disorganized and out of ranks, was forced to seek the protection of the unfinished railroad cut. Despite occupying the ideal defensive position, **Davis**' Brigade was charged by the Wisconsin 6th Regiment and the two New York regiments. Despite heavy casualties, Wisconsin 6th surrounded more than half of **Davis**' Brigade and took them prisoner. The



remainder of **Davis'** Brigade now retreated to Herr Ridge where the remnants of **Archer's** Brigade had retreated earlier.



The retreating Confederates were forced to reevaluate their approach to Gettysburg. 11 AM approached, but **Heth** was still determined to occupy Gettysburg, especially after receiving word that **Pender's** Division was moving to support the approaches from the northwest.

Day 1: July 1, 1863 - Rodes Arrives

After **Heth's** failed attack, **Rodes'** division approached Gettysburg from the northeast along Harrisburg Road. **Early's** division shortly followed behind **Rodes**. Upon nearing Gettysburg, **Rodes** headed southwest towards Oak Ridge where he observed **Cutler's** brigade preparing for an attack from **Heth**. Approaching unhindered, **Rodes** placed 16 guns of LtC Thomas **Carter's** artillery battalion upon Oak Hill and commenced to shell **Cutler's** startled troops.



General **Robinson** ordered **Baxter's** brigade to position north against **Rodes'** approaching division. Also, **Howard's** XI Corps had begun to arrive from the south and started deploying to the east. **Rodes**, sensing his advantage evaporate, decided to immediately attack. Unfortunately, the attack was poorly coordinated and ran into problems. **Iverson's** and **O'Neal's** brigades were ordered to advance along Oak Ridge and attack **Baxter's** newly acquired position. Instead, **Iverson** delayed the attack so that the artillery atop Oak Hill could inflict more damage upon **Baxter**. The left **O'Neal** in front alone and approaching **Baxter** who was positioned behind a stone wall along Mummasburg Road. **Baxter** made short work of **O'Neal** and inflicted over 40% casualties (both **O'Neal** and **Iverson** themselves amazingly did not accompany their brigades). **Iverson** now followed along the western slope of Oak Ridge (on what would've been to **O'Neal's** right). Now that **O'Neal** had retreated, **Iverson's** left flank was completely exposed. With **O'Neal** out of the way, **Baxter** was able to shift its complete attention to **Iverson**. **Iverson's** brigade marched blindly into **Baxter's** awaiting brigade with devastating results. An amazing 70% of the brigade were either captured or became casualties. These two **Rodes'** brigades had effectively been destroyed.

Rodes then ordered **Daniel** and **Ramseur** into the battle. **Daniel** planned to march southward along the western slope of the ridge, out of range of **Robinson's** brigades and swing around to attack **Cutler's** left flank. But, as it approached Chambersburg Pike, it encountered **Stone's** brigade which had been positioned along the railroad cut. Despite heavy casualties on both sides, **Stone** managed to hold the cut. **Ramseur** on the other hand, marched along **Iverson's** previous route following Oak Ridge. By this time, **Robinson** had reinforced **Baxter's** position at Mummasburg Road with **Paul's** brigade. This time, **Ramseur** attacked **Baxter** and **Paul** until they ran low on ammunition and slowly forced to retreat with heavy casualties.

The remaining stretched in anticipation of **Early's** soon arrival. Sensing a good vantage point, part of **Doles'** brigade attempted to occupy a small knoll to the west of Harrisburg Road. **Barlow** also eyed this knoll and sent **Van Gilsa** forward to extend the Union right flank. In order to compensate for **Barlow's** advance position, **Schurz** ordered **Schimmelfennig** forward to align with **Van Gilsa** and **Paul**. **Barlow** and **Schurz** had barely positioned their divisions when **Early's** division approached from the northeast along Harrisburg Road. BG **Gordon's** brigade led the attack and charged **Van Gilsa** while BG **Hays** and Col **Avery** attacked **Ames'** right flank.

Barlow's forward position was exposed and could not be held (in fact, his men began running as soon as **Gordon** attacked). **Doles**, seizing on the opportunity, attacked **Schurz** and soon both Union divisions were sent retreating towards town.

Day 1: July 1, 1863 - AP Hill at McPherson's Ridge

At about 2:30 PM, General **Lee** arrived from the northwest in time to see **Ewell's** assault. He immediately gave **A.P. Hill** permission to join the attack. **A.P. Hill** sent BG James Johnston **Pettigrew's** brigade (over 2,550 men) to attack **Meredith's** brigade who had positioned along McPherson Ridge. Because of its size, **Pettigrew's** brigade was able to flank **Meredith** on the left and despite heavy casualties on both sides, forced **Meredith** to retreat towards the Seminary. **Biddle's** brigade defended an exposed section of McPherson Ridge and was attacked by **Archer** and also unable to hold its position. **Stone's** position was particularly vulnerable because it was formed to face northwest against **Heth's** division and northeast along Chambersburg Pike to face **Rodes'** approaching division. It too found itself in an untenable position; attacked from two directions, and also retreated toward the Seminary. **Heth's** division took a heavy beating as it attacked the Union units on McPherson Ridge, but it managed to force a Union retreat from the ridge to the Seminary. **Meredith's** Iron Brigade suffered an enormous 1,153 casualties (out of 1,829 men) while **Heth** lost about 1,500 of his 7,000-man division.



Just as **Heth's** division ran out of effectiveness, **Pender's** fresh troops resumed the attack against the rallying remnants of **I Corps** at the Seminary. The Union barely had time to begin construction of breastworks at the Seminary when **Pender's** Division attacked up Seminary Ridge. Lt. James **Stewart's** artillery battery had been placed on the ridge and managed to hold off the Confederate assault for several minutes. But, the Union found itself overwhelmed by the sheer number of **Pender's** men and once again was in full retreat. **I Corps** now lost cohesion and was sent retreating towards Gettysburg and Cemetery Ridge. **XI Corps** was also retreating through town from the north towards Cemetery Hill. The retreat was carried out in somewhat confusion and several units were slowed because of congestion in the town or were captured when their retreat was cut-off. Despite the near rout situation, the Confederates had taken heavy casualties and lacked the strength to pursue vigorously.



Fortunately, **Howard** had left Adolph **von Steinwehr's** division on Cemetery Hill with orders to hold the position at all costs. **Von Steinwehr** had spent several hours erecting breastworks and created a formidable defensive position. At about 4:30 PM, MG Winfield **Hancock** arrived at Cemetery Hill and assumed overall command (under orders of **Meade**, though **Howard** was senior to **Hancock**) just as **Howard** and **Doubleday** were trying to rally their units. **Hancock** realized he had an excellent defensive position, but he also knew his forces would be stretched thin to cover the needed area. MG Daniel E. **Sickles'** III Corps and MG Henry W. **Slocum's** XII Corps were arriving from the south, but **Hancock** did not know when. **Hancock** ordered part of remaining **I Corps** to occupy Culp's Hill. **Doubleday** protested, but then sent the remnants of **Meredith's** Iron Brigade to secure the hill.

Surveying from Seminary Ridge, **Lee** requested **A.P. Hill** to continue the assault. But, **Hill's** Corps had been heavily battered and was nearly out of ammunition. **Lee** immediately sent word to **Ewell** to "secure possession of the heights...if practicable". Also, at this time, LG James **Longstreet** arrived and conferred with **Lee**. **Longstreet** wished to take a more defensive posture and place the army between the Union army and Washington. His rationale was to force the Union army into attacking a strong Confederate position. **Lee**, on the other hand, believed that he must confront the Union army and bring the fight to the Federals.

Ewell had always served under General Stonewall **Jackson** (who died at Chancellorsville) and this was the first time directly under Lee. **Ewell**, who had taken heavy casualties and could not count on **A.P. Hill's** support, hesitated. He was further confused by **Lee's** "if practicable" order.

After waiting over an hour for the attack to begin, **Lee** personally rode towards **Ewell's** headquarters to find out why there was a delay. By the time **Lee** arrived at **Ewell's** headquarters, **Slocum** and **Sickles'** Corps were deploying along Cemetery Ridge and the opportunity for attack had all but disappeared.

Day 1: July 1, 1863 - Union Reinforcements Arrive

General **Meade's** headquarters throughout the first day's battle was nine miles to the south of Gettysburg at Taneytown, Maryland. While there, he had received word from **Hancock** that Gettysburg would be the location to make a stand against the ANV. **XII Corps** arrived shortly after the fighting ended, in addition to the two corps (**I Corps** and **XI Corps**) that were already on the field. **III Corps** shortly followed later that evening, while **II Corps** was closeby. The larger **VI Corps** was over 30 miles away and would not arrived until later next afternoon. General **Meade** arrived at Cemetery Hill at about 23:30 on July 1 and began positioning his corps into defensive positions.

Meanwhile, **Johnson's** division (of **Ewell's** Corps) arrived from the northeast and **Longstreet** Corps joined from the northwest. **Longstreet's** Corps consisted of the divisions of **Hood** and **McLaws**. **Anderson's** Division (the remaining division of **A.P. Hill**) also arrived on the field from the northwest.

The terrain surrounding Gettysburg consisted mostly of ridges and hills to the south of the town. The most prominent features were Cemetery Hill (which received its name from Evergreen Cemetery on Baltimore Pike) which rises about 80 feet above the town and Culp's Hill to the east which stands about 100 feet higher. Cemetery Hill was relatively clear, while Culp's Hill was significantly covered with woods and large boulders. Cemetery Ridge stretched some two miles to the south and ended at Little Round Top and Big Round Top. At some places near the center, Cemetery Ridge barely rose above ground level.

<http://www.militaryhistoryonline.com/gettysburg/getty1.aspx>

AFTER ACTION REPORTS

On June 3rd through the 5th, 2011, members of companies E and K fell in together as the last "Reclaiming Our Heritage" event at the old Woods Veterans Home in Milwaukee. It was fun to join those fellas from E. They have a great sense of humor and a shared commitment to reenacting. We also were joined by a squad of good looking men from the 5th Wisconsin.

Company K had a number of their men at the school day event on Friday the 3rd of June, inst. John Thielmann, Joe and Jake Fellmuth, Ryan Schwartz, Captain Mann and Jim Dumke took the field. It was a beautiful day with the sun out in full force and the temperature warm but not stifling!

Battery B was also there for the school day event, giving the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association a strong presence during the day. Thank you gentlemen for making what may well be the last school day event through the auspices of the “Reclaiming Our Heritage” group.

On Saturday morning a large company formed up in the camps and marched up that long and tiring hill to await the commencement of the Positively Patriotic Parade. Around 10:00 a.m. Captain Mann formed up the men and no finer body of men could be found anywhere!



Figure 1 Battery B at the Saturday portion of the artillery cannonade

The march down the hill before a large crowd of spectators was highlighted by cheers and recognition of the men who composed the original Iron Brigade units. The men were instep and held their ranks in fine style and brought credit to themselves and their predecessors who actually served during the Civil War. The honor achieved by the efforts of the men should be shared by those from Company K, Company E, the 5th Wisconsin, and others who fell in with us. The men were instep and the rifles perfectly aligned as they marched to the end point of the parade.

Much of the rest of the day until around 1:30 was a time for living history in the camps. The editor had the opportunity at lunch to talk with 4 folks who highly praised the men for their willingness to take time to answer questions and interact with the public. They were also effusive with their praise for the time and effort the men put in to recreate the soldier's existence during the Civil War.



At around 1:30 on Saturday the men formed up and took the field where they performed bayonet drill and then conducted skirmish drills to the delight of the crowd. The picture above was provided by Ryan Schwartz and it leaves no need to describe the near perfect volleys executed by the men in the ranks.

After the infantry drills the cavalry took the field briefly and then the live firing of a cannonade by 5 batteries took place. Battery B was present on the field, but since there was a limit of only three rounds our boys didn't fire. The Battery B contingent marched in the parade and they looked like right proper soldiers on the march. They proved themselves more than worthy of the title Iron Brigade Battery this day!

As most everyone now knows this was the last event using the military timeline format after a 10 year run. For those who have had the privilege over the years to attend this event the editor believes it will be missed. It was a wonderful event in so many ways. It will also be missed by the members of the community that attended this event over the years. This year may have been the best event ever at this location.

Below is an article from the Milwaukee *Journal Sentinel* that our members might enjoy.

TOURS BRING GRAVESTONES' STORIES TO LIFE

By [Meg Jones](#) of the Journal Sentinel

June 2, 2011

John Afton was the first.

Afton was 44 when he enlisted in the Union Army on July 31, 1861. Like many Civil War soldiers, he became ill while serving and was discharged less than a year later. Unmarried and without friends or a pension, he came to the Soldiers Home in Milwaukee in 1869. Two years later, he died of cancer.

Buried in what would eventually become Wisconsin's only national military cemetery, Afton would be joined by 36,000 more graves, a number that grows daily as more brave patriots are laid to rest. Under each headstone is a story, and this weekend John Afton's story will be among those told.

Embodying Afton will be Civil War re-enactor John Thielmann, who has participated for several years in the popular Cemetery by Lantern tours at Reclaiming Our Heritage, one of the premier patriotic events in Wisconsin. [Reclaiming Our Heritage](#) will be Saturday and Sunday on the grounds of Wood National Cemetery and the adjacent Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

It will be the [last Reclaiming Our Heritage event](#); after 10 years, its popularity has outpaced the available land for the thousands who attend, as well as the ability of the all-volunteer group to raise money.

The Cemetery by Lantern tour focuses on a few of the service members buried at Wood. Trams carrying passengers who each pay \$15 for the tour travel through the cemetery beginning at dusk on Saturday.

Wearing a Civil War uniform, Thielmann steps forward to tell Afton's story and explain how he fought with the 1st Michigan Infantry under Gen. George McClellan.

Thielmann, a Milwaukee Public Schools substitute teacher, volunteers for the tour to honor the common folks who fight wars.

"We hear about the generals," Thielmann says, "but it's the grunts in the field who bear the most hardship, make the biggest sacrifice, and those people deserve to be remembered. Their courage is no less, their sacrifice is no less, their contribution is no less than any officer or general or political leader."

Re-enactors portray some of the people buried at Wood, while veterans of Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan tell the stories of service members who died in those wars.

When it's still light out, the lantern tour participants can see the reactions on the faces of those on the trams. Sometimes family members of the fallen are on the tours.

"You can hear the crying and tears," said Darcie Greuel, a VA nurse who served in Afghanistan with a Wisconsin Army Reserve medical unit.

The first year she was asked to participate, Greuel told the story of Michelle Witmer, the Wisconsin National Guard soldier killed in 2004 in Iraq, the first female National Guard member to die in combat.

"It was quite an emotional story. I could hardly keep it together," Greuel said.

This weekend, since it's the last year for Reclaiming Our Heritage, Greuel and Iraq veteran Russell Hayden plan to talk about all eight Wisconsin service members killed in Iraq and buried at Wood.

After organizers announced it would be the last time for the event, online ticket sales for the Cemetery by Lantern tour were brisk. That means only a small number of tickets will be sold on the grounds starting at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Reclaiming Our Heritage tent. In previous years, people began lining up well before tickets went on sale at 9.

However, organizers have scheduled a new event called Voices of Wood National Cemetery, which will be held in a tent at 8 p.m. Saturday. The hourlong show costs \$10 and can seat 200 people. Those tickets will also be sold at 9 a.m. Saturday at the event.

Laura Rinaldi, who started Reclaiming Our Heritage in 2002, said plans are under way to continue telling the stories behind the graves in some fashion.

Battice LaPrairie's story usually brings smiles and chuckles on the tram tours.

Portrayed by Jan Tomko, a Milwaukee man who belongs to a French and Indian War re-enactors group, LaPrairie was born in 1778 to an Indian mother and a French father. He fought in the American Army

during the War of 1812, served under Gen. Winfield Scott in the Mexican War in 1846, and then at the ripe age of 86 joined the 5th Wisconsin to participate in the Civil War, later acting as a guide and interpreter during Indian conflicts in Minnesota. He moved to Milwaukee's Soldiers Home in 1884 and died three years later at 109.

"I try to make people laugh a little bit. They're a little shocked at his age," Tomko said. "But they're really pleased to hear about this gentleman."

THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTS ON THE FIGHT AT GETTYSBURG

The Great Battles

Splendid Triumph of the Army of the Potomac

Rout of Lee's Forces on Friday

THE MOST TERRIBLE STRUGGLE OF THE WAR

TREMENDOUS ARTILLERY DUEL

REPEATED CHARGES OF THE REBEL COLUMNS UPON OUR POSITION

EVERY CHARGE REPULSED WITH GREAT SLAUGHTER

THE DEATH OF LONGSTREET AND HILL

OUR CAVALRY ACTIVE ON THE ENEMY'S FLANK

THE REBEL RETREAT CUT OFF

CHAMBERSBURGH IN OUR POSSESSIONS

ADVANCE OF THE MILITIA UNDER GEN. SMITH TO IMPORTANT POSITIONS

THE REBEL PONTOON BRIDGE AT WILLIAMSPORT DESTROYED

THE CONTENTS OF THE CAPTURED DISPATCHES FROM JEFF, DAVIS TO LEE

A PEREMPTORY ORDER FOR THE REBEL ARMY TO RETURN TO VIRGINIA

OFFICIAL DISPATCHES FROM GEN. MEADE

Special to The New York Times

Washington, Saturday, July 4-10:10 A.M.

The following has just been received:

Headquarters Army of Potomac, Major-Gen. Halleck, General-in-Chief:

The enemy opened at 1 P.M. from about one hundred and fifty guns, concentrated upon my left centre, continuing without intermission for about three hours, at the expiration of which time, he assaulted my left centre twice, being upon both occasions, handsomely repulsed, with severe loss to him, leaving in our hands nearly three thousand prisoners.

Among the prisoners is Brig. Gen. Armstead and many Colonels and officers of lesser rank.

The enemy left many dead upon the field, and a large number of wounded in our hands.

The loss upon our side has been considerable. Maj.-Gen. Hancock and Brig.-Gen. Gibson were wounded.

After the repelling of the assaults, indications leading to the belief that the enemy might be withdrawing, a reconnoissance was pushed forward from the left and the enemy found to be in force.

At the present hour all is quiet.

My cavalry have been engaged all day on both flanks of the enemy, harassing and vigorously attacking him with great success, not withstanding they encountered superior numbers of both of cavalry and infantry.

The army is in fine spirits.

George G. Meade

Maj.-Gen. Commanding

Washington, Sunday, July 5 -- 4 P. M.

The latest official dispatch received here, up to this hour, from Gen. Meade, is dated at Headquarters Army of Potomac, 7 A.M., July 4, which merely states that the enemy had withdrawn from his position, occupied for attack, on Friday. The information in the possession of Gen. Meade, at that hour, did not develop the character of the enemy's movement, whether it was a retreat or a manœuvre for other purposes.

Reliable information received here to-day asserts that Gen. Lee's Headquarters were at Cashtown yesterday afternoon, and further represents that the rebels were fortifying at Newman's Cut in the South Mountains, apparently to cover a retreat.

LATER OFFICIAL DISPATCHES ARE EXPECTED THIS EVENING.

SECOND DISPATCH

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF POTOMAC

JULY 4 -- NOON

MAJ.-GEN. HALLECK:

The position of affairs is not materially changed since my last dispatch of 7 A.M.

We now hold Gettysburgh.

The enemy has abandoned large numbers of his killed and wounded on the field.

I shall probably be able to give you a return of my captures and losses before night, and a return of the enemy's killed and wounded in our hands.

George G. Meade, Major-General

Third Dispatch

Headquarters Army Potomac, July 4 -- 10 P. M.

To Maj.-Gen. Halleck:

No change of affairs since my dispatch of noon

Geo. G. Meade, Major-General

Fourth Dispatch

Washington, Monday, July 6 -- 12:30 A. M.

The following is the latest official dispatch:

Headquarters Army of the Potomac

Sunday, July 5 -- 8:30 A. M.

Major-Gen. Halleck: The enemy returned under cover of the night and the heavy rain, in the direction of Fairfield and Cashtown.

Our cavalry are in pursuit.

I cannot give you the details of our captures in prisoners, colors, and arms.

Upward of twenty battle-flags will be turned in from one corps.

My wounded and those of the enemy are in our hands.

GEO. G. Meade, Major-General

The President to the Country

Washington, D. C., July 4 -- 10:30 A. M.

The President announces to the country that news from the Army of the Potomac, up to 10 P.M. of the 3d , is such as to cover that army

with the highest honor; to promise a great success to the cause of the Union, and to claim the condolence of all for the many gallant fallen; and that for this, he especially desires that on this day He, whose will, not ours, should ever be done, be everywhere remembered and revered with profoundest gratitude.

(Signed) A. Lincoln

The Great Battle of Friday

Our Special Telegrams from the Battle-Field

Near Gettysburgh, Saturday, July 4

Another great battle was fought yesterday afternoon, resulting in a magnificent success to the National arms.

At 2 o'clock P. M. , Longstreet's whole corps advanced from the rebel centre against our centre. The enemy's forces were hurled upon our position by columns in mass, and also in lines of battle. Our centre was held by Gen. Hancock, with the noble old Second army corps, sided by Gen. Doubleday's division of the First corps.

The rebels first opened a terrific artillery bombardment to demoralize our men, and then moved their forces with great impetuosity upon our position. Hancock received the attack with great firmness, and after a furious battle, lasting until 5 o'clock, the enemy were driven from the field, Longstreet's corps being almost annihilated.

The battle was a most magnificent spectacle. It was fought on an open plain, just south of Gettysburgh, with not a tree to interrupt the view. The courage of our men was perfectly sublime.

At 5 P.M. what was left of the enemy retreated in utter confusion, leaving dozens of flags, and Gen. Hancock, estimated at least five thousand killed and wounded in the field.

The battle was fought by Gen. Hancock with splendid valor. He won imperishable honor, and Gen. Meade thanked him in the name of the army and the country. He was wounded in the thigh, but remained on the field.

The number of prisoners taken is estimated at 3,000, including at least two Brigadier- Generals -- Olmstead, of Georgia, and another- both wounded.

The conduct of our veterans was perfectly magnificent. More than twenty battle flags were taken by our troops. Nearly every regiment has one. The Nineteenth Massachusetts captured four. The repulse was so disastrous to the enemy, that Longstreet's corps is perfectly used up. Gen. Gibson was wounded in the shoulder. Gen. Webb was wounded and remained on the field. Col. Hammell, of the Sixty-sixth New-York, was wounded in the arm.

At 7 o'clock last evening, Gen. Meade ordered the Third corps, supported by the Sixth, to attack the enemy's right, which was done, and the battle lasted until dark, when a good deal of ground had been gained.

During the day Ewell's corps kept up a desultory attack upon Slocum on the right, but was repulsed.

Our cavalry is to-day playing savagely upon the enemy's flank and rear.

L. L. Crounse

From Another Correspondent

Gettysburgh, Friday, July 3

The experience of all the tried and veteran officers of the Army of the Potomac tells of no such desperate conflict as has been in progress during this day. The cannonading of Chancellorsville, Malvern and Manassas were pastimes compared with this. At the headquarters, where I write, sixteen of the horses of Gen. Meade's staff officers were killed by shell. The house was completely riddled. The Chief of Staff Gen. Butterfield, was knocked down by a fragment of case-shot. Col. Dickinson, Assistant Adjutant General, had the bone of his wrist pierced through by a piece of shell. Lieut. Oliver, of Gen. Butterfield's Staff, was struck in the head; and Capt. Carpenter, of Gen. Meade's escort, was wounded in the eye.

While I write the ground about me is covered thick with rebel dead, mingled with our own. Thousands of prisoners have been sent to the rear, and yet the conflict still continues.

The losses on both sides are heavy. Among our wounded officers are Hancock, Gibbon and a great many others whose names I feel restrained from publishing without being assured that they are positively in the list of casualties.

It is near sunset. Our troops hold the field, with many rebel prisoners in their hands. The enemy has been magnificently repulsed for three days - repulsed on all sides- most magnificently to-day. Every effort made by him since Wednesday morning to penetrate Meade's lines has been foiled. The final results of the action, I hope to be able to give you at a later hour this evening.

S. Wilkson

Dispatch to the Associated Press

Headquarters Army of the Potomac, Friday, July 3 -- 6 A. M.

The enemy's guns opened on our left wing at daylight, apparently to feel our position. They found us "at home," and soon suspended operations. They also endeavored to push forward their front on our right, steadily drove them back for half an hour, when the enemy were reinforced, and a portion of the Sixth corps was sent to its support.

Failing in this, the enemy opened a heavy cannonade all along the line. The attack on the right is believed to have been a feint to cover a more formidable flank movement on the left. The cannonading is now heavy in that direction, and appears to be extending.

The Third Corps suffered greatly yesterday. The number of wounded is heavy, with a large number of officers. No estimate can be formed of the killed at this writing.

Heavy musketry has opened now on our right again and cannonading on our left is slackening. The enemy are fighting with the greatest desperation. Nothing can surpass the vigor and precision of our artillery.

Yesterday, the rebels took two of our guns, for want of horses and infantry support, but the division (Humphrey's, I think) rallied and recaptured them. We took one from the enemy.

Comparatively few prisoners have been taken on either side up to this hour.

Ten o'clock A. M. -- The cannonading has slackened. Rebel prisoners say when their infantry charged our left-wing batteries yesterday, the massacre was beyond parallel. Some of the guns were masked, and did not open until the enemy were within canister range.

**LETTER TO THE
INHABITANTS OF
WESTERN VIRGINIA AS
UNION FORCES MOVE TO
OCCUPY THIS PORTION OF
VIRGINIA**

**HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF
THE OHIO,**

Grafton, Va., June 23, 1861.

To the inhabitants of Western Virginia

The army of this department, headed by Virginia troops, is rapidly occupying all Western Virginia. This is done in co operation with, and in support of, such civil authorities of the State as are faithful to the Constitution and laws of the United States. The proclamation issued by me under date of May 26, 1861, will be strictly maintained. Your houses, families, property, and all your rights will be religiously respected; we are enemies to none but armed rebels and those voluntarily giving them aid. All officers of this army will be held responsible for the most prompt and vigorous action in repressing disorder and punishing aggression by those under their command.

To my great regret I find that enemies of the United States continue to carry on a system of hostilities prohibited by the laws of war among belligerent nations, and of course far more wicked and intolerable when directed against loyal citizens engaged in the defense of the common Government of all. Individuals and marauding parties are pursuing a guerrilla warfare, firing upon sentinels and pickets, burning bridges, insulting, injuring, and even killing citizens because of their Union sentiments, and committing many kindred acts.

I do now, therefore, make proclamation, and warn all persons that individuals or parties engaged in this species of warfare irregular in every view which can be taken of it thus attacking sentries, pickets, or other soldiers, destroying public or private property, or committing injuries against any of the inhabitants because of Union sentiments or conduct, will be dealt with in their persons and property according to the severest rules of military law.

All persons giving information or aid to the public enemies will be arrested and kept in close custody, and all persons found bearing arms, unless of known loyalty, will be arrested and held for examination.

GEG. B. MCCLELLAN,

Major- General, U. S. Army, Commanding Department.

McCLELLAN ADDRESSES HIS TROOPS PRIOR TO THE INVASION OF WESTERN VIRGINIA

The following address was prepared by George B. McClellan for his troops as they prepared to move into Western Virginia in June of 1861. It is easy to see how the men who served under McClellan would come to admire the man based on this address. This campaign would be the first successful operation by Union forces. As a result of driving away rebel forces in the mountains of western Virginia McClellan would be promoted to command of the forces formerly commanded by Irwin McDowell and who would be known as the Army of the Potomac!

**HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE OHIO,
GRAFTON, VA., JUNE 25, 1861.**

TO THE SOLDIERS OF THE ARMY OF THE WEST:

You are here to support the Government of your country, and to protect the lives and liberties of your brethren, threatened by a rebellious and traitorous foe. No higher and nobler duty could devolve

upon you, and I expect you to bring to its performance the highest and noblest qualities of soldiers discipline, courage, and mercy. I call upon the officers of every grade to enforce the strictest discipline, and I know that those of all grades, privates and officers, will display in battle cool, heroic courage, and will know how to show mercy to a disarmed enemy.

Bear in mind that you are in the country of friends, not of enemies; that you are here to protect, not to destroy. Take nothing, destroy nothing, unless you are ordered to do so by your general officers. Remember that I have pledged my word to the people of Western Virginia that their rights in person and property shall be respected. I ask every one of you to make good this promise in its broadest sense. We come here to save, not to upturn. I do not appeal to the fear of punishment, but to your appreciation of the sacredness of the cause in which we are engaged. Carry with you into battle the conviction that you are right, and that God is on your side

Your enemies have violated every moral law; neither God nor man can sustain them. They have, without cause, rebelled against a mild and paternal Government; they have seized upon public and private property; they have outraged the persons of Northern men merely because they came from the North, and of Southern Union men merely because they loved the Union; they have placed themselves beneath contempt, unless they can retrieve some honor on the field of battle. You will pursue a different course. You will be honest, brave, and merciful; you will respect the right of private opinion; you will punish no man for opinions sake. Show to the world that you differ from our enemies in the points of honor, honesty, and respect for private opinion, and that we inaugurate no reign of terror where we go.

Soldiers! I have heard that there was danger here. I have come to place myself at your head and to share it with you. I fear now but one thing, that you will not find foemen worthy of your steel. I know that I can rely upon you.

GEO. B. McCLELLAN,

Major- General, Commanding.

<http://dlxs2.library.cornell.edu/m/moawar/text/waro0002.txt>

THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE

by Stephen Crane

CHAPTER IX.

THE youth fell back in the procession until the tattered soldier was not in sight. Then he started to walk on with the others.

But he was amid wounds. The mob of men was bleeding. Because of the tattered soldier's question he now felt that his shame could be viewed. He was continually casting sidelong glances to see if the men were contemplating the letters of guilt he felt burned into his brow.

At times he regarded the wounded soldiers in an envious way. He conceived persons with torn bodies to be peculiarly happy. He wished that he, too, had a wound, a red badge of courage.

The spectral soldier was at his side like a stalking reproach. The man's eyes were still fixed in a stare into the unknown. His gray, appalling face had attracted attention in the crowd, and men, slowing to his dreary pace, were walking with him. They were discussing his plight, questioning him and giving him advice.

In a dogged way he repelled them, signing to them to go on and leave him alone. The shadows of his face were deepening and his tight lips seemed holding in check the moan of great despair. There could be seen

a certain stiffness in the movements of his body, as if he were taking infinite care not to arouse the passion of his wounds. As he went on, he seemed always looking for a place, like one who goes to choose a grave.

Something in the gesture of the man as he waved the bloody and pitying soldiers away made the youth start as if bitten. He yelled in horror. Tottering forward he laid a quivering hand upon the man's arm. As the latter slowly turned his waxlike features toward him, the youth screamed:

"Gawd! Jim Conklin!"

The tall soldier made a little commonplace smile. "Hello, Henry," he said.

The youth swayed on his legs and glared strangely. He stuttered and stammered. "Oh, Jim--oh, Jim--oh, Jim--"

The tall soldier held out his gory hand. There was a curious red and black combination of new blood and old blood upon it. "Where yeh been, Henry?" he asked. He continued in a monotonous voice, "I thought mebbe yeh got keeled over. There 's been thunder t' pay t'-day. I was worryin' about it a good deal."

The youth still lamented. "Oh, Jim--oh, Jim --oh, Jim--"

"Yeh know," said the tall soldier, "I was out there." He made a careful gesture. "An', Lord, what a circus! An', b'jiminey, I got shot-- I got shot. Yes, b'jiminey, I got shot." He reiterated this fact in a bewildered way, as if he did not know how it came about.

The youth put forth anxious arms to assist him, but the tall soldier went firmly on as if propelled. Since the youth's arrival as a guardian for his friend, the other wounded men had ceased to display much interest. They occupied themselves again in dragging their own tragedies toward the rear.

Suddenly, as the two friends marched on, the tall soldier seemed to be overcome by a terror. His face turned to a semblance of gray paste. He clutched the youth's arm and looked all about him, as if dreading to be overheard. Then he began to speak in a shaking whisper:

"I tell yeh what I'm 'fraid of, Henry--I 'll tell yeh what I 'm 'fraid of. I 'm 'fraid I 'll fall down --an' then yeh know--them damned artillery wagons--they like as not 'll run over me. That 's what I 'm 'fraid of--"

The youth cried out to him hysterically: "I 'll take care of yeh, Jim! I'll take care of yeh! I swear t' Gawd I will!"

"Sure--will yeh, Henry?" the tall soldier beseeched.

"Yes--yes--I tell yeh--I'll take care of yeh, Jim!" protested the youth. He could not speak accurately because of the gulplings in his throat.

But the tall soldier continued to beg in a lowly way. He now hung babelike to the youth's arm. His eyes rolled in the wildness of his terror. "I was allus a good friend t' yeh, wa'n't I, Henry? I 've allus been a pretty good feller, ain't I? An' it ain't much t' ask, is it? Jest t' pull me along outer th' road? I 'd do it fer you, Wouldn't I, Henry?"

He paused in piteous anxiety to await his friend's reply.

The youth had reached an anguish where the sobs scorched him. He strove to express his loyalty, but he could only make fantastic gestures.

However, the tall soldier seemed suddenly to forget all those fears. He became again the grim, stalking specter of a soldier. He went stonily forward. The youth wished his friend to lean upon him, but the other always shook his head and strangely protested. "No--no--no-- leave me be--leave me be--"

His look was fixed again upon the unknown. He moved with mysterious purpose, and all of the youth's offers he brushed aside. "No--no-- leave me be--leave me be--"

The youth had to follow.

Presently the latter heard a voice talking softly near his shoulders. Turning he saw that it belonged to the tattered soldier. "Ye 'd better take 'im outa th' road, pardner. There 's a batt'ry comin' helitywhoop down th' road an' he 'll git runned over. He 's a goner anyhow in about five minutes--yeh kin see that. Ye 'd better take 'im outa th' road. Where th' blazes does he git his stren'th from?"



The President's Order No. 252

Mr. Lincoln. "Look here, Jeff. Davis! if you lay a finger on that boy, to hurt him, I'll lick the *Ugly Cub* of yours within an inch of his life!"

Artist: unknown

This cartoon depicts President Abraham Lincoln's response to the Confederate practice of treating captured black Union servicemen more harshly than their white comrades, even to the extent of enslaving them. The president's policy--Order No. 252--was essentially to respond in kind to the maltreatment. That sentiment is expressed in this cartoon where Lincoln threatens to beat the Confederate sailor he holds by the collar if Jefferson Davis, the Confederate president, harms the black boy he is chasing with a cat-o-nine-tails. The unevenness of the fight, though, is conveyed by embodying Lincoln's personal prestige and the Union's military force in the Union president's gigantic size.

In July 1862, Congress authorized the president to use black troops, but the policy was not pursued until after the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863. The two issues were related in the minds of many Americans. Lincoln hoped to undermine Confederate moral by proclaiming the freedom of slaves in Confederate territory and by using black men in the Union military. Black servicemen viewed Union military service, especially following the Emancipation Proclamation, as a chance to participate in an army of liberation. On the other side, Confederates feared that the two Union policies could encourage bloody slave revolts and retaliatory actions by aggrieved blacks.

In January 1863, Confederate President Davis initially vowed to turn Union officers over to state governments to be punished (i.e., executed) as criminals inciting slave rebellions. He backed away from that policy, but the Confederates executed some black soldiers and their white officers. On May 30, 1863, the Confederate Congress stipulated that captured white officers of black troops be tried and punished by military courts, while the former slaves be tried in state courts. However, a number of black Union soldiers were summarily shot while allegedly trying to escape.

On July 30, 1863, President Lincoln issued General Order No. 252:

"It is the duty of every Government to give protection to its citizens, of whatever class, color or condition, and especially to those who are duly organized as soldiers in the public service. The law of nations, and the usages and customs of war, as carried on by civilized powers, permit no distinction as to color in the treatment of prisoners of war as public enemies. To sell or enslave any captured person on account of his color, and for no offense against the laws of war, is a relapse into barbarism, and a crime against the civilization of the age."

"The Government of the United States will give the same protection to all its soldiers, and if the enemy shall sell or enslave any one because of his color, the offense shall be punished by retaliation upon the enemy's prisoners in our possession. It is therefore ordered, that for every soldier of the United States killed in violation of the law, a Rebel soldier shall be executed, and for every one enslaved by the enemy or sold into slavery, a Rebel soldier shall be placed at hard labor on the public works, and continued at such labor until the other shall be released and receive the treatment due to a prisoner of war."

Lincoln's retaliatory order was difficult to put into practice. After a massacre of black soldiers at Fort Pillow (April 12, 1864), the president and his military advisors decided to punish the Confederates directly responsible, should they be captured, rather than to randomly execute a corresponding number of Confederate prisoners of war. Field commanders near Richmond, Virginia, and Charleston, South Carolina carried out the Union's only official retaliations. When Confederates forced captured black soldiers to build fortifications in the line of fire, the Union officers made an equal number of Confederate prisoners perform similar work. Thereafter, the Confederates stopped the practice.

The Confederacy's refusal to acknowledge captured black servicemen as legitimate prisoners of war halted prisoner-of-war exchanges in the summer of 1863. By the end of the year, the Confederacy was willing to discuss returning black soldiers who upon enlistment had been legally free as the Confederacy defined it (i.e., not under the Emancipation Proclamation). That position was not sufficient for top Union officials--President Lincoln, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, and General Ulysses S. Grant--who remained steadfastly committed to ensuring the equal treatment of Union prisoners of war. Davis and Confederate officials finally relented in January 1865, agreeing to exchange all prisoners. A few thousand prisoners of war, including freed slaves, were exchanged by the Confederacy and Union until the end of the war in April.

Robert C. Kennedy <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/harp/0815.html>