

---

# **THE FUGELMAN**

---

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

---

THE BLACK HATS

THE IRON BRIGADE

THE BLACK HATS

THE IRON BRIGADE

---

---

VOLUME NO. XIX

ISSUE 10

OCTOBER, 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

---



**As I recall the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Vol. Inf. was just at spring muster near the Sylvanus and Betsy Wade house along the Sheboygan-Fond du Lac road and the mill by the Mullet River was busy preparing for another year.**

**The guns at Ft. Sumter remained quiet but the secessionist rhetoric was deafening. Our local militia units answered Lincoln's call for volunteers and mustered into service as the Second Wisconsin. 'Three years or the duration of the war' was our oath and we were on our way to put down the rebellion at a small junction near the Bull's Run River near Manassas, Virginia.**

**Our calling continues as we prepare for the closing of another year of campaigning. Wade House is now a memory and we are poised on the crest looking into the valley for the event on Poplar Creek at Norskedalen.**

**With all that has passed and that which lies before us; we should never lose sight of our goal of remembrance and honor of our Civil War ancestors. We**

**as an organization have met the challenges set before us and we will continue to educate others in the American Civil War. A great example of this was in preparation for the Manassas campaign. Being able to field a company of Wisconsin men in the 'State Grey Uniform' was a hard won accomplishment. The task would have been daunting for one individual. But... together, our sewing machines hummed, our fingers became bloody from hand stitching button holes and our brains ached trying to understand the pattern for the state haversack and canteen. Let alone figuring out how to piece together that button fly on the trousers. Somehow it all came together and with our knowledge of drill and the history of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin at Bull's Run, we were able to experience the 150<sup>th</sup> of the First Battle of Manassas.**

**Following October, we go into winter camp and prepare again for another campaign. Are we ready for the challenge? Brawner's Farm, South Mountain and Antietam will loom ahead. The new commanding officer, General John Gibbon with his 'regular' army methods awaits us. The requisition for tall black hat with ostrich feather, frock coat, dark blue trousers and white gaiters arrives and we are handsome in our new uniform. Above all, on the field of battle, the Black Hats achieve a new sobriquet and the 'Iron Brigade' becomes our destiny; and we are proud.**

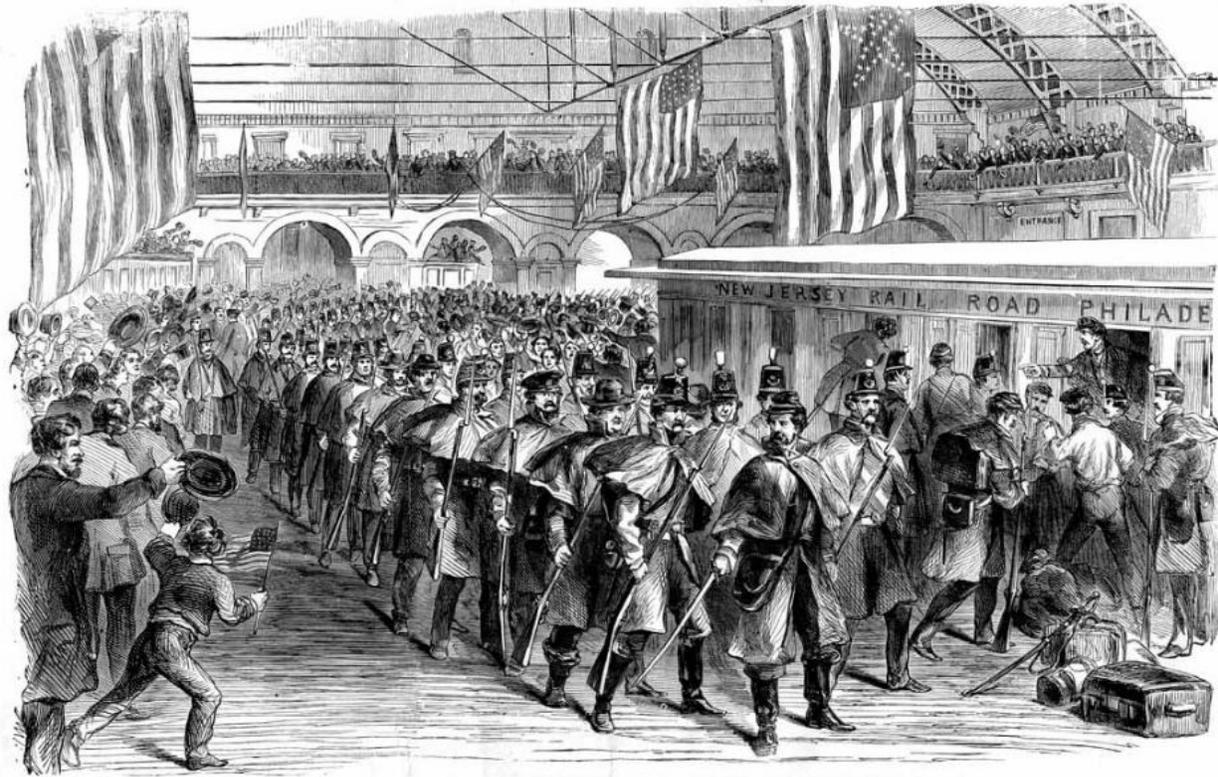
**Your proud and obedient servant,**

**Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Vol. Inf. Reg.**

**"The ragged ass 2<sup>nd</sup>"**

**Very well said Lt. Col. Seielstad!! It is quite a legacy to live up to. In response to your query know that under your command and given the material you have to work with, we will be ready, Sir!! [Ed.]**



THE 6TH MASSACHUSETTS REGIMENT LEAVING JERSEY CITY FOR WASHINGTON, APRIL 18TH, 1861.

<http://civilwarmonitor.com/photo-essays/album?albumid=1002>

**In a scene that would have lingered in the hearts of those early Wisconsin volunteers as they traveled east to defend Washington City. Letters and diaries reflect the displays of support from the various communities as they boarded trains first for Camp Randall and later to the nation's capitol. Robert Beckwith said it was if it was glory, those halcyon experiences as the armies gathered. For the Second Wisconsin and their fellow brigade members formed in late 1861, hard marches and terrible battles would await them in 1862!**



Figure 1 Generals Grant and Meade with the Army of the Potomac Headquarters flag behind them

<http://www.army.mil/media/60765>

## **REGIMENTAL DISPATCHES**

---

**WADE HOUSE AFTER ACTION REPORT 2011 FROM THE  
OFFICER COMMANDING**

**Sirs,**

**I am pleased to report on the action that took place at the township of Green Bush on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2011.**

**Leaving Manassas Virginia after the battle of Bull's Run found our regiment near Lexington Missouri in the western theater. In the late afternoon the regiment arrived and detrained from the cars. A site was chosen and our camp was established in the vicinity of the roadhouse known to the locals as Wade House. The weather was overcast and threatening.**

**The convergence of the two opposing armies brought a heightened sense of alert and a guard mount established the perimeter of the infantry and cavalry camp. Artillery had been posted well in the township and anchored our garrison that we were to support.**

**Cavalry patrol carried news to us that the rebs were on the march from their victory at Wilson's Creek and were nearing our position. In response, two companies were dispatched to reconnoiter the vicinity. This force consisted of one company of US regulars and a state militia company wearing slate gray uniforms. Ordered to check the advance of the enemy and to test their resolve, the two companies attacked a fortified position with little result and a small amount of casualties. Returning to Lexington, Major Rasmussen informed my command of his findings and I ordered all battery positions strengthened and increased infantry support to selected positions along the defensive line. Admittedly, this action did place some exposure at certain points.**

**On the 25<sup>th</sup> instant, rain was the norm for the day. The garrison protocol was maintained with cavalry out on patrol. Gunfire was soon heard and the cavalry dismounted and held a defensive skirmish line only to be pushed back steadily. As soon as the pickets were withdrawn from the field confederate forces formed in front of a three-gun battery, which to my dread was the least defensible position of the garrison.**

**Cannons roared and raked deadly fire upon the charging confederates and halted their advance. Reforming, the rebs moved to our right flank and began to renew their charge. Moving at all speed infantry marched at the double quick to meet the new threat. The heroic action of the federal defenders only delayed the inevitable. The confederates succeeded in breaching the right flank causing several casualties and capturing the guns and several federal prisoners.**

**Having formed a rear guard and covering the orderly retreat of most of the battalion the Federal cavalry fought unremittingly, thus delaying the surrender of the garrison. Our losses were 17 killed, 21 wounded three missing and forty-six taken prisoner and three cannons captured.**

#### **Overview**

**I extend my compliments to all the men and officers at this engagement at Old Wade House. The fraternal friendships between the branches of the armies that assemble at Wade House cannot be matched. When we bring an idea to the officers meeting it is met with acceptance and developed into a workable scenario that will include all participants. Safety is addressed and is foremost on the agenda.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Lt Col Pete Seielstad**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Vol Inf**

**GOOD ADVICE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
ASSOCIATION**

**Winterize your Equipment!**

**The season has ended, at least for most of us, we still have a couple of small activities but Coon Valley usually ends the reenacting season. We have the Green Bay Holiday parade coming up (and I encourage as many of you that can attend, please do so)**

**This past season was wonderful (we'll not talk about Stevens Point ) we've seen new events and the old and some that have started their second season. We again have shown that the rest of us care and are committed to what we do and to honor the boys from the past.**

**The great number of school events, the ability to teach our youth about this countries darkest history has been superb!**

**Now, the season has ended and it is time to sit back, relax and reflect on this past season, take a well deserved break, look at the pictures, read the articles from the newspapers, keep in touch with each other and think about next year. What can we do better, what went right and wrong, look to improve your impression? We have that ability but our equipment does not!**

**Now is the time to prepare your equipment for the rest it deserves. You need to make sure that nothing gets put into storage unless you check it out thoroughly first.**

**Make sure (and it has been a record wet month for most of Wisconsin) your gear, especially your tent and blankets are dry, mold and mildew likes nothing better than wet gear that gets stored away without it being dried out first.**

**Check your equipment, and I mean ALL of it, even the smallest piece to make sure it is in good shape before storage: check for rips, tears, and holes in your clothing, if you have it, mend it! That way when the season starts you won't find yourself busy mending your items instead of using them.**

**Make sure your canteen is well dry. There are many ways of making sure it stays dry: one method, place rice inside, leave the cork out, turn it upside down, ask others (veterans) for their opinions, they may have better ideas. You don't want that first drink to be rusty or have something hiding inside and you drink it. I don't think anyone is that hungry!**

**If you find some equipment that basically has seen its better days, make a Christmas wish list and give those loved ones an idea of what you could or do need.**

**Most of all CLEAN your MUSKET/PISTOLS thoroughly! Don't let it sit to rust. Find a nice dry place to store it for the winter. You may even have**

**powder residue at the bottom of the barrel, if you don't take care of it do you want it to harden during the winter?**

**Take the time to take it apart, look at the lock plate, check the mechanism inside (springs, trigger, hammer and everything else) grease and lube it make sure it is rust free and works properly. Again, if you are not sure, check with a veteran, they will be glad to help you out! Please, don't let that part of your equipment just sit without your tender loving care, it is part of you and you need to take care of it!**

**Check every piece of your equipment, nothing like your mess kit getting rusty during the winter months: do you really want to eat with that?**

**You will have time to go over all of your equipment and if you do this your season next year will be off to a very good start!**

**Check everything in your haversack (creepy crawlies love to sneak in the middle of the night, especially in some of the areas we've set-up in) and your accouterments, your bayonet (this is the most neglected piece, I don't like seeing it rusty and you shouldn't either) any piece of equipment should be checked and not just tossed in the basement, garage and any other place without you checking it first, but remember, your Musket/pistol is the one that can cause the most damage if it is not taken care of!**

**Thank you for a wonderful season and I look forward to seeing you on the battlefield real soon!**

**Your humble servant**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lt David Dresang**

**Co. E 2<sup>nd</sup> W.V.I.**

**A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE INTREPID MEN OF THE SECOND  
WHO ENDURED THE FIRST BULL RUN CAMPAIGN!**

**Dear 1<sup>st</sup> Manassas Volunteers**

**I would like to add my thanks to those of you that made the trip to the 1<sup>st</sup> Manassas event. I followed the event by going on the event website and following the Richmond Times (they did a great job of keeping its readers well informed of the event and all that went on)**

**While the rest of us stayed in the relative comfort of our homes, pools or slept on very comfortable beds (with a nice cool drink before hand) our**

**fellow parads faced quite an enemy while they were out in Virginia . High heat, humidity and a lack of shade proved to be a worthy opponent but our parads faired very well and did the original 2<sup>nd</sup> proud.**

**I have heard many accounts of what happened out there and it sounds like our Officer Corp was at the very top along with the NCOs' and privates, those that went not only survived the heat and other obstacles but showed what Wisconsin men are truly made of.**

**Could this be the same mettle and fortitude that the Confederates feared when they too went up against those "Damn Black Hats!"?**

**I can say that those who went deserve praise and recognition, not only of a job well done had (I heard that our parads were complimented on their knowledge and professionalism by many and I believe from General Shackelford himself!)**

**I feel that the original 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin was truly represented by our parads and I for one can only marvel at what they went through, made it through a very tough time and came back with their dignity intact and the respect of those that saw and served with them.**

**My humble thank you to all that went to 1<sup>st</sup> Manassas and for all that you did and all that you went through, those of us that stayed at home can only say "thank you and a job well done!" our foremost pride in calling you our "*parads*"**

**Your very humble servant**

**David Dresang Jr.**

**Association President**

## **ASSOCIATION MEETING ON 2012 NATIONAL EVENT— ANTIETAM IT IS!**

**The Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association held a meeting at 5:15 p.m. at the Old Wade House event on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011. There were two items on the agenda at the meeting conducted by Association president Dave Dresang.**

**The first item was a presentation by a representative from Columbus, Wisconsin's Carriage Festival. As part of this year's event the organizers want to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil war and were asking for the participation of the Association or member companies. The event is being scheduled for the Father's Day weekend in 2012. The representative was informed that a decision on supporting the event would be discussed at the annual Association meeting in January 2012.**

**The meeting then turned its attention to making a determination as to which National event the Association should support in 2012. The reason for the need of an early decision was that the Western Maryland Foundation's Antietam event is limited as to numbers and registration begins in November. Three events were offered up for 2012. The Antietam event in September, Shiloh at the end of March through the first of April, and Perryville in October. Following discussion of the various events a vote was taken and the Association selected the Antietam event as the 2012 national event.**

**The decision having been made the meeting adjourned.**

## **A PHOTOGRAPHIC AFTER ACTION REPORT FROM THE OLD WADE HOUSE EVENT**

**Some after action photos from the Wade House event September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The editor has to say that we are indeed a fine looking body of men on the field. Our formations were maintained on the field and the volleys were crisp and clean! Below are some excellent photos from the Sheboygan Press taken during the event. Dave Sielski provided the link on his facebook page thus to the pages of *The Fugelman*.**



**Our esteemed president and commander-in-chief (Fritz Klein) was on the fields of battle to encourage and sustain his loyal troops. He would also review the men at dress parade in their camps.**



**The Johnnies prepare to face their foe and they would prove to be very tough this day. As the men struggled across the fields covered with the dead and wounded one had to admire the mettle of this foe. They really put up a scrap this day.**

**Their foe was no uncommon group of fighting men. They were facing Wisconsin men who stand their ground and fight like devils. Unfortunately, they met one of the best bodies of men ever assembled, in the Second Wisconsin Regiment. Many a good man would fall this day, but our commanders were up to the challenge and we gave as good as we got during the fight!**



**As we took the field we deployed skirmishers to come to the assistance of dismounted cavalry (above & below) who were struggling to drive in the rebel skirmishers as the infantry came on the field.**





**The dismounted cavalry withdraws as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> companies of the regiment file onto the field of battle. The fight escalated as both armies pushed up their infantry to engage. During the fight both armies would drive forward, only to give up the ground they had seized when outflanked by their adversaries. The companies of the Second Wisconsin were mixed together to form three companies. One company was made up of the men in their state militia grey uniforms. All in all the men of the regiment were pretty impressive. The editor can't speak for all the men in the ranks, but the officers of the second company were a distinct pleasure to serve under. The second company appears on the left in the above photo. They were concerned up the welfare of their men and led us well in the fight. I wish I knew their names so I could thank them personally for the experience. I respect my own officers immensely, but I would fight under these officers anytime. First Sergeant especially was a pleasure to serve under during the event.**



**Battery B was selected to fight with the Johnnies. My grandson stood to his post on the gun. I must say it was a strange sensation attacking those guns knowing he was there on that hill to stop our army from seizing the high ground. As one can see the sky was overcast and the day was cool, but no rain to mar the event.**



**Scott Boesel handles the men of the 1<sup>st</sup> company during the battle. It was good knowing these stalwart comrades were standing with us in the fight and they did themselves proud.**



**The regiment moved up to a rail fence and poured hot lead into the Johnnies. Capt. Mann directs his militia company during the fight. Despite their heroic efforts our boys would eventually be pushed back when they were flanked by rebel cavalry. “Pour it into ‘em boys!”**



**“Hold your lines fellas!” Sergeant Major Lynch forms up the lines as the men move to the attack!**



**A crisp volley directed into the ranks of the rebels by the 2<sup>nd</sup> company finds their targets and many a good by misbegotten southern lad fell!**



**These lads were indeed a worthy foe this day. They returned fire with an equal passion and many Yankee home was bereft of a dearly loved member as a result.**



**The cost of the desperate fight this day. Many a good lad and messmate left the ranks this day never to answer the bugle or call to assemble once more. It is hard to think of those who fell this day. They were men of great determination and dedication to the cause of Union. But with such men can we ever despair of final victory! *“I am tired of the sickening sight of the battlefield, with its mangled corpses and poor suffering wounded! Victory has no charms for me when purchased at such a cost.”* --George McClellan in a letter to his wife, Ellen, on June 2, 1862.**



**The regiment with fixed bayonet and at port arms salutes the crowd at battles end.**



**With steady eyes and unfaltering step the regiment at charge bayonets advances towards the crowd with a shout.**

[http://www.sheboyganpress.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Avis=U0&Dato=20110924  
&Kategori=SHE01&Lopenr=109240812&Ref=PH](http://www.sheboyganpress.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Avis=U0&Dato=20110924&Kategori=SHE01&Lopenr=109240812&Ref=PH)

## **COMPANY CAMPAIGN SCHEDULES**

---

### **OCTOBER**

<b>1st-2nd</b>	<b>Trimborn Farm Living History (Co. K)</b>	<b>Milwaukee WI</b>
<b>8th-9th</b>	<b>Norskedalen Reenactment (Co. B &amp; Battery B)</b>	<b>Norskedalen WI</b>

# COMPANY REPORTS

---

## COMPANY B

---

---

### NORSKEDALEN CIVIL WAR WEEKEND

**The weekend of October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, inst., will find the men of Company B encamped in the beautiful plains and woods of Norskedalen, Wisconsin. Last month the details of this event appeared in the pages of *The Fugelman*. This is a reminder that an invitation has been extended to all the brothers-in-arms of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association to join them for this event.**

**The area should be afire with the colors of the fall in full splendor. From all reports to the editor this is a great event! Ugi Pirocanac, of Company K, has stated that this is one event everyone should attend at least once during their reenacting days. And there are rebels reported in the area that need to learn that we Western men are not to be trifled with!!**

**If you plan on attending this event please contact John Dudkiewicz at your earliest convenience at [jjdudkie@charter.net](mailto:jjdudkie@charter.net) as they need to plan on the numbers attending the event.**

### COMPANY B FACEBOOK PAGE

**Company B has a Facebook page that is worthy of a visit for our Association members. It is well organized and has numerous great photos of their events, some of which have appeared in *The Fugelman*. The site isn't new, but for members of the Association it may well be. It is nicely done and well worth the visit!**

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Company-B-2nd-Wisconsin-Volunteer-Infantry-LaCrosse-Light-Guard/195192460506734>

# COMPANY C

---

---

## REMEMBRANCE DAY DRAWS NEAR

**November 19<sup>th</sup> is the date for the annual Remembrance Day Commemoration in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. In the past Sgt. Bill Acheson of Company C has organized this event on behalf of the Second Wisconsin. If you haven't attended this event in the past this is one you must participate in at some point. Note that this year the commemoration will fall on the actual date Lincoln gave that wonderful speech now engraved on every American's heart!**

**First, any trip to Gettysburg for any reason is a great opportunity. To walk the field, especially McPherson's Ridge and Herbst's Woods has an incredible feeling that forces its way into the very soul of visitors! Sgt. Acheson and others from Company C are extremely knowledgeable about the field and the battle. In the past the editor has experienced unplanned conversations (not part of the official program) following the commemoration at the Iron Brigade Monument that were incredible for the depth and expanse of the knowledge these fellas have. It will enhance your visit greatly.**

**The morning begins with a gathering of the representatives from the Second Wisconsin and a march to the National Cemetery. The very act of placing the Wisconsin and National flags on the graves of the Wisconsin soldiers brings into sharp focus the cost of that war as nothing else can! In the same vein one must attend the lumiaria at the cemetery on Saturday evening. It is beautiful and awesome in its silent power to effect the heart and soul of those who attend.**

**Following the ceremony at the cemetery the men adjourn and reform at the Iron Brigade monument on McPherson's Ridge. Sgt. Acheson always has some poignant comment and men in the ranks are encouraged to step out and share their views with the men assembled. The editor remembers with crystal clarity the statement Sgt. Acheson gave regarding those Wisconsin boys who left Wisconsin in 1861 and never returned to their homes. They now lay in Pennsylvania's most hallowed soil and will never again trod Wisconsin's soil. The editor had to struggle with the tears that**

**filled his eyes in reflecting on that point clearly demonstrated by the circumstances of the presentation.**

**After a break for lunch is the parade. The parade goes down (or up) Baltimore Street and onto Steinwehr Avenue to Cemetery Ridge. There the men are dismissed and the opportunity to wander the field begins.**

**If anyone has any doubt of the merit of this event speak to someone who has attended and make your plans to share in this very special commemoration!! And remember to extend a thank you to Bill Acheson and the boys of Company C as they are extremely considerate hosts.**

## **COMPANY K**

---

---

### **COMPANY K ON FACEBOOK**

**Back in April or May Ryan Schwartz and Kevin Hampton created a Facebook page for Company K. The editor is aware that some members are reluctant to get on Facebook, but for those who are on the social networking platform it has turned out to be a great tool for keeping folks updated on events and interaction with our members. You can find music, videos and photos from events there. Go to Company K, Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association to review the information there and exchange ideas.**

**The newsletter would like to express the gratitude of the Company to Ryan and Kevin for their work on this site. Thank you fellas!!**

## **COMPANY E**

---

---

### **AFTER ACTION REPORT FROM THE STEVENS POINT EVENT**

**Dear 2nd:**

**I wish to report on the Stevens Point event which was held August 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>.**

**It was held at the Pfiffner Park next to the Wisconsin River . (It reminded me a bit of Escanaba)**

**This year I worked with the new coordinator for the event ( Dave Simonis ) and we had been conversing for nearly a year about what the Portage Historical Society could do to improve the event, to make it safer and what would be needed to bring the event back to a worthwhile Historical event.**

**My suggestion was to make it a living history (no skirmish) and to make it a by only event. We had also discussed many other options that could and would improve the event.**

**He took this and others input and did a splendid job. What was more impressive is that this is his first year that he has been a coordinator of such an event.**

**The groups that attended were McAllister's Battery, Battery B, Terry Stolls, an embalmer and his wife and a kindly gentlemen that played the banjo singing the old tunes, Old Abe Camp #8 SUVCW, 2<sup>nd</sup> WI. Co.'s E & K and the 10<sup>th</sup> Tennessee .**

**The only hitch was Pelham's (even though not invited) Battery . They showed up and set-up before anyone even knew that they were there. It was decided (by those in charge) to leave them there for the weekend with Russ Dempsey in charge of artillery and the understanding that he would keep a very tight leash on Pelham's.**

**I can say that with this in place no major incidents occurred.**

**I was placed in charge of the Infantry and since only 5 of us showed on Friday and Saturday (with Scottie showing up on Sunday) it was decided that we combined both camps and enjoy each other Company.**

**Those that were in attendance were:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David Dresang Jr.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Marv Kostka**

**Cpl. Scott Boesel**

**Pvt. Dave May Co. K**

**Cpl. Tim Lindgren 10<sup>th</sup> Ten.**

**I will admit that Tim is an excellent cook on Saturday morning (he made breakfast for us all) even though most of the eggs ended up in the fire it was still very tasty.**

**All of the Infantry set-up on Friday night (with the exception of Scottie) on one side of some rather large bushes, which was nice since it gave us a certain amount of privacy from the rest of the camps.**

**We were given \$5.00 (funny money) to spend at any vendor that was there (which basically was a food vendor)**

**The Day on Saturday started off cool with a nice breeze coming off the water. The battery did a firing demonstration over the water (what an amazing echo down the river could be well heard) and then it was the turn of the Infantry (all 2 muskets) we demonstrated the difference in manual of arms and loading and firing.**

**Tim then demonstrated the loading and firing against the clock to see if he could do it in the 1 minute time limit. The first round was done in 59 seconds and had he not fumbled on his last round I was sure he was going to do it in 50 seconds.**

**Both Tim and Dave had excellent displays set out for the spectators and according to Pa the crowds were larger than last years.**

**Probably the most noteworthy was the night firing of the cannons, but not to be out done the Infantry (with its ranks bolstered by Jim Schumann) had our turn first.**

**The crowd was very large for this one (and rightfully so)**

**We started around 8:15 p.m. with the firing of the 3 muskets and then we went and acting as guards for the 3 field pieces.**

**It went off without a hitch and McAllister's used star fires with their loads so the spectators got a very great red and blue light show.**

**Overall, the event was well coordinated, well planned and is worthy of us seriously looking at going back in stronger numbers next year.**

**Dave Simonis and his staff were very easy to work with and very accommodating and for this being there first year they did a rather well done job.**

**I highly recommend this event as again I will (along with others) be working with Dave and his staff to improve the event.**

**I can report of no major incidents and the small ones were taken care of very quickly.**

**Your humble servant**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David Dresang Jr.**

## **THE SKIRMISHERS**



**A NOTE ON THE SKIRMISH AT Bristol, Wisconsin for the members of the skirmish team:**

**Sir:**

**As a result of someone firing a handgun over the berm on the skirmish field and hitting a house, there will be no handguns used on the skirmish field until baffles are constructed. The skirmish is still on, but, even though we were told that revolvers could be used by us, we felt it prudent to not allow them to be fired. This edict applies, as far as I know, to the Cowboy Action shooters, all Family Fun shoots, and NRA sponsored activities as well. We do not want to lose this range for our activities, because of this.**

**Steve Sherry**

### **SOME WEBSITES OF INTEREST TO REENACTERS AND SKIRMISHERS ALIKE**

**Gary Van Kauwenbergh sent *The Fugelman* the following sites to explore at your leisure.**

**The first is a nearly 4 minute video on rolling cartridges. The cartridges contain a bullet so it is primarily aimed at the skirmishers in the Association. The editor did find it interesting although he doesn't live shoot. It still could be a benefit to those who roll their own cartridges for reenactments.**

**Rolling cartridges video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzOjRJpyvSM&feature=youtu.be>**

**This is a site for a black powder enthusiast and is a digital magazine. There was an article on hunting, designing bullets for black powder shooting and the review and analysis of a new reproduction 1861 Springfield rifle.**

**Petersoli Blackpowder Magazine No. 1 online:** <http://www.davide-pedersoli.com/uploads/riviste/6dpmag7.pdf>

**If anyone is interested in purchasing tickets to the First Brigade Band's Harvest Ball the following is a link to order tickets. The Ball is on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at 7:30 p.m.**

**First Brigade Bands Harvest Ball link:**  
[http://1stbrigadeband.org/sales/index.php?route=product/product&path=61&product\\_id=54](http://1stbrigadeband.org/sales/index.php?route=product/product&path=61&product_id=54)

**Our thanks goes out to Gary for providing this information for the members of the Association and *The Fugelman*.**



<https://forohmilwaukee.org/Photos.php>

## CIVIL WAR MILESTONES

---

### OCTOBER

- Oct. 8, 1838**                      **John Hay, one of President Lincoln's personal secretaries & biographers, born**
- Oct. 15, 1818**                      **Irvin McDowell, US, born 1818**
- Oct. 18, 1818**                      **Edward O. C. Ord, USA, born**
- Oct. 19, 1863**                      **Lucius Fairchild promoted to Brigadier General**

## NOVEMBER

- Nov. 1, 1861**                      **Gen. George McClellan replaces Gen. Scott as commander in chief of U. S. forces**
- Nov. 3, 1813**                      **Gen. Jubal A. Early, CSA, born**
- Nov. 5, 1862**                      **Gen. Geo, McClellan removed from command after he failed to pursue Lee's army after the Battle of Antietam**
- Nov. 6, 1861**                      **Jefferson Davis elected as president of the CSA. This was the second election for the post as he was elected to serve as provisional president when the CSA was being formed in Montgomery, Alabama**
- Nov. 7, 1861**                      **Union forces capture Port Royal**
- Nov. 8, 1861**                      **Capt. Wilkes seizes Confederate Commissioners aboard a British ship**
- Nov. 9, 1825**                      **Gen Ambrose P. Hill, CSA, born**
- Nov. 9, 1864**                      **Lincoln re-elected for a second term; the death knell for the CSA**
- Nov. 13, 1814**                      **Gen. Joseph Hooker, USA, born**
- Nov. 15, 1864**                      **Gen. Sherman begins his "March To The Sea"**

<b>Nov. 19, 1863</b>	<b>PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN DELIVERS THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS</b>
<b>Nov. 23, 1863</b>	<b>The Battle of Chattanooga</b>
<b>Nov. 24, 1863</b>	<b>The Battle of Chattanooga</b>
<b>Nov. 25, 1863</b>	<b>The Battle of Chattanooga</b>
<b>Nov. 28, 1861</b>	<b>Missouri formally admitted to the Confederacy</b>
<b>Nov. 29, 1815</b>	<b>Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut, USA, born in Charleston, S. C.</b>
<b>Nov. 30, 1864</b>	<b>The Battle of Franklin</b>

## **ON THE MARCH**

---

### **MADISON HISTORY ROUNDTABLE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2011- 2012**

---

**My compliments to the members of the Madison History Roundtable (MHR) who were kind enough to provide their schedule of this year's**

**programming. A short review of the topics offered in the coming months suggests a great schedule of interesting events!**

## **2011 – 2012 PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

September 8, 2011

**Jessica Michna**

**First Lady Impersonator – Mary Todd Lincoln**

**Mary Todd Lincoln – A Widow’s Reflection**

October 13, 2011

**Patricia Lynch and the West Side Soldiers Aid Society**

**Dance group specializing in Civil War era dance**

***Civil War period dances - Bring your dancing shoes***

November 10, 2011

**Kristine Zickuhr**

**Registrar - Wisconsin Veterans Museum**

**Wisconsin Civil War flag collection at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum**

**Stories behind the flags and flag preservation program**

December 8, 2011

**Eileen Dunne**

**Story of one town’s exceptional hospitality towards US troops in WWII**

**North Platte Canteen**

January 12, 2012

**Gary Hess**

**History of the Hess family cooperage business and Wisconsin breweries**

**Frank J. Hess and Sons Cooperage**

February 9, 2012

**Frank Medina**

**Presenting Popular Civil War Era Music**

March 8, 2012

**Peter Skelly**

**Lincoln Bi-centennial Commission, President of Rock County Civil War  
History Roundtable**

**The Unlucky 13<sup>th</sup> - Story of the 13<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin in the Civil War**

April 12, 2012

**Frank Medina**

**Lincoln - Douglass Debates: Kansas - Nebraska Act**

May 10, 2012

**Larry Werline**

**General Grant**

Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:30pm

Optional Dinner at 6:30pm

West Side Club

3706 Junction Road, Madison , WI

608-833-6355

Contact Rich Fronck (835-9678) or Bill Raftery (831-7769) for information

Web: [www.mhrt.info](http://www.mhrt.info),

Facebook: Madison History Roundtable,

Email: [madhrt@googlegroups.com](mailto:madhrt@googlegroups.com)

# **A CHALLENGE TO THE LONG ACCEPTED BUTCHERS' BILL FOR THE CIVIL WAR**

---

SEPTEMBER 20, 2011, 9:38 PM  
RECOUNTING THE DEAD  
BY J. DAVID HACKER

**Even as Civil War history has gone through several cycles of revision, one thing has remained fixed: the number of dead. Since about 1900, historians and the general public have assumed that 618,222 men died on both sides. That number is probably a significant undercount, however. New estimates, based on Census data, indicate that the death toll was approximately 750,000, and may have been as high as 850,000.**

**The notion that we've drastically undercounted the Civil War dead is not a new idea: in fact, Francis Amasa Walker, superintendent of the 1870 Census, estimated that the number of male deaths was not less than 850,000. So how did the lower number come to be the accepted count and why does it matter that it was wrong?**

**Efforts to identify, reburial and count the dead began as soon as the war ended. A precise count proved impossible, however: both armies lacked systematic procedures to identify the dead, wounded and missing in action, as well as an official means to notify relatives of a soldier's death. Men went missing; battle, hospital and prison reports were incomplete and inaccurate; dead men were buried unidentified; and family members were forced to infer the fate of a loved one from his failure to return home after the war.**

**Instead, postwar counts of the Union dead drew from regimental muster-out rolls and battle reports. An 1866 report compiled under the direction of Provost Marshal General James B. Fry estimated that 279,689 men in the Union forces died in the war. The estimated death toll increased to 360,222 by the late 19th century, partly as a result of widows and orphans bringing forward information when applying for pensions and survivors benefits.**

**But a direct count of the Confederate dead proved impossible. The destruction of the Confederate army and many of its records limited investigators to partial counts. The Fry report documented just 133,821 Confederate deaths from incomplete returns. That number didn't change much: since Confederate widows and orphans were ineligible for federal**

**benefits, the estimate was never supplemented with information from survivors.**

**Francis Amasa Walker's interest in estimating the number of war-related deaths was a result of the 1870 Census returns. The final Census count put the population at 38,558,371, up just 22.6 percent from the count in 1860. All previous 19th-century censuses had documented decennial growth rates between 32.7 percent and 36.4 percent, a near-constant rate of increase that 19th-century Americans had come to expect and celebrate as a measure of the nation's strength, progress and future prosperity.**

**The 31-year-old superintendent was understandably defensive. City boosters in Philadelphia and New York had charged the 1870 enumeration with excessive coverage errors, and President Grant had taken the unusual step of ordering a recount of those cities. Although the second counts failed to turn up many additional residents, the Census remained suspect. After all, if past growth patterns had continued, the population should have been 41.5 million. Had the Census somehow missed 3 million people?**

**Walker acknowledged that the 1870 census was far from perfect, but he refused to concede that it was more deficient in its coverage of the population than preceding censuses. Instead, he reasoned, the war was to blame. The disappointing growth rate, he countered, was the result of the notorious and palpable effects of the war, which hampered the growth of the black population, checked immigration, limited marriages and births and led to the direct loss of close to a million men.**

**Although the Surgeon General's Office had at that point documented 304,000 Union deaths, Walker noted that the number was based only on those men who died during their terms of service. About a third of the 285,000 men discharged for disabilities and many of the remaining 2 million men who survived the war, he argued, subsequently died as a result of diseases and wounds contracted while in the Army. Tens of thousands were discharged to die; tens of thousands died within the first few months after discharge, he wrote. Tens of thousands more lingered through the first or second year. Together with the losses calculated by the Surgeon General's Office, Walker concluded that 500,000 will surely be a moderate estimate for the direct losses among the Union armies.**

**Walker's estimate of Confederate losses was necessarily rougher. He started with a guess at the number of men participating about half of the aggregate number participating on the Union side and his assumption that Confederate soldiers' longer average terms of service and relative lack of nourishing food, medicine and skilled physicians resulted in a greater risk of death. Without attempting to deal at all nicely with this subject, he argued, it is difficult to see how anyone could, upon reflection, place the**

**losses of the confederate armies at less than 350,000 men.**

**Unfortunately, Walker did not pursue the line of inquiry further. After his reappointment as superintendent for the 1880 Census, he had to explain the overly rapid growth of the South's population between 1870 and 1880 and defend the Census from charges of fraud in the form of over-counting. After a field investigation by the Census geographer Henry Gannett failed to turn up any evidence of fraud, suspicion returned to the 1870 census. Gannett charged that many of the 1870 enumerators were appointed for their Republican political connections, not for their local knowledge or ability to conduct a census. The inevitable result, he concluded, was a large undercount.**

**This time Walker agreed. Having been successful in pushing through many costly reforms for the 1880 census, one of which was to shift enumeration responsibilities from federal marshals answerable to the Justice Department to a much larger field force selected for their qualifications and answerable to the Census Office, Walker must have felt some measure of justification from Gannett's report.**

**But with the census discredited a crude calculation by the 1890 census office subsequently indicated that the 1870 Census had undercounted the South's population by 1,260,078 (10 percent of the region's and 3 percent of the nation's population) the opportunity for a more comprehensive examination of the war's human cost was lost to the political winds. The estimate of 360,222 Union deaths stood.**

**The count of Confederate dead was, however, heavily debated. William F. Fox, a private citizen and Union army veteran whose 1889 book on regimental losses remains a classic reference work for Civil War historians, relied on battle reports and unofficial estimates to obtain a total of 94,000 Confederate battle deaths. He complained, however, that records were incomplete, especially during the last year of the war, and that battlefield reports likely under-counted deaths (many men counted as wounded in battlefield reports subsequently died of their wounds). In 1900 Thomas L. Livermore, who, like Fox, was a private citizen and Union army veteran, put the number of Confederate non-combat deaths at 164,000, using the official estimate of Union deaths from disease and accidents and a comparison of Union and Confederate enlistment records.**

**Livermore's estimate assumed Union and Confederate troops suffered an equal risk of death from disease, a conservative assumption that Walker had explicitly rejected. Despite acknowledging that his estimate of disease mortality likely undercounted Confederate deaths and his concern that Fox's estimate of battle deaths could be accepted only as a minimum, Livermore combined the two estimates to arrive at a total of 258,000 Confederate**

**deaths, a total that remains unrevised more than a century later.**

**So why should we now doubt that number? For one thing, Fry, Walker, Fox, Livermore and other early investigators were limited by the quality of the data available. Using new quantitative sources, we can now make a more comprehensive and accurate estimate of war-related deaths. With one exception, microfilm copies of the original manuscript returns have been preserved for all censuses since 1850 (the 1890 Census manuscripts were lost in a fire). Census micro-data samples created from these returns at the Minnesota Population Center make it possible to estimate undercounts by age and sex in censuses back to 1850 and to construct a Census-based estimate of male deaths caused by the war.**

**Census undercounts are estimated using multiple censuses and a demographic method known as back projection. The results confirm that, indeed, the 1870 Census was the most poorly enumerated. It was not nearly as bad as Walker feared and as 1890 census officials charged, however: the net undercount was 6.5 percent in 1870, compared to 6.0 percent in 1850, 5.5 percent in 1860, and 3.6 percent in 1880.**

**War-related losses are estimated by comparing sex differences in mortality during the 1860s with sex differences in mortality in the 1850s and 1870s. The results indicate that the war was responsible for the deaths of about 750,000 men (using less conservative assumptions, the total may have been as high as 850,000). Although that estimate is 100,000 fewer than the 850,000 deaths suggested by Walker, it is closer to his guess than it is to traditional estimate of 618,222 deaths, which has been cited uncritically for too long. If the Census-based estimate is correct, the traditional estimate is about 20 percent too low.**

**Although there are limitations to using Census data to estimate of Civil War mortality civilian deaths are too few to be measured accurately, and deaths cannot be reliably divided into Union or Confederate subtotals the method provides a more complete assessment of the war's human cost. In addition to the men who died during their terms of service, the Census-based estimate of male mortality includes men who died between the date of their discharge and the 1870 Census from diseases and wounds contracted during the war, as well as non-enlisted men who died in guerilla warfare and other war-related violence. It excludes, however, men dying from war-related causes who would have died under the normal mortality conditions of the late 19th century. This final group, included in all direct counts of the Civil War dead, represents about 80,000 men.**

**So what? Above a certain count, do the numbers even matter? Well, yes. The difference between the two estimates is large enough to change the way we look at the war. The new estimate suggests that more men died as a result of**

**the Civil War than from all other American wars combined. Approximately 1 in 10 white men of military age in 1860 died from the conflict, a substantial increase from the 1 in 13 implied by the traditional estimate. The death toll is also one of our most important measures of the war's social and economic costs. A higher death toll, for example, implies that more women were widowed and more children were orphaned as a result of the war than has long been suspected.**

**In other words, the war touched more lives and communities more deeply than we thought, and thus shaped the course of the ensuing decades of American history in ways we have not yet fully grasped. True, the war was terrible in either case. But just how terrible, and just how extensive its consequences, can only be known when we have a better count of the Civil War dead.**

**Sources: Drew Gilpin Faust, "This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War"; Joshua B. Howard, *North Carolina Civil War Death Study*; Francis Amasa Walker, *Report of the Superintendent of Census to the Secretary of the Interior, Dec. 26, 1871*; Henry Gannett, "The Alleged Census Frauds in the South"; Francis Amasa Walker, *Documents Relating to the Taking of the Census of South Carolina, Oct. 5, 1880*; Robert P. Porter, Henry Gannett and William C. Hunt, "Progress of the Nation, 1790 to 1890"; William F. Fox, "Regimental Losses in the American Civil War, 1861-1865"; Thomas L. Livermore, "Number and Losses in the Civil War in America, 1861-65"; Steven Ruggles et al., "Integrated Public Use Microdata Series."**

**J. David Hacker is an associate professor of history at Binghamton University, SUNY.**

## The Red Badge of Courage

by Stephen Crane

### CHAPTER XI.

HE became aware that the furnace roar of the battle was growing louder. Great brown clouds had floated to the still heights of air before him. The noise, too, was approaching.

The woods filtered men and the fields became dotted.

As he rounded a hillock, he perceived that the roadway was now a crying mass of wagons, teams, and men. From the heaving tangle issued exhortations, commands, imprecations. Fear was sweeping it all along. The cracking whips bit and horses plunged and tugged. The white-topped wagons strained and stumbled in their exertions like fat sheep.

The youth felt comforted in a measure by this sight. They were all retreating. Perhaps, then, he was not so bad after all. He seated himself and watched the terror-stricken wagons. They fled like soft, ungainly animals. All the roarers and lashers served to help him to magnify the dangers and horrors of the engagement that he might try to prove to himself that the thing with which men could charge him was in truth a symmetrical act. There was an amount of pleasure to him in watching the wild march of this vindication.

Presently the calm head of a forward-going column of infantry appeared in the road. It came swiftly on. Avoiding the obstructions gave it the sinuous movement of a serpent. The men at the head butted mules with their musket stocks. They prodded teamsters indifferent to all howls. The men forced their way through parts of the

dense mass by strength. The blunt head of the column pushed. The raving teamsters swore many strange oaths.

The commands to make way had the ring of a great importance in them. The men were going forward to the heart of the din. They were to confront the eager rush of the enemy. They felt the pride of their onward movement when the remainder of the army seemed trying to dribble down this road. They tumbled teams about with a fine feeling that it was no matter so long as their column got to the front in time. This importance made their faces grave and stern. And the backs of the officers were very rigid.

As the youth looked at them the black weight of his woe returned to him. He felt that he was regarding a procession of chosen beings. The separation was as great to him as if they had marched with weapons of flame and banners of sunlight. He could never be like them. He could have wept in his longings.

He searched about in his mind for an adequate malediction for the indefinite cause, the thing upon which men turn the words of final blame. It--whatever it was--was responsible for him, he said. There lay the fault.

The haste of the column to reach the battle seemed to the forlorn young man to be some- thing much finer than

stout fighting. Heroes, he thought, could find excuses in that long seething lane. They could retire with perfect self-respect and make excuses to the stars.

He wondered what those men had eaten that they could be in such haste to force their way to grim chances of death. As he watched his envy grew until he thought that he wished to change lives with one of them. He would have liked to have used a tremendous force, he said, throw off himself and become a better. Swift pictures of himself, apart, yet in himself, came to him--a blue desperate figure leading lurid charges with one knee forward and a broken blade high--a blue, determined figure standing before a crimson and steel assault, getting calmly killed on a high place before the eyes of all. He thought of the magnificent pathos of his dead body.

These thoughts uplifted him. He felt the quiver of war desire. In his ears, he heard the ring of victory. He knew the frenzy of a rapid successful charge. The music of the trampling feet, the sharp voices, the clanking arms of the column near him made him soar on the red wings of war. For a few moments he was sublime.

He thought that he was about to start for the front. Indeed, he saw a picture of himself, dust- stained, haggard, panting, flying to the front at the proper moment to seize

and throttle the dark, leering witch of calamity.

Then the difficulties of the thing began to drag at him. He hesitated, balancing awkwardly on one foot.