

THE FUGELMAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY
ASSOCIATION

THE BLACK HATS

THE IRON BRIGADE

VOLUME XVIII

ISSUE 10

OCTOBER, 2010

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



PASS IN REVIEW



I have just returned from Old Wade House and in a word, and it's the one I used when I addressed the battalion after Sunday's action. "Fantastic." Federal infantry performed above expectations and our nemesis, the CS infantry complimented our actions by allowing us to show off the little sidebars at the battle at Perryville Kentucky. If we add the artillery and cavalry and their excellent performance, Old Wade House was able to offer another quality weekend for the spectators. Thanks to all for allowing me to be the 'mastermind' of this event.

As I called for a special meeting of the Second Wisconsin Association, we are now well on our way to participate in the 150th anniversary of First Bull Run. We will keep everyone posted on information concerning this national event. Dave and John will be working to charter a bus trip and Jerry Letcher will seek out information for the State gray uniform. [I later talked to Tom Klas and he already has obtained some interesting information from Bill Brewster of the Veterans Museum in Madison and that info should be forthcoming.]

All this activity in the last few days tells me that our organization of the Second Wisconsin is healthy. Through the winter months we will be planning ahead as the sesquicentennial anniversaries of the American Civil War approach. New members will seek to experience the War Between the States and perhaps retired members will renew their interest in the Second Wisconsin as we prepare for these major events.

There are a few events left on our calendar with Norskedalen arriving on October 8th-10th. I'll be there of course and I hope to see as many of you as can come. This event is such a pleasure to participate in. The homes and out buildings add so much to our interpretation of the era. It makes a fantastic end to any campaign.

Your Obedient Servant,
Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad

COMPANY CAMPAIGN SCHEDULES

October

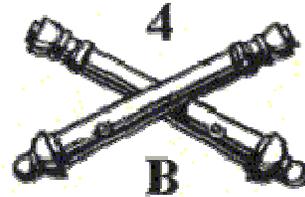
1 st -3 rd	Company H Fresno Reenactment, Fresno, CA
2 nd -3 rd	Company K Trimborn Farm Living History, Greendale WI
8 th	Company B Norskedalen School Day Coon Valley WI
9 th -10 th	Company B Norskedalen Reenactment, Coon Valley WI

23rd-24th *Antietam Living History*
BHB Max effort event

OCTOBER MILESTONES

October 19, 1864	Battle of Cedar Creek
October 20, 1819	Gen. Daniel Sickles, U.S., born
October 21, 1861	Battle of Balls Bluff

COMPANY REPORTS



BATTERY B

In the September issue of *The Fugelman* the newsletter included a letter from Battery B on the then upcoming Wade House event. The Battery was making the point that regulars often took their families into the camps with them, and included a photo of such a camp. And Unlike the 2nd Wisconsin, who were volunteers, the Battery was a Regular army unit before and during the war. Its official designation was Battery B, 4th U.S. Artillery.

I was unable to download the photo, but left the description in their letter because I thought it made the point effectively. I apologize to the Battery for that failure. Lyle Laufenberg re-sent the photo in a version I could download. Although it is too late for the 2010 Old Wade House event, it is a legitimate point and one that may have some impact for the future. Again my apologies to the Battery and I hope this assists in clearing up the record.

Having the camp split into military and a civilian without being able to mingle, does create a situation for us. As we have a 'heavier' camp, we also have more gear and at times a gun and limber nearby. The ladies have helped keep an eye on our tents and equipment when the cannoneers are on the field. The past year, we were asked to stay on the field during the public time to show and answer questions about Artillery. When the issue of an unsecured camp was brought up, we were offered volunteers.

In addition, the Regular US Army often had families travel from post to post, and at established camps, where they performed various tasks, and to earn additional money. Note the family in the attached 1862 photo from the Eastern Theatre (and note the 9-button shell jacket on the man center front with the saw; the same shows on most of the men at back). This has allowed our ladies to explain camp life to the public while we're on the field most of the day.

The photo speaks for itself. It clearly demonstrates the presence of not only women in the camps, but the children as well. The additional picture below shows Lt. Col. Fairchild and Col.



O'Connor in camp with their wives. True enough they were officers which carries a special privilege unavailable to the common soldier. It does reflect that impulse to keep loved ones near hand.

at



Lyle Laufenberg sent the above Iron Brigade symbol that appears on General Gibbon's grave stone. Note the battery takes a

central position. Specifically, Battery B, 4th U. S. light artillery, which was in Gibbon's view an integral part of the brigade. The Brigade symbol would change to reflect the one that appears with the Regiment Dispatches below. In that symbol the center reflects the volunteer nature of the regiments composing the brigade—USV—which left out the battery because it was a regular army unit.

The point here is that our comrades from Battery B are indeed an important part of our regimental structure and the editor thinks he speaks for all the company and the regiment in expressing our gratitude for the huge contributions the Battery brings to our organization!

COMPANY B

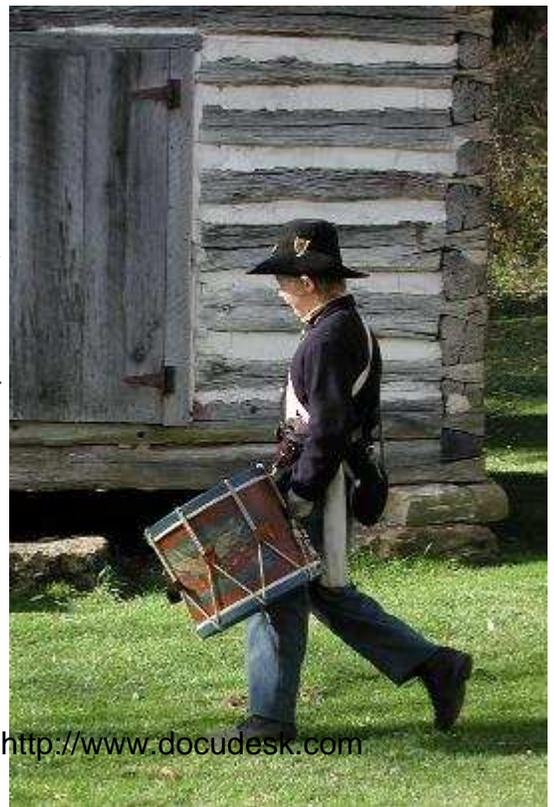
The following information comes from Company B and Pvt. John Dudkiewicz. Our brothers in Company B extends an invitation to all members of the Association to join them on the field for their event. More details will appear below.

CIVIL WAR HERITAGE WEEKEND IN OCTOBER

CIVIL WAR HERITAGE WEEKEND 2010

Saturday and Sunday, October 9 and 10,
9:00 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Skirmish 1pm

Norskedalen and Company B 2nd Wisconsin Civil War Re-enactors bring history to life during the Civil War Heritage Weekend held on the grounds of Norskedalen. Both Saturday and Sunday features drills, skirmishes; Saturday will feature a dusk skirmish while Sunday's battle will be at 1PM. The event will also feature as well as demonstrations of life in 1863 in our authentic setting.



Throughout the day, you can wander the grounds visiting a variety of living history stations where reenactors in complete costume and character share what life is like during the Civil War.

Step into the Engum house and smell freshly baked bread or stew on the woodstove while women in their hoopskirts and children go about their daily chores. Stop by the artillery and find out how cannon were cared for and fired. Watch as uniformed soldiers drill, stand guard and skirmish. Stop by the tents to find out how life on the front was lived, what they ate, what they wore, and why they fought.



Just before 1 p.m. you can settle down on the hill overlooking the grounds and watch the main battle break out on the field below you as the Confederate troops converge on Yankee lines. Cannon fire echoes off the surrounding valley walls, gun smoke and battle noises fill the air as an historical reenactment of an actual skirmish unfolds before you, bringing the Civil War to life right here in Wisconsin.





Figure 1 COMPANY B AT NORSKEDALEN IN 2008

The Norskedalen event takes place in an idyllic location of great beauty. Comrades from the editor's company who have attended the event in the past describe it as a great event for the reenactors. John Dudkiewicz informed *The Fugelman* that the uniform requirements are simple, any accurate Union infantry impression.

This year the battle scenarios are based on the Iuka, Mississippi campaign, 1862, and an interesting choice, Valverde, New Mexico fought in February, 1862. More details will appear at the end of the newsletter. The editor expresses his gratitude to Charles Bagneski for providing the Company E newsletter with all the details of the Norskedalen event.

COMPANY C

The Fugelman received the following request from our comrade, Bill Acheson, a member of Company C. As most of you know, Bill organizes the Remembrance Day events for the Second Wisconsin in Gettysburg. Bill has asked that the various companies obtain a head count of their members who may plan to attend this year's event on November 20th, 2010. You can contact Bill at the following e-mail address: achesonb@comcast.net Bill has to file paper

work with the Park Service the first part of October and needs to know how many may be attending.

On behalf of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association we thank Sgt. Acheson -I hope this is correct—for his efforts on behalf of the Regiment and for all those men from Wisconsin who now rest on the Battlefield. They never returned to their homes in Wisconsin, but we Wisconsin men can go there to salute their sacrifice.

COMPANY K

ITEMS FOR SALE

In an effort to clear out some space in the ole supply tent Craig Mickelson is offering the following items for sale. It appears the prices are excellent and we all know Craig keeps his kit in excellent shape!

SALE

1. 1842 Springfield, Armisport, Smoothbore Musket, sling, tompion (like new, never fired round ball) \$495
2. 1842 Springfield Bayonet, like new, (high quality, orig. \$125) \$35
3. Union Infantry Shell Jacket, Size 40? \$30
4. Union Sack Coat (modified with 6 buttons), Size 40? \$12
5. Shirt, red flannel, battle/fireman's, Size 15.5 x 34 \$10
6. Shirt, cotton, white with blue stripes, Size 15.5 x 34 \$10
7. Haversack with liner \$10
8. Forage cap with bugle, like new Size 7 1/4 \$12

Contact info:

Craig S. Mickelson
Cell: (920) 319-9068
Craig.Mickelson@Wisconsin.gov

SKIRMISHERS

Our comrade Gary Van Kauwenbergh has provided the following information on the skirmish team. It looks like the boys from the Second Wisconsin have done us proud! Maybe some enterprising boys could file down the sights of those rascally sharpshooters!

ACWSA Season Standings

2010

No legal team; awarded last place time plus 300 seconds

Team/Skirmish

Appleton, WI

5-6 June

Bristol, WI

17-18 July

Boscobel, WI

7-8 Aug

Rhinlander, WI

4-5 Sept

Bristol, WI

18-19 Sept

Accumulated

Time

Musket Team Competition

A Teams

1st USSS 771.80 595.70 1,110.10 1,088.70 3,566.30 2
2nd Wisconsin 1,454.00 1,162.90 1,084.30 895.00 4,596.20
6th Wisconsin 920.00 661.70 1,410.10 875.20 3,867.00 4
8th Wisconsin 1,469.17 1,462.90 989.60 1,741.30 5,662.97
15th Wisconsin 765.80 713.10 782.30 1,312.60 3,573.80 3
56th Virginia 1,955.50 1,462.90 1,410.10 1,441.30 6,269.80
66th North Carolina 1,076.20 537.30 615.40 820.00 3,048.90 1
Iron Brigard Guard 2,255.50 1,132.80 1,410.10 1,536.10 6,334.50
46th Illinois 1,017.80 1,017.80
2nd USSS 1,131.30 1,131.30
66th North Carolina B 2,255.50 1,130.20 1,410.10 1,741.30 6,537.10

Carbine Team Competition

A Teams

1st USSS 559.20 528.70 365.40 563.70 865.70 2,882.70 1
2nd Wisconsin 827.85 986.00 588.80 679.60 1,630.50 4,712.75 4
6th Wisconsin 1,252.20 1,422.20 1,302.50 1,341.10 766.10 6,084.10
8th Wisconsin 887.65 1,122.20 897.10 1,041.10 1,630.50 5,578.55
15th Wisconsin 502.60 819.60 606.50 641.30 1,330.50 3,900.50 3
56th Virginia 869.05 1,422.20 706.20 1,341.10 1,084.20 5,422.75
66th North Carolina 609.70 664.80 478.50 547.40 855.80 3,156.20 2
Iron Brigard Guard 1,252.20 1,422.20 1,302.50 1,341.10 1,630.50 6,948.50
Provo 1,252.20 1,422.20 749.80 848.80 1,020.60 5,293.60
114th Illinois 681.90 681.90
46th Illinois 967.90 967.90
2nd USSS 766.10 766.10

B Teams

2nd Wisconsin B 952.20 1,422.20 1,002.50 887.30 1,630.50 5,894.70
66th North Carolina B 1,252.20 1,302.10 1,001.90 1,341.10 1,630.50 6,527.80
1st USSS B 1,252.20 1,114.40 919.30 1,341.10 1,630.50 6,257.50

Ladies Carbine

2nd Wisconsin 1002.00 504.10 1506.1 1
8th Wisconsin 1,302.00 574.50 1876.5 2

Revolver Team Competition

A Teams

1st USSS 601.7 632.00 579.6 1,813.30
2nd Wisconsin 301.70 126.20 279.60 707.50 2
6th Wisconsin 601.70 632.00 579.60 1,813.30
8th Wisconsin 113.20 132.30 191.30 436.80 1
15th Wisconsin 202.20 632.00 242.20 1,076.40 4
56th Virginia 601.70 632.00 579.60 1,813.30
66th North Carolina 601.70 208.10 185.90 995.70 3
Iron Brigard Guard 601.70 632.00 579.60 1,813.30

B Teams

2nd Wisconsin B 233.50 632.00 579.60 1445.10
66th North Carolina B 601.70 332.00 579.60 1513.30

Smoothbore Team Competition

A Teams

1st USSS 1,219.20 992.40 902.20 952.90 1,081.00 5,147.70
2nd Wisconsin 919.20 692.40 326.30 652.90 781.00 3,371.80 3
6th Wisconsin 1,219.20 992.40 902.20 952.90 1,081.00 5,147.70
8th Wisconsin 1,219.20 992.40 902.20 898.00 1,081.00 5,092.80
15th Wisconsin 540.20 992.40 343.50 297.10 450.00 2,623.20 1
56th Virginia 644.90 992.40 541.20 952.90 513.00 3,644.40
66th North Carolina 1,219.20 579.30 360.90 405.20 706.60 3,271.20 4
Iron Brigard Guard 1,219.20 537.70 902.20 952.90 1,081.00 4,693.00
114th Illinios 333.3 333.30

B Teams

2nd Wisconsin B 1,219.20 992.20 481.60 952.9 1,081.00 4,726.90
66th North Carolina B 1,219.20 396.90 602.2 265.6 468 2,951.90 2

Breechloader Team Competition

A Teams

1st USSS 1,555.77 898.00 2,453.77
2nd Wisconsin 1,241.03 685.80 1,926.83 4
6th Wisconsin 1,555.77 1,198.00 2,753.77
8th Wisconsin 1,555.77 1,198.00 2,753.77
15th Wisconsin 330 332.00 662 1
56th Virginia 644.90 1,198.00 1,842.90 3
66th North Carolina 1,555.77 413.50 1,969.27
Iron Brigard Guard 1,555.17 1,198.00 2,753.17

B Teams

2nd Wisconsin B 716.1 716.1 2

No legal team; awarded last place plus 300 seconds



Gary Van Kauwenbergh accepts an award for Smoothbore Musket Team from Pat Kaboskey

REGIMENTAL DISPATCHES



A not so gentle reminder as the year draws to a close that dues for 2011 are required to be forwarded to the Association by

January 1st, 2011. Company officers need to complete their rosters, campaign schedules and other information and deliver these items to the Association secretary no later than the Association annual meeting in January.

The New Year is only a few months away, and that means the Associating meeting will be just around the corner, this is just a quick update on what you should be concentrating on.

There have been notices sent out through each Company and through the Fugleman that your dues need to be turned in by January 1st; hopefully you have had time to start thinking about this and even have started saving to pay your dues by the allotted time.

Please remember to pay the Company you belong to so that your treasurer can record that you have paid and then he can forward them onto the Association Secretary for recording.

Here is a quick rundown on the dues.

Full military membership is \$20.00

Each household that has one or more additional military members the dues are \$30.00 (this changes the \$8.00 per extra military membership)

Remember, this membership only applies to those members that reside in the same household. (if you have a family member that is away at college can be considered residing in the same household) this does not mean that if you have someone living on their own and away from home does not count as residing in the same household.

Again, I will be collecting dues and **completed** rosters at the annual Association meeting.

Company treasurers and or Secretaries, below you will find what I will need for myself to complete my files.

Here is what is needed on the completed roster:

Association General Roster:

Name

Rank and or Title

Address

E-mail (optional)

Phone (optional)

Amount of dues paid [this includes each household membership]

Company and Military Leadership Roster:

Name

Rank and or Title

Address

E-mail (must have)

Phone (must have)

The military leadership will include the rank of corporal and up

Civilian leadership will include all elected positions.

Please make sure everything is legible, so I can read and understand it.

Thank you

Calendar of Events:

I realize that Company meetings are a few months off, but I need to get this information out now so there will be no misunderstandings when the time comes to start working on the calendar I would like all available information possible.

Last year events came in after they were over and I wish to get everything into the Fugelman and the website and out to ALL Companies before the events happen.

Thank you

Remember; only include those events that you wish **ALL** your Sister Companies to join in.

These events could include (but not limited to)

Living History
Reenactments
School events
Drills
Parades

Or special events

Please include the following information when submitting your event calendar:

Date
Place of event
Time of event
Type of event
And any other pertinent information.

If you have something in January, please send it to Jim Dumke for publication before December 30th!

I will collect your event calendar at the Association meeting, that way if I have any questions, I can quickly ask and get the information needed.

Thank you

The last bit of information that I have, this year, there are **several** positions up for election this coming year, you may wish to start thinking about a position that may interest you.

The positions are as follows:

Current elected officials:

Lt. Col. 3 year term (current Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad)
Major of Infantry Doug Rasmussen (1 year left)
Major of Artillery Brant Doty (2 years left)
President 3 year term (current President Pete Seielstad)
Vice President 3 year term (current Vice President Terry Brown)
Treasurer Scott Frank (1 year left)
Corporate Secretary David Dresang Jr (1 year left)

Appointed positions:

Association Secretary David Dresang Jr
Association Quartermaster Tom Klas
Handbook Committee

This I do not have names of

Thank you
David Dresang Jr
Association/Corporate Secretary

**INITIAL MINUTES FROM
THE ASSOCIATION
SECRETARY PENDING
FINAL APPROVAL**

This is the initial submission of the minutes from the Association Meeting at the Wade House event on September 25th. These minutes may be supplemented or altered in a subsequent issue of the *Fugelman*.

**ASSOCIATION SPECIAL
MEETING
9/25/2010
HELD AT
WADE HOUSE
GREENBUSH WI**

4:35 p.m.

**Presiding: President Pete Seielstad
Conducting: President Pete Seielstad**

Pete opened with 3 points that needed to be discussed during the meeting:

- 1) election of Association Officers**
- 2) Discussion of National event for 2011**
- 3) Report by Battery B**

The meeting opened with the discussion of National events for 2011, there are 3 National events for the Association to consider.

- 1) 1st Manassas**
- 2) Shiloh**
- 3) Wilsons Creek**

Pete asked David Dresang (Association Secretary) to relate to the Association about a Reenactor committee that was formed earlier in the year and the decisions that were made by this committee. Pete did point out that Antietam was left off the list before David spoke.

David reported that a Committee (both North and South) representing (according to the article, this committee represented thousands of reenactors Nationwide) have decided the National events for the next five years to be Max effort events, they are:

- 1) 2011 1st Manassas and Shiloh**
- 2) 2012 2nd Manassas and Vicksburg**
- 3) 2013 Chickamauga and Gettysburg**
- 4) 2014 The Wilderness and Atlanta**
- 5) 2015 Bentonville and Appomattox Court House**

John Dudkiewicz discussed about the 3 main units in our area and that we could fall in with any of them at any of the National event.

The 3 main units are

- 1) Black Hat Battalion**
- 2) Cumberland Guard**
- 3) Great Lakes**

Pete discussed that he would like to see the tri State area (represented by the 3 units) to work together for a National event and have a presence of 200 men to be our own entity and our own Command.

Discussion was then called for on the 3 National events for 2011. The main focus was on 1st Manassas with some argument and discussion that (even though) the 2nd Wisconsin was involved that they wore the state militia uniforms and it would be inappropriate to attend that event if we could not go without the grey uniforms.

The discussion then turned on the idea of individuals purchasing or making their own gray uniforms and the cost involved.

Scott Sonntag estimated that if we were to do it correctly with all the same gear that they wore the cost would be in the area of \$1,200.00

Discussion continued about just the very basic uniform. Jerry Letcher (Co. E) thought he may be able to find out the cost of such a uniform with some sort of picture of pattern from the Association.

Vey little discussion on the other 2 events were discussed for 2011

Motion made by Jerry Letcher to support 1st Manassas 2nd by John Dudkiewicz

Question was entertained (before the call of vote) by Battery B (Lyle Laufenberg) if they were invited to attend the National events and what they should or could do.

Pete Seielstad asked Brant Doty (Captain of Battery B and the Association's Major of Artillery) what they had done at the 145th at Gettysburg.

Brant said they left their piece at home and fell in with another artillery group when they got to Gettysburg.

Pete reassured everyone that Battery B was and is a part of the Association and would always be included in all events that would also include any bus trip to any National event.

No other discussion ensued

John Dudkiewicz made motion that the vote be by show of hands

2nd by Jeff Blakely

Vote called for to narrow down the 3 events

1st Manasas-32 votes Shiloh-8 Wilsons Creek-0

This vote was not to choose a National event for 2011; this vote was to see the interest in the 3 different events. Dave Sielski brought up the point with all the major events coming up if the membership could gather enough interest for the next 3 years for a major National event and if the membership could afford that many National events. Pete replied that we would just take it year by year and see the members stood. He also said that Dave's point was well taken.

**Jeff Blakely made motion to make 1st Manassas the Association's National event for 2011
2nd by Jerry Letcher**

All present voted to make 1st Manassas the Association's National event for 2011

(2 abstained)

John Dudkiewicz pointed out that the BHB had also made 1st Manassas a Max effort event

Pete then called for volunteers to check on and be in charge of a bus and accommodations' for the trip to 1st Manassas.

John Dudkiewicz (Co. B) and Dave Sielski (Co. E) volunteered to take care of the transportation.

Jerry Letcher (Co. E) volunteered to check into the price of having a basic gray uniform made.

Upcoming election of Civilian and Military Officers

Positions opening up for elections are:

Association President (3 year term)

Association Vice President (3 year term)

Association Corporate Secretary (3 year term)

Association Lt. Col. (3 year term)

Other positions

Association Secretary (appointed by Association President, no term limit)

Pete Seielstad announced that he would not seek another term as either Association President or as Lt. Col. (you could hear the gasp at this announcement)

Pete also said that he had the sad news that David Dresang Jr. would be stepping down as both Association and Corporate Secretary and asked those assembled to thank David for his many years of service.

Report from Battery B

Pete asked Brant Doty (captain of Battery B and Association's Major of Artillery) to explain the contract regarding the brass tube (original 12 pound Napoleon) that was written up between the Association and the Wisconsin National Guard.

(Specifically, the First Battalion-121st Field Artillery Regiment Whitefish bay WI)

Brant reported that after several years of searching for the original contract that it has been located and that

copies were forwarded to several members of the Association.

The above names Guard unit owns the tube, but the association owns the carriage and all other equipment furnished by the Battery.

The tube would be shared with the Association for events with a 10 day written notice.

The above named Guard unit wants to write up a new contract, this contract would be good for a 2 year period and after said period would be renewed for another 2 years after which the contract would come up for review.

Brant suggested that the original contract be kept and that they Guard unit could not challenge the original since no time limit was placed on it.

At this time there is no challenge from the Guard unit regarding the original brass tube.

Brant will also send out a copy of the original contract to all Company Commanders for review and approval.

Any changes made to said contract would come up before the Association for discussion and review first before any would be signed.

Jeff Blakely asked if there was anything unique about this particular tube and if it would not be better to check on replacing the tube with another one if things became too complicated to keep the present contract.

Brant answered the tube now being used is to be believed to have been used by the original 4th U.S. Battery B. He also told everyone that it was cast in 1863 (right after the battle of Gettysburg)

Brant also pointed out that there is no documentation and that many stories about the tube abound, again without and documentation. He also said that he did not believe there would be no conflict between the Association and the Wisconsin Govt.

Lyle Laufenberg also pointed out that this particular tube does have battle scars and it is from and did see action during the War and that in itself made it very unique and worth keeping.

No more discussion or report given by Battery B or the members present.

Pete Seielstad asked Jim Dumke (The Fugelman newsletter editor) to step forward.

Pete presented a plaque (which he read to those assembled) and coffee cup to Jim for his outstanding work on the newsletter and for his efforts in turning the newsletter from a hard copy to an electronic copy and Pete also thanked those who sent in articles and helped Jim out.

Jim thanked everyone for the gifts and quickly sat back down.

**Pete asked for motion to adjourn the meeting.
Motion made by everyone
2nd by everyone.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

A THANK YOU FROM THE EDITOR OF THE FUGELMAN

At the Association meeting at Old Wade House last weekend the newsletter editor was very pleasantly surprised when Lt. Col. Seielstad called me out at the end of the meeting. The purpose was to present me with a beautiful plaque and coffee mug for the efforts on our newsletter, *The Fugelman*. First I want to express my personal gratitude to the Lieutenant Colonel and the members of the association for the presentation. But I am more grateful for the opportunity to serve the companies and regiment in this fashion. Although I am the scrivener who assembles the newsletter, it is truly a cooperative effort. I have had the opportunity to work with many of you as reporters and readers with suggestions to improve the newsletter. I won't try to name all of you, but you are ware of your contributions and know that in a significant and important way you are also the recipients of those mementos presented to me as editor. Thank you all for your support and consideration on behalf of *The Fugelman*.

A MESSAGE FROM DAVE DRESANG—THE ASSOCIATION SECRETARY

Dear Association membership:

I don't know how or exactly what to say and it may not come out quite the way it should, so please, bear with me on this, it is one of the most difficult decisions I have ever made, so here goes.

8 years ago during our annual Association meeting Scott Sonntag (who was President of the Association) and Gary Klas (our Lt. Col.) had asked for volunteers to step up to become the Association's new Association Secretary.

I was sitting in the far back of the room taking the minutes of the meeting (I did this so the members of Co. E knew what decisions were made and what general business was conducted) I was at the time Co. E's Secretary and I had been taking the minutes of the meeting for 2 years, and on one occasion Scott and Gary even accepted them to be published (no one at the time had been present to take the minutes)

Well, several members raised their hands and I found myself doing the same thing.

During the break I was busy straightening my notes out and when I looked up I was staring right at Scott and Gary, they had congratulated me on my new appointment.

To be honest, I was very surprised that they had chosen me for the job, but at the same time, I was very elated and ready to dive into my new task.

I had a ready ally to help me out with anything that I would need to know, that person was Fred Cook we became fast friends and spent many a time either on the phone or sending e-mails. To say he was a God-send would be an understatement, he was patient, caring and basically the right person to help me get off on the right foot, we had even conversed the night before he died, another complaint from my end and not even a sigh from him (don't even remember the complaint, but I did keep the e-mails)

I had also talked the ear off of both Scott and Gary (hope I wasn't to hard, but things were a mess when I accepted the position) I was constantly on both of them and asking for help, I had so little patient with the members at that time.

A year later it was decided to combine both Secretaries positions and I had won the election for Corporate Secretary and have (of course) held those positions ever since. I cannot ever say this has been easy, at times very frustrating and there may have been times when I cursed that day when I accepted those positions.

When Pete came into the picture and was elected President I'm sure that first phone call he got from me, he had to be thinking "what did I get myself into?" He has helped me keep my sanity when I was sure I was going to loose it.

My biggest supporter has always been Scott, when I had problems with my heart, he jumped right in and took over, and then again, nearly 2 years ago when I had brain surgery he jumped right in and took over for me until I was ready to take over, never complaining, jut there telling me not to worry, just heal and he would see to everything.

I can never thank Gary enough, even today I still call him just to vent and he lets me and when I'm done he will say "what can I do to help you?"

It has been one of the most wonderful experiences of my life and holding these positions have given me the opportunity to make so many great friends, an opportunity that would never have happened had not Gary and Scott had the belief and trust in me to do the job, and do it right.

These positions have been a love hate relationship, but one that I wouldn't or couldn't trade for. I've gotten to know those both close and far away. I've made some wonderful friends outside of this State because of this position.

I also wish to thank Tom Bispo and Anthony (Tony) Vranicar from Co. H for being very staunch supporters, and all the way from California!

I've made good and close friends from each Company, the Battery, Skirmish team (thank you Gary for the plaque and cup, I know it was your idea) and even those outside the Association.

What a ride these past 8 years have been!

Doug Rasmussen has been Captain of Co. E for 9 years and plans on stepping down this year, I plan on running for Captain of E. I made a promise to 2 of my fellow parads that I would only accept the nomination if I am healthy enough, mentally ready and can emotionally handle such a position, this past August my family and I spent an entire week in Gettysburg (my son's first time there) We walked all over, took over 1300 pictures, walked up and down hills and had a time that can't be explained. It was my first vacation since the surgery and when the time comes for the nomination I can honestly say yes and not break my promise to anyone, but all this is beside the fact, here is the real reason for the letter.

To the leadership and members of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association:

I would like to submit my resignation as both Association and Corporate Secretary becoming effectively at the end of the annual Association meeting January 29th 2011.

I do have 1 year left as Corporate Secretary, but I believe the time is right for me to step down.

The Association Secretary is an appointed position so the next President will need to appoint or ask for volunteers at the meeting.

My reason for waiting till after the meeting is a simple one. Dues, calendar of events and rosters. I will not leave the Association in any kind of bind and I am willing to see that those functions are done, and done to my satisfaction.

I will also be more than willing to help out the incoming Secretary, show him everything that I do, how I do it and why I do it. As far as what each Secretary does, it has been such a long time, I don't even remember, but I'm sure that Scott Sonntag can help fill in the blanks.

This was not a spur of the moment decision, I have taken a few months to think on this and have even talked to Pete about the possibility.

I made the decision while we were at Gettysburg and to be honest I got teary eyed, but at the same time I knew it was the right decision for me.

8 years can never be put into words so I won't try, (I can now spell many of your last names without looking them up!) all I can say is thank you from my heart and that is not enough, it doesn't even begin to tell you what these past 8 years have meant to me. I offer this resignation with a sadden heart but it is time for me to move on and give someone else the same opportunities that I have enjoyed. (and hated)

Thank you for letting me reminisce a bit and just let my feelings out.

It matters not whether I make Captain or not, that part is not even in the equation, I just want you to know that has no bearing on this matter, I hope I do make it, the only reason for telling you is

that this resignation is not a health issue, it is a timing and right thing to do issue.

Your ever humble and grateful servant
David Dresang Jr.

Association/Corporate Secretary
2nd W.V.I.

On behalf of the newsletter and the men of the Association the editor would like to extend a thank you for a job well done to Dave for his service to this organization! The secretary's role is an important one. Although not primarily a decision maker, except when that role is thrust upon him, he is the one the company or the Association relies upon to get the information necessary for the men to function and event information out to organize our campaigns! In that respect, his job was probably made more difficult by the change over in our newsletter. As editor, I rely heavily on the Lt. Col. and Dave for guidance and information. Particularly since it is now published monthly instead of quarterly! I for one will miss him greatly when he is gone.

As a member of Company K it is disappointing to see Dave run for Captain. Since we are the best Company in the Association it can only have a negative effect on our standing with him in command of that rowdy bunch from Company E. -Just checking to see if any of you are reading this!—

Any group or association is only as strong as its leadership. The Association is made up of great companies and members, but to work effectively on or off the field requires dedicated leadership. We have had that in abundance and that is because we have quality men in leadership positions. I AM SURE Dave will be missed in his current capacity, but I am equally sure that men of great quality will step up to fill his position.

**A MESSAGE FROM
BETSY URVEN—
COORDINATOR OF WADE
HOUSE SCHOOL DAY**

Well we had another great day despite the weather. As usual I just can't thank you all enough! This day wouldn't happen without you! I heard many compliments and have already had request for reservations for next year. Pencil in the date September 23, 2011. Thank you again so very much for you time and talent.

Betsy Urven

BLACK HATS ANTIETAM LIVING HISTORY EVENT IN OCTOBER

Dear fellow reenactors,

I thought an update on the living history event at Antietam National Park was due. We are well into the 2010 reenacting season and I suspect planning will be easier now that we are attending various events and actually spending some time together again. Hopefully this hot weather will subside and make putting on wool a little easier.

The living history at Antietam is scheduled for October 23 & 24, 2010. Your host for the event is the 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry. The *tentative* schedule includes firing demonstrations for the public on Saturday at 11, 2, & 4 and on Sunday at 11 & 1. Plan on a battalion formation Saturday morning at 9 am to prepare for the demonstrations. Company drill is encouraged before the battalion formation. Sunday morning, at dawn, we plan to recreate the advance of the Iron Brigade on September 17th to the Cornfield. Those are the only battalion level time commitments. There should be enough downtime to explore the battlefield and conduct any ceremonies you and your unit might want to do.

The 24th has decided to represent the 6th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry (the Calico 6th) for the weekend. In order to do a good portrayal and after consulting several Black Hat Battalion members, we have come up with the following guidelines for the enlisted men:

Hardee Hat – mandatory

Frock coat – highly recommended (the majority of the 6th wore frock coats)

Sky blue pants – mandatory

Gaiters/leggings – highly recommended (the IB was still wearing these at Antietam)

The rest of your gear is up to you.

This is our unit's first time at Antietam and although similar to our many living history weekends at Gettysburg, Antietam has a few restrictions that I thought you should be aware of now before you decide to join us.

- All cartridges must not contain wadding.
- No one under 18 can fire their weapons.

- Hearing protection is mandatory at all firing demonstrations. The park will supply hearing protection, but you are encouraged to bring your own. Something other than bright orange would be nice.
- There are some other safety issues, but these can be taken care of at the event.

Here are the units I know will be attending so far:

24th Michigan – Capt. Eric Martens
 17th Michigan – Capt. Doug Nosbich
 19th Indiana – Capt. Jim DuMond
 7th Michigan – Capt. Tom Emerick
 Army of Ohio – Capt. Bob Minton
 Sally Port Mess – Capt. Jeremy Bevard

I have no information on numbers from any of the units. If numbers are too small from a particular unit, we may have to combine some units to make a decent size company. So, *please send me your estimates* so we can properly plan for this event. I have not formed a battalion staff yet, because I do not know what we will need.

I should mention that Steve Dodge of the 24th Michigan is our liaison with the park staff at Antietam. He has done a fabulous job working with the park to make this event happen. If you have any questions about the event, you can direct them to Steve or me.

Please get those estimates to me. Thanks.

Sincerely,
 Craig DeCrane
 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry
 419-472-0463
 decrane@bex.net

SESQUICENTENNIAL CORNER

HISTORIAN REVIEWS NCS CIVIL WAR DEATH COUNT

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
AUGUST 19, 2010**

GREENSBORO, N.C. -- North Carolina's claim that it lost the most men during the Civil War is getting a recount from a state historian who doubts the accuracy of the accepted, 144-year-old estimate.

"The time has come to get it right," said Josh Howard, a research historian with the Office of Archives and History in Raleigh. "Nobody has gone through man by man looking for the deaths."

Howard is reviewing the military records of every Tar Heel who served in the 1861-65 conflict, as the state prepares to mark its sesquicentennial, The News & Record of Greensboro reported Monday.

Since shortly after the war ended, North Carolina has boasted that it sacrificed more men to the Confederate cause than any other state, at 40,275. That's more than twice the death toll of South Carolina, where the war's first shots were fired. It suffered the second-highest toll at 17,682.

"This has sort of been the North Carolina badge of honor," says Keith Hardison, director of the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties. It was "held out as gospel, and it may be gospel. If it is, we need to have the figures to back it up. If it is not, we need to correct it."

Since 1866, the number of Civil War deaths has been attributed to a federal study by Gen. James B. Fry, the U.S. provost marshal general. Fry and his clerks examined Union and captured Confederate muster rolls and regimental reports to determine the toll from fighting, disease, accidents and those who died in prison.

But Fry's figures were "incorrect and misguided," Howard said, because clerks relied on incomplete records, sometimes counted the same case twice, and identified units as being from North Carolina when they were from another state. Additionally, some records were lost and some casualty reports may have been exaggerated.

"Officers did that to keep the enemy in the dark," Howard said. "Or it showed you were in the thick of the fight."

If North Carolina's numbers are wrong, then the numbers for other states are wrong as well because they all come from the same faulty sources, he said.

Howard is basing his review on a 17-volume roster of Tar Heels who served on either side of the conflict - a project that was launched in the 1960s to commemorate the war's 100-year anniversary and continues with the state history office. For units not yet collected in the series, Howard will rely on military service records in the National Archives. He expects to examine the records of more than 140,000 men.

By Friday, Howard had confirmed 29,418 North Carolina war dead.

While many died in battle for the Confederacy, most died of disease. Others died from drowning, lightning strikes, suicide, bar fights, train wrecks, riots, execution for desertion, accidental shootings, collapsing buildings, insect and snake bites, falls, or being run over by wagons.

The research also found that about 2,000 North Carolinians, black and white, died during service in the Union army. No cases of blacks who died while serving in North Carolina's Confederate ranks have been found, although some have argued that blacks did fight for the South.

Howard is getting help from members of the Garner chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, which had separately started its own study.

"We are going to compare our lists. We are coming at it from two different angles," said Charles Purser, a retired Air Force master sergeant who led the veterans' group's research.

The study is unlikely to change the fact that a third of the state's men of military age died during the Civil War.

"I don't think it matters if it is 30,000 or 40,000," said Tom Belton, curator of military history and the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh. "It's a significant number of North Carolinians who gave their lives for a cause they thought was worth dying for."

Read more: <http://www.newsobserver.com/2010/08/09/621090/historian-reviews-ncs-civil-war.html#ixzz0xAIATZDy>

WHERE EVEN ROBERT REDFORD HAS TO WORK TO SELL HIS NEW FILM

ON Saturday evening one more nervous filmmaker will make the long walk down a red carpet at this city's Roy Thomson Hall,

hoping that a gala screening at the [Toronto International Film Festival](#) will get a lot of attention, and perhaps a distributor, for his latest movie.

This time the spotlight will be on "[The Conspirator](#)," a stubbornly accurate historical drama about the trial and hanging of Mary Surratt, a widow who was convicted of conspiring in the murder of [Lincoln](#).



Robin Wright in the latest film directed by Robert Redford, "The Conspirator," which currently lacks a distributor.

The nervous filmmaker is [Robert Redford](#).

The fact that Mr. Redford, a studio war horse, will arrive here with a picture for sale suggests the extent to which even the most influential of directors and stars have become dependent on the festival circuit as a showcase for dramas and biographies that are sometimes tolerated, but seldom hotly pursued, in contemporary Hollywood.

"Look, the business has changed drastically," Mr. Redford said in a telephone interview last week.

In the past, Mr. Redford noted, indie-spirited pictures like [“The Candidate”](#) or [“Jeremiah Johnson,”](#) both of which he starred in but did not direct, might pick up studio backing after some behind-the-scenes horse trading in which Mr. Redford also agreed to accept more conventional roles.

Few have that kind of leverage today. “I’m just like any independent filmmaker,” Mr. Redford said.

Perhaps not quite. Many dozens of films will arrive here this week and next looking for buyers, but most will not have the advantage of a full-blown, celebrity-filled gala — Robin Wright, [James McAvoy](#), [Kevin Kline](#) and [Evan Rachel Wood](#) are among the stars of “The Conspirator.”

The films for sale here may be as credentialed as the one based on a [Graham Greene](#) novel showing on Monday, [“Brighton Rock,”](#) directed by Rowan Joffe and starring [Helen Mirren](#). Or they may be as challenging as one showing on Sunday, Shawn Ku’s directorial debut, [“Beautiful Boy,”](#) which is about the parents of a young mass killer.

Most will be well cared for. Known for its glitter and its warm embrace of prospective Oscar contenders, Toronto’s festival is shinier than ever, thanks in part to the long-promised opening of the Bell Lightbox. That is a festival center, exhibition space and screening complex that will open with a ribbon cutting and free block party along King Street on Sunday. The net effect will be to shift the festival’s geography from the stuffy hotels and restaurants of the Yorkville district toward a downtown entertainment zone that will be crisscrossed with spotlights and limousines through the festival’s final night, Sept. 19.

Beneath the gloss, however, many filmmakers here share a sobriety that seems to come naturally to Mr. Redford, who over the decades has seen thousands of films through the toils of the indie life at his own [Sundance Film Festival](#) and Sundance Institute.

In fact, this is not Mr. Redford’s first turn as a director with a picture in the Toronto festival. In 1992 he brought [“A River Runs](#)

Through It” to a festival screening here. That was a few weeks before Columbia Pictures released the film, which was independently financed, on a handful of screens in the United States. The film was later nominated for three Academy Awards and took home the Oscar for best cinematography.

“No one wanted to touch it — they called it ‘Redford’s fishing movie,’ ” Mr. Redford said, recalling that it took some wrangling to get that bit of Americana, based on Norman Maclean’s novella about his past in Montana, onto a studio schedule, even with Brad Pitt in a lead role.

As screen stories go, “The Conspirator” is tougher. Based on about 15 years of research and an original script by James D. Solomon (who wrote for “The Practice”), it stars Ms. Wright as Mary Surratt, who after her trial by a military commission in 1865 became the first woman executed by the United States government.

Lincoln’s assassin, John Wilkes Booth, met with his fellow plotters at a Washington boarding house owned by Surratt, though she insisted to her death that she did not know of their plans. Mr. Redford’s film looks closely at Surratt’s defense by Frederick Aiken, a Union Army veteran played by Mr. McAvoy, who tried to protect her from what he saw as an unfair military trial.

The American Film Company and its founder, Joe Ricketts (well known for his stake in the Chicago Cubs), financed the film for somewhat less than \$25 million, the per-film maximum budget set by the company, which was formed in 2008. The company intends “The Conspirator” to be the first in a series of pictures rooted in American history and buoyed by the elements of surprise within familiar stories, said Alfred Levitt, its chief operating officer. Paul Revere’s ride and John Brown’s raid on the arsenal at Harpers Ferry are candidates for a next film, added Mr. Levitt, who also spoke by telephone last week.

As for this one, Mr. Levitt said his company was talking with several prospective distributors and expected to have something worked out “in the next couple of months.”

Mr. Redford, of course, remains cautious.

"We'll see what happens," he said, ahead of the festival's opening on Thursday. "We'll see what happens."

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/10/movies/10toronto.html?_r=1



THE CIVIL WAR EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA 1860- 1865!

BY JAMES H. AND JAMES A. DUMKE

CHAPTER FIVE

Since the election in November, 1861, there had been a sense of impending disaster in both the North and the South. For decades the South had threatened the country with dissolution if their demands were not met. There had been a clear demonstration that the South was not interested in any form of compromise on the slavery question. Even though by the first week in February seven states had seceded, in the North there was a feeling that the crisis could still be resolved. However, as the Northern population had watched the building crisis in Charleston Harbor the attitude of the citizenry began to take on a hard edge. The men in the fort were American soldiers serving under the American flag. This was different than the threat to secede. Lives were at risk and the

nation was about to be attacked. If the Southern leaders, including Jefferson Davis, believed that the North would not fight they were taking a big gamble. It seems clear that the South did not comprehend the determination of the citizens in the North to preserve the Union of states nor their willingness to fight for that Union!

This author has never come across an example of soul-searching by these Southern leaders. Still one has to wonder, as history played itself out between 1861 and 1865, if men like Jefferson Davis, Alexander Stevens, Judah Benjamin, Edmund Ruffin, Governor Pickens or any of the others ever sat in the dark of night and wonder at the death and destruction wrought by their decisions? Or if they ever regretted their decisions that pressed the issue of slavery and war upon this nation! Davis in his post war memoirs gave no hint at regret. Edmund Ruffin chose to take his own life rather than live in a reconstructed United States. But there is no sign of recognition that his efforts to break up the Union and its impact on the rebellion that resulted ever crossed his mind! He recognized the destruction wrought upon the South, but laid the fault at the wrong doorstep. His efforts to create a slave based republic in the Southern states was the cause of the havoc wrecked upon his people and not the Federal government or the Northern people. Ruffin made clear his view in the letter he wrote immediately before taking his own life. The letter drips with animosity for the North, but no doubt seemed to creep in as to the conduct of the Southern leaders. That letter reads as follows:

I here declare my unmitigated hatred to Yankee rule—to all political, social and business connection with the Yankees and to the Yankee race. Would that I could impress these sentiments, in their full force, on every living Southerner and bequeath them to every one yet to be born! May such sentiments be held universally in the outraged and down-trodden South, though in silence and stillness, until the now far-distant day shall arrive for just retribution for Yankee usurpation, oppression and atrocious outrages, and for deliverance and vengeance for the now ruined, subjugated and enslaved Southern States!

...And now with my latest writing and utterance, and with what will be near my latest breath, I here repeat and would willingly proclaim my unmitigated hatred to yankee rule--to all political, social and business connections with Yankees, and the perfidious, malignant and vile Yankee race.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmund_Ruffin

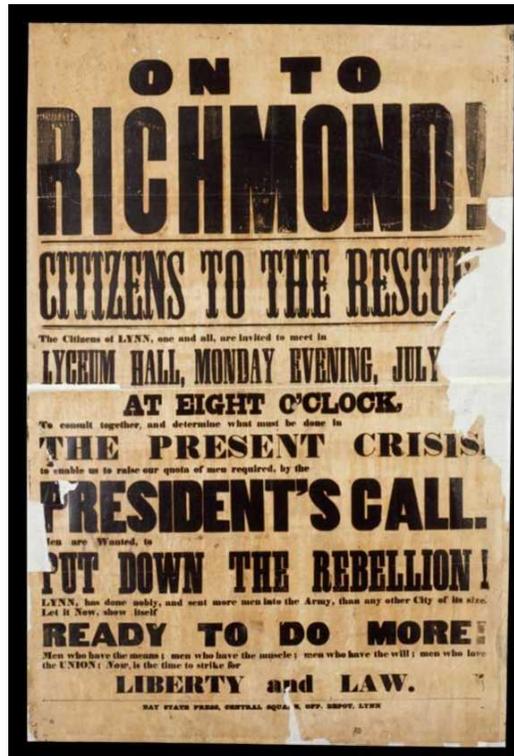
The history of the period, especially from early February through April 15th, makes it clear that both the Lincoln Administration and the newly created confederacy of Southern states wanted to maneuver the other side into being the aggressor that would commence a civil war. Lincoln hoped to hold the states of the Upper South by asserting that he only wanted to preserve the Union and Davis hoped to lure them in to the confederacy with the argument that the Federal government was an invading force. As described above, it was the rebels who were outmaneuvered and who became the aggressors. Neither side would get their wishes as Kentucky tried to adopt a policy of neutrality, Missouri and Maryland held for the Union; Tennessee, Virginia, Arkansas, and North Carolina would join the confederacy.

On April 14th, news of the fall of Fort Sumter hit the papers. The response in the North was one of anger bordering on rage. The insult of a bunch of rebels attacking the flag and troops of the nation and the heated feelings of Northern citizens united them as nothing else could do! For weeks the nerves of Unionists had been stretched taut as the confrontation in Charleston, South Carolina, built to an unnerving tension. To many in the North the assault on Fort Sumter broke that tension. There was now an enemy and action would be forthcoming. Something concrete in the form of dealing with those impertinent Southerners would surely erupt now that the South had started the war.

On the very evening news arrived of the fall of Fort Sumter President Lincoln and his long time rival, Stephen Douglas, met at the White House. What they talked about remains one of those events in history that remains concealed in the mists of mystery. However, when Douglas left the White House he was firmly behind Lincoln's decision to issue a call for volunteers. Lincoln had informed Douglas that he intended to call up 75,000 troops. This was five times the number currently serving in the United States Army.

Douglas thought the number of volunteers should be at least 200,000, but he issued a statement supporting Lincoln's call for volunteers. The proclamation and the statement of support for the Union and the call for volunteers went out to all the papers by telegraph. On Monday, April 15th, 1861, both documents, the call for troops by the President and the message of the leading Democrat

supporting the measure, were printed in all the papers and read all across the North. Below is the proclamation as it was printed in the April 27th edition of *Harper's Weekly*:



<http://lincolnat200.org/exhibits/show/thefierytrial/earlywar/calltoarms>

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

A PROCLAMTION.

"Whereas the laws of the United States have been for some time past, and now are opposed, and the execution thereof obstructed, in the States of the South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the Marshals by law,

"Now therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution, and the laws, have thought fit to call forth, and hereby do call forth, the militia of several States of the Union, to the aggregate number of seventy-five thousand, in order to suppress said combinations, and

to cause the laws to be duly executed. The details, for this object, will be immediately communicated to the State authorities through the War Department.

"I appeal to all loyal citizens to favor, facilitate and aid this effort to maintain the honor, the integrity, and the existence of our National Union, and the perpetuity of popular government; and to redress wrongs already long enough endured.

"I deem it proper to say that the first service assigned to the forces hereby called forth will probably be to re-possess the forts, places, and property which have been seized from the Union; and in every event, the utmost care will be observed, consistently with the objects aforesaid, to avoid any devastation, any destruction of, or interference with, property, or any disturbance of peaceful citizens in any part of the country.

"And I hereby command the persons composing the combinations aforesaid to disperse, and retire peaceably to their respective abodes within twenty days from this date.

"Deeming that the present condition of public affairs presents an extraordinary occasion, I do hereby, in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution, convene both Houses of Congress. Senators and Representatives are therefore summoned to assemble at their respective chambers, at 12 o'clock, noon, on Thursday, the fourth day of July, next, then and there to consider and determine, such measures, as, in their wisdom, the public safety, and interest may seem to demand.

"In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Seal of the United States of the United States to be affixed."

"Done at the city of Washington this fifteenth day of April in the year of our Lord One thousand, Eight hundred and Sixty-one, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-fifth."

Abraham Lincoln

By the President

William H. Seward, Secretary of State.

As a consequence of the issuance of the proclamation for volunteers the Secretary of War, Simon Cameron, sent out requests to all the remaining loyal states calling on the governors to raise a specific number of regiments for 90 days. The 90 days term of service was prescribed by the 1795 militia act. The following quotation is the circular sent out by the Secretary of War and that is followed by the table which was included designating the number of regiments to be provided by each state.

THE Secretary of War has addressed the following circular to the Governors of States: "WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, April -, 1861. "SIR,—Under the Act of Congress ' for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections; repel invasions,' etc., approved February 28, 1795, I have the honor to request your Excellency to cause to be immediately detached from the militia of your State the quota designated in the table below, to serve as infantry or riflemen for the period of three months, unless sooner discharged.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, April -, 1861. "SIR,—Under the Act of Congress ' for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections; repel invasions,' etc., approved February 28, 1795, I have the honor to request your Excellency to cause to be immediately detached from the militia of your State the quota designated in the table below, to serve as infantry or riflemen for the period of three months, unless sooner discharged.

Your Excellency will please communicate to me the time at or about which your quota will be expected at its rendezvous, as it will be met as soon as practicable by an officer or officers to muster it into the service and pay of the United States. At the same time the oath of fidelity to the United States will be administered to every officer and man. The mustering officer will be instructed to receive no man under the rank of commissioned officer who is in years apparently over forty-five or under eighteen, or who is not in physical strength and vigor.

Your Excellency will please communicate to me the time at or about which your quota will be expected at its rendezvous, as it will be met as soon as practicable by an officer or officers to muster it into the service and pay of the United States. At the same time the oath of fidelity to the United States will be administered to every officer and man. The mustering officer will be instructed to receive no man under the rank of

commissioned officer who is in years apparently over forty-five or under eighteen, or who is not in physical strength and vigor.

Table of quotas ⁽²⁾

[Composition of the regiments and proportion of general staff officers omitted.]

State	Major Generals	Brigadier Generals	Regiments	Total of Officers	Total of Men	Aggregate
Maine	---	---	1	37	743	780
New Hampshire	---	---	1	37	743	780
Vermont	---	---	1	37	743	780
Massachusetts	---	---	2	74	1,486	1,560
Rhode Island	---	---	1	37	743	780
Connecticut	---	---	1	37	743	780
New York	2	4	17	649	12,631	13,280
Pennsylvania ⁽³⁾	2	4	16	612	11,888	12,500
New Jersey	---	1	4	151	2,972	3,123
Delaware	---	---	1	37	743	780
Maryland	---	1	4	151	2,972	3,123
Virginia	---	---	3	111	2,229	2,340
North Carolina	---	---	2	74	1,486	1,560
Tennessee	---	---	2	74	1,486	1,560
Arkansas	---	---	1	37	743	780
Kentucky	---	1	4	151	2,972	3,123
Missouri	---	1	4	151	2,972	3,123
Illinois	---	1	6	225	4,458	4,683
Indiana	---	1	6	225	4,458	4,683
Ohio	1	3	13	494	9,659	10,153
Michigan	---	---	1	37	743	780
Wisconsin	---	---	1	37	743	780
Iowa	---	---	1	37	743	780
Minnesota	---	---	1	37	743	780
Total	5	17	94	3,549	69,842	73,391

<http://www.civilwarhome.com/lincolntroops.htm>

The initial requirements for the states were set by the War Department. As the table prepared by the War Department indicates, Wisconsin was called upon to raise one regiment. Governor Randall sent a telegraph to Washington in which he responded, "The call for one regiment will be promptly responded to, and further calls when made."

(<http://www.civilwarhome.com/lincolntroops.htm>)

The preceding facts tell the larger story of how the North mobilized for war. The whole picture was a rich tapestry in which men and women across the North responded enthusiastically to the challenge presented by an aggressive rebellion centered in the Southern cotton states!

The same pattern could be seen in the South. John Keegan makes two important points in his book on the American Civil War. First, these people in the mid-nineteenth century were motivated by strongly held principles. These principles were such strong motivators that they would ultimately sustain both sections during the next four years of unimaginable struggle. The second point is that America produced men of great eloquence in sustaining their principles. The adherents of these men would sooner die than sacrifice their principle beliefs! Keegan writes:

Unfortunately, Americans were also people of principle. They had embodied principle in the guiding preambles of their magnificent governing documents, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and, when aroused, Americans resorted to principle as their guiding light out of trouble. Even more unfortunately, the main points of difference between North and South in 1861 could be represented as principles; the indivisibility of the republic and its sovereign power and states' rights both had to do with passions of the republic's golden age and could be invoked again when the republic's survival was under threat. They had been invoked, iterated, and reiterated throughout the political quarrels of the century's earlier decades by protagonists of great sincerity and eloquence, Henry Clay and John Calhoun. It was finally unfortunate that America produced opinion leaders of formidable persuasiveness. It was the South's ill fortune that, having dominated the debate in the first half of the century, at precisely the point when the issue of principle ceased to be a contest of words and threatened to become a call to action, the North had produced a leader who spoke better and more forcefully than any of the South's current champions. (Keegan, p. xii)

Keegan overlooks the power of the faith of these Americans. Their principles were entwined with their religious creeds. Those who were anti-slavery saw the institution as a moral evil that God would gladly see swept away. In the South pro-slavery citizens saw slavery as sanctioned in the scriptures and that part of their responsibility was to lead the heathen blacks to salvation. Slavery in the South was viewed as one of God's blessings for mankind! Unionists believed that the Federal Union was a true reflection of

God's grace and the source of His many blessings. It was the fact that Americans were principled that made it impossible to resolve the conflicts between the sections as 1861 saw the outbreak of hostilities.

War meetings occurred across the North. These events were an outpouring of patriotism by the citizens who strongly supported the Union and who were determined to defend the nation and its glorious flag. The response to Lincoln's call for volunteers was amazing. The numbers who were willing to answer the call to service exceeded the number required to fill the regimental requirements in the states.

Rock County experienced the similar responses seen throughout Wisconsin in those early days of the war.

The first of what would become a continuing series of "war rallies" was staged in towns and villages throughout the county. Beloit set the pace, suspending all business on the 19th in favor of a 3:00 p.m. mass meeting at Hanchett's Hall to form a "home guard" unit and discuss the community's response to the president's call for 75,000 men to serve in the Union army for ninety days. A massive crowd turned out. Over one hundred middle aged men, many with military experience, immediately joined the home guard unit and led an impromptu parade through the city. The rally resumed at 7:00 p.m. in front of Hanchett's. After listening to martial music by a local band, 400 or so of the multitude moved inside to resume the afternoon meeting. The overflow crowd, including many women for whom seats had been reserved, bowed their heads in a prayer led by President Chapin of Beloit College and joined in a reverent rendition of "God Bless Our Native Land." Members of the Beloit City Guards, a militia unit destined to be the nucleus of company F of the 1st Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteers, marched into the hall to a tumultuous reception. (Walterman, p. 79) *

The patriotic music stirred the hearts of those gathered for these rallies and fueled the patriotism of the people. The speeches called on everyone in the community to support the effort to put down the rebellion. One important element often overlooked in discussions focusing on the volunteers to go fight were the calls for financial support for the families of the men going into the army. As many know, everyone expected the war to be of short duration and the commitments for financial support would, in the long run, fail to meet the needs of the families of the volunteers. The early war meetings followed a similar format:

Speakers urged unity of action in defense of the Union, denounced secessionists, and called for a pledge of financial support for the families of those who volunteered for federal service. President Chapin was called back to the lectern and delivered a stirring address, urging volunteers "to strike right manfully for the principles of Liberty, and go forth, putting your trust in the God of Battles." The names of all volunteers were recited, to "uproarious cheering" by the crowd. E. W. Peel, one of those whose name was read, delivered a brief speech urging more volunteers to step forward. He had, he said, been recently in the South and had come back fired with devotion to the Union. A number of Beloit College students came forward and placed their names on the volunteer role, the first of some four hundred students, faculty, and alumni who would serve the Union cause. A resolution was approved to organize one hundred men to raise \$10,000 for the relief of families of volunteers. News of the killing of federal troops by a secessionist mob in Baltimore was read and "raised excitement of the audience to an absolute frenzy." Several minutes passed before order could be restored. Volunteers for army service came steadily forward throughout the evening. Later, outside the hall, City Guards paraded the streets, cannon were fired, and immense bonfires illuminated the city until well past midnight. (Walterman, p. 79-80)

On Saturday martial music filled the city and crowds stopped to listen to local orators. Saturday evening some of the recent volunteers traveled to Shopiere where they added eleven more men to their ranks.

Sunday was quiet as the patriotic fervor of the citizens was fed in the community churches in sermons by the religious leaders in the city.

Monday would see a continuation of the same type of war meeting seeking more volunteers and support for the families of those volunteers.

The same type of activity occurred in Janesville, and throughout Rock County, the state of Wisconsin and the Northern states.

No one knew that the war would last four long, destructive years. 620,000 and more who were alive on April 19th, 1861, would no longer exist come April and May of 1865. The men and boys who volunteered in 1861 and 1862 would see the war through to the end. They would be the backbone of the Union armies that eventually won the war. Bounty men and conscripts would be required to meet manpower needs as the war continued into 1863 and beyond, but they were not the dedicated men of '61!

*

Described as "composed of our best citizens and most prominent businessmen," they took the name Beloit Veterans Guard and declared themselves enlisted for the duration of the war. A. J. Battin was elected captain and administered an oath that declared ". . . having taken up arms for our country we will lay them down only when victory or death demand it." If necessary, they proclaimed their willingness to "cheerfully . . . march to the field of battle, and with Liberty or Death for our watchword, conquer or die." (Walterman, p. 341)



Ironical

Mrs. Columbia. "There! Perhaps I hav'nt taken the Rebel Kink out of the Old Flag with this
BIGGEST Iron of mine!"

Artist: unknown

This post-dated *Harper's Weekly* cartoon was published shortly after the important Union victory at the Battle of Chattanooga (Tennessee). Columbia, wearing a Liberty cap, has seared a deep impression on the American flag as she tried to take out the "Rebel Kink" with the "Chattanooga" iron.

Even though the dual Union victories at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and Vicksburg, Mississippi, in early July 1863 gave momentum to the Union cause and proved to be a major turning point in the Civil War, the fighting would continue for almost two more years. In August 1863, General William Rosecrans directed his Union Army of the Cumberland along the Tennessee River in an effort to capture Chattanooga, an important railroad and telegraph center for the Confederacy. In early September, after a weeklong advance by Union forces, General Braxton Bragg moved his Confederate troops out of Chattanooga and prepared a counteroffensive.

The Battle of Chickamauga took place near Chickamauga Creek along the Tennessee-Georgia border on September 18-20, resulting in almost 18,500 Confederate casualties compared to just over 16,000 for the Union. General George Thomas put up a valiant final effort for the Union, earning him the nickname, "the Rock of Chickamauga," but he was eventually forced to withdraw with the already retreating Rosecrans to Chattanooga. The Battle of Chickamauga was a tactical win for the Confederacy (its last in the western theater), but one that managed merely to buy time for the Confederacy and returned possession of Chattanooga to the Union.

Once back in the city again, an embarrassed and worried Rosecrans sent telegrams to his military and political superiors in Washington, D.C., informing them that "We have met with a serious disaster" (at Chickamauga), and "We have no certainty of holding our position here" (in Chattanooga). President Abraham Lincoln characterized his general as "confused and stunned like a duck hit on the head." On the Confederate side, instead of attacking Chattanooga, Bragg ordered his troops to lay siege to the city, cutting off Union supplies so that they would be forced to surrender (like the Confederates at Vicksburg). By mid-October, the Union troops were subsisting on half-rations (at best) and their horses were dying of starvation.

Lincoln ordered reinforcements dispatched to the rattled Rosecrans from Mississippi, under the command of General William T. Sherman, and from Virginia, under General Joseph Hooker. The

president then created a new Division of the Mississippi, which included Tennessee, under the direction of General Ulysses S. Grant, the hero of the siege of Vicksburg. Grant quickly replaced Rosecrans with Thomas as commander of the Army of the Cumberland, and the "Rock of Chickamauga" promised, "We will hold the town till we starve." Grant and his men arrived in the area on October 23, and within a week, aided by the arrival of Hooker, had opened up a supply route for the hungry Union troops in Chattanooga.

Meanwhile, the Confederates had a serious leadership problem. Subordinate officers were highly critical of Bragg's decision to lay siege rather than to attack Chattanooga after their victory at Chickamauga. General James Longstreet and other Confederate generals requested that President Jefferson Davis remove Bragg from his command, and General Nathan Bedford Forrest refused to serve under the "scoundrel." In early October, Davis felt compelled to visit Bragg's headquarters in an attempt to ease the tensions. At a meeting with Bragg, his four corps commanders asked Davis to replace him with another general. Instead, the Confederate president removed Bragg's harshest critics and agreed to Bragg's proposal to send General James Longstreet with 15,000 men in an effort to retake Knoxville, Tennessee.

Davis's decisions left the leadership quarrel unsettled and seriously weakened the Confederate troop strength near Chattanooga. By mid-November, Sherman had joined his Union comrades and the Confederate position seemed precarious. Grant planned a coordinated attack, placing the main assaults on the enemy's flanks, led by Sherman and Hooker on each end, with a frontal ruse by Thomas to attract Confederate attention and keep them from reinforcing their flanks. The Battle of Chattanooga began on November 23 when Thomas's troops captured Orchard Knob in the Confederate center. The next day, Hooker's men on the north took Point Lookout (later called the "Battle Above the Clouds"), but Sherman's force had difficulty on the south flank, and Hooker's advance soon stalled.

On November 25, Grant changed the failing plan and ordered Thomas to charge the center. The general sent 23,000 men in an assault reminiscent of the ill-fated Pickett's charge of the Confederates at Gettysburg. However, in this instance, the attacking force succeeded in breaking through the enemy's trenches, and the Confederates retreated to higher ground. The Union troops, though, were sitting ducks in their new position, so, without orders, they charged up the steep Missionary Ridge. Aghast, Grant pointedly asked, "Thomas, who ordered those men up the ridge?" Thomas sheepishly replied, "I don't know." Amazingly, the charge was successful, and the adrenaline-pumped Union soldiers screamed "Chickamauga! Chickamauga!" as the panicked Confederates ran for their lives. Bragg was unable to reorganize his retreating army until it had traveled 25 miles southward toward Atlanta.

At his own request, Bragg was relieved of duty, and Davis replaced him with General Joseph E. Johnston. The losses on both sides at the Battle of Chattanooga were comparatively light: under 6000 for the Union (out of 70,000) and under 7000 for the Confederacy

(out of 50,000). However, it was a tremendous tactical and strategic victory for the Union and defeat for the Confederacy. The loss devastated Confederate morale, and gave the Union secure control of Chattanooga, from which General Sherman would later stage his campaign on Atlanta and his march to the sea.

Robert C. Kennedy

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/harp/1212.html>

AN EYEWITNESS DESCRIBES THE HANGING OF JOHN BROWN

**HARPER'S WEEKLY REFUSED TO PRINT THE STORY "PORTE
CRAYON" WROTE AT THE SCENE. BROUGHT TO LIGHT 95
YEARS LATER, IT IS PRESENTED HERE.
BY BOYD B. STUTLER**

John Brown of Osawatimie, the guerrilla captain of Bleeding Kansas and leader of the abortive raid on Harpers Ferry to free the slaves, was hanged on the bright balmy morning of December 2, 1859. The scene of the execution of the old abolition raider was at Charlestown, then in Virginia, but soon to become Charlestown, West Virginia, through the agency of a war which Brown's Harpers Ferry foray hastened.

Few men have filled as many pages of American history as this farmer-like old crusader, and none have been—or are today—more controversial. Down to this time, opinions as to his character vary almost as greatly as they did the day he was hanged. John Brown, as Edmund Clarence Stedman said, "troubled them more than ever when they nailed his coffin down."

All this is introductory to an unpublished story of the execution by an eyewitness, which, lost for more than ninety years, has recently been recovered. The author was David Hunter Strother, who is better known under his *nom de plume* of Porte Crayon, and who was one of the literary lights of the middle period of the last century. Strother was present at the execution as the artist-writer representative of *Harper's Weekly*, but because his publishers found the John Brown theme too hot to handle, his sketches and news story of the hanging were rejected. Some little background notes are needed to make this Strother (Porte Crayon) manuscript clear to modern readers.

Not only was the day notable for the execution of John Brown, but in retrospect it can be seen as a milestone in the development of American journalism. Modern field reporting for American newspapers may well be said to have come of age in the "John Brown war." Never before had such an aggregation of professional writers and artists been sent from a distance by metropolitan newspapers to report an event.

Through fortuitous circumstance (he was calling on a young lady at Charlestown who later became his second wife) Strother was on the scene of the "John Brown war" from first to last. At Harpers Ferry on Monday morning, October 17, he saw the militia skirmishing with the John Brown army of liberation, and on Tuesday morning he witnessed the final assault on the engine house where Brown, his surviving men and his citizen hostages had taken refuge. He attended the trial a few days later, held in the old pillared courthouse at Charlestown (which is still a landmark) and was present when the sentence of death by hanging was pronounced.

Fresh from the scene, Strother's sketches and reports of the raid and trial were grabbed by *Harper's Weekly* and were given top position. *Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, then the only rival in the weekly pictorial field, had hurriedly dispatched Alfred Berghaus, one of its chief artists, to Harpers Ferry and was making a field day of the affair in full-page pictures and graphic stories. Strother's reporting did well for a few weeks, and *Harper's* was holding its own with *Leslie's*. Then came the explosion.

Strother came of an old Virginia family and was closely related by blood or marriage to most of the ruling families in the Potomac-Shenandoah area, nearly all of whom were slaveholders. Though himself an intense Unionist, he was by no means friendly to the abolition cause or to the immediate emancipation of Negro slaves. He wanted to preserve the *status quo*. His treatment of the raid and raiders violently displeased the anti-slavery element in the North, and did not go far enough to please the pro-slavery advocates in the South. The *Weekly* soon came in for sharp criticism.

Thus caught between two fires, the *Weekly* dropped the John Brown story like a hot potato; it contented itself thereafter by publishing a news symposium, culled from the newspapers, inconspicuously placed in the "Domestic Intelligence" column.

Strother apparently was not advised of the change of policy. At least he was not recalled from duty. He continued to write and sketch down to the last act in the tragedy, but all this work went for naught.

The press was not tenderly treated at Charlestown. General William B. Taliaferro, commander of the Virginia troops, looked with suspicion on all strangers and had publicly announced that he wanted no "abolitionists or Republicans" in Charlestown on the day of the execution. Many newspapermen were turned back at Baltimore. Henry S. Olcott, New York *Tribune* man, went to Petersburg, Virginia, and through Masonic connections made his way to Charlestown with the Petersburg Grays. Edward H. House, another *Tribune* man, spent weeks in Charlestown very much incognito. He needled and castigated the exasperated Virginia officers almost daily in the *Tribune*.

Strother had no difficulty in wangling an advantageous place. He was admitted to the staff of Andrew Hunter, his kinsman, special prosecutor at Brown's trial and the personal representative of Governor Wise. Strother took his position at the foot of the thirteen steps that led to the scaffold platform.

Crosby S. Noyes, *Washington Star* man, said in his telegraphic dispatch: "Porte Crayon Strother, the artist, a thin, sickly-looking young man, with others visited the platform for a moment." But Andrew Hunter was more explicit in an article in the *New Orleans Times-Democrat*, September 5, 1887: "While the body was hanging, Strother slipped up, raised the cap from his face and took a sketch of him hanging. He said that the celebrated Lydia Maria Child [a prominent abolitionist leader] had published that she wanted to have a portrait or likeness of Brown in every condition of life to hang in her room, and that he had taken this sketch to send her."

Strother wrote his story and made careful drawings of the execution scene, but when submitted to the Messrs. Harper both the story and sketches were rejected and returned to the artist-writer.

Less than eighteen months later the Civil War broke, and Strother hastened to offer his services to the Union. He served well, through many campaigns and some thirty battles, and emerged a Brevet Brigadier General. When the War was over he resumed his connection with *Harper's*.

When he died at his home at Charlestown on March 8, 1888, his papers and sketches were widely scattered. Only a few years ago his manuscript story of the execution of John Brown, signed D. H. S., was found in the papers of a Shenandoah Valley family. Though written 95 years ago it is here published for the first time, with Strother's spelling and punctuation.

JOHN BROWN'S DEATH AND LAST WORDS BY DAVID HUNTER STROTHER (PORTE CRAYON)

On Friday, December 2nd the notorious John Brown was executed at Charlestown, Virginia, according to the sentence of the law. It may be a matter of curiosity to the public, to know how a man, whose late acts have created so much disturbance, deported himself in his last hours. Although very guarded in his conversation on the subject, it was quite evident that up to a certain date, he indulged in the hope of a rescue or possibly a pardon. When, however, he ascertained that the Court of appeals had confirmed the sentence, and saw the formidable military preparations made to insure its execution, there was a marked change in his manner. The great gulf between the simple probability and the gorgon head of certainty was not passed without a visible struggle. He became more thoughtful & serious, less dogmatic in the expression of his opinions, and somewhat softened toward those who had treated him with civility & consideration (and this included all whose official duties had brought them in contact with him during his confinement).

He expressed a disinclination to receive visitors and sent for his wife whom he had heretofore refused to see. Their meeting, which took place in the afternoon of the 1st of December is represented to have been a most businesslike affair without visible emotion on either side.

On the morning of the 2nd, Brown sent for an eminent legal gentleman of Charlestown to write his will, or rather a codicil to a former will disposing of some property which had been overlooked.

His manner then was cold & stony, his discourse altogether of business. After the completion of the writing, he enquired sharply and particularly about a dollar which had been mentioned in one of his letters but which had not come to hand. He was assured that all the money enclosed in letters had been delivered to him. This he insisted was an error, he had the letter mentioning the enclosure but the money was not there.

Unwilling to dispute, the gentleman said that the note might have been dropped accidentally and if found, the amount would be transmitted to his wife.

But Brown was by no means satisfied, and at length informed his visitor that in consideration of the service just rendered in writing his will, he might keep the dollar.

This the Lawyer politely but peremptorily declined, as he intended to accept no remuneration for what he had done, and again expressed a doubt as to whether the money had been sent.

The letter was produced. In the body of the writing the enclosure of the dollar was named, but on the margin, it was noted in pencil that it had been withdrawn & sent to his wife.

Thus was the mystery cleared up, to the very great apparent satisfaction of the old man and thus was concluded the last business transaction of his life. An hour after he was called on by the officers who were to convey him to the place of execution. His farewell scene with his late followers and fellow prisoners was peculiar and characteristic. To Coppock and the two negroes he gave a scolding and a quarter each, remarking that he had now no further use for money. To Stephens who had occupied the same room with him he also gave a quarter, and charged them all to die like men and not to betray their friends. To Cook he gave nothing but sharp & scathing words charging him with falsehood & cowardice. Cook denied the charges and attempted to dispute the points with his former commander but was authoritatively silenced. As to the question of veracity between them, circumstances seem decidedly to favour the truth of Cook's statement, and he may be readily excused for not caring to prolong a dispute with a man on his road to the gallows. Governor Wise and others, who were imposed upon by Brown's apparent frankness during his first examination at Harpers Ferry, have long since had occasion to change their opinions in regard to his honesty & veracity.

However, of all these matters I was not an eye nor ear witness, but had them from those who were.

As early as nine o'clock on Friday morning, the field (adjoining the town of Charlestown), which had been selected for the place of execution, was occupied by a considerable body of soldiers, horse, foot, & artillery. A line of sentinels encircled the enclosure preventing access by the fences and a guard of infantry and artillery was posted at the gate by which spectators were required to enter.

I repaired to the field some time before the appointed hour that I might choose a convenient position to witness the final ceremony. The gibbet was erected on a gentle swell that commanded a view of the country for many miles around. From the scaffold which I ascended the view was of surpassing beauty. On every side

stretching away into the blue distance were broad & fertile fields dotted with corn shocks and white farm houses glimmering through the leafless trees—emblems of prosperity and peace.

Hard by was the pleasant village with its elegant suburban residences and bordering the picture east & west were the blue mountains thirty miles apart. In the Blue Ridge which lay to the eastward appeared the deep gap through which the Potomac and Shenandoah pour their united streams at Harpers ferry, eight miles distant.

Near at Hand stood long lines of soldiers resting on their arms while all the neighboring hills in sight were crowded with squadrons of cavalry. The balmy south wind was blowing which covered the landscape with a warm & dreamy haze reminding one rather of May than December. From hence thought I, the old man may see the spot where his enormous crime first took the form of action—he may see the beautiful land his dark plots had devoted to bloody ruin, he may see in the gleaming of a thousand swords and these serried lines of bayonets—what might be well calculated to make wiser men than he, thoughtful.

At eleven o'clock escorted by a strong column of soldiers the Prisoner entered the field. He was seated in a furniture waggon on his coffin with his arms tied down above the elbows, leaving the forearms free. The driver with two others occupied the front seat while the jailer sat in the after part of the waggon. I stood with a group of half a dozen gentlemen near the steps of the scaffold when the Prisoner was driven up. He wore the same seedy and dilapidated dress that he had at Harpers ferry and during his trial, but his rough boots had given place to a pair of particoloured slippers and he wore a low crowned broad brimmed hat [the first time I had ever seen him with a hat]. He had entirely recovered from his wounds and looked decidedly better & stronger than when I last saw him. As he neared the gibbet his face wore a grim & greisly smirk which, but for the solemnity of the occasion might have suggested ideas of the ludicrous. He stepped from the waggon with surprising agility and walked hastily toward the scaffold pausing a moment as he passed our group to wave his pinioned arm & bid us good morning. I thought I could observe in this a trace of bravado—but perhaps I was mistaken, as his natural manner was short, ungainly and hurried. He mounted the steps of the scaffold with the same alicrity and there as if by previous arrangement, he immediately took off his hat and offered his neck for the halter which was as promptly adjusted by Mr. Avis the jailor. A white muslin cap or hood was then drawn over his face and the Sheriff not remembering that his eyes were covered requested him to advance to the platform. The Prisoner replied in his usual tone, "you will have to guide me there."

The breeze disturbing the arrangement of the hood the Sheriff asked his assistant for a pin. Brown raised his hand and directed him to the collar of his coat where several old pins were quilted in. The Sheriff took the pin & completed his work.

He was accordingly led forward to the drop the halter hooked to the beam and the officers supposing that the execution was to follow immediately took leave of him. In doing so, the Sheriff enquired if he did not want a handker-chief to throw as a signal to

cut the drop. Brown replied, "no I dont care; I dont want you to keep me waiting unnecessarily."

These were his last words, spoken with that sharp nasal twang peculiar to him, but spoken quietly & civilly, without impatience or the slightest apparent emotion. In this position he stood for five minutes or more, while the troops that composed the escort were wheeling into the positions assigned them. I stood within a few paces of him and watched narrowly during these trying moments to see if there was any indication of his giving way. I detected nothing of the sort. He had stiffened himself for the drop and waited motionless 'till it came.

During all these movements no sound was heard but the quick stern words of military command, & when these ceased a dead silence reigned. Colonel Smith said to the Sheriff in a low voice—"we are ready". The civil officers descended from the scaffold. One who stood near me whispered earnestly—"He trembles, his knees are shaking". "You are mistaken," I replied, "It is the scaffold that shakes under the footsteps of the officers." The Sheriff struck the rope a sharp blow with a hatchet, the platform fell with a crash—a few convulsive struggles & a human soul had gone to judgement.

Thus died John Brown, the strange, stern old man; hard and uncouth in character as he was in personal appearance, undemonstrative and emotionless as an indian. In the manner of his death there was nothing dramatic or sympathetic. There was displayed neither the martial dignity of a chieftain nor the reckless bravado of a highwayman—neither the exalted enthusiasm of a martyr nor the sublime resignation of a christian. His voice and manner were precisely the same as if he had been bargaining for a sixpence worth of powder slightly anxious to get through the job but not uncivilly impatient. A stony stoicism, an easy indifference, so perfectly simulated that one could hardly perceive it was acting.

As with John Brown, so it seemed with the spectators around him. Of Sympathy there was none—of triumph no word nor sign. The fifteen hundred soldiers stood mute and motionless at their posts—The thousand civic spectators looked on in silence. At the end of half an hour the body was taken down & placed in the coffin—the people went home, the troops wheeled into columns & marched to their quarters, and the day concluded with the calm & quiet of a New England sabbath.

No man capable of reflection could have witnessed that scene without being deeply impressed with the truth that then & there was exhibited, not the vengeance of an outraged people, but the awful majesty of the law.

D.H.S.

So ends Strother's story, which had all of the essential facts in it but which failed somehow to hint that the Harpers Ferry raid and the Charlestown hanging had, together, been something like a lighted match tossed into a powder magazine. Within eighteen months the men who hanged John Brown, the men who thought him a martyr, and the huge number of people who paid no more attention to the whole business than they had to, were making war on each other, and a snatch of verse sung to the tune of a camp-

meeting hymn became a marching song for the armies in blue that would destroy slavery forever—a song known as “John Brown’s Body.”

It is recorded that throughout the Civil War, any Union regiment marching through Charlestown would take pains to sing the song as the ranks passed the building where Brown had been tried and condemned. Probably the little courthouse town of Charlestown heard that song sung more times than any other place in the United States. Hanging John Brown, somehow, wasn’t the end of him. The execution was a beginning rather than an end.

And Strother himself wound up as a Brigadier General in the Union army.

Boyd B. Stutler is a newspaperman who for 18 years was managing editor of the *American Legion Magazine*. He has followed the John Brown theme for 40 years and is now working on a biography. He lives in Charleston, W. Va.

http://www.americanheritage.com/articles/magazine/ah/1955/2/1955_2_4.shtml

THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE

BY STEPHEN CRANE

CHAPTER III. (CONT'D)

"Oh, shut up!" roared the tall private. "You little fool. You little damn' cuss. You ain't had that there coat and them pants on for six months, and yet you talk as if--"

"Well, I wanta do some fighting anyway," interrupted the other. "I didn't come here to walk. I could 'ave walked to home--'round an' 'round the barn, if I jest wanted to walk."

The tall one, red-faced, swallowed another sandwich as if taking poison in despair.

But gradually, as he chewed, his face became again

quiet and contented. He could not rage in fierce argument in the presence of such sandwiches. During his meals he always wore an air of blissful contemplation of the food he had swallowed. His spirit seemed then to be communing with the viands.

He accepted new environment and circumstance with great coolness, eating from his haversack at every opportunity. On the march he went along with the stride of a hunter, objecting to neither gait nor distance. And he had not raised his voice when he had been ordered away from three little protective piles of earth and stone, each of which had been an engineering feat worthy of being made sacred to the name of his grandmother.

In the afternoon the regiment went out over the same ground it had taken in the morning. The landscape then ceased to threaten the youth. He had been close to it and become familiar with it.

When, however, they began to pass into a new region, his old fears of stupidity and incompetence reassailed him, but this time he doggedly let them babble. He was occupied with his problem, and in his desperation he concluded that the stupidity did not greatly matter.

Once he thought he had concluded that it would be better to get killed directly and end his troubles. Regarding death thus out of the corner of his eye, he conceived it to be nothing but rest, and he was filled

with a momentary astonishment that he should have made an extraordinary commotion over the mere matter of getting killed. He would die; he would go to some place where he would be understood. It was useless to expect appreciation of his profound and fine senses from such men as the lieutenant. He must look to the grave for comprehension.

The skirmish fire increased to a long chattering sound. With it was mingled far-away cheering. A battery spoke.

Directly the youth would see the skirmishers running. They were pursued by the sound of musketry fire. After a time the hot, dangerous flashes of the rifles were visible. Smoke clouds went slowly and insolently across the fields like observant phantoms. The din became crescendo, like the roar of an oncoming train.

A brigade ahead of them and on the right went into action with a rending roar. It was as if it had exploded. And thereafter it lay stretched in the distance behind a long gray wall, that one was obliged to look twice at to make sure that it was smoke.

The youth, forgetting his neat plan of getting killed, gazed spell bound. His eyes grew wide and busy with the action of the scene. His mouth was a little ways open.

Of a sudden he felt a heavy and sad hand laid upon his

shoulder. Awakening from his trance of observation he turned and beheld the loud soldier.

"It's my first and last battle, old boy," said the latter, with intense gloom. He was quite pale and his girlish lip was trembling.

"Eh?" murmured the youth in great astonishment.

"It's my first and last battle, old boy," continued the loud soldier. "Something tells me--"

"What?"

"I'm a gone coon this first time and--and I w-want you to take these here things--to--my-- folks." He ended in a quavering sob of pity for himself. He handed the youth a little packet done up in a yellow envelope.

"Why, what the devil--" began the youth again.

But the other gave him a glance as from the depths of a tomb, and raised his limp hand in a prophetic manner and turned away.

CHAPTER IV.

THE brigade was halted in the fringe of a grove. The men crouched among the trees and pointed their restless guns out at the fields. They tried to look beyond the smoke.

Out of this haze they could see running men. Some shouted information and gestured as they hurried.

The men of the new regiment watched and listened eagerly, while their tongues ran on in gossip of the battle. They mouthed rumors that had flown like birds out of the unknown.

"They say Perry has been driven in with big loss."

"Yes, Carrott went t' th' hospital. He said he was sick. That smart lieutenant is commanding 'G' Company. Th' boys say they won't be under Carrott no more if they all have t' desert. They allus knew he was a--"

"Hannises' batt'ry is took."

"It ain't either. I saw Hannises' batt'ry off on th' left not more'n fifteen minutes ago."

"Well--"

"Th' general, he ses he is goin' t' take th' hull cammand of th' 304th when we go inteh action, an' then he ses we'll do sech fightin' as never another one reg'ment done."

"They say we're catchin' it over on th' left. They say th' enemy driv' our line inteh a devil of a swamp an' took Hannises' batt'ry."

"No sech thing. Hannises' batt'ry was 'long here 'bout a minute ago."

"That young Hasbrouck, he makes a good off'cer. He ain't afraid 'a nothin'."

"I met one of th' 148th Maine boys an' he ses his brigade fit th' hull rebel army fer four hours over on th' turnpike road an' killed about five thousand of 'em. He ses one more sech fight as that an' th' war 'll be over."

"Bill wasn't scared either. No, sir! It wasn't that. Bill ain't a-gittin' scared easy. He was jest mad, that's what he was. When that feller trod on his hand, he up an' sed that he was willin' t' give his hand t' his country, but he be dumbed if he was goin' t' have every dumb bushwhacker in th' kentry walkin' 'round on it. Se he went t' th' hospital disregardless of th' fight. Three fingers was crunched. Th' dern doctor wanted t' amputate 'm, an' Bill, he raised a heluva row, I hear. He's a funny feller."

The din in front swelled to a tremendous chorus. The youth and his fellows were frozen to silence. They could see a flag that tossed in the smoke angrily. Near it were the blurred and agitated forms of troops. There came a turbulent stream of men across the fields. A battery changing position at a frantic gallop scattered the stragglers right and left.

A shell screaming like a storm banshee went over the huddled heads of the reserves. It landed in the grove, and exploding redly flung the brown earth. There was a little shower of pine needles.

Bullets began to whistle among the branches and nip at the trees. Twigs and leaves came sailing down. It was as if a thousand axes, wee and invisible, were being wielded. Many of the men were constantly dodging and ducking their heads.

The lieutenant of the youth's company was shot in the hand. He began to swear so wondrously that a nervous laugh went along the regimental line. The officer's profanity sounded conventional. It relieved the tightened senses of the new men. It was as if he had hit his fingers with a tack hammer at home.

Coon Valley Reenactment

Norskedalen Nature Center, Coon Valley, Wisconsin
October 9 - 10, 2010



Norwegian Farm-stead, Norskedalen.

Norskedalen, which means "Norwegian Valley," is a nature and heritage center, dedicated to preserving, interpreting and sharing the natural environment and cultural heritage of the area surrounding Coon Valley in southwest Wisconsin.

Nestled in a valley surrounded by beautiful, dense forest, there is a small house, a cabin and a complete Norwegian farm-stead with barns, utility buildings and a main house.

Norskedalen Civil War Heritage Weekend Schedule

Friday October 8, 2010

7:30 - 3:00 School Day
5:00 - 11:00 Registration

Saturday October 9, 2010

Iuka, Miss. September 1862

7:00 - 10:00 Registration, Breakfast (Pavilion)
9:00 - 11:30 Non scripted Skirmishing in the hills
11:30 - 12:30 Soldier Lunch (Camps)
1:00 - 3:00 Company Drills, firing, post pickets
12:00 Civil War Photography (?)
1:00 Johnny Reb and Billy Yank (?)
2:00 Load and Fire (?)
3:00 Mary Lincoln (?)
5:00 - 5:15 Truce, Present dishes, Disagreement!
5:30 Call to Arms! (Camps)
5:30 - 6:00 Iuka, Miss. *Fight for the Battery*
6:00 - 7:00 Candle light tours - Battle Field, Hosp./Burial
1. Confederate Officers discussing battle
2. Homecoming of a loved one
3. Pickets conversing at night
4. Union camp song (Co E Rogues)
5. Living Historian (?)
7:00 Day is done, but candlelight tours may continue (?)

Sunday October 10, 2010

Valverde, NM February 1862

7:00 - 7:30 Reveille, Roll Call, Company Drill (Camps)
7:30 - 9:00 Breakfast
7:30 - 9:00 CW Breakfast Cook off - Contest (Camps)
9:30 Church Call (Pavilion)
10:30 - 12:00 Tactical Skirmish
12:00 - 12:30 Lunch
1:00 - 1:30 Rebs push Union across Rio 'Poplar' Grand
1:30 - 3:00 After Battle Scenarios
3:00 The General/Break Camps

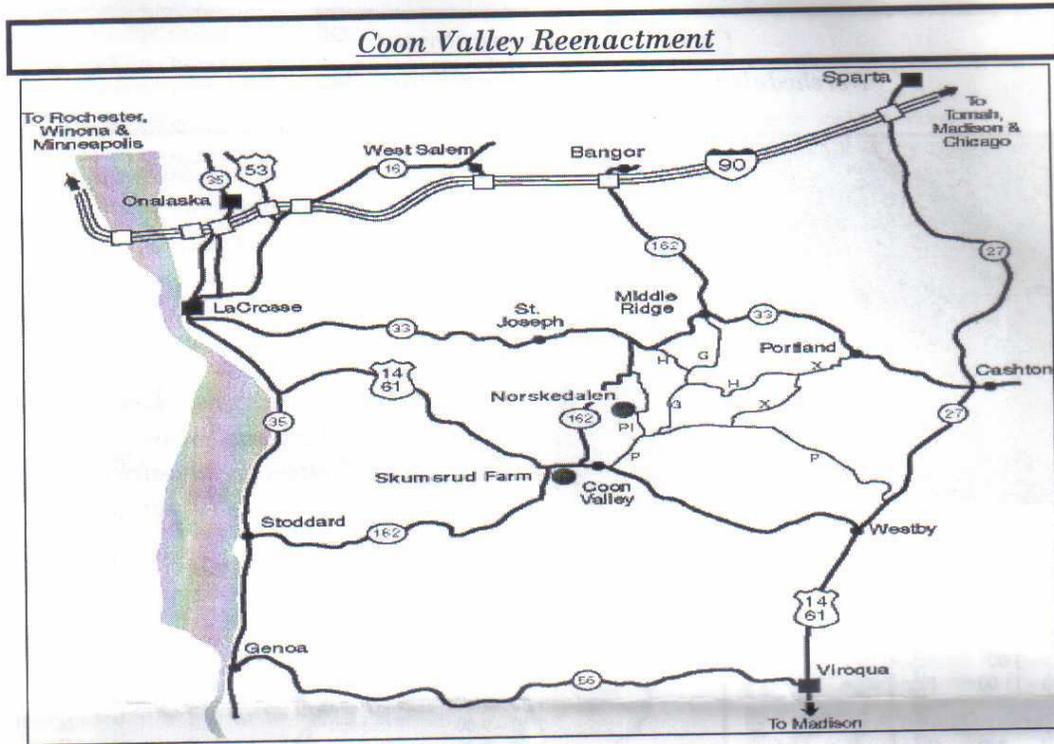


DIRECTIONS: From Green Bay, take Hwy 41 South to Oshkosh; take Hwy 21 West (Omro Exit) to Interstate 90 West; take Hwy 162 South towards Coon Valley. Norskedalen is located near Coon Valley and is located on La Crosse County Road PI, 3 miles North of Coon Valley or 3 miles South of Hwy 33 (See Map next page).

Note: For Yahoo Maps type in the following address: N455 O. Ophus Rd, Coon Valley, WI

If there are any questions, please contact
John Dudkiewicz by email at jjdudkie@charter.net

Thank You.



Picket Post

"Halt! Who Goes There?"

"Sherman's Grand Movement"



Use the answers to the "Clues" to complete the Stranger's Reply.

In the answers to the "Clues" you are given only the vowels. Match the numbered letters in these answers to the numbered spaces in the Reply.

In the Reply, then, you will only have to complete the vowels to find out "Who goes there?"

REPLY: "I am..."

1	2	3	4	4	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	1	10	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	---

CLUES:

1. Valley in the state of Virginia.

4	E	A		O	A	3
---	---	---	--	---	---	---

2. Third oldest university in the United States located in New Haven, Connecticut.

8	A	1	E
---	---	---	---

3. Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Special Order, dated September 1862.

	O	5		O	6	K	E
--	---	---	--	---	---	---	---

4. Abraham Lincoln saw limited service in this "war."

	A	7		A	9
--	---	---	--	---	---

5. Site of the battle between the ironclads *Monitor* and *Virginia*.

	A	10	2		O		O	A
--	---	----	---	--	---	--	---	---

Answers in the next issue of *The Company Letter*.

Answers to last issue's *Picket Post*:

Reply: "I am... Major General Jefferson Columbus Davis."

Clues: 1. Indiana 2. Fort Sumter 3. Major General 4. Court Martial 5. Buena Vista