
The Maine Bugle

The Maine Cavalry Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 1

First Quarter 1998

Out With the Old and In With the New!

In April of '97 the opening of the Baltimore Civil War Museum at President Street Station validated a long effort to save an historic structure from the bulldozer. An effort that was begun in the late 70's by this unit with the act of annually placing a wreath on the building to commemorate the Baltimore Riot of 1861. The parade, opening, and the ball that night were all successes. 1st Maine was represented by 10 men and 3 civilians, what was to be our best turn out for the season.

The rest of the year was rather anti-climatic. For the most part, attendance was poor to nil with the one high point being the 135th Antietam event. The low point was the loss of Pete Seaborg. Pete died of a heart attack in May of '97 while working in his bookstore in Washington.

The 1998 season will see some changes in the unit. One important change will be this newsletter. Instead of bimonthly, the Bugle will be produced quarterly. There simply hasn't been enough input to fill the newsletter on a bimonthly schedule, and to prevent the *Bugle* from becoming *Jerry's Rant*, I'm changing to a quarterly issue.

Hopefully this pace will mean an improved newsletter.

A greater emphasis will be placed on authenticity. While we have always maintained a consistently improving standard in our appearance and training, our camp lacks the attention we give those other items. At the same time we have a growing civilian contingent which will overwhelm our military impression if we do not deal with the problem early.

This season, the military and civilian camps will **always** be kept separate. This does not mean miles of separation, but simply a plain and clear distinction between the two by some minor obstacle like a hedgerow, a path, or simply a few yards of space. At some events this will seem pointless because we will be camped with or near other units that do not keep this practise, maybe if

we lead by example, they will attempt it. Our military camp will be strictly policed and kept clear of anachronisms and excessive baggage such as camp furniture and boxes. The civilian camp too will be required to keep all non-period items out of sight.

The company mess will focus more on troopers pitching in together, and less on the civilian participants serving as "cooks." Upcoming issues of the Bugle will contain information and tips to help the company survive for two or three days without coolers and plastic bags. A community meal Saturday night at most events should be pre-arranged so no one or two individuals are saddled with all the responsibility of preparing it.

So, why this crackdown? Actually, that's how we *used* to do it when we had little or no civilian participation to be concerned with. That's changed. The unit is growing and will likely see more civilians attached to it than ever before. Doing a civilian impression is also more sophisticated than it has been, which means that civilians require more baggage.

It's impossible for a woman to manage a proper impression out of a shelter tent and she shouldn't be expected to. The size, and to some extent style of tents used in the civilian camp is not of great consequence, where it *is* in the military camp.

None of this is intended to alienate our civilian participants, in fact, instead of the narrow view they get being cooped up with the soldiers, they will have the opportunity of meeting folks from other units and getting a wider view of the hobby than they could otherwise. The unit will regain it's focus on it's primary purpose of military impression and extend the idea of "less-is-more" into the camp. The civilians will also have more freedom in running their camp without the friction of being amongst the soldiers.



*Sgt Bunker takes advantage of a Rebel Bugler's poor swordsmanship at Antietam.
photo: Richard Meagher, Hagerstown Herald-Mail*



Sutlers

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Coutry Cloth, Inc. Clothing patterns & kits	Charlie Childs 13797-C Georgetown Street, NE Paris OH 44669 216-862-3307
Missouri Boot & Shoe Brogans	417-451-6100
Montana Boot Co. Boots	406-222-7721
F. Burgess & Co. Sword belts, boxes, tack, etc.	908-576-1624
Doug Kidd Saddles & tack	1158 Apple Blossom Road Springdale AK 72762
Paul Smith Forage caps	Box 93 McKnightstown PA 17343 717-337-3929
CJ Daley Reproductions Garments & accoutrements	105 West Green Street Middletown MD 21769 301-371-5792

This list is by no means complete! If you have any maker of quality, authentic item that should be on this list, send it in!

Surf Report

Back in August, 1st Maine opened a site on the World-Wide-Web. It opens to a main page with a Claude Levet photo of us at Stannardsville in 1994, and a brief description of the unit. This page connects to several others. One page contains the capsule histories of the 1st and 2nd regiments from Dyer's Compendium (which were also printed in the Bugle.) A photo album page with thumbnail images that connect to some 30+ full sized images. There's a page that describes what it takes to join the unit. A page of "hyperlinks" to other units and Civil War sites on the web contains over 100 links. There is also a hyperlink right to the Maine State Archive's Civil War page.

The "URL" or address to get to the site with your browser is:

<http://home.sprynet.com/sprynet/gtodd/>



Upcoming Skirmishes

February 21	Ball, Bathesda MD	?
	More information as it's made available	
March 28-29	Company Hike	n/a
	A hike of approximately 10 miles over two days in Western Maryland near South Mountain.	
April 4-5	Snowday for Hike	n/a
	Alternate date in case of overly inclement weather.	
April 17-19	Stannardsville	\$5
	14th annual event at Oak Ridge Estates near Arrington VA.	
April 25	President Street Station Ball	n/a
	3rd annual ball to benefit PSS at the Polish Alliance Hall.	
May 7-10	Vicksburg, Mississippi	?
	135th anniversary of Vicksburg Campaign. Two marches, with skirmishes, and three battles at five sites.	
May 15-17	Fairfax VA	\$2
	New event at Van Dyck Park.	
May 22-24	Wilmington DE	\$6
	6th annual event at Brandywine Creek Park.	
May 29-30	Cavalry Ride	?
	Ride for preservation in Loudon County VA	
June 12-14	Point Lookout MD	?
	Living history at Ft Lincoln with Vincent's Brigade.	
June 12-14	Peake's Island ME	?
	Living history encampment to benefit GAR hall.	
July 2-5	Gettysburg PA	\$8
	135th Gettysburg, monster event at Pumping Station Road.	
July 31-August 2	Leesburg VA	\$5
	Ida Lee Park	
August 14-16	Lewes DE	\$5
	New event.	
September 11-13	Boonesboro MD	\$5
	2nd annual event.	
September 18-20	Mesapatamia OH	?
	Tactical event.	
October 2-4	Rising Sun MD	\$3
	7th annual event at Town Park.	
October 16-18	Cedar Creek VA	\$6
	Shake out that great-coat!	
Oct 30-Nov 1	Fort Branch NC	\$5
	A fine friendly event, and they feed you!	