



**CHAMPLAIN VALLEY HISTORIC REENACTORS**  
**2nd Vermont Volunteer Infantry, Co. A;**  
**1st Vermont Cavalry, Co. K;**  
**Vermont Brigade Field Dressing Station**  
**and associated Green Mountain Citizens**

**APRIL 2010**

*"In this sad world of ours, sorrow comes to all; and, to the young, it comes with bitterest agony, because it takes them unawares." ~ Abraham Lincoln December 23, 1862*

Hello CVHR!

Hope everyone is well and looking forward to the reenacting season! A big thank you to those who went to the University Mall on March 27<sup>th</sup>. The place was hopping with people, we had good representation and a great setup! In this month, 145 years ago, the American Civil War ended. April 9 brought Gen. Lee surrendering to Gen. Grant. April 14 brought the assassination of our 16<sup>th</sup> president, Abraham Lincoln, at Ford's Theater about 10:15 p.m. He died the next day, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:22 a.m. at Petersen Boarding House.

## **Attention to Orders!**

Please contact the treasurer if you are planning on attending the following events and would like your name to be included on the roster along with the registration fee.

Send an e-mail to [Jimmyb658@msn.com](mailto:Jimmyb658@msn.com) if you are interested in attending, prior to the registration due dates noted below.

**Plattsburgh** - May 15 - 16, 2010 (Registration is due April 25)

### **Massena**

Our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Civil War Reenactment and Living History Weekend will once again be held at Robert Moses State Park near Massena, New York. The event is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, July 24-25, 2009, with registration and set up beginning on Friday afternoon, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. (Registration is due June 15th)

## **Monthly drill** ~

Drill will be at Pat Hendee's starting this month. He is located at 178 Tatro Rd., Starksboro. Drill will begin at 6:30 with the time change we should be good to go.

## **FYI - Trailer Update** ~

The trailer is still on track for a first week in April delivery!

Trailer has been ordered. Check has been sent. The new trailer is pewter in color, for a look at what it will look like go to:

<http://www.wellscargo.com/tctrecker/index.php?page=viewmodel&section=colors&id=15>

Expected delivery date is beginning of April at which point Jim B. and Mike F will retrofit it at Mike's house.

Jim has submitted our paperwork to our new insurance carrier, so effective in March, we will now have fire and theft coverage for the trailer and it's contents as well as Director's and Officers coverage, both new to CVHRI.

**\* Please note the corrected dates for the Gettysburg reenactment. It is July 2, 3, 4, & 5.**

## **CVHRI 2<sup>nd</sup> VT Calendar 2010**

### **April:**

Apr. 6: Monthly drill 6:30 Pat Hendee's.

Apr 16: Middlebury College Presentation with Amy Morseman

Apr. 16-18: Cavalry Spring Training - Alliance, Ohio

### **May:**

May 1-2: DRILL WEEKEND W/ 55TH VA IN HAGUE, NY

May 4: Monthly drill at Cpl. Hendee's in Starksboro

May 15-16: Mountwood Campaign Ride VA-WV (Cavalry)

May 16-17: TBA Clinton County Civil War Days, Peru, N.Y.

May 29: Lakeview Cemetery, Burlington, VT

May 30: Orwell Memorial Day Parade (campaign style sleepover at Brown Farm in Benson then off to ...)

May 31: Middlebury (Infantry) Memorial Day parade

May 31: Vergennes (Cavalry) Memorial Day parade

### **June:**

Jun 1: Monthly drill at Cpl. Hendee's

Jun 5-6: Mountwood Campaign Ride VA-WV (Cavalry)

Jun: Salisbury, NY Reenactment/Encampment

Jun 11-13: Rally for Norlands, Livermore Maine

Jun 11-13: Battle of Trevilian Station, Louisa, VA (Cavalry)

### **July:**

July 2-5: **Annual Gettysburg Civil War Battle Reenactment (USV)**

July 4: ?? Parade in Bristol (Cavalry)

July 4: Parade in Richmond (Infantry)

July 6?: Monthly drill at Cpl. Hendee's?

July 16-17: Genesee Country Village & Museum - Mumford, NY

July 24-25: Massena, N.Y. Civil War reenactment

### **August:**

Aug 3: Monthly drill at Cpl Hendee's

Aug 6-8: Upper Canada Village; Ontario, Canada - 2nd Miss. Magnolia Rifles

Aug ?: University Mall Event

Aug 13-14: Wilmington Parade and Living History, Wilmington, Vt

Aug - TBA Andrew Whitehead Grave Dedication of the 5th NY, Barre, Vt

### **September:**

Sep 7: Monthly drill / meeting - Shelburne Firehouse

**Sep 10-12 Or 17-19 Battle of Shelburne Crossroads (Our premier event!)\*\***

Sep. 16-19: Tunbridge World's Fair

### **October:**

Oct 1-3: Living History, Dover, Vt

Oct 5: Monthly drill at Cpl Hendee's in Starksboro

Oct 16-17: Cedar Creek 146th Anniversary (cavalry)

**November:**

Nov 6?: Boy Scout Veterans Day Parade - St. Albans, VT

Nov 20: Remembrance Day & Illumnata, Gettysburg, PA

**December:**

Dec - TBA Executive Board Planning Meeting

Dec - TBA CVHR Annual Business Meeting

## *Have you ever wondered?*

Have you ever wondered why someone reenacts? For Trooper Boutin, some of it goes back to be a little boy playing Cowboys & Indians and War!

### **Why I reenact: Tim Boutin**

My first contacts with reenacting were recruiting posters hanging on the wall of the local store and at the horse barn where my wife was taking riding lessons. I had seen that reenacting was active in some places in VT and had seen the Hemlocks at parades and events previously. Having grown up in a family where history was held in high esteem, it has always interested me and I had always toyed with the idea of sometime getting involved. As I continued to age, I had increasingly thought the rigors of infantry would prevent me from ever actually getting involved, which is why the cavalry seemed such a good fit.

After all, why march on foot when you could ride? I went to my first event in Orwell and specifically remember how I thought that blue jeans would be good enough if I could only borrow a jacket. By day 2 I had visited Wight Mannings' sutlery and purchased a full uniform with the exception of boots, weapons and leathers. The camaraderie around camp life, a desire to experience what troopers did and to try to live using the same tools and techniques has kept me involved. Since opportunities to actually ride are getting fewer and far between, I find myself increasingly spending time researching the history and participating in classroom programs.

However.... The real reason I started reenacting is that as a youngster I loved to play war and "Cowboys and Indians" including playing "dress-up". When I got into my teen years, I learned to hunt and my first teen transportation source was on horseback before learning how to drive a car.

So....

What could possibly be better than playing war, all dressed up in a uniform while riding and shooting guns? A boy's true fantasy!

## *The Medicine Chest*

~ Dan Celik

### **Civil War Hospital Organization**

Due to battlefield confusion, in 1862 the Union army began to set up a new system of divisional hospitals. Under the old regimental system nothing was organized, records were not kept, and surgeons had the freedom of operating whenever they felt like it. The new divisional hospitals were run more efficiently, therefore better suited for the patients. The plan called to have all regimental field hospitals consolidated into divisional field hospitals during battle. Division ambulances were at the ready under the direction of an assistant surgeon. The divisional surgeon in charge was under the direction of the corps medical director. The divisional surgeon would then select three medical officers who were in charge of all surgical operations within the division. Each of the three surgeons would have an assistant surgeon assigned to them who administered anesthetic, aided in operations, and kept detailed records of every patient brought to the division field hospital.

After the first few weeks of operation the hospitals were able to offer their patients more conveniences. As the war progressed and through trial and error so did the efficiency of both medical departments.

## *Boots and Saddles!*

~Robin Severy

Did you know that 'Boots and Saddles' is one of the common orders and bugle calls in the Cavalry? So, this'll make a fitting title for this section in this newsletter.

**Cavalry**, from the French *cavalerie*, or *cheval* 'horse' were soldiers or warriors who fought mounted on horseback, the most mobile of the combat arms. The designation of cavalry was not usually given to any military force that used other animals, such as

camels or mules. But now it refers to the armored units. Life as a cavalryman during the Civil War was different from many others; the first big difference is that their first most important piece of equipment was the **‘horse’**. A **‘Trooper’** is any private in the cavalry, yet is commonly used to mean any cavalry soldier or cavalryman.

Here are some bugle calls that cavalrymen had to memorize that infantry and others did not use:

**‘Stable call’** is used to call troopers to their horses, muck the area around their trusty steed, give their horse hay and feed, pick hooves and groom your mount. Usually called just before or just after breakfast and dinner.

**‘Boots and Saddles’** is the order for a trooper to go to your horse, saddle and bridle and get your equipment ready.

**‘Stand To Horse’** get your horse and lead him to a designated area. Fall into ranks, standing at horses head, waiting for next commands.

**‘To Horse’** is called when troopers need to get on horseback quickly.

**‘Water Call’** calls on troopers to water their horses.

There are also distinct bugle calls for each of **‘Walk’, ‘Trot’ or ‘Gallop’**.

A Mounted Trooper needed to take good care of his horse (before himself) to insure that he was able to carry out his duties. If he lost his horse or it was lamed, he just became another ‘mud-stomper’ until he could find a replacement. Everything the trooper needed should be able to be packed on his horse as he may not be back to camp in quite a few days or ever. Most troopers were light-weight, under 138 pounds. The saddle, tack, equipment, weapons, utensils, feed, personal items and more had to weigh less than 225 pounds including the rider.

The Rebel Yell: The Southern View

~ Lt Steven Smith

## THE MYTH OF THE CAUSE

It's a common perception that the south fought as good a fight as it possibly could in its effort to achieve independence during the civil war. Faced against overwhelming manpower and material resources, there is this romantic notion that the south, as an underdog, came very close to winning its fight, if not militarily certainly politically. United in its resolve with steadfast determination, the perception has long been fostered that the Confederate soldier fought to the bitter end with little food, tattered clothes, and enduring unspeakable hardship. However, the truth is not so endearing. Historically, Lincoln's shrewd political efforts prevented the South from gaining foreign support. Militarily, while the North mishandled some of its advantages, over time, the Lincoln administration found the right combination of effort and leadership that eventually brought the Confederates to heel.

The "Cause" often referred to as the Lost Cause or the Glorious Cause was a manifestation created by those in the south to cope with the sting of defeat in the aftermath of the conflict. After all, southerners are the only segment of American society that have had to cope with the stigma of total defeat. The reconstruction years were difficult requiring vast social and cultural change due to the fact that slavery was integral to the southern culture whether one owned slaves or not. For rich southerners who owned land and slave property, defeat would mean they would lose everything. For poorer southerners defeat would mean a difficult social change that in their mind didn't necessarily mean a better life for them and their families. Both rich and poor southerners fought for independence because they viewed that course as the best option that would provide a continuation of the status quo. Northern abolitionists and northern soldiers represented agents of change that would turn the social structure of the south upside down. Defeat would mean destitution, poverty, and social unrest.

In the early days of the war, southern soldiers accepted the Confederate government in Richmond as a champion of their security and rights. The "Yankee invaders" were coming to steal their crops, destroy their homes, and take their property was the message Richmond communicated. However, as the pressures of the fight mounted, Richmond was forced to issue various decrees and adopt certain measures that caused faith in the righteousness of the cause to erode. For example, as the southern economy started to feel the pressure of the blockade, a law known as the "20 Slave Rule" was passed which exempted those owners of 20 or more slaves from having to enlist in the army. This caused much resentment which led to the belief that the conflict was a "rich man's war but a poor man's fight." Other edicts which further eroded support in the Confederate government were the various "tax in kind" laws which gave all official representatives of the southern government the right to take whatever they needed from the population to support the armies in the field. Often this meant that livestock, crops, goods and services could be requisitioned at a fraction of cost or in some cases taken at will. In many cases, Home Guard troops simply arrived at a homestead and took what they needed. This often left poorer families with nothing left leaving them almost to the brink of starvation. Imagine Johnny reb in the trenches of Petersburg, receiving a letter from home in which his wife explains that "repeated requisitions" have his family reduced to begging for food from area neighbors. To that southern soldier, all of a sudden the Confederate government

was becoming more of an enemy than the boys in the blue., In fact, the situation had become so intolerable that Jones County in Mississippi openly rebelled and seceded from the Confederate government itself. There, Newton Knight and some 200-300 followers waged war on Confederate militia, regular army and government officials. It was an ugly guerilla campaign that lasted until the end of the war and even afterwards as Knight and his like minded followers supported reconstruction efforts. The eroding faith in the Confederate government and worry over conditions at home were the main reasons why desertion rates were so high beginning in the mid to later years of the war. Numerous attempts at offering amnesty and even executions failed as the Confederate resolve evaporated.

The Confederate soldier would continue to fight hard as long as he believed that there was still a belief that he was doing the right thing for his family. Once the Confederate government started to “feed off itself” then that soldier’s resolve began to evaporate. The insecurity of the future was easier to accept than the certainty of the hardship of the present. However, for those less insightful, the admission of defeat and coping with change in the aftermath of the war was simply too difficult. Rather, the glory of their effort shrouded in a romantic bitter end struggle was a perfect fabricated substitute for this bitter medicine.

### *Civil War Slang*

*Absquatulate - to take leave, to disappear*

*Robber's Row - the place where sutlers set up to do business*

*Quick step, Flux - diarrhea*

### Did you know????

The last words ever spoken by Abraham Lincoln were in conversation with his wife. Mrs. Lincoln whispered to her husband, who was holding her hand, "What will Miss Harris think of my hanging on to you so?" The president replied, "She won't think

anything about it." After Abraham Lincoln was shot, he was carried across the road to the Petersen's Boarding House. He was carefully laid on a bed, diagonally due to his 6' 4" length not fitting on the bed. He died at 7:22 a.m.

The contents of Lincoln's pockets on the night of the assassination weren't revealed to the public until February 12, 1976. (They came to the Library of Congress in 1937 as part of the gift from Lincoln's granddaughter, Mary Lincoln Isham where they sat wrapped in brown paper for over 3 decades before someone opened them). They contained two pairs of spectacles, a chamois lens cleaner, an ivory and silver pocketknife, a large white Irish linen handkerchief, slightly used, with "A. Lincoln" embroidered in red, a gold quartz watch fob without a watch, a new silk-lined, leather wallet containing a pencil, a Confederate five-dollar bill, and news clippings of unrest in the Confederate Army, emancipation in Missouri, the Union party platform of 1864, and an article on the presidency by John Bright.

(Interestingly enough, inscribed on the inside of the back of the watch face of Lincoln's watch, is "April 13, 1861 Fort Sumter was attacked by the rebels on the above date. J Dillon April 13- 1861 Washington thank God we have a government Jonth Dillon.")

The watch was being fixed by Jonathan Dillon (who was working at M. W. Galt & Company, a watch shop on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington), when news came to him of Fort Sumter. This watch was reportedly the first watch the humble Lincoln had ever owned. The inscription was seen for the first time in March of 2009. Did Lincoln know of the inscription? )

*(Notice the date being April 13 instead of April 12. Also, The back of the watch face also has two other inscriptions: "LE Grofs Sept 1864 Wash DC," probably engraved by another repairer, and what appears to be "Jeff Davis." Whether the latter was intended as a retort by another watchmaker to Dillon's pro-Union sentiments is unknown.)*

### On a side note, a few comparisons of Abraham Lincoln to John F Kennedy

Both were shot in the head with one bullet on a Friday.

Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846, Kennedy in 1946.

Lincoln's successor (named Johnson) was born in 1808. Kennedy's successor (also named Johnson) was born in 1908.

Lincoln's assassin (who went by three names: John Wilkes Booth) was born in 1839.

Kennedy's assassin (who also went by three names: Lee Harvey Oswald) was born in 1939.

Both men lost a child while living in the White House.

Lincoln was shot in Ford's Theatre.

Kennedy shot in a Lincoln, made by Ford.

