



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

“Now, therefore, we, the people of Virginia, do declare and ordain, That the ordinance adopted by the people of this State in Convention, on the twenty-fifth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, whereby the Constitution of the United States of America was ratified and all acts of the General Assembly of this State, ratifying or adopting amendments to said Constitution, are hereby repealed and abrogated; that the union between the State of Virginia and other States under the Constitution aforesaid, is hereby dissolved, and that the State of Virginia is in the full possession and exercise of all the rights of sovereignty which belong and appertain to a free and independent State. And they do further declare, That said Constitution of the United States of America is no longer binding on any of the citizens of this State.” ~ **Virginia** April 17, 1861

APRIL 2011

Hello CVHR!

Well, this is the month when things officially took off for the American Civil War! And this kicks off the Civil War Sesquicentennial. We hope that you are able to enjoy some of the activities commemorating any or all of the Civil War. On March 16, Treasurer Jim Buell sent everyone an email about upcoming event registration

information. To date he has only had 3 people respond. **Please be courteous and reply back to him on that!!** There are deadlines that need to be met.

Drill - April 5

The second drill of the 2011 season will take place Tuesday, April 5 at the Williston Central School, 195 Central School Dr. The gym will be reserved for 6:30 pm. We are hoping more people can make drill as we can get more done with more numbers! **Please bring appropriate shoes that will not destroy the gym floor or mark it up!**

War Meeting at Contois Auditorium, Burlington - April 16

~ Bill McKone
wmckone@stoweaccess.com

Contois Auditorium, City Hall, Burlington - reenactment of the meeting of militia officers to choose the ten companies of militia for the 1st Vermont Regiment. Live music by oHanleigh will help to tell the story of the situation in the nation and in Vermont when Ft. Sumter was attacked and Lincoln called for troops from the loyal states. All reenactors and interested people are invited. No admission charged, but donations accepted. Still looking for several people in appropriate clothing to portray George Stannard (militia regimental commander at the time), AIG Baxter, concerned wife of a soldier, loyal citizen to volunteer from crowd, and recruiting officer to sign folks up after the program. Contact Bill McKone, president of the 18th Vermont Regiment, (802) 644-2433, wmckone@stoweaccess.com."

Hague Drill - April 30 - May 1

~Tom Lapoint
tomlapointe@ymail.com

A weekend long drill has been planned at Tom Lapoint's. From Ticonderoga, head south on Rte. 9n towards Hague(9 miles) and hit the intersection of Rte. 8, Tom's place is 3 miles west on the left on Rte 8. Two camps will be set up, and things will kick off Saturday early, for a full weekend of tactical, living history and drill. Civilian dress is great also, there are plenty of locals that don't even know about the hobby that were interested last year and hopefully more this year, especially with your support. The weekend is for all of us to really have a good time together, with kids and family. The idea is for everyone to just come together dress the dress, walk the walk and feel like

they just stepped into 1860. With rebs being rebs and yanks being yanks, you know kind of early war friends dividing and choosing their sides, what an awesome first season portrayal, most soldiers had friends or family fighting on the other side, let's work on that portrayal for our drill weekend here, friends and family leaving for war. On Sunday, Skip Trembley, Pastor of The Hague Wesleyan Church, will be offering a Church service.

Everyone is welcome... and there is plenty of room for horses as well! By all means, invite any one you ALL know to attend as spectators, no charge, just come enjoy the day. Please include that invitation to any school group that may be interested. We all need to build enthusiasm in our perspective communities, this is all free for every one to enjoy!!!!

Rally to this call, the anniversary of the countries Rebellion is upon us, think of all that has come of it, think of the nation it made us, think of the honor you all are giving to those who actually participated, Yank or Reb, imagine the sacrifice????!!!!

If anyone is sure that they can go, please let Tom know right off.

Rutland, VT Living History - May 21

~Jim Proctor

civilproctor@comcast.net

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Ripley Camp #4, of Rutland Vermont, is sponsoring a re-enactment commemorating the mustering-in ceremony of the 1st VT Volunteer Infantry. They were mustered here in Rutland in May, 1861, for three month service with the US forces to fight against the rebellion. They saw combat at Big Bethel in Virginia.

We are looking for as many people as possible to represent the troops and civilians of the period to send the men off to war. The encampments will be Saturday, May 21, 2011, and open to the public from 10:00AM to 4:00PM at Main Street Park, at the corner of route 4 and route 7, in Rutland, Vermont. We want to be up and running by 10 am. but are asking the reenactors to start setting up much earlier. They can stay over night if they please, just let Jim know so he can make sure wood is there. Fire pits are allowed, we just have to replace the grass. The city requested no horses.

Please RSVP before April 15, 2011.

Parades - May 29 & 30

~John Peterson

john.peterson@ottertin.com

Orwell Parade - The Unit will be marching in the Orwell Memorial Day Parade on Sunday, May 29. The parade line-up begins at 12:00 pm in downtown Orwell and the parade starts at 1:30 pm. Please arrive as timely as possible and we can do some quick drilling in advance. We will be firing, so bring ample blanks and caps to help get your musket warmed up. To get to Orwell, take VT-22A to VT-73 east into the center of town, near the gazebo. There will be places to park behind the school. After the parade, there is the offer of camping out at Browns' for those who are interested.

Middlebury Memorial Day Parade -

~John Peterson

john.peterson@ottertin.com

The CVHR will be represented at the Middlebury Memorial Day Parade again this year on Monday the 30th. This is an event to really show our stuff. It would be great to have a large showing, as Middlebury is always teeming with appreciative spectators. The line-up will begin at 8:00 am at the Middlebury Arts Center (off of South Main Street) parking lot on the west side of Middlebury. The "step off" for the parade will be 9:00 am. It's best to arrive early and avoid traffic through the downtown that can get snarled. Make sure to bring some good loads for your muskets (blanks only.). This is a great chance to make some big noise between the buildings in downtown Middlebury.

Vergennes Memorial Day Parade -

Steve Smith

stevooo99@gmail.com

Staging area and beginning location- Vergennes Union High School. Anybody wishing to attend can meet me....we usually gather behind the high school off to the right next to the ball fields. Just drive around to the right and park next to the field. The usually gathering time is 10:00am. This is usually early enough to miss most of the traffic and get a good parking spot.

If anyone has any questions just let me know. FYI- you do not need to galvanize to attend. Wearing blue is fine.

Rally for Norlands - June 3-5

~Mike Frisbie

4frisbies@comcast.net

The Third Rally for Norlands: Civil War Renenactment Weekend at the Washburn-Norlands Living History Center (Norlands) in Livermore Maine will take place on June 3, 4 and 5, 2011. Hundreds of living historians outfitted as Confederate and Union infantry will scrimmage with replica weaponry on the grounds of the 19th Century historic settlement. The event is organized by the 3rd Maine Company A and 15th Alabama Company G to benefit the nonprofit Washburn-Norlands Living History Center. You must print and mail Jim Buell your waiver, that must be included with the registration information he will complete for the unit. Here is the location of the waiver. EACH registrant must submit a signed waiver. The form can be found on Norlands website

<http://www.norlands.org/events/civil%20war%20reenactment/2011/Participant%20WAI%20VER%202011.pdf>

Brandon's Civil War Days - June 18

~John Peterson
john.peterson@ottertin.com

On Saturday June 18th, 2011 the town of Brandon, Vermont will host a Civil War Days event which features the Champlain Valley Historical Reenactors offering a living history program in the Central Park which includes enlistment activities, running drills, and musket firing demonstrations.

The Civil War ignited conflicts and strong emotions throughout the United States, and even a small town in the Northeast was not immune to the changes sweeping the nation. Especially instrumental during this time period was Stephen A. Douglas, a renowned Son of Brandon and Abraham Lincoln's strongest competitor in the 1860 presidential race. 2011 marks the sesquicentennial of Douglas's death as well as the opening of its town hall. Brandon will celebrate with the second annual Civil War Days event on June 18. In addition, this is the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Brandon Town Hall which still has the armory room for the Allen Grays, the town militia unit named for Ethan Allen and the gray uniforms they wore. The Allen Grays were mustered into the 1st Vermont Regiment and members later went on to join other regiments in the Vermont Brigade after the 1st Vermont mustered out of service. Some members of the Champlain Valley Historical Reenactors will be wearing reproduction of the gray uniforms Vermont soldiers wore as they marched off to war.

A number of Brandon's Civil-War era homes will open their doors to visitors, giving a rare glimpse of what everyday life might have looked like during the 19th century. This is also the 250th anniversary of the town's founding and a town-wide birthday party will begin at 4 pm with a performance in front of the Congregational Church featuring 250 singers. The party will conclude with a 250-piece birthday cake and other festivities. "Brandon shows us how the anti-slavery movement gained momentum among ordinary people who were fired up by a moral commitment to a cause they believed was holy," said Dr. Kevin Thornton, a University of Vermont Professor of History specializing in the 19th century U.S. "The experiences of this town also show us how common northerners became motivated to fight in the Civil War." Dr. Thornton will be giving talks on the subject in the Town Hall, also celebrating its sesquicentennial this year.

In the evening, there will be a special screening in the Brandon Town Hall of the Buster Keaton movie called "The General," which takes place during the Civil War. Jeff Rapsis, who plays piano behind silent films around New England, will be the accompaniment. Brandon is one of Vermont's most inviting small towns with its entire downtown listed on the National Register of Historic Places and recreational opportunities in its backyard. The village of 4,000 has a revitalized downtown with shops, galleries, and restaurants and over 70 miles of back roads to explore. Easily accessible at the crossroads of Routes 7

and 73, Brandon is in the foothills of the Green Mountain National Forest, near the shores of beautiful Lake Dunmore and close to an array of covered bridges. Accommodations for travelers include luxurious country inns, comfortable bed & breakfasts, reasonably-priced motels and clean, scenic campgrounds.

For more information, contact the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce: 802-247-6401.

Email at: info@brandon.org or visit www.brandon.org

150 Battle of First Manassas/Bull Run - July 21-24

~Jim Buell

jimmyb658@msn.com

Attention to orders!!

Registration is now closed through the unit. Don't forget, they will **NOT** accept you as a walk-on, so if you decide at a later date to attend, you **MUST** go to their website to register and pay for yourself. To all who have registered, I have sent in your registration information for Manassas, along with the waivers that you sent me. This is a required form that they want you to put in your cartridge box, ladies – I would suggest your baskets. Please make sure you print out a form for each of your family members that are attending (Croft/Cassidy/Laramie)

http://www.manassasbullrun.com/images/downloads/MedicalForm_Standard_150CommemorationReenactment.pdf

See you around the campfire – have fun.

Jim

<http://www.manassasbullrun.com/>

Drill



Lincolns Inauguration March 4



CVHRI 2ND VT CALENDAR 2011

April:

April 5 - Drill @ Williston Central School

April 6th - Farmers Night - Vermont Statehouse, Montpelier, VT

April 16th - War Meeting with Vermont militia officers

April 30th , May 1st - - Tom LaPointe's in Hague, NY

May:

May 3rd - Drill at Cpl Hendee's, Starksboro, VT

May 6th – Friday education day in Shelburne May 13th – 15th - Plattsburgh, NY

May 21st – Rutland, VT living history

May 28th – Lakeview Cemetery – Burlington, VT

May 29th - Orwell Memorial Day Parade (sleepover in Benson at Brown's)

May 30th - Middlebury Memorial Day Parade

May 30th - Vergennes Memorial Day Parade

June:

June 3rd – 5th - Norlands w/ 3rd Maine - Livermore, ME

June 3rd – 5th Troy, NY

June 7th - Drill at Cpl Hendee's, Starksboro, VT

June 10th 12th Peterboro, NY

June 18th – 19th Brandon, VT Living History – VT Sesquicentennial

Event ***Date might need to be changed to June 25 & 26

July:

July 4th – Richmond 4th of July Parade – Richmond, VT

July 22nd –24th - Manassas, Virginia 150th battle reenactment (USV Event)

July 29th – 31st - Living history - St. Albans, VT – [Steve Smith]

August:

August 2nd - Drill at Cpl Hendee's, Starksboro, VT

August 6th - 7th Weedon, Quebec

August 12th – 14th Woodbury, CT

August 20th - Hillsborough Cav

August 26th –28th Massena, NY

September:

September 15th – 18th Tunbridge World's Fair, Tunbridge, VT

September 16th – 18th Lewis, NY

September 23rd – 25th – German Flats, NY

September 30th – October 2nd - Old Mill Village, PA

October:

October 4th - Drill at Cpl Hendee's, Starksboro, VT

October 14th – 16th Cedar Creek – Middletown, VA

November:

November 5th - Boy Scouts Veterans Day Parade

November 19th - Remembrance Day Parade Gettysburg, PA

December:

Annual Meeting – date TBA

THE REBEL YELL

~Ct Steven Smith 2nd Mississippi

“The End and the Beginning.”

One Hundred and eight men answered the muster to form the company. Sam Hankins of Ripley, Mississippi was one of them. There was great excitement around the camp, and even though no one had any formal military training, they elected officers and quickly sent off to Mobile a rush order for uniforms and muskets. While the men waited, their newly elected captain set about trying to organize a company drill. “Left Face!” “Right Face!” “By Company into Line!” “Fall In!”

“When are we gonna get at them cowardly Yankees?” thought Sam. He wasn't alone in this thinking. Heck, anyone can walk around in circles all day. Then, one day their equipment was delivered. Their gray uniforms of jackets, trousers, and caps were splendid. Knapsacks, cartridge boxes, and haversacks were issued as well. The muskets were old regular army but at least they were new.

Sam never felt better than when he was ordered into line in his new uniform for the very first time. That was the day they were to board the train for Virginia. He didn't understand why so many men were crying when their sweethearts came to wish them off. Not a single tear did he shed. Sam Hankins expected the matter to be settled favorably, and he would be home in a few days.

That was four years ago.

It was a strangely quiet spring morning. A heavy mist hung low just above the ground and

there was a noticeable chill in the air. On one small knoll obscured in the mist stood four soldiers barely distinguishable if not for the accoutrements they carried and the clothes they wore which were hardly more than rags. They were typical of the many others nearby. Their ruddy complexion was drawn taut across their faces, and their keen eyes were alive and alert with a piercing gaze. These men were Marse Robert's boys. They had won great victories against long odds, and even in their defeats they made their foe pay dearly. These men were like wolves yet simple and had captured the imagination of the entire world. One of these soldiers had been here from the beginning. He had been injured at Malvern Hill, had fought desperately at the Cornfield in Antietam, remembered that horrible fight at the Railroad Cut at Gettysburg and had somehow escaped, was down to his last bullet in the Wilderness, and now this. All of these men knew what it was like to win and lose a battle. None though could conceive of a final defeat.

A lone rider approached the men, and they could tell it was Lee returning from the Union lines. Their eyes softened. There was something about this man, their commander that captured their devotion like no other. Their faith, their confidence was unshaken and as more soldiers gathered there wasn't one among them who didn't believe that he would get them through this retreat and into such a position where they could deliver a blow to the Yankees again.

As he approached, the men removed their wide-brimmed hats ready to deliver that vocal salute which they had so often done before. Lee kept riding forward though and looked straight through the men with a look on his face they had not seen before. Then, almost at once the realization appeared. "General?.....General?.....Are we surrendered?" The rider removed his hat and looked down at the soldiers and their many tired and worn faces. He tried to keep moving forward but couldn't. The mass of soldiers now enclosed upon him. "Men.....we have fought the war together, and I have done the best I could for you. You will be paroled...so go home and tend to your families." He couldn't hold back any longer as tears appeared. He tried to add more words, but the only thing that came out was....."Good....Bye."



A collective gasp poured from these men. They thought it was a misunderstanding. “General....say the word and we’ll go fight them yet!” Many walked beside him and reached out to touch his hands. Some patted Traveller who mistook the affection as another victory salute and pranced through the tears.

One of these men looking on in disbelief seemed to be barely twenty years old. “How did it come to this?” he thought. He remembered the happier time as he and his friends turned out to board that train. He was so excited and ready....ready to whip the Yankees in that first battle. In his mind the sound of the railroad cars clacking over the tracks played over and over carrying him closer to that small village in Virginia.....a place called Manassas. That was four years ago.

The Civilian Side

~Sue Brown

Growing up

Like today, teens of the 1860’s liked to seek their independence and differentiate themselves from children, among other things, by changing their hairstyles and clothing. For boys this meant they started wearing vests and hats and when their feet stopped

growing, getting their first pair of boots. For girls, their dresses went from mid calf to ankle length or to the floor, but the big difference between child's clothing and adults for the girls was the location of their clothes fastening. For a female child, who had help getting dressed, their clothes were fastened up the center of the back. Women's clothing fastened in the front due to not having help getting dresses. This was a huge transition for girls when the day came! Girls often grew their hair longer as well and would often wear it in hair nets.

Teens of the 1860's, like those of today, were quicker to adopt the fads of the day. One big fad of the day was physical fitness. It became so important that exercise classes were offered in schools and at public gymnasiums. Public classes were often "mixed", allowing men and women to exercise together. The emphasis of health and fitness was not for beauty, but for health. While men admired an "ideal" beauty, round moon face, pale complexion, plump hands with small wrists, wide hips, but small waist, men were encouraged to marry healthy women, not the delicate ones. (More important were the women with skills and talents in housekeeping!).

The Medicine Chest

~ Dan Celik

Carver General Hospital, Washington DC (National Archives)

In 1862 Union Surgeon Middleton Goldsmith developed a successful treatment for gangrene. He reported that the chemical bromine was used in a weak solution on the affected area and in three to ten days the wound would heal.^[i] Surgeon E. P. Townsend noted that he used, "chlorinated soda" for treatment of gangrene.^[ii] Antiseptics were widely used during the Civil War, but the surgeons failed to use them at the right time. The problem was that the infections were allowed to reach full maturity before the application of an antiseptic. Ironically, many surgeons believed that the sight of pus was a sign of healing. Carbolic acid, iodine, and alcohol were all used as healing agents. Today, gangrene is unheard of in highly urban areas due to the development of sanitation and sterilization methods.

The understaffed Confederate medical department stumbled upon a startling discovery. If a patient's wound was left unchecked, it developed maggots. Southern surgeons were so understaffed that they did not have the time to remove them. While the Union surgeons removed the maggots, their wounded died in large numbers. Since maggots only eat diseased and rotting tissue, the Confederate wounds cleared up quickly. The procedure is known as larval therapy and is continued by modern physicians in alternative medicine situations today. Alternative healing has some of its roots in these areas and has developed on the ideas of medical personnel, substances, and methods from this time.

^[i] Adams, 146.

^[ii] Henry Janes, *Medical Register* "University of Vermont, Bailey Howe Library, Special

Collections," Vermont, 23.



Did You Know??

On June 13, 1863 a group from the 2nd VT Brigade visited Bull Run Battlefield where the 2nd VT Infantry had fought in '61. This was not only a sightseeing trip but a chance for some training for the officers where they saw the ground where untried troops had been sent to combat and discussed the lessons to be learned there.

The 2nd VT was Vermont's first 3 year regiment, where it served from Bull Run to Appomattox. The regiment was raised in May 1861, mustered into service June 20. They were then sent to Washington D.C. where it brigaded with the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Maine under the command of O.O. Howard. Howard's brigade was assigned to Brig. Gen. Heintzelman's division, where they were marched to northern Virginia, to Bull Run. The 2nd VT's losses were 2 men killed, 34 wounded and 30 captured. Of the 30 captured, 3

died of their wounds in Richmond. (Depending on which reference you look at, this figures of wounded, died, and pow's differ by a number or two.)