



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

"We, the people of the State of Texas, by delegates in convention assembled, do declare and ordain that the ordinance adopted by our convention of delegates on the 4th day of July, A.D. 1845, and afterwards ratified by us, under which the Republic of Texas was admitted into the Union with other States, and became a party to the compact styled "The Constitution of the United States of America," be, and is hereby, repealed and annulled; that all the powers which, by the said compact, were delegated by Texas to the Federal Government are revoked and resumed; that Texas is of right absolved from all restraints and obligations incurred by said compact, and is a separate sovereign State, and that her citizens and people are absolved from all allegiance to the United States or the government thereof." ~Texas February 1, 1861

FEBRUARY 2011

Greetings CVHR!

Hopefully everyone has been able to dig out from the snow, but are able to enjoy it as well, skiing, snowmobiling, ice fishing, snow shoeing, etc! Before you know it, spring will be here and we will have heat that we are not happy with!

CVHRI Shirts

There are a few CVHR shirts still available! Get yours while they last!

The shirts are available through Mike Frisbie (4frisbies@comcast.net) at the following prices. Please make your check payable to CVHRI.

T-shirt prices :Small - XL @ \$12.50/shirt 2 XL @ \$14.00/shirt

Long sleeve T-shirt: Small - XL @ \$16.00/shirt 2 XL @ \$17.50/shirt

CVHR Potluck Dinner ~ February 5

~Susan Brown

redwolf363@aol.com

The 2nd annual potluck dinner will be held Feb. 5 at Cpl. Hendees house, located at 178 Tatro Rd., Starksboro, VT! Social hour will begin at 5:00, with dinner at 6:00. We hope everyone can make it in period dress, but please no hoops due to space limitations. **Also, please remember that brogans with heel plates need to be removed at the door!!!** We are considering this a whole family event, so please be sure to bring the family whether they reenact or not. Hope to see you all there!

Saranac Lake Winter Carnival Parade February 12

~ Steve Smith

stevooo99@gmail.com

Don't forget the Winter Carnival Parade in Saranac Lake, NY! We will be meeting @ the Ice Castle in Saranac Lake, NY @ 9:00 am for demonstrations & public interaction. Immediately following the parade we will be having the Arctic Picnic. If you decide to attend, please bring a dish to add to the party. This party is BYOB. This is a real fun event & I encourage anyone wishing to have a good time to attend this event.

Civilian Meeting - February 26

~Susan Brown

Redwolf363@aol.com

We will be holding a Civilian Meeting for all who are interested on February 26 at Buell's house, located at 223 Stokes Lane, Shelburne, VT. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. We are hoping that anyone interested will come, you do not have to be a Civie to come, we are looking for ideas for this upcoming year. This is a big year for Civilians, after all, most participants of the Civil War began as Civilians!

Drill - March 1

The first drill of the 2011 season will take place Tuesday, March 1 at the Williston Central School, 195 Central School Dr. The gym will be reserved for 6:30 pm. **Please bring appropriate shoes that will not destroy the gym floor or mark it up!**

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. In Tom's own words "I would love to host a great event that will bring us all on the same page and to keep up the passion with #'s making the event fun!! It all takes Yanks and Rebs, that is one thing that I know for sure !!!" The weekend is meant to establish camaraderie, build enthusiasm and get us all on the same "page" so to speak so that we know each other better and can make some more realistic battle scenes for the upcoming season, not to mention realistic camp life. Everyone is welcome... and there is plenty of room for horses as well! If anyone is sure that they can go, please let Tom know right off.. He is just looking right now to just see what kind of numbers he will have.

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

~Jim Buell

jimmyb658@msn.com

Attention to orders!!

With the recent vote in the South Carolina legislature to secede from the Union and more southern states following, the President has put out a call to all of the states to send militia to Washington and to Virginia to crush this rebellion.

It is thought that this will be a short conflict and the north will be victorious. Then the southern states will see the light and rejoin our glorious union.

Who is with us to go to Virginia to crush these upstarts? Join your comrades to march south and take care of business once and for all.

Let me know if you want your name added to the roster. If so, please make out a check for \$20.00 to CVHRI and send it to me at the following address;

223 Stokes Lane

Shelburne, VT 05482

I will need your check and waiver by March 15th.

I have included the website for the event below. Take a look, there will be paperwork that you will need to complete as it gets closer to the event.

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

What:

Battle of First Manassas/Bull Run

150th Commemoration - July 21-24, 2011

A highlight will be a reenactment of the Battle of First Manassas/Bull Run on July 23 and 24, 2011.

REENACTORS—SORRY, WE CAN NOT ACCOMMODATE WALK-ONS

I would like to get as many folks registered ASAP, and if they are not accepting walk-ons, you must be on the unit's roster that I will be submitting. My goal is to send in our registration by March 15th—please look at your calendars, decide if you will or will not be attending, and if you are planning on attending, mail me your check along with your filled out and signed waiver. **Your waiver must be filled out and submitted with payment.** so please print this out, fill it in and mail it along with your check.

Thanks in advance.

http://www.visitpwc.com/reenactment/pdf/WaiverRelease_Form.pdf

Your humble servant.

Jim B.

CVHRI 2ND VT CALENDAR 2010

February:

February 5th - CVHRI Potluck at the Hendee's

February 12th - Saranac Lake Winter Carnival parade - Saranac Lake, NY

February 26 - Civilian Meeting, Buell's, Shelburne, VT

March:

March 1- Drill @ Williston Central School

March 3-5 - Gettysburg Cavalry Training Meeting

March TBA - Drill

April:

April 5 - Drill @ Williston Central School

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

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

May:

May 3rd - Drill at Cpl Hendee's, Starksboro, VT
May TBD – Friday education day in Shelburne – possible May 6th or 20th

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 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

~Lt Steven Smith 2nd Mississippi

Latitudes and Attitudes

Disclaimer- The following is not meant to be taken as justification for any wrongs of the past. Rather, the intent is to provoke a positive dialogue resulting in a healthy discussion on such a controversial topic.

I have always felt that to truly understand history you have to be a bit of a time traveler which requires journalistic objectivity. Only then can you really truly understand all the causes and effects of events no matter how distasteful. I believe that holds true with understanding the causes of the American Civil War. Consider parts of Confederate Vice-President Alexander Stephens Cornerstone Speech of the Confederacy delivered in Savannah, Georgia March 21, 1861.

*“The new constitution has put to rest, forever, all the agitating questions relating to our peculiar institution- African slavery as it exists amongst us- the proper status of the negro in our form of civilization. This was the immediate cause of rupture and present revolution. Jefferson in his forecast, had anticipated this, as **the rock upon which the old Union would split**. He was right. What was conjecture with him is now a realized fact. But whether he fully comprehended the great truth upon which that rock stood and stands, may be doubted. The prevailing ideas entertained by him and most of the leading statesmen at the time of the formation of the old constitution, were that the enslavement of the African was in violation of the laws of nature, that it was wrong in principle, socially, morally, and politically. It was an evil they knew not well in how to deal with, the general opinion of the men of the day was that, somehow or other in the order of Providence, the institution would be evanescent and pass away. Those ideas, however, were fundamentally wrong. They rested upon the assumption of the equality of the races. This was an error. It was a sandy foundation, and the government built upon it fell when the storm came and the wind blew.*”

Our new government is founded upon exactly the opposite idea; its foundations are laid, its- cornerstone rests upon the great truth, that the negro is not equal to the white man, that slavery- subordination to the superior race- is his natural and normal condition.”
(Applause)

It's a difficult passage to read and even more difficult to comprehend, especially with a 21st century mind. But when I put on the garb of a Confederate soldier I transport myself back to the 19th century. You see my impression is not just about the weaponry or the uniform. It is also about the attitudes and beliefs of a soldier who was also a member of that society. If I truly intend to educate the modern day public about the period of those times, then portraying or at least understanding slavery in the southern culture and communicating that must be part of the impression. While some Confederate reenactors might prefer to avoid mention of race or slavery, I on the other hand, believe it is our responsibility even duty to have this discussion. Of course, this is an incendiary issue. It inflames emotions even today which is probably the main reason why we should talk about it in the context of our national history and the Civil War. My goal is to get people to ask questions and search for answers for themselves.



What was the role of slavery in the development of the colonies? How is it that slavery was accepted in European culture and passed down to American culture? Why was the role of slavery minimized in the economy of the north but maximized in the economy of the south? How did the role of slavery change from pre-American Revolution to post-American Revolution? How did the 19th century white society of European descent view other races and cultures and especially Africans? How did the evolution of the cotton trade change and effect slavery in America? How did slavery and race relations go from being an integral part of the labor force to a defining pillar of orthodox southern culture?

I want to rip these questions apart. I want to seek a better understanding of the role race played in American history. Yes, American history because a review of our colonial and European past and independent history will reveal there is plenty of guilt and shame for all. Therefore, perhaps it is possible that modern day folk can wear a piece of wool and cotton fabric and in so doing step through a portal in time that will ultimately lead them on a journey of understanding. I believe all Americans can find something worthy in this soul searching.

Just a few minutes ago I sat before a blank piece of paper, and as I started to put thoughts to that paper I realized that a few paragraphs can not do this subject justice. There are just too many aspects that need exploration and explanation. Which I suppose is a point in itself. Sometimes, things just aren't always what they seem, even in the study of American history. We search for simple answers because that's what we are conditioned to do, but there could be more. When I wear the gray I might understand why that soldier thought abolition meant chaos and anarchy. If I wear blue I might understand the motivation that moved me to help destroy the peculiar institution that was keeping my country from living up to the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence.

In the end I would hope that the journey we take may be worth the understanding acquired at the destination we reach.

Going to the Sutler

~John Peterson

What They Bought (part 1- food)

In my last installment I talked about how a soldier would go about making a purchase at the sutler's. In this and following articles I will talk about the sutler's inventory and what a soldier might buy from the sutler.

There was no standard inventory for sutlers. Certainly there were goods that were not provided by Uncle Sam that all soldiers would want. Needles, pins, buttons, sewing thread and other sewing goods for maintaining uniforms were popular. Also various goods for maintain hygiene and personal appearance were sold such as combs, brushes for the hair, clothing, teeth and shoes, and soap. Amenities for camp and campaign life were available: stamped metal pots and pans, tin cups and even brooms in winter quarters. Presumably most sutlers had retail experience in the civilian world and they knew that they had to cater their wares to their customers. Since sutlers were contracted with individual regiments we can assume that they knew their patrons' tastes – a regiment of German soldiers might demand sausage while a regiment from the coast of New England might prefer preserved fish. After a bland diet of army bread and preserved meat it is no surprise that some of the most popular items at the sutler's were food and other consumables.

Following is a list of some of the more popular foods found on sutlers' inventories with comments.

BUTTER: This was a surprisingly common item carried by sutlers. Soldiers' diets were fat-starved so they typically reserved the grease that cooked off from their meat. Inventories show that butter was one of the things sutlers sold in great quantities for between 25 and 60 cents a pound.

CHEESE: Period cheeses were comparable to modern cheddars, mild parmesans (hard and dry with a bite), and Lorraine cheese (like a stiff sponge with small holes.) It sold on average for about 40 cents a pound. One guesses this would have been popular with Vermont soldiers.

APPLES: Shipped in barrels and seasonal – an apple cost about one “half-dime” (no “nickels” yet!) Dried apples were available when fresh apples were not.

CRACKERS: Back home crackers were a regular item at taverns and country stores and would often be consumed alongside a drink. A storekeeper or barkeep might even make them available in a dish for his customers. It is possible that a sutler would have done the same. These would have been available at the sutler's as well, a break from hardtack.

SARDINES: Often sardine cans were typically called “boxes” – maybe because they were rectangular. They were slightly bigger than modern sardine cans and did not come with a key to open them. The soldier generally went at the top with a pocketknife and pried it open. Sardine boxes were sometimes kept in winter quarters and turned into a crude lamp by filling them with grease and laying some sort of wick in one or more corners. A sardine box sold for between 25 and 40 cents.

CANNED FOODS: Many soldiers had canned food for the first time in their life from the sutler. Fruits, meat and seafood were very common. Beef, veal, mutton and chicken were sold in cans. Apples, tomatoes and cherries were also sold in cans. Tinned meat might sell for between 45 cents to over a dollar a can, canned fruits or vegetables for less. The tin cans of the period had smooth sides (no embossed ribs) and the ends were soldered on flush to the edge (no crimped seam and recessed lid). Piles of tin cans are found in trash heaps associated with camps and posts that were occupied for a prolonged time. Soldiers on campaign often saved empty tin cans and turned them into a make-shift boiler by stringing a piece of wire in them for a bail.

DRIED COD: This was a staple food for working class and middle class families throughout the United States before the war as well as slaves. A whole fish was split, salted and dried. Before it could be used it had to be “freshened” with successive soakings in water.

OYSTERS: Canned or fresh, oysters were the snack food of the period – almost the way we consider pizza today. In season ice barrels of oysters could make their way from the coast to a sutler in just a matter of days. The rule of thumb was not to eat oysters in a month that did not contain the letter “r”. When fresh oysters were available the area around the sutler’s tent would be littered with their shells.

MUSTARD AND OTHER CONDIMENTS: Mustard could be purchased in glass bottles or crockery jars and was the most popular condiment of the day judging by its availability. One common mustard container of the period was a glass jar shaped like a miniature barrel. Some mustard jars came embossed with the word MUSTARD on them (as well as pepper sauce jars embossed with the word PEPPER.) Reproductions of mustard and pepper jars issued by the US Navy and associated with the USS Monitor were available from Dog River Glass. A slightly different style of jar found on the USS Cairo is now being reproduced and sold by the National Park Service.

<http://www.eparks.com/store/product/44831/Handblown-Mustard-Bottle-%28Clear%29/>

<http://www.eparks.com/store/product/44833/Handblown-Pepper-Bottle-%28Clear%29/>

The sutler sold ground pepper (black and cayenne) as well as pepper sauce. Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce was available under that trade name since 1830. In **The Military Handbook** Louis LeGrand advised,

“If you will learn to use cayenne pepper in place of black you will find it a preventive of dysentery, and a cure for colds. An extra pinch of it in your breakfast will often break up a cold caught through the night; and a smart sprinkle of it in your liquid will relieve sickness caused by bad drinking-water. Black pepper produces inflammation – red pepper heals it.”

DRIED FRUIT: Raisins, dried currants and figs were popular. Raisins typically came on the stem – a form that is difficult to find like that today. Figs were packed in small rounds or “domes” which are still available. When fresh apples were not available dried apples were.

EGGS: Today we have a tendency to refrigerate eggs but they will actually keep well without refrigeration. They were shipped packed in sawdust and could sell for 25 to 50 cents a dozen.

CONDENSED MILK: Borden’s condensed milk in cans was available. A pint can of condensed milk sold for between 50 and 75 cents a can. Fresh milk, when available, would sell for between 8 and 10 cents a quart.

PICKLES: Like crackers these were often sold alongside drinks in taverns and at the counter of country stores and might be dispensed from a barrel, crock or large jar. A quart jar of small pickles sold for about 50 cents.

SYRUP OR MOLASSES: While Vermont boys might have been familiar with maple syrup thinned down light molasses was generally marketed as “syrup” in the period. A one pint “can” (this could be an open container drawn from a larger container) would cost 50 cents. Sugar was rarely sold as it was officially provided by the government as part of a soldier’s rations.

For your information, this is a list of brand name food products that were available by the time of the Civil War but they were not necessarily available through the sutler:

1797 – Dundee Marmalade

1813 – Coleman’s Mustard

1822 – William Underwood Co. (makers of canned meats like Underwood Deviled Ham)

1828 – Westminster Crackers (now made in Rutland, Vermont)

1842 – Whitman’s Chocolate Co. (Philadelphia, PA)

1842 – Mott’s Apple Cider and Apple Vinegar
1847 – “Chase Lozenges” and “Peerless Wafers” (now known as Necco Wafers and Canada Mints)
1849 – Gorton’s boxed and salted cod
1852 – Ghiardelli Chocolate introduces cocoa and baking chocolate in San Francisco
1854 – Keebler Biscuits
1855 – Miller Beer and Schlitz Beer
1856 – Eagle Brand Sweetened Milk (Gail Borden)
1861 – Van Camp’s Pork and Beans
1862 – Gulden’s Mustard
1863 – Chase & Sanborn Coffee
1863 – Armour Packing Co. (pork, bacon, etc.)
1864 – Heineken Beer and Pabst Beer

ISRAEL GOODE, sutler to the 2nd Vermont Volunteer Infantry, maintains an inventory of WONDROUS and VARIED goods for ALL his customers – Green Mountain Boys and other Yankees, Irish, Germans, Canadian-French and the occasional visitor from below the Mason & Dixon line.

GENEROUS DISCOUNTS FOR HARD CASH AND CREDIT ALWAYS EXTENDED TO SOLDIERS IN GOOD-STANDING WITH THE CAPTAIN!

The Civilian Side

~Sue Brown

Babies, Children & Death

Babies and children, what could be different between the 1800’s and this century? Nothing... they both ate, slept, cry, and were and are still cuddled and cherished.

Mothers of the 1800’s had it harder than Mothers of today. Babies were generally kept in the kitchen for to practical reasons. The kitchen was the warmest place in the house due to lack of central heating and the kitchen was the place mothers spent most of their time.

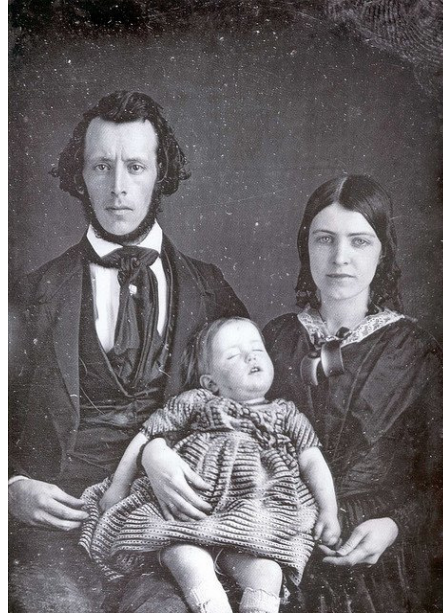
Advice for Mothers usually came from more experienced female relatives who lived with the family or those would stay with the family to help out during the first weeks of the new babies life. There were books published in 1800’s on the care of children. These books included every subject such as sitting a basin on one’s lap when holding an infant to making clothes.

The biggest concerns though for Mothers was infant’s health. If a baby was sick, the Mother had a choice between her own home remedies or that of commercial medicines. (Now don’t forget that during the 1800’s, these medicines were prepared and sold without government regulations, and often contained ingredients, such as laudanum -an opium derivative, which were harmful or addictive. At times, when a problem was beyond that of the Mother, commercial medicine, doctor or person in the family who had the reputation for knowing what to do with the sick or injured, the infant / child took ill and died.

This death was a great tragedy. Parents of the 1800’s, like parents of today, comforted themselves by preserving the memory of the child. In the 1800’s, anything that was associated with the child such as clothes, toys, etc, was passed onto the next child as it was a sin to waste

such things. The special remembrance would be a photograph of the dead child (many of these post mortem photos still exist today, they may be confused to modern people as that of a sleeping child.) Another remembrance would be a lock of hair.

Today these practices may seem morbid, but in the 1800's, death was a topic that was talked about very openly. (A good comparison is how we talk to our children about sex, very openly, but tend to not go near the subject of death. Back then.. sex was a taboo subject.) Death was talked about very openly and honestly. Death and the afterlife were talked about even with extremely young children. While this open discussion did not belittle it, people were never ready for death, but parents could find comfort in caring for a child in its last hours and in death.



Did You Know?

When the 2nd VT was camped at Camp Casey at East Capitol Hill, the company cooks dug a pit outside of their cook shack that measured four feet by six feet wide by two feet deep. In this pit they burned wood for hot coals. They cooked the rations, (which consisted of one pound of fresh or salted beef or pork, vegetables, usually potatoes or peas), and made coffee in large pots with handles which they inserted a wooden pole through to life them out.