



# Regimental Dispatch

Volume 3 Issue 1

Newsletter of the 12th. Regt. U.S. Infantry Co. A

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## Special points of interest:

- ? Reflections of 2003
- ? 2004 Schedule
- ? Equipment List



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## The 4th and 12th U.S. at Gettysburg

## Remembrance Day 2003



Confederate Submarine  
Hunley  
Funeral  
April 7-14  
Charleston, SC.

## Reflections of Past Campaigns



The Skirmish Line



12th US Musicians At Erie Canal Village

## **4<sup>th</sup> US Annual Remembrance Day Dinner**

As is our custom, the 4<sup>th</sup> US and several members of the 12<sup>th</sup> marched in full Regular regalia at the 140<sup>th</sup> Annual Remembrance Day parade. We led a column of over 1,000 USV Federals.

The “Right of the Line” looked and acted professional – doing honor to those that we portray – and, as anyone who has ever looked at a period Gettysburg address photo knows, the Regulars were present, wore their scales and Hardees and played an important role in the ceremony. Because I was asked to lead the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment in the absence of Burdell, Larry or Rick, I got a better “bird’s eye” view of the column. It is good that we lead the USV.

It was in that spirit, that we went to the Regular Monument – just down from the High Water Mark, rather than to our battlefield monuments over by the Valley of Death. A ceremony was conducted and we then broke up to go to dinner. The weekend was also enhanced by the live shoot that Lt Webster arranged for in Lancaster that Sunday. I shot everything from automatics, to pistols, to my K98, to my 57, and my shotgun. I think everyone enjoyed it – though I for one had a sore shoulder. I really hope we can do that again next year. Good weekend!

## **USV Annual Meeting**

The annual USV business meeting and social was held in Grantsville, PA., outside of Harrisburg. As noted, the elections applicable to the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment resulted in no surprises. Lt. Col Burdell Waffler was re-elected without opposition, as was Maj. Larry Allen and Major Rick Veen. In 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, however, there was a very emotional election, with Earl Avansano Jr. replacing Chuck Cole as the Junior Major of 2<sup>nd</sup> regiment. We wish Earl well, and look forward to supporting Chuck in his new role as Provost for 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment.

More importantly, the annual competition between the USV Regiments (the shoot off held at Cedar Creek every year), which has now been won by the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment three years in a row – has been changed. Cannot imagine why? In addition to (I think) the shoot off, the competition will now involve a Regimental level field drill competition. We will be asked to go through several maneuvers. The purpose, of course, is to test Regimental and Line Company Commanders and the troops beyond being able to pull the trigger all at the same time. I like it! That said I am personally feeling the pressure – as the 1<sup>st</sup> Line Company – because, here again, the Regulars set the standard. And oh how we (I) can screw it up.... Expect some drill at the company level and the Regimental Level this year. Sergeants and Corporals, I will be relying on you to make sure everybody knows what to do and when - old, young and new. The key is to recognize the commands -- the difference between “by Company into line” and “on the first company form column.” We are going to need to know, for example, left face, by the left of companies to the rear, and by the “right of companies to the rear form column.” I will paint a left and right on my shoes.

It is work. I do understand that - to get time off, to load, travel, give up free time and get old – to play the game, contribute to camp life and to commit the time necessary, but if the unit is or has worked for you, and like me, you need a place to go – remember that you need to support the unit just as the unit tries to support you – or the unit will not be there for you. Several units – old respected units in the USV and in other umbrella groups have been breaking up over the last couple of years– have disappeared recently or have broken up beyond recognition. For some it is the tug of war between the campaigners and the mainstreamers. For others breakups are over command and the event schedules. As one of the oldest units in the hobby and the 1<sup>st</sup> to take on the Regular impression, we can work through those things, but you need to be here to make it work. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> have always been recognized stalwarts of this hobby. It is left to us to maintain that tradition.

By Dave Childs

# First call Military Etiquette: Appearance (or, Cleanliness is next to Godliness)

*First Sergeant Neil K. MacMillan*

What makes a soldier stand out? Is it his expertise with weaponry? His discipline? Neither. The first thing all of us spot is his appearance. Prevailing wisdom holds that you can't judge a book by its cover. That isn't always true. Think about it. If you see two soldiers, Pvt. Jones, a well dressed soldier with a neat appearance whose weapon and accoutrements are clean and well maintained and Pvt. Smith, who looks and smells like he just returned from a three day bender that was held in a dung heap, who do you want to trust your life to?

The fact of the matter is, we are not really in the military. However, the question is just as important for us. Potential recruits will size us up by how we look. It is not fair, it flies in the face of prevailing wisdom and it will happen every time!

Article 100 of the army regulations 1861 states: ***“Where conveniences for bathing are to be had, the men should bathe once or twice a week. The feet to be washed twice a week. The hair kept short and beard neatly trimmed.”*** Article 101 reiterates this by pointing out the non-commissioned officers responsibilities. ***“Non-commissioned officers, in command of squads, will be held more immediately responsible that their men observe what is prescribed above; that they wash their hands and faces daily; that they brush or comb their heads; that those who are on duty put their arms, accoutrements, dress etc. in the best order,”***

What does all of this mean for you, the reenactor? Please forgive my crudity, but if you smell like you have been on campaign for three days at the close of an event, that is expected. If you smell like that when you get in the car to go to an event that is unacceptable! You do a disservice to the hobby, your comrades, the spectators and most importantly, yourself.

We portray a regular army regiment. This is why you'll hear the Major or I harp about brass. But it goes deeper. In garrison and as often as possible

the regulars brushed their uniforms, polished their brass, blackened their leather, washed their shirts and under garments and bathed. The Civil War soldier may not have known about sanitation but they most certainly knew the correlation between bathing and aroma.

Ask yourself. “How do I look?” The mirror will let you know. Better the mirror than our officers asking your humble and polite first sergeant why they have a filthy, slovenly soldier in their ranks.

And by the way, the military is right about one thing. The better you look, the better you will perform your duties.

***Union and Liberty, now and forever!***



*A Field Angel Looks at Antietam.  
Miss Vanessa Marie Taylor*

The very first day I met the people of the 12<sup>th</sup> US, I was in shock at the comforting family atmosphere that was present the entire time I was at the meeting. They were welcoming, humorous and shared the same passion for history that I did!

As the season progressed, Mummi and I learned an abundance of information and began to build our re-enacting roles. This was one of the highlights to my summer because I was so incredibly excited about having the opportunity to become exactly what and who I wanted to become. Looking back, I suppose that was a major part of my need for re-enacting. I always loved the idea of becoming whomever I wished for as long as I wished. I am a life long actress with a dress-up obsession; it all made sense. This occupied my time during the summer, yet did not amount to much. I'm still continuing to be whomever I feel like and don't mind at all. In fact, being undecided has led me to experience a great many things! One experience that most affected me was during a scenario where I portrayed a field angel. (The plan was for my brother, Pvt. McVicker to be wounded. I was to run to his side to tend his wounds and be shot at the Confederates next volley. I then died in my father, Cpl Poltenson's arms.) It was the only truly surreal moment I have ever had. I felt as if I were actually dying in a sea of mutilated, yet honored and brave men. I too felt honored and brave, yet sorrow stricken.

There is no question that my love for history has grown to an extreme obsession over the past ten months. It is quite difficult to remember my life before re-enacting and realize how drastically my life has changed in less than a year. There are so many reasons why I am obsessed. I love connecting the past with the present.

I revel in finding new information such as the etiquette of men and women, the fashions, the camping, waking to Blake's (Rachel Rock-Blake) reveille bugle call and First Sergeant MacMillan's wakeup yell. I enjoy the music, the dances the role-playing, the sutlers, singing around the campfire and most of all, hearing the war stories. I love the idea that every single soldier has a war story to tell about almost any battle and they are able to describe it with true detail and feeling because they experienced the replica. The event that most illustrates all of these aspects of love is the 2002 re-enactment of the battle of Antietam.

The morning of September 13, 2002 was unlike any other I have experienced. Those of us who had gone to bed were awakened by the bugle call before the sun hit the crest of the horizon; it was 3:30am and the camp was dotted with campfires aiding the sight and warmth of nearly eight thousand Union officers, soldiers and civilians. I grabbed the flashlight to find my cloak and stepped out of my tent, making my way to the porta-potties. As I passed the mess tent where most of the men were foraging for their breakfast, I felt a heavy cloth suddenly drop to my ankles. I stopped and pondered what it was. Feeling my waist for my bloomers, I realized they were the heavy cloth. My eyes widened and total shock swept over me! One would think because it was dark that my faux pas would go unnoticed. I happened to be standing in the lantern light of the mess tent! Mustering all the nonchalance I could, I slowly bent down and retrieved the offending garment and rushed back to my tent.

After that ordeal, Mummi and I changed into our dresses and stepped out into the morning. I went to the mess tent and grabbed a box of *authentic Raisin Bran*® cereal. My friend Elizabeth met me there and we watched the men fall in. I was almost in tears. These people were my family and they were going off to battle. I truly felt I would not see them again.

As the boys in blue marched by just feet from where I stood, I looked into their lantern and moonlit faces. Some looked back and politely nodded. Others looked straight ahead with determination in their eyes. All of them looked brave and excited. Nearly every fifth man would yell out a cautionary "Hole!" or "Rock!" (Antietam's ground was a field of rocks and groundhog holes and many were located on the dirt path taken by the soldiers.) Occasionally a soldier called "For you my ladies, this battle's for you!"

During the forty-five minute procession, I watched thousands of men march by, some as young as twelve or thirteen. I was able to see nearly ten musician bands march by (the music is my favorite part of the events).

As the last men passed us, Elizabeth and I decided to go watch the battle. We grabbed our cloaks and lanterns. Following the boom of the cannon, we neared the cornfield where the battle was to take place. Thousands of spectators swarmed in. We were awed that so many people would turn out so early for such an event!

We sat on a hill that divided the cornfield from the battlefield that was to host the day's second battle. Elizabeth and I waited in the dark some time before the battle actually began. Lanterns could be seen everywhere. They seemed to float up and down the hillside and the dirt paths. Stadium lights in the distance only aided the Rebel artillery and served as a nuisance for those of us re-living the battle.

About a half hour after the battle began, the sky began to light and streak out vibrant colors that seemed to shoot at us. As the morning continued to lift into the sky, the half the sky over the battlefield remained black and starry. Soon, however, we were able to blow out our lanterns. Elizabeth and I eventually decided to go back to camp. I didn't mind. I've always hated cannon fire. When we stood up to leave, we could see many of the cornfield's stalks trampled to the ground.

By the time we reached camp the cannon ceased their firing and we knew the bugle was sounding the end of the battle. The men would be returning soon. We prepared for them and collected water. The return of soldiers is always so uplifting and exhilarating! When you hear their tin cups clanging at their sides, some singing, most out of formation and exhausted, you know it was a worthy battle! Even better is when you see someone you know and are so happy that they are alright. It makes you realize just how much you love them. The best feelings come when you see someone you know and are so overjoyed to know they are alive. You appreciate just how much they mean to you and that you shouldn't take them for granted.

Many, if not all Civil War re-enactors think of this as not just a hobby but as a lifestyle. And as my nanny would say, "Re-enacting is a learning process for those involved and a visual teaching aid for those whom the Civil War was only a vague chapter in a school history book."

# Reflections of Past Campaigns



**The  
Famous  
Apple Pies  
Newark  
Valley 03**

**Roll Call**



**Hat  
Inspection  
Erie Canal**

**Newark  
Valley**



**Massena**

**Newark  
Valley**



**North  
Syracuse**

**Erie  
Canal**



**2003**

**Campaign Year**

## 12th Regiment U.S. Infantry- Equipment List

<u>First Year Equipment</u>	<u>Recommended Sutlers</u>	<u>Approx Cost</u>
1. 1861 Springfield Rifled Musket	Sutler John/ Fall Creek	\$435-460
2. Bayonet with Scabbard model 1855 , .58 cal	Jarnigan	\$ 59
3. Rifle Sling (Watervilet)	Dell's Leather Works/Sutler John	\$ 18
4. Forage Cap (federal)	Brad Keune(call) Jarnigan / Sutler John	\$ 53 \$ 35
	Dirty Billy	\$ 100
5. Federal Infantry Frock Coat custom made 100% wool	Sutler John/ Jarnigan K&P Weaver	\$ 159 + \$ 280
6. Dark blue trousers	K&P Weaver (custom made)/Jarnigan	\$ 80
7. Federal Issue Shirt or unbleached muslin	Jarnigan /Sutler John	\$ 25-30
8. Suspenders	Sutler John/ Jarnigan	\$ 14
9. Brogans with heel plates	Same	\$ 85
10. US oval belt plate- puppy foot pattern	Jarnigan /Sutler John	\$ 10
11. Waist Belt with keeper	Same	\$ 20
12. Cap Box- US model 1850 with pick	Same	\$ 30
13. Cartridge Box, model 1855 58 cal., mid war with tins	Same	\$ 72
14. US oval cartridge box plate	Same	\$ 10
15. Leather cartridge box sling - Black	Same	\$ 18
16. Eagle breast plate	Same	\$ 7
17. Smooth sided canteen dark blue cover (SS)	Jarnigan	\$ 65
18. Leather canteen strap/ black	Dell's Leather	\$ 17
19. Tarred Haversack with muslin liner	Sutler John/ Jarnigan	\$ 30
20. Large tin cup	Wendy Osman/ Jarnigan/ Sutler John	\$ 15
21. Tinned plate	Same	\$ 18
22. Period Utensils - issue or civilian	Same	\$ 10
23. Wool Socks		\$ 10
24. Gray blanket with US embroidered (wool)	Sutler John / Jarnigan	\$ 50-85
25. Cap Brass letter A, Infantry horn and #12	Same	\$ 2 ea
26. Tompion for .58 cal 1861 Springfield	Same	\$ 2
27. Musket Tool- don't get a chromed one!	Same	\$ 12

This is all of the basic kit. Higher quality is available for premium prices, but we tried to give a good standard at reasonable prices

### Second Year

1. A tent (9 ft) or 2 shelter halves	Sutler John/Panther/Fall Creek Same	\$ 115-135 \$ 70-100
2. Federal sack coat	K&P Weaver/ SJ/Jarnigan	\$ 75-95
3. Kersey blue (light blue) pants	K&P Weaver /Jarnigan	\$ 80
4. Gum Blanket/poncho	Jarnigan	\$ 35
5. Federal Infantry great coat	Jarnigan/ SJ/ K&PWeaver	\$ 179-275
6. Tarred double bag knapsack	Jarnigan	\$ 115
7. Dress Hat (Hardee)	Dirty Billy/Burgess	\$ 45-110
8. Shoulder scales - Private	Fall Creek	\$ 65
9. Attachment for shoulder scales	Fall Creek	\$ 10

### Sutler Address List

1. Old Sutler John- PO Box 174 Binghamton, NY 13905 (607) 775-4434
2. C&D Jarnigan Co.- PO Box 1860 Corinth, Miss. 38835-1860 (601) 287-4977
3. Dell's Leather Works- 83 First St. Kingston, NY 12401 (914) 339-4916
4. Brad Keune- 19 Pleasant St. Rockville, CT 06066 (860) 872-4022
5. Dirty Billy's Hats- 430A Baltimore St. Gettysburg, Pa. 17325 (717) 334-3200
6. K&P Weaver- 527 Carriage Dr. Orange, Ct. 06477 (203) 795-9024
7. Wendy Osman- 5424 Elliot Ave. S. Minneapolis, Minn. 55417 (612) 823-4009
8. Fall Creek Sutlery - PO Box 92 Whitestown, In. 46075 (765) 482-1861
9. F. Burgess Hats- 200 Pine Place Red Bank, NJ 07701 (732) 576-1624

## Cleaning the 1861/ 1863 Springfield Rifle Musket

### Equipment needed:

Ground cloth or poncho

2 cap tins

nipple pick

Springfield tool or a wrench to fit the percussion nipple and a straight slot screwdriver

Ball puller (See note on worm!)

Cleaning rod (if you are not using implements fitted to your ramrod)

Cleaning brushes

Cleaning worm, jag or eyelet. (If you buy a worm insure it is a .58 calibre worm as the sutlers do sell .69 calibre worms and implements as well!)

Cleaning patches

Cleaning solution (There are several brands available but I use a solution consisting of equal parts Murphy's Wood Oil Soap®, Rubbing alcohol and hydrogen peroxide.)

Hydrogen peroxide

Funnel

Steel wool

Gun oil (I use Rem Oil ® put out by Remington arms as it has a Teflon additive that helps prevent corrosion.)

- 1- Place ground cloth on flat area of ground with easy access to hot water or on table if indoors non tarred side or canvas up. Arrange tools and equipment.
- 2- Remove nipple with Springfield tool or wrench and soak in enough hydrogen peroxide to cover it while cleaning the rifle. (Usually a capful utilizing cap of peroxide bottle.)
- 3- *On the Model 1861 Springfield*, remove the bolster screw located just below the nipple on the right hand side and place in cap tin to prevent loss. Clean excess powder fouling from hole with nipple pick.
- 4- Remove bands. The sling screw on the middle band must be removed and placed in cap tin. The screw in the band closest to the lock is loosened. Place bands on ground cloth biggest to smallest as this is how they will go back on.
- 5- Remove tang screw at rear end of barrel. Barrel should now lift off.
- 6- Scour barrel with cleaning brush to get excess fouling out of bore.
- 7- Pour a little cleaning solution down barrel and let soak while water is heating.
- 8- On left side of rifle remove Lock retaining screws and inspect inside of lock for rust. If rust is found, remove with steel wool and lubricate lock with gun oil. ***Do not disassemble the lock mechanism!***
- 9- Clean all rust off exterior metal parts and lubricate with gun oil.
- 10- Rinse bore of weapon with copious amounts of hot water until water runs out clear.
- 11- Swab bore with patches until patches come out clean and dry. (**Note: if patch is lost down bore use ball puller to remove it. Put ball puller on ramrod and turn in clockwise direction. This should pick up the patch.**) With the tulip end of the ramrod gently spring rammer to ensure bore is clean. If bore is clean there will be a metallic ringing sound if not, there will be a dull thud. *Repeat steps 9, 10 and 11 if you get the dull thud!* Use a clean oiled patch to lubricate the bore. Save this patch.
- 12- Replace lock.
- 13- Replace barrel: Insure barrel is seated properly and replace tang screw. Replace barrel bands largest to smallest (see #4) Tighten screw on largest band and replace sling screw. At this point check to insure ramrod and bayonet fit properly. Place tampion in bore to keep moisture out.
- 14- Replace bolster screw.
- 15- Rinse nipple and lightly oil. Replace the nipple. Using oily patch that you saved from step 11, cover touch hole with this and lower hammer gently onto nipple.

### Maintenance notes:

1-As stated above do not disassemble lock without proper tools and competent supervision.

2- If you have a misfire, step back from the line and request an NCO help you clear the weapon.

3-Wipe the stock occasionally with citrus oil based furniture or wood polish

4-I hang my weapon from my tent cross brace with two blanket straps. It does help keep the rust off.

5- Do not use animal fats of any sort to lubricate your weapon! There are people who will tell you that soldiers used bacon fat etc. The period manuals call for machine oil or raw linseed oil. Animal fats contain salts that will corrode the weapon faster than the moisture will.

# Better Safe Than Sorry

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Neil K. MacMillan

**Editor's Note:** Corporal Norman's article was not available at press time.

You hear Major Allen and I stress the importance of safety not only at events but at meetings also. Any of you who carried a rifle last year endured countless safety checks. That isn't going to change. While this is a hobby, we are using real weapons and the potential for a tragic accident is ever present. Some of the problems I have seen since I've been in the hobby are as follows.

- 1- People firing foreign objects out of their muskets. Believe it or not, I have seen this with both musket and cannon! A peanut or an onion may seem harmless but at the muzzle velocities that even our black powder generates, this is a very real hazard. I include soldiers clearing dirt from their weapons after getting the barrel plugged by setting it muzzle down.
- 2- People not positioning their rifle properly. The rifle should be positioned over the right shoulder between the first and second bands. (from the firer's position meaning the bands closest the lock and the middle band) If the rifle is too far forward, the front rank soldier will catch part of the muzzle blast. Should the weapon be too far to the rear, the front rank soldier may be injured by the blast of the percussion cap. They do come apart sometimes. Elevation should be maintained as directed to avoid injuring your opponent with muzzle blast. Under no circumstance is it permissible to fire when you are within 25 feet of the opposing side!
- 3- Failure to maintain cleanliness of the weapon. At the very least, failing to clean your rifle will earn you a pointed lecture from either the Major or myself and your section leader. Black powder is a compound made of sulfur, charcoal and potassium nitrate (saltpeter). It is highly corrosive and will eventually eat away and weaken the barrel if the weapon is not kept clean. A weak barrel is a bomb waiting to explode. Also, if you shoot live rounds, you should purchase a separate barrel to do so. Minie balls will leave small slivers of lead in the rifling that can become projectiles the next time you fire the weapon. Either way, you should loosen the powder residue in the barrel with a brass or stiff nylon bore brush before rinsing and swabbing. This will help remove any lead that might also remain in the bore also.
- 4- Watch your intervals during drill and on the march. If you don't keep control of your rifle particularly during the manual of arms, someone will get walloped and you will definitely hear about it from him or her. There is a reason that soldiers were taught how to use the musket as a club. Ten pounds of wood and metal will hurt if it hits you!
- 5- Listen! I cannot emphasize this enough! If I tell you to shut up in the ranks, it is not because I like the sound of my own voice. Commands are hard to hear on the field and no matter how closely we try to follow the course of the actual battle we are portraying or the scenario that has been established, things change. It is a fact of life that battles will not go as planned. You new people will learn very quickly that there is nothing quite as fluid as the battlefield situation. If you're not listening things can and generally do get ugly real quick.
- 6- Mind where you step both on the field and in camp. In addition to real weapons there are the added bonus hazards of open fires, woodchuck holes, tent stakes and ropes, briars, etc. Sometimes it isn't the weapons.
- 7- If you're leaving camp even to go to the sutler go in pairs. If you go down in a field, an encampment is an awfully big place to be flat on your back with no one knowing you're missing. Also, make sure you sign out so we know where you're intending to go so we have a starting point to look for you if you do go missing!
- 8- Drink plenty of water and understand that no one will take the field without a canteen! If you have never gone down for heat, count yourself lucky. In this hobby, it is a very real threat and even in its mildest form is no fun. Watch your alcohol intake also. Booze will dehydrate you. I'm not saying don't drink, I like a drop of the oh be joyful myself but moderation is the key here.
- 9- Make sure you have any medicine you require and extra clothing both for warmth and incase you get wet. I cannot over-emphasize the importance of dry socks especially if you are breaking in a new pair of brogans or dancing shoes.
- 10- Lastly, don't hesitate to ask questions. And if you see something that isn't safe, bring it to my attention or one of the officers or non-coms immediately. I can't correct a problem if I don't know about it.

In closing, make sure you're well rested before going to or coming back from an event. It's only a good event if we bring back everyone safely.

*Union, liberty and safety now and forever!*

# **Military Etiquette: *The Salute***

## ***1st Sgt. Neil K. MacMillan***

The first one of you who laughs gets KP fatigue until the Lord God returns to Earth to smite Satan and all of his minions. Some of whom I've worked for. Etiquette is what our mother tried to teach us to turn us into little gentlemen. None too successfully, I might add. Military etiquette is what will keep you in Larry's good graces or get you assigned to my tender ministries if you forget the military niceties.

I suspect there are some of you out there saying, "We're not in the military. Why should we learn military etiquette?"

If you're asking, you didn't read my article on impressions. Do so. Are you back yet? Hurry up! Good let's get to work. While it is true we are not in the military. We portray Civil War soldiers and we do ourselves and everyone who sees us a disservice if we do it poorly.

The first topic is Discipline. Neither Larry nor I are going to order you to do something unsafe or criminal. First and foremost we are friends. There are times when I will bellow and we all have fun with it but if I have to get serious I will. Please don't think me a rectum if I do. I will be looking out for your safety.

We are expected to comport ourselves in a manner consistent with the roles we are playing. If we want to keep doing this in places such as Peterboro or Elmira, we need to be mindful of other people's sensibilities. While I personally don't take offense at people telling me to commit anatomically impossible acts in the crudest manner, our spectators don't necessarily want to hear that. Save it for after hours. It is also a good way to quell any ardent desire a family man might have to join us.

The salute has been military custom since soldiers took up spear and sword. The Civil War soldier that didn't salute a superior officer was destined to be made the object of his first Sergeant's undivided and wrathful attention. I quote **Paragraph 254** of the Army regulations of 1860 "*Courtesy among military men is indispensable to discipline. Respect to superiors will not be confined to obedience on duty, but will be extended to all occasions. It is always the duty of the inferior to accost or offer the first customary salutation and of the superiors to return such complimentary notice.*"

As regulars we would be versed in this. Some of us would know it better than our favorite Bible passages. The hand salute is rendered by raising the right hand to the right side of the visor of the cap with the palm to the front and the elbow even with the shoulder. Sound familiar? It should. It is very similar to the way Her Majesty's troops salute. While most will not question you if you salute "American" style, there is no mention of it. So, we should be saluting as per **Paragraph 256**, 1860 Army regulations.

Under arms the salute is rendered by bringing the left hand across the rifle so it strikes near the left shoulder. In detail or ranks, (Meaning two or more soldiers) The senior man salutes. If, however you're walking to sutler row with Steve or I, that is for pleasure and we both salute. Don't you just love the complexities of the military mind? You are not required to salute if you are on a fatigue (working) party or if you are carrying items that would warrant making it excessively cumbersome to salute. (The wife's parasol doesn't count!)  
Next Month, Manner of speech!

## **Military Etiquette: Forms of Speech**

### **First Sergeant Neil K. MacMillan**

Last month as you will all remember, we talked about the salute. This month we're going to talk about patterns of speech. Those of you who like myself were in the military know that there are certain ways of doing every thing. (Thus the old Navy adage, "There's the right way, the wrong way and the Navy way.") This was no less true during the Civil War. As a Regular, you would have followed this far more stringently than you would have in a Volunteer unit.

It was customary to address your seniors both in civilian life and in the military as "Sir." Such niceties have been all but abandoned in this day in the United States. As reenactors, we should be doing this for one reason. It adds realism to our impressions.

Enlisted men in those days spoke to officers in third person. Those of you who followed the 1996 presidential race saw this in action. Allow me to paraphrase, "Bob Dole doesn't like that." In addressing an officer you would do the same. For example; "First Sergeant MacMillan desires to speak to the major." Once the conversation has begun, it is acceptable to return to first person (normal) conversation.

When referring to another enlisted man to an officer it is proper to use the man's title as in "But Sir, Corporal Norman told me," rather than, "But Larry, that expletive deleted Norman said.". Having said that, let me add that soldiers addressed each other by name if they were of a comparable rank but common usage then and now dictates that NCOs are addressed by their title by junior enlisted. (Junior to them that is.) Now, as we all know, we tend to relax things in the reenacting community particularly after hours. In front of the spectators however, we should be following this usage as specifies in the Army regulations and clarified in Joslyn's Notes on Military Etiquette.

When given an order, the soldier is to respond "Yes Sir" or if by a Non-Com, "Yes First Sergeant." (Sgt. Cpl, Sgt Major) Always wait for the officer to finish speaking before commenting. When the order is completed, report to the officer and tell him. For example; "The company is assembled for inspection, Sir." Soldiers also would not have used slang when speaking to an officer.

Military etiquette dictates that you salute an officer as he prepares to leave. While Major Allen and Captain Childs may tell you to knock it off, in Civil War times, failure to do so would have earned you at the least a working party under the personal tutelage of a very irate NCO.

Complaints must never be made directly to the officer! This was not only common usage then. It is a courtesy that I expect each of you to afford me. I am your liaison with the officers. If I cannot solve your problem, I will gladly give you permission to take it up the chain. Please do not bypass me! There are two reasons for this; First and most important, I can't solve the problem if I don't know about it. Second, failure of certain people to communicate with me helped with the split that happened two seasons ago. *I will not tolerate failure to communicate with me first!* Enough said on that.

Upon addressing officers at the behest of another officer the following forms will be used: If the officer is junior to the officer you are delivering the message for, "Sir, Major Allen presents his compliments and directs me to inform the captain to move the right wing forward." If the officer is senior, compliments are not presented. You would reply "Sir, Major Allen directs me to inform the captain to bring up the reserves." Isn't military English fun?

Next month we will discuss hygiene and appearance.

## **Union and Liberty, Now and Forever!**

## *Field Music*

When I joined the 12<sup>th</sup> US a little over four years ago there was a question, with all the youth joining, what was their proper role? (And the reality is that many of our current active adult members came in because of the youth!) The unit simply could not use four or five “runners” or messengers. What was to be the role of the young folks joining the 12<sup>th</sup>? How could they contribute to this fine hobby of ours? Several folks felt at the time that there was no role. But the majority felt different, as this is indeed a family hobby and a family unit. Major Allen proposed that he would like some drummers and fifers that could be functional on the field. This would also be helpful at the major events where age restrictions and competence were guidelines for participation. That was heartily supported by First Sgt. MacMillan and Sgt. Tom Browka. And with that thought...away we went!

We worked slowly at first with primarily Charlie and Aaron as our drummers. Then things started to jell and we brought in more talent. David and Ben came on board. All the boys worked well together and tried hard to sound good. Investments were made in period drums showing a further commitment to the unit and their role with the 12<sup>th</sup>. Shortly after it was decided that I would formally be Section Leader of the Field Music and youth of the unit. Since this honor was bestowed upon me at Erie Canal (and I was terribly sick that day and could barely stand) it worked just fine. I couldn't have refused if I wanted to (and I certainly did not want to refuse it!).

As we got better we continued to grow. David brought in his friend Kyle as another member of the drum line. We also added Colin Cron on fife (something that Aaron is also proficient on). Although we had our ups and downs things were going well. I can remember one parade with one drummer doing a solo the entire length of the route. I can also remember a full contingent of musicians on the field and when done well...it makes your heart swell. I remember this years Antietam. We had made it up to the Rebel artillery and had halted. While we stood there I heard the music of fife and drum and all of a sudden the Field Music came marching though our lines and towards to Confederates. Our guys were there. I wanted to cheer.

While our drum line was growing stronger and more proficient they also grew as young men. I have been complimented by numerous members of this unit and others as to the respect and courtesy personified by members of our Field Music Section. That says a lot for the boys and for the quality of our unit. They also handled rejection pretty well. Initially some of our boys were simply too young to take the field at national events as musicians. Major Allen always looked out for them though and they found other roles. As late as the recent Cedar Creek, our one musician at the event missed drummers' call on Sunday and was advised he could not take the field that last day. He ended up in the Surgeons tent learning how to saw off limbs (better be careful Pete!).

In addition to our drummers and fifers, we also added a key musician and soldier to our ranks. This, of course, is “six gun” Rock-Blake, our Bugler. Rachel came to us this past year and in a very short time has proven herself indispensable both to the Major (who issued an edict to me very early on...“Don't You Mess With My Bugler!”...which admonition I have to date meticulously adhered to, especially now that she's packing) and to this old Section Leader. She not only exemplified all the good traits of a soldier and bugler, she has shown herself to be an outstanding individual of fine character. She is a worthy second in command of the Field Music Section. She has maintained her military bearing, is the one to whom I point as an example, and is generous in watching out for others. And she's a damn fine bugler to boot. She will go far and do well. Thank you Rachel for joining us and for your commitment. In recent years we have met up with First Sgt. Peter Boris of the 137<sup>th</sup> NYSV. Pete is an accomplished drummer and always made himself available to our drummers. We have developed a friendship and Pete recently signed on as a member of the 12<sup>th</sup>. And now, Pete will be taking charge of the Field Music, as properly he should do.

I look upon this transition with both a sense of great pride in that our music section is unquestionably competent and has a rightful place within the Regiment, and with a sense of sadness, because I have so enjoyed working with everyone. Sometimes it's just tough to step down. Under Pete, the musicians will go farther and continue to improve. I expect we will grow and become even more competent. I also expect to continue to hear compliments of the behavior and character of our Field Music Section.

As I conclude my term as first Section Leader of the Field Music I want to compliment all for an outstanding job, thank you for your dedication to your role and to the unit, and most certainly for your courtesy and support in dealing with me. I also want to thank Major Allen, First Sgt. MacMillan and Sgt. Browka for all their support. If it hadn't been for that support in the very beginning we would not be here today. It has been an outstanding experience for me and I am proud of you all.

*Private C. Poltenson*

# “The Right of the Line”

Regular Troops of the same arm.” Regulars to the Right of the Line!

By Larry Allen

When you hear The Regulars referred to as The Right of the Line, what does that mean and why are The Regulars so proud of that motto? From the time General Scott took what was then a new and untried Army to the Niagara Frontier, in the War of 1812, and they proved their metal against Regular British Troops (at that time considered the best in the world), The Regulars, although small in numbers, became the backbone of our New Nation’s defense forces, that were primarily depended on State Militias up until that time. The Regulars proved their metal again when General Scott took them to Mexico against overwhelming odds in our War with Mexico.

Now this is where the motto Right of the Line comes in. From ancient times the flanks of the Army have been considered a very vulnerable position because of the danger of having them turned or worst. This is why it was common practice to put your most reliable troops on your flanks especially your Right Flank. General Scott realized that so in most cases the Permanent Trained Professional Army Units were positioned on the flanks especially the Right Flank, therefore the Right of the Line. Hence the motto for The Regulars.

Army regulations taken from “Instructions for Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers on Outpost and Patrol Duty, and Troops in Campaign” dated 1863 states under organization of the Army in the field, “Marines will take the left of the other Infantry, regiments of Volunteers or Militia take the left of the



Andersonville, Ga.  
March 2004

## The Legend of Chicken Stu

Lyrics: Neil MacMillan/ Sung to the tune of Ghost Riders in the Sky

The hens were getting restless on a dark and stormy night,  
They flapped their wings and squawked out loud in screaming fits of fright.

When all at once a stranger came with a forty ounce bottle of brew,  
A rooster yelled “You better run, from the man called Chicken Stu.”

**Chorus:** Yippee I Ay! Yippee I Oh! The legend of Chicken Stu!

A farmer man came calling to the Army camp next day,  
He said his chickens were missing or so the man did say.  
“I had a big red pullet all fat and fine and new,  
She was rustled with the rest of them, by a man called Chicken Stu!”

**Chorus:**

The major he was fuming for he didn’t get his nap.  
He said, “Go find this miscreant and bring his carcass back!  
The Army regulations are mighty clear and true,  
We’ll have no chicken thievery by the man called Chicken Stu!”

**Chorus:**

They caught him in a henhouse with a broody in each hand,  
And Chicken Stu is resting in that Dry Tortugas land.  
But on a dark and stormy night the hens they all will brood,  
They never can forget the man entitled Chicken Stu!”

**Chorus:**

**Chorus:**

**Chorus for the Rhode Island Red Singers (All Verses):**  
Bawk, Bawk Bawk Bawk!, Bawk, Bawk, Bawk, Bawk! The legend of Chicken Stu!

# 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment U.S. Infantry Co. A

## The Tentative Schedule –changes may be made as needed:

**Feb. 28, 7-9 pm** - Dance Lessons at the Masonic Lodge in Liverpool, NY

**Mar. 6** - Binghamton St. Patrick's Day Parade/Emerald Ball.

**Mar. 27, 7-9 pm** - Dance Lessons, Masonic lodge, Liverpool, NY.

**Apr.16-18** - Fort Delaware School of Music. (Optional but highly recommended for any musician who has not been!)

**Apr. 24, 7-9 pm** - Dance Lessons, Masonic Lodge, Liverpool, NY.

**Apr 24-25** - Ben Salem, PA

**May 14-16** - 140th New Market Va.

**May 22, 7-9 pm** - Dance Lessons. Masonic Lodge. Liverpool, NY.

**May 31-** Memorial Day Parades (?) Dates and Times to be Announced

**June 5-7** - Loudoun Heights, VA.

**June 12-13** - Peterboro, NY

**June 26-27** - Parkrose @ Clay, NY

**July 10-11** - Heritage Square @ Ontario, NY.

**July 16-18** - Genesee Village – Mumford N.Y.

**July 30- Aug. 1** - Massena. NY

**Aug. 6-8** - Erie Canal Village Rome, NY

**Aug. 20-22** - Hamlin Beach, NY

**Sept. 11-12** - Fort Brewerton living History, Brewerton, NY.

**Sept. 12** - Berkshire Heritage Day. Berkshire, NY.

**Sept. 17-19** - Millis, Mass.

**Sept. 25-26** - German Flats, Herkimer, NY

**Oct. 1-3** - Berkshire.NY (?)

**Oct. 15-17** - 140th Cedar Creek, Middletown, VA.

**Nov. 20** - Remembrance Day, Gettysburg, PA.

**Dec. 4, 7 pm ?** - Christmas party, Masonic Lodge, Liverpool, NY.

This is the schedule that was voted on and approved by those of us who attended the general meeting last weekend.

**Section Leaders:** Please ensure that this is disseminated to your people and that you call those who are not on line!