

June 2011

Company F Forward!

A Living History of Co. F, 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry



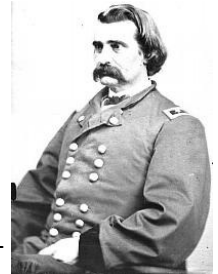
Message from the President's Desk

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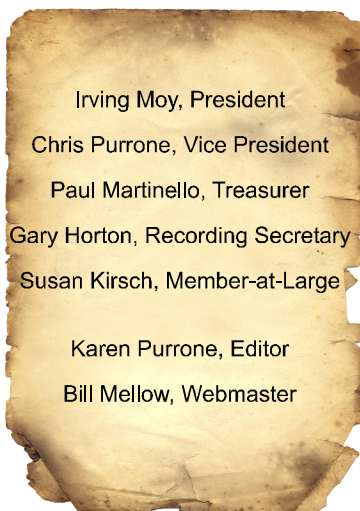
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For many of us Memorial Day has come to represent the beginning of the summer season and is celebrated as a day of cookouts and festive parades where vast amounts of candy are tossed out to the spectators. The antecedent of this national holiday traces its beginnings to the enormous losses of human life during the Civil War, the most defining event in our Nation's history. In a total population of 26 million people, 18 million in the North and, excluding the slaves, 8 million in the South, over 620,000 casualties resulted. This was equivalent to 2% of the population and totaled more casualties than all the wars combined that this Nation has fought in. There was not a person who did not know of a family member or friend who did not suffer some loss during this conflict. Even before the end of the war families decorated the gravesites of their loved ones with flowers in memory of the ultimate sacrifice they made.

On May 5, 1868, General John Logan, the National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued General Order No. 11 that a day would be officially set aside to honor the memories of those who died during the war and the passing of each veteran. The first official celebration of "Decoration Day" took place on May 30, 1868. This day has since come to be known as Memorial Day.



General John A. Logan



The Union triumph in 1865 settled two issues left unresolved by the American Revolution, whether this Nation was singularly the United States or a confederation of separate states and whether or not this country would be half slave and half free. No state or responsible political leader has threatened to succeed from the United States since. The abolition of slavery and the passage of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution, the Civil War Amendments, brought about the most sudden and radical social change in this Nation's history or of any nation. In the course of five years, 4,000,000 slaves were freed and granted equal citizenship rights with

Message from the President's Desk, con't.

their former masters along with the destruction of both the social order and economic infrastructure of half the country.

Tragically, President Abraham Lincoln did not live to oversee the re-uniting of our country during the period of Reconstruction. As a result, the questions that underlay the issues of Union and slavery still persist. The relationship between national and state governments, how powerful the national government ought to be, what role it ought to play in people's lives and race relations are still relevant issues to this day. As we begin the sesquicentennial commemoration of the start of the Civil War and approach Memorial Day this May 30th, we continue to play an important role as living historians in our portrayal of both civilian and military aspects of the Civil War Era in keeping alive both the sacrifices made and the true meaning of that war and day of decoration to a present and future generations.

Your Obedient Servant,
Irving Moy
President, Co. F, 14th CVI

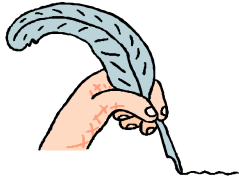
Executive Committee Meeting

The first ever meeting of the Executive Committee took place on April 9, 2011 at the lovely home of Paul and Lauren Martinello in Somers. Much has taken place since Company F was formed just over two months ago. We are recognized as a regular member of the National Regiment and insurance is in effect to cover the membership at events. Our first newsletter, *Company F Forward*, was published and sent to the membership by our editor Karen Purrone. Bill Mellow has done wonderful work in creating our webpage, www.cof14thcvi.com. We have a varied event schedule for anyone's interest, and we agreed on both our new by-laws and 2011 budget that you approved to allow us to move forward to become incorporated with the Secretary of State's Office and to file for 501(c)3 status with the IRS. To be both viable and successful now as a Company we need you to come out to events whenever possible, especially, our local events. Please do so knowing how welcome you will be for your contribution to the success of our events. Those attending the meeting were Chris and Karen Purrone, Susan Kirsch, Carolyn and Nick Ivanoff, Paul and Lauren Martinello and Irving and

Julie Moy. Please remember that Executive Committee Meetings are open to the membership. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on June 18, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Gary and Cathy Horton in Amston.



Also, making it's debut at our first Executive Committee Meeting was our new Company F banner, courtesy of Lauren and Paul



After Action Reports

Wilton Historical Society Event. April 2, 2011

Lauren and I arrived around 8 am and met Dan from the Wilton Historical Society. We were shown the grounds and proceeded to set up Lauren's new fly with Tom and Jacob Sullivan helping. Jacob jumped right in with setting up the officer's field area. The Purrone's arrived and set up Chris' gun display, which was a hit in itself. Chris even may have a possible recruit interested in joining Co F. A friend of mine from the 11th CT, Brian Shay, joined us also for the day and Irving Moy arrived to round out the count at 8 participants for Co F. Co G showed up with 6 members.

At 10 am the spectators started filtering into the camp. I as 2nd Lt was designated the speaker for the day, and I proceeded to address the crowd on who we are. I inspected the rifles, described the uniforms and gear, and after some basic facings and manual of arms, marched the soldiers out of camp. We did our firing demonstration and took questions from the crowd, proceeded back to camp with spectators in tow. We settled in for lunch with many one on one conversations with interested parties and pards.

I was asked to give a 7 minute briefing on video which appeared the next day on the internet at <http://www.thehour.com/customvideo.php?id=495>



During lunch, Jacob came up to me and said, 'Sir, are we going to train the new recruits?' I said would you like to train them and he said that he could. I had Jacob show me the 3 manual of arms, shoulder, support and right shoulder shift, and he did them as good as the adult soldiers, if not better. I said that he had my permission to train them, and off Private Sullivan went to do his duty. That's the enthusiasm we need in the new Co F.



Following Mike Kaelin's friend, fellow Wilton High School senior Bryan Caswell's talk on Gettysburg, inside the Barn, we were surrounded by an even larger crowd to repeat our presentation and firing demonstration. We took many questions and then it was a quick march back to the company street where I thanked the boys and broke ranks. All in all, it was a good event. we came to support Mike Kaelin and we were welcomed, even praised, but alas, no lunch or share in the honorarium. But good volleys boys! So goes the battles, you win some, you lose some. Thank you all for coming out for our very first Co F event.

Thanks to Karen Purrone for all the photos which will appear on our website for all to see. Company F, FORWARD!!!

—Paul Martinello

After Action Reports, con't.

150th Sesquicentennial - CT's Involvement in the Civil War

It has finally arrived, the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. If you weren't around or aware of the Civil War in 1961, or involved in 1986, then this is your time and opportunity to be a part of history by participating in the next 5 years. Come join our ranks! Reenactors started to arrive Friday afternoon at the Central CT State University, including Susan and Paul, to set up their tents. Susan was in the civilian area, while Paul was with the 6th NH and 28th Mass company street. It was breezy, but sunny and dry.

Co F 14th CT was in sync with the 1861 early war scenario, by setting up only 'A' tents. My A tent had a cot with a hay filled cloth sack and wool blanket on it, a wood floor, folding seat and a wash stand serving as a small desk.. I then took a walk to see if Susan needed any help, but she was all set up. I visited the two sutler tents and then stopped by Co G and the 8th CT company street. They were set up in dog tents, for that's all they had. Pleasantries were exchanged and then back to the 6th NH to cook my fish that I caught in the lake. (NOT!) I've served with both the 6th and 28th before and are great guys. We talked around the fire with great coats on and then turned in as the temperatures fell to 32 degrees.



Paul in his greatcoat



We awoke to bugle calls at 5:30 am and wind, gray clouds and cold temps. We formed our company, followed by roll call, then we cooked our breakfast. Lauren, Carolyn, Karen and Chris arrived. We had two rifles of Co F, 6 from the 6th NH and 4 from the 28th Mass which formed the 4th of 5 companies. We were part of the left wing under Captain Todd Bryda, 28th and our Co. was under 1st Lt. Scott Sleeper, 6th NH. After dress parade, we marched off in column with Lauren, Karen and Carolyn following the procession, onto the CCSU campus and over to where dignitaries, including Senators Blumenthal, author Mathew Warshauer and even President Lincoln, who said a few appropriate words. Upon returning to camp, we were greeted by Jacob Sullivan and his mom and Mike Conlin, who had been shanghaied by Co. G but had escaped. Gary Horton and Peter Hershonik were not so lucky. Jacob looked good in his uniform and great coat. His trousers were lengthened by his personal seamstress, Mom!

Featured speakers



Dress Parade



Jacob, Mike, Paul and Chris



We then broke into companies for some excellent drilling. We proceeded to the open field with Lt. Sleeper in charge of our Co. and Capt Bryda giving the commands. We thoroughly covered by company into line from both the left and right flanks and how and why. Also going from column of Co's into Co front. We were ready for battle. Back to our Co street for lunch, where we met Bill and Nancy Mellow, armed with a camera not rolling pin!

After Action Reports, con't.

Saturday's battle started off with both sides skirmishing with artillery support. Then the Union right wing force pressed forward and the Rebels retaliated and started to push the Union line back. But we and the left wing were concealed. At the opportune time, we, the left wing, came from our cover, at the double quick down a dirt road and went directly from column into company front halted and gave a volley right into the backs of the surprised Rebels. We caught them totally off guard, which was confirmed by a Rebel soldier later that evening. He said they had no idea we were off to their right. All the drilling we did actually paid off!



After the bugle sounded, the casualties arose and we cleared weapons and marched back to camp giving our battle cry...What do we want? 'Union, Union, Union'. Gary and Cathy Horton found us as did Frank and Claire Neiderwerfer, CT Dept SUVCW commander Ed Witkofski, and other friends who had watched the battle.

We parted, with Lauren and I attending mass for Palm Sunday. We returned, packed up my gear but left my tent for the 6th NH to use since a storm was approaching. We headed over to the Pig Roast for some good eats, then headed home after that.

I returned Sunday morning, as did Mike Conlin, to sun and warmer temps that would rise to 60 degrees. What a difference a day makes. The tents were wet but they held up and would dry by day's end. We in the left wing drilled more covering Company into line, skirmish drills and street fighting. Very cool! We had leftover pork on the fire and a trip to the food trailer. We hit the two sutler tents and swung by to see how Susan faired over night. She did well, but some Rebels along the stream were washed out.

After Action Reports, con't.

Sunday's battle started with the civilian ladies traveling between the lines, something happened on the bridge, they returned to the Union lines and a Union soldier fired upon the Rebel escort. Then all hell broke loose. Companies against companies, skirmishing, pushing each other back and forth along the road to the bridge and on the hill side. Companys F and G were even elbow to elbow as I met Peter Hershonik and Frank Durinick in battle. We advanced once more, and Mike Conlin took a hit and went down. We pressed forward as a skirmish line toward a cannon which had been placed on the bridge. But it never fired. A good thing for I was out of rounds and was ready to go down when it went off. Lucky me! We reformed, returned back to our side, cleared weapons and proceeded to break camp. Mike helped me carry my tent back to my vehicle, both glad we returned for Sunday. It was fun, educational, and at best, a tie on the battlefield and not a rout. Thanks go out to Frank Neiderwerfer of Co. G for his efforts in planning the two battle scenarios. Huzzah, Huzzah, Huzzah!

—Paul Martinello

2011 Diocesan House Cleanup

We lucked out once again with a sunny dry morning to tackle our old nemeses...the parking lot at the Diocesan House in Hartford CT. This event will pay for our liability insurance for the year. Many hands make light work, but it still took us over two hours. The Martinellos, Gary Horton, The Purrones, The Moys, Tom and Jacob Sullivan and Mike Conlin all lent their time and energy and rakes, brooms, buckets, etc. We did the normal sweeping, raking and general sprucing up. Once done, we formed for photo ops with Karen behind the camera, then packed up all our tools. All in all, another fine job done by all! Irving suggested we have lunch at the Akropolis Greek deli. Yes, that's how they spell it. The food was great and the staff fantastic. We even got a free butter cookie rolled in powdered sugar. We then had to return the favor by buying some pastries on the way out. Nice suggestion Irving! We parted ways and headed off to tackle our own yards. Thanks to everyone who came out. See you next year.

—Paul Martinello

POSTSCRIPT:

Paul just informed your editor that we received a donation of \$600 for their efforts in cleaning the Diocesan House parking lot and grounds! Well done ladies and gentlemen of Company F, 14th CVI!

—Karen



Chris, Irving, Paul, Gary, Mike, Jacob and Tom
Shoulder arms!



CHARGE!



Chris, Irving, Karen, Gary, Mike, Julie, Jacob,
Lauren and Tom (Paul taking picture this
time!)



Home Front / After Action Report

Event: Connecticut Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration (Kickoff)

Date: April 15-17, 2011

Location: Stanley Quarter Park and Central Ct State University, New Britain CT

Coordinator: Mark Bassos

It might seem like mid-April is early to begin the re-enacting season in the Northeast. "You may be right; I may be crazy....", to quote Billy Joel. And to quote Mr. William Shakespeare, "Aprille is the cruellest month".

Friday the 15th started out as a fine day, with sunshine, temperatures in the 50's or low 60's, and light breezes. I was the first civilian to arrive at the park, between 1-2pm, preceded by some sutlers and quite a few military personnel. Registration went quickly and I was happy to meet up with familiar faces and old friends. Re-enactors were provided with a generous box (well, bag) lunch --"soup-to-nuts"-- and a Souvenir Packet by the organizers. Setup went smoothly with assistance from several able-bodied volunteers (Thank You!!).

As is customary, as more civilians arrived we helped each other with the task of establishing The Town Of Unity, which consisted of a Tea Shoppe where for a very reasonable fee one could enjoy a pot of tea and baked confections, and a Tailor Shop (Mr. James Williams, proprietor) and several residences.



Susan, Lauren and Carolyn

The temperature plummeted rapidly Friday night. Experience has taught me to put plenty of padding underneath me; with a couple of wool blankets, a regular sleeping bag and a down sleeping bag I was toasty.

Saturday was a cold (40's), damp, windy day. Both re-enactors and spectators kept warm by moving and walking around and drinking warm beverages. The spectator turnout in the civilian area was quite good, although people tended to stay on the move and not stick around and chat for very long. I taught one young lady how to make a cockade, and we both noticed how cold our fingers became! A gaggle of

children dressed in period clothing played non-stop during their visit to the Town, and I was impressed with their creativity in using their imaginations with reproduction toys of the period, including the basket the toys were carried in-- it became a bed and a hat or helmet, by turns!

Home Front / After Action Report, con't.

Mr. Tom Callinan provided period music, playing banjo and bodhran. Spectators and re-enactors alike sang along to songs such as "Oh, Susanna" and "She'll be Coming Around the Mountain". Tom is a very well-known musician throughout Connecticut. A group of ladies including Mrs. Martinello, Mrs. Ivanoff, Mrs. Lieber, and myself, sang some hymns in harmony.



On Saturday evening it began to shower. Thankfully, the temperature rose! The indoor pig roast dinner provided by the organizers offered a welcome respite from what had been a chilly day, with plenty of food and beverage provided to a tired but cheerful crowd of re-enactors. Overnight the rain and wind intensified resulting in some flooding and washouts. The Federal Provost-Marshal made several rounds and made sure that people were safe, in some cases driving stakes back in and securing ropes and lines. On the Confederate side, at least one firepit became submerged, and at least one Union unit called it quits late Saturday night or early Sunday morning. The road leading from the uphill parking lot near the skateboard course became a river, difficult to navigate when Nature Called during the wee hours of Sunday morning and flooding downhill into the far end of the Union camp, near the bridges. In Unity, the damage was mostly limited to the minor inconvenience of wet floors.

Sunday dawned with sunshine and much warmer temperatures in the 50's or low 60's and light breezes once again, a welcome relief! Spirits improved a great deal and some of us frivolously played by floating dry leaves down the "river". As a whole, the civilians dried out and met with the many visitors who took advantage of the lovely Spring day. We were once again entertained by "the wandering minstrel", Mr. Tom Callinan.

A skirmish between North and South was started when a group of civilian ladies, with passes provided by the Union, sought to visit family members still residing on the Confederate side. We were allowed passage to the bridge that formed the border, but – despite repeated energetic attempts by Mrs. Asselin to breach the barrier, we were turned back vehemently by the Southern forces. Spectators lingered for a while after the battle, with many from the surrounding neighborhoods attending. They told us they had heard the cannons firing beginning on Friday night and made it a point to investigate! Load-out began at approximately 3:00pm.



Despite one day of less-than-ideal weather, it was an enjoyable and very well-organized event. Re-enactors were very well treated, provided for and looked-after, to the best of the ability of the coordinators. I detected no acrimony about peoples' decisions to head home or to a hotel/motel; it was quite understandable. We cannot control the weather! We can prepare ourselves and adapt.

Susan Kirsch
Civilian Impressions & Member-At-Large



Hincks' Mess

Mary Todd Lincoln's Vanilla Almond Cake

The story was that the Todd family's Chef baked this cake for Gen. Lafayette in 1839 when he was touring the US. It became a favorite in the Todd house and later a favorite of Abraham Lincoln. The story goes that Mary won Mr. Lincoln's heart with this cake.

Serves: 12

- 1 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 3/4 cups sifted cake flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 1/3 cup milk
- 1 cup almonds, finely chopped
- 6 egg whites, stiffly beaten

White Frosting

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup water
- 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1 dash salt
- 2 egg whites
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Pre-heat the oven to 375 degrees F.

Cream together sugar, butter, and vanilla extract.

Stir together the cake flour and baking powder; add to creamed mixture alternately with milk.

Stir in almonds.

Gently fold in the egg whites.

Pour into two greased and lightly floured 9 x 1 1/2-inch round baking pans.

Bake for 28 to 30 minutes.

Cool 10 minutes; remove from pans.

Fill and frost with White Frosting.

White Frosting: In a saucepan, combine sugar, water, cream of tartar and salt.

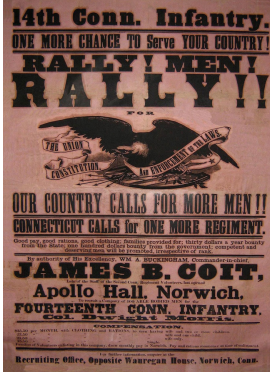
Bring mixture to boiling, stirring until the sugar dissolves.

In mixing bowl place egg whites; very slowly pour the hot sugar syrup over, beating constantly with electric mixer until stiff peaks form, about 7 minutes.

Beat in vanilla extract.



Mr. Lincoln and Mrs. Dog Robber
(aka Nancy Mellow) at the CCSU
Event



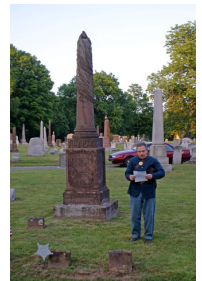
Scheduled Events

Scheduled Events in April, May and June 2011

A call for attendance will come from the event coordinator with a date to respond “yay or nay” to assist in planning the day’s schedule and military structure. Coordinators will send out detailed information on the event and will submit After-Action-Reports to Karen Purrone for publication in our quarterly newsletter.

May 26 *SUVCW Flag Laying Ceremony at Grove Hill Cemetery, Rockville*

For those that can attend, this event sponsored by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), we assist in placing flags at the gravesites of Union veterans, many whom Bob Bee mentions in his book, “The Boys From Rockville.” The event concludes with a brief ceremony, wreath laying and three round salute at the Colonel Thomas Burpee monument. Paul Martinello, a member of the SUVCW, is the coordinator and will provide us with details as the event draws closer.



May 29 *Seymour Historical Society Open House*

Carolyn Ivanoff, a member of both Company F and the Seymour Historical Society, has extended an invitation to all participants on behalf of the society to convene on its grounds for refreshment after the parade and to conduct a living history event at its open house. The Society is located at 59 West Street.

May 30 *Rockville Memorial Day Parade with the SUVCW*

This will be the third year we will be marching in this parade that takes us into old neighborhoods and cemeteries for brief memorial comments. If you picture in your mind what an old fashion Memorial Day Parade is, this is the one! Paul Martinello will provide us with the details as the parade date draws closer.



June 4 *West Haven Veterans Museum and Learning Center Living History Event*

Company F will schedule a living history event at the museum’s location on 30 Hood Terrace in West Haven from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please read the After-Action-Report of our January 22, 2011 visit and tour of its collections. Irving Moy will provide us with details with his call for attendance.

June 11 *Annual Company Picnic at Lincolnshire*

Our annual picnic will take place at the home of Irving and Julie Moy starting at 3:00 p.m. This picnic is one event where wools and period clothing are not required and is open to all family and significant others of our members. The Moy’s will provide a main dish with members also contributing a food item, salad or dessert to share. A call for attendance will go out with directions and a request as to the item you will be bringing. It’s been a fun event for all and a welcome break in our schedule.