

October-December 2011

Company F Forward!

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



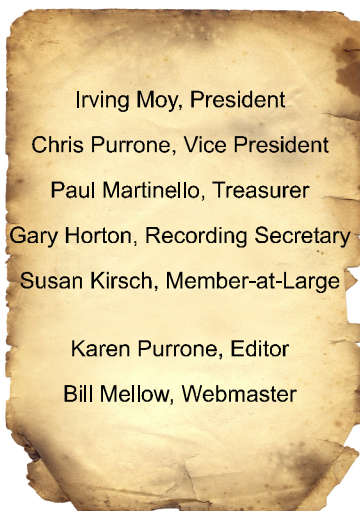
Message from the President's Desk

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What a whirlwind six months it has been since the inception of Company F. In that, period of time we were incorporated by the Secretary of State's Office and are pending receipt of our non-profit status by the IRS, increased our membership to 17 members, received 5 charter members, issued honorary memberships, participated in 11 events to date and have completed scheduling events for 2012. Any more requests for living history events will go on our 2013 calendar! The Company has received donations of items to include on its Quartermaster's List to loan. And Dog Robber has replaced his cook's kit with new equipment, making us the only reenacting company with a cook's impression. In reading this message, it will be from our fourth newsletter, "Company F Forward". Our web page is state of the art to highlight Company F, its activities and to use as an educational tool. We will now begin preparations for our annual meeting in January 2012. So much in so short a time! Our success to date is the result of all your efforts through your talents, time, donations and contacting organizations for possible events. I am grateful to all of you!

Your Obedient Servant,
Irving Moy



School of the Soldier

The US Model 1861 Springfield Rifle Musket

by Christopher Purrone

Information you may not know!

The Model 1861 was the first and primary rifle issued to the men of the 14th. They received their rifled muskets during the early morning hours on August 29, 1862 while encamped near Arlington Heights, VA at a place which our boys called "Camp Chase".

School of the Soldier, con't.

So what about the rifle itself.

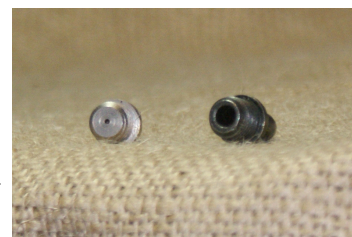
To begin with, 265,129 Model 1861 rifled muskets were manufactured by the Springfield Armory in Springfield, MA. Contractors built approximately 405,000 more, of which 162,000 were made by companies in Connecticut.

The Model 1861 was a well balanced musket. Its weight was roughly 9 lbs., unlike our replicas of today which weigh as much as 10.5 lbs. The stocks were made of black walnut. These stocks were milled on Blanchard style lathes. A rough wood blank was secured to the lathe while a completely finished iron stock was held in position in another part of the lathe. Its dimensions would then be automatically duplicated on the wood stock. Similar to our modern key fabricating machines that you find today in the local hardware store.

The barrel was made of iron, not steel. The rifling in the barrel completed one turn in 6 feet. It consisted of three grooves and was known as "progressive depth rifling" as it was deeper at the breach (.015") than at the muzzle (.005"). On the top of the breech end of the barrel, is the date of manufacture. The left side of the barrel (breech end) is stamped with an eagle head plus the initials "V P". The "V P" stands for "viewed and proofed"; every barrel was proofed tested. Per the Ordnance Manual of 1861, each barrel went through two proof firings. The first charge fired was 280 grains of musket powder with one ball (500 grains) and two wads (on either side of the ball) each 32 square inches in size. The second charge was loaded exactly the same, except the weight of the black powder was only 250 grains. Depending on the type of iron and the method of manufacture, barrel failures during proofing sometimes caused considerable delays in musket production, especially for the contractors. The three iron bands that hold the barrel to the stock have a "U" stamped on them. This is not an inspectors mark. The "U" stands for "up" indicating which side of the band faces towards the muzzle and is next to the retaining spring.

The ramrod is also made of iron and is swelled towards the cup. This swell is what keeps it in the stock. On original rifle muskets, ramrods are in the stock fairly secure. The next time you return your ramrod in the stock on your replica muskets, you will hear a noticeable clink of metal against metal. This is the sound of the ramrod coming to rest on the first screw of the lock plate. This is not the case with originals as the ramrod never rested against the first lock plate screw. Sling swivels were attached with rivets, not with screws.

Lastly is the lock plate. The large hammer on the Model 1861 lock plate has a "C" curve to it. This was necessary as the original design required it to fit around the radius of the "Maynard Tape Primer" device. When manufacturing started on the Model 1861, to expedite production, the shape of the hammer was retained. Basically, this was one less item that required re-tooling. The percussion cone (nipple) on an original is different than what is found on modern replica. An original percussion cone has a massive hole on the bottom, unlike those on a replica which have a very small hole. The larger hole is there to allow the flame from the percussion cap to encounter the least amount of resistance when traveling to the main charge. If a replica musket had a percussion cone with such a large hole, the back pressure from firing a live round would blow the hammer back due to the weak main spring. On original muskets, the main spring design is much stronger so that this situation does not occur.



School of the Soldier, con't.

The plate is stamped with the word "Springfield", an American eagle and the date of manufacture. The eagle design is specific to the manufacturer. For instance, the Springfield eagle is different than one found on the lock of a musket made by Savage Arms. With the contractor-made Model 1861 muskets, the name and/or the city of manufacture was stamped on the lock plate in place of the word "Springfield".



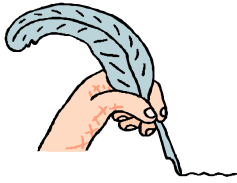
Now the question that you might ask is what manufacturer of Model 1861 muskets did the 14th CT first receive. In the book *The History of the Fourteenth Regiment, Connecticut Vol. Infantry*, it states (on page 16) "that the regiment was to be armed with Springfield rifles". Based upon that statement, we can be fairly confident that the regiment received muskets manufactured by the Springfield Armory and not by a contractor. In addition, it should be pointed out that current research shows that only one contractor had made a delivery of Model 1861 muskets and that was for just a 1,000 stands of arms before the 14th had received their weapons.

What we don't know is what date were stamped on those locks, 1861 or 1862. The common belief is that approximately 33,000 Model 1861 musket locks made at the Springfield Armory were stamped "1861". and almost 174,000 were stamped "1862". But there is currently some controversy as to whether all locks stamped "1861" were actually made in the year 1861. Until more evidence is discovered, we can not be sure what date was on those locks issued to the boys in the 14th CT back on August 29, 1862.

The Model 1861 Springfield rifle musket, in the role that it was designed for, was second to none. Manufacturing quality at the Springfield Armory was excellent. By the beginning of the Civil War, the Springfield Armory had attained complete part interchangeability. This allowed parts from one musket to interchange with that of another, with minimal or no fitting. This type of manufacturing process was titled "the American system of manufacturing" Very few of the imported arms had achieved this standard in manufacturing. It could be argued, very effectively, that the Model 1861 Springfield rifle musket did more to help our boys in blue win the war than any other weapon.

I would like to thank Richard Colton (Historian at the Springfield Armory), Dean Thomas (author and Civil War firearms cartridge expert) and finally Charlie Hahn (restoration expert on Civil War firearms), for their help on writing this article.





After Action Reports

Old Saybrook Historical Society Living History Event

July 16, 2011

Irving Moy

Company F was invited to present a Civil War encampment for the second consecutive year by the Old Saybrook Historical Society. The preparation by the society headed by Linda Kinsella, its President, from the handling of the publicity by Trustee Tedd Levy, to providing us with refreshments, changing areas and a welcoming atmosphere by her staff volunteers was exceptional. Once again, Pete Kinsella provided more than enough seasoned wood to meet Dog Robber's needs for the preparation of the noontime meal of chicken skillet stew, fried dough and Mary Todd Lincoln's Vanilla Almond Cake for dessert.

The event began at 10:00 a.m. as 2nd Lt. Paul Martinello, attended by aide-de-camp, Jake Sullivan, greeted the assembled troops and addressed the public with background information on the 14th Connecticut. The troops at attention were Corporal Irving Moy, Privates Mike Conlin, Gary Horton, Chris Purrone, Warren Stevens, Peter Hrechanyk, Pete Garafalo and Mark Marganski of the 20th CVI. After performing the manual of arms, 2nd Lt. Martinello marched the company to the area of the lower gardens where firing demonstrations were conducted. The firing demonstration was repeated in the afternoon with the anticipated of a firing demonstration by Private Stevens with his Henry repeating rifle. Alas, the rifle jammed without getting off a shot, as Corporal Moy and Privates Horton and Purrone were able to get off three shots each in 50 seconds. After both sessions the company



then returned to camp to greet and interact with an attentive and very knowledgeable public. Privates Stevens and Purrone were especially busy in talking to the public regarding the arms used by the 14th CVI from his campsite worktable where Private Stevens was fitting properly Private Conlin's bayonet and Private Purrone's table of firearms used by the soldiers of the regiment. Private Jake Sullivan drilled young recruits to give them a taste of military life.

At noon we all then settled down for another wonderful meal by Dog Robber, who gave ample thanks and credit to Private Tom Sullivan for his invaluable help in the meal's preparation. After lunch our ladies gave to each soldier a handmade ditty bag with soap, writing and sewing materials, lemon drops and dried fruit for those heading out on campaign.



The response to our civilians were just as well received and appreciated. There was a constant stream of people who went to the various civilian areas to interact with Susan, Julie and Lauren. Once more Marge Bucholz enthralled both children and adults with the simple pleasures of period games. There was a young lady in period clothing who joined us and contributed with her fife playing of period music and involvement of the public with the period games. Both Bob and Wendy Benedict added to the atmosphere in their period clothing.



After Action Reports, con't.



Our own Mathew Brady, Karen Purrone, was omnipresent in taking pictures of the event.

Irving gave a presentation on Joseph Pierce. And Susan, dressed in period swimwear of her own making, spoke about contributions of Northern women and the issue of women's rights. Both presentations were well received. We received an e-mail from Tedd Levy that states in part, *"It was certainly our pleasure and good fortune to have you and your colleagues present such an informative and interesting program. From the Society's point of view, it was a highly successful day. Best wishes to you and the Company."*



Afterwards, a tired but happy group of fourteen Company F members and friends enjoyed dinner and each other's company at the Dock and Dine Restaurant at Saybrook Point.



150th Bull Run
July 21-23 2011
Paul Martinello

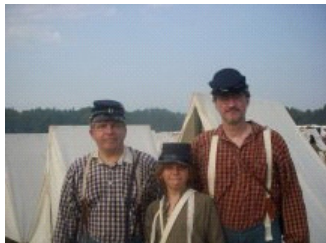
Warren Stevens and I departed his home on Friday morning, not knowing just how hot it would be getting as the day and drive wore on, but the further we went south the hotter it got! We alternated driving Warren's big diesel pick up truck. After a few pit stops and lunch we arrived at registration. MAN was it hot!!! In the sun, in the shade, under the tent, everywhere! Then we drove down to the company street area. Everyone we drove by didn't look happy. They were sweating in shorts and tees, and those crazy enough to have their wools on looked miserable and sitting slouched wherever they sat. Reports were at 105 degrees and the loud speakers were broadcasting not to put on uniforms and to seek shade and drink plenty of water if possible. Many reenactors who typically would dress and march into camp, stated they had never done this behavior before but, weren't about to put on the wools.

After Action Reports, con't.



The Sullivan family found us still in tees shirts, but Jacob and Tom were in their wools as the photos prove. Who were the real soldiers in Co F that day? Huzzah for the Sullivan men from CT as well as for Jacobs' mom and sister who were present too! What troopers.

So we checked out the sutlers area, and there were many of them at this first big 150th battle anniversary. I decided not to eat a dinner, just snack and drink a lot of water. So after the sun set, we hit the hay as it cooled down to 95.



We awoke early, in fact it did cool down to 80 (?) and I actually pulled blanket over me. We got up, got water in canteens and were soon greeted by Jacob and Tom Sullivan in uniform again. They saw us in formation, then went to the bleachers to see the opening of the presentation and battle. We never saw them again, and hoped they fared well in the heat!



We were brigaded with the 6th NH, 27th CT and 150th NY as 5th Co. in the right wing of the NR. They are all good soldiers and parads. I was acting 1st CPL with the 1st SGT and LT from the 150th NY. Our Captain was Gary Brand of the 27th CT. With Warren being a tall private, we were able to be near one another in line. A good thing if issues developed heat wise.

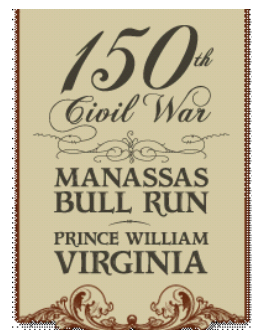
With it too hot to drill, we did form up the companies into our regiment for rifle inspection. We did this in our shirt sleeves. No sack coats were to be worn into the battle. No one argued, but our two officers did wear their coats. We then marched off by the right flank to some shade along the road to the battlefield. We continued to drink water as the battle started and other regiments marched past.

Warren was amazed by the numbers of reenactors. I've seen more at older anniversary events, but still impressive. The battle started at 10:30 am, which was better than at the hottest part of the day, but it was still hot! As it ended, we returned to our company street and immediately were allowed to change back into shorts and tees. I stayed in wool and joined two of the 150th men in the shade, to drink water and cool down. Warren found his spot under a fly and laid down on the ground, closing his eyes.

Soon I saw Frank N. and Mike K. from Co. G, approaching, and they commented that with the main road being closed till Sunday at 3 pm, some were considering leaving now, rather than stay 3 hours past tomorrow's battle, before being able to drive into camp with cars. Then I saw the 27th CT was leaving and before long, our entire company street too. Our Colonel, Tom Downes, said the entire NR was pulling out partially due to the heat, but mainly because the road won't be opened for 3 hours after Sunday's battle scheduled to end by noon. Warren and I had to decide what we would do. Other soldiers were packing up and hiking their gear out already, not staying for Sunday at all. We went to confirm the road closing times and it was as stated. So we had a choice to stay over Saturday night in camp, get a hotel room locally and drive home Sunday at noon or sleep in our tent, get up early to drive in and load up Sat. at 5:30 am, go for breakfast and tour Bull Run Battlefield Sunday or to simply leave this afternoon and drive home. We opted the last choice.

Warren got a ride in a golf cart to the reenactors parking lot and right up to his truck. He was able to drive into camp just after 2:30 pm. I ended up driving home most of the way, to let Warren rest and recoup. We saw some fireworks along I-81 in PA on the ride home, made a few pit stops and I completed the long journey, getting home by 2 am Sunday morning safe and sound, but exhausted. All in all, we chalked it up as an experience, and the first 150th anniversary battle of the Civil War was under our belts.

—Paul



After Action Reports, con't.

Shelton Historical Society Living History

September 10, 2011

Irving Moy

The article on the event found in the September 10, 2011 edition of the Connecticut Post is an excellent summary of our event in Shelton. I want to thank the following members who participated in this event in which we participated for the third consecutive year. Those attending were Paul Martinello, Karen and Chris Purrone, Carolyn and Nick Ivanoff, Joe Adiletta, Irving and Julie Moy, Bill Mellow, Gary Horton, Mark Marganski, Pete Garafalo from the SUVCW Wooster-Russell Camp #22 and Martin Springer from the 11th Connecticut. An invitation was extended to us to return for another event in 2012. Thank you, Tracey Tate and your Board of Directors.



A reprint of the Connecticut Post article and photos from the Shelton event can be found on pages 8 and 9



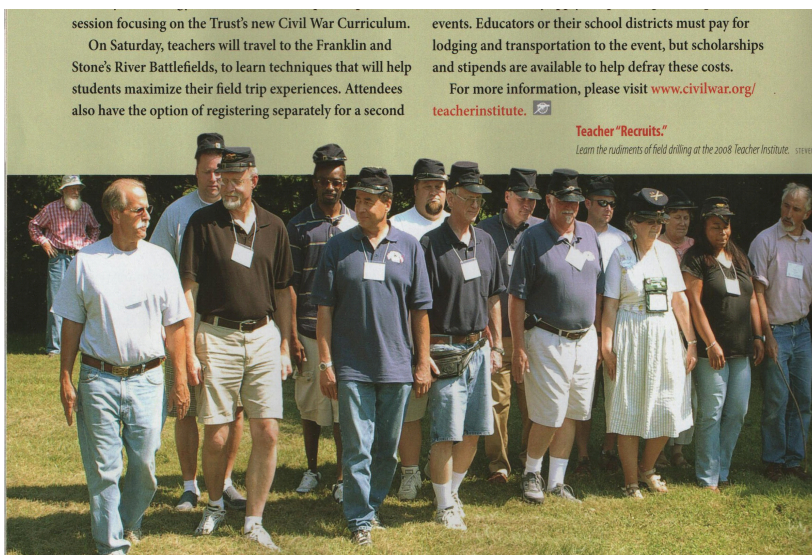
September Executive Board Meeting

Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting held on September 11, 2011 will be forwarded to the membership upon approval by the Executive Committee. The date of the Holiday Open House held at Fiddler's Green, the homestead of Chris and Karen Purrone, has been changed from December 3rd to December 10, 2011 to accommodate participation by the membership.

—Irving



Blast from the Past



session focusing on the Trust's new Civil War Curriculum. On Saturday, teachers will travel to the Franklin and Stone's River Battlefields, to learn techniques that will help students maximize their field trip experiences. Attendees also have the option of registering separately for a second

events. Educators or their school districts must pay for lodging and transportation to the event, but scholarships and stipends are available to help defray these costs.

For more information, please visit www.civilwar.org/teacherinstitute.

Teacher "Recruits"
Learn the rudiments of field drilling at the 2008 Teacher Institute.

This picture is from an article featured in the Summer 2011 issue of the Hallowed Ground magazine. Do you recognize one of the "soldiers"?

Hint: the name of the article was "Camp of Instruction, Trust Education Outreach: Tenth Annual Teacher Institute".

After Action Reports, con't.

Abe Lincoln, Company F, 14th Regiment re-enactors to gather in Shelton

Phyllis A.S. Boros, Staff Writer, Connecticut Post



Reenactors will present a Civil War Living History event at the Shelton Historical Society, at 70 Ripton Road, Saturday, Sept. 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Photo: Contributed Photo / CT

If you're driving by 70 Ripton Road in Shelton on Saturday, Sept. 10, and find yourself wondering if a time warp has transported you back about 150 years -- wonder not.

Tracey C. Tate, executive director of the Shelton History Center, says the intention of its Civil War Living History Day is to do just that.

Words, deeds and experiences of President Abraham Lincoln and the Union Army's officers and rank and file will be recalled and re-enacted from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the center, a museum complex of six historic buildings on Ripton Road near the Huntington Green. Cost is \$5, \$15 for a family. Proceeds will benefit the Shelton Historical Society, which operates the center and its programs.

Tate says that several members of Company F, 14th Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Inc. based in Torrington, will portray the original regiment (active 1862-65), give firing demonstrations, set up their camp and its accoutrements, and answer questions for the public.

Company F, says Tate, is renowned for offering both the military and civilian aspects of the Civil War.

Also featured will be Steve Wood, of Claremont, N.H., "who bears an uncanny resemblance to President Abraham Lincoln" and whose interpretation of the 16th president has been featured in New Hampshire Magazine and on New Hampshire Public Radio and WCVB TV in Boston. Tate adds that "Mr. Lincoln will review the troops and make a speech or two."

Several 19th-century civilian women will be represented, and will discuss the effects the war had on the home front and the work that was done by women to support the North. Also on hand will be representatives from Civil War Monument Inc., Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Wooster-Russell Camp No. 22, and the 20th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry and Ladies Auxiliary. Children will have the opportunity to play games that occupied youngsters in the 1860s. Refreshments will be available for purchase, as will a selection of military and history books. Tours of historic buildings also will be offered.

Of all the regiments Connecticut sent to the Union armies in the Civil War, the most famous was the 14th, Tate says.

According to regiment history: The unit marched and fought with Lincoln's Army of the Potomac, participating in 34 battles and skirmishes. The 14th lost more men killed in battle, in proportion to its size, and captured more prisoners, cannon and battle flags than any other Connecticut regiment.

After Action Reports, con't.

In addition to presenting the life of the common soldier, the group also features the unusual as well. Tate notes that Bill Mellow, a retired pastry chef, will portray a company cook and demonstrate period cooking over an open fire.

The group also tackles a popular misconception that only white Anglo-Saxons fought in the Civil War, she says.

"Many ethnic groups took part in this great struggle. However, few people are aware that the Chinese were among them and the highest ranking of those, Joseph Pierce, fought with the 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry," she explains.

Irving Moy, who portrays Cpl. Pierce, says he believes in the work of re-enactors because "though our living history events and classroom presentations -- where our audience can see and touch the uniforms and equipment and be able to hear and ask questions about the contributions of both civilian and military and events that shaped that conflict -- we hope to spark an interest to learn more about the Civil War and ultimately our nation's history."

Shelton History Center, 70 Ripton Road, Shelton. Saturday, Sept. 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$5, \$15 for a family. 203-925-1803, www.sheltonhistoricalsociety.org. Company F information: www.cof14thcvi.com.

Read more: <http://www.ctpost.com/news/article/Abe-Lincoln-Company-F-14th-Regiment-re-enactors-2157782.php#ixzz1XnLOCUg8>



A sample of photos from the 2011 Shelton Historical Society Event



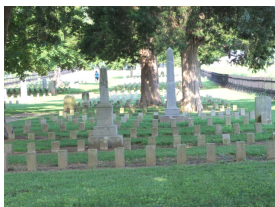


Home Front

A Chinese Soldier at Rest in the Confederate Cemetery at Carnton Plantation

By Carolyn Ivanoff

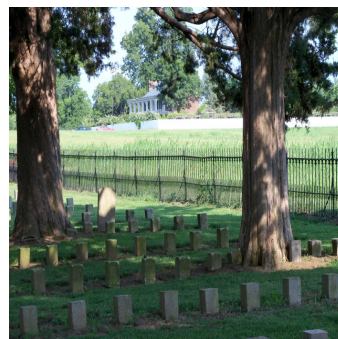
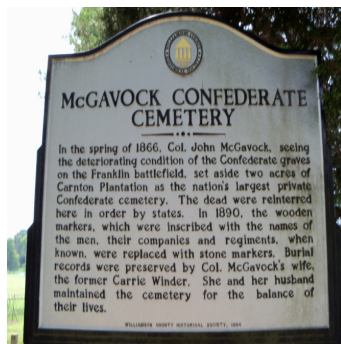
On a hot day in July, we walked through the Confederate cemetery at Carnton Plantation with Eric Jacobson. Eric was hosting the Civil War Trust Teachers' Institute for a tour of Spring Hill, the Carter House, and Carnton Plantation. Eric is the Chief Operating Officer and Historian for the Battle of Franklin Trust and author of several books on the battle. Carnton Plantation served as a field hospital for the Confederate forces during and after the Battle of Franklin. The story of the house, the battle, and the people that lived there were made familiar to many of us through Robert Hicks bestselling novel, *The Widow of the South*. The venerable old plantation house saw the bodies of four Confederate generals laid out on the back porch on the morning of December 1, 1864. Carnton was the home of John and Carrie McGavock and it witnessed the bloodiest five hours of fighting at the Battle of Franklin. In those five hours almost 10,000 soldiers would be killed, wounded, captured, or missing in the battle. Field surgeons operated on the wounded throughout the house and blood stained floors are evident on the floors in almost every room. The house was owned by John and Carrie McGavock and the family did all they could to care for the wounded men, some of whom would remain with them for weeks and months. To provide an honorable burial for the dead of the battle, the McGavocks donated two acres of their property and oversaw the reburial of nearly 1,500 soldiers. They cared for the cemetery and all who came to their property looking for their loved ones for the rest of their lives.



As Eric spoke about the family and the cemetery he explained how the plots were laid out. He began to tell the stories of some of the men who were their laid to rest in the those plots, so many of which are unmarked and the men in them unknown. Buried in grave 66 of the Texas section is a Charles Chon, 24th Texas Cavalry, dismounted. Charles Chon was a Chinese man who enlisted and served two and a half years with his regiment before being killed at Franklin. There is not much known about Charles. Information received from a descendent indicates that Charles may have been a political refugee. Eric

noted that soldiers of Spanish or Asian descent were not segregated as were the black soldiers who fought in the Civil War.

When we got home I phoned and subsequently e-mailed Eric about our own 14th Connecticut's Joseph Pierce and the link to our webpage and Irving's Joseph Pierce information. Eric sent back a gracious note via e-mail in return stating about Joseph Pierce, "Simply an incredible story. These are truly the long forgotten stories of the Civil War that more people need to hear. Joseph's story is one I will tell to as many people as I can." We all need to keep telling the stories, lest we forget. Forward Fourteenth!





Hincks' Mess



As the days get shorter, and the summer heat slowly cools down, our thoughts turn to Autumn. With the change in season, also comes a change in available vegetables. Dog Robber has provided us with an appropriate recipe for the season...Corn Chowder.

Corn Chowder

<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>MEASURE</u>	<u>INGREDIENT</u>
2	Medium	Onions, peeled and roughly chopped
3	Tbl.	Sweet butter
7	8-Ounce cans	Canned corn
3	8-Ounce cans	Chicken stock
1/2	Tsp.	Salt
	To taste	Ground black pepper
4	Cups	Milk



METHOD:

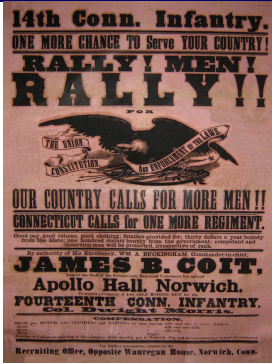
- Combine the onions and butter in a 2-quart pot over medium heat.
- Cook, stirring occasionally until the onions are soft, about 10 minutes.
- Add the corn and continue to cook, stirring occasionally for another 8 – 10 minutes.
- Add the chicken stock, salt and pepper.
- Cover, increase the heat to high and cook for 20 minutes.
- Separate about 2 cups of the soup and place the remainder in a food processor and puree until smooth.
- Put the separated soup in with the puree. This will give the chowder some “crunch”.
- Replace the soup in the pot on the stove over medium heat and add the milk.
- Cover and bring to a boil.
- Reduce the heat to low and cook for 5 minutes.

Serve piping hot.



Answer to the Blast from the Past question. The soldier in question is our own Nick Ivanoff. This is what he looks like now, a proud soldier of Company F, 14th Connecticut Volunteers, with his lovely wife Carolyn.





Scheduled Events

Scheduled Events for October, November and December 2011

It's hard to believe we are entering the last quarter of our 2011 event schedule and the close of our first campaign season as Company F. Our reputation as providing a total Civil War Era presentation at living history events has spread and continues to grow thanks to all your efforts. You will receive information about the event and a call for attendance with a response date. Event coordinators will write their "After-Action-Reports" and send them to Karen Purrone for publication in our newsletter, "Forward Company F." I look forward to seeing you in the "field" at our remaining events.

October 1 *Derby Historical Society Living History Event*

This will be our first event with the society. Carolyn Ivanoff will issue a call for attendance and issue further information as the event draws closer as it is received.

October 21- 23 *NR 150th Anniversary Battle of Ball's Bluff*

This is a National Regiment reenactment of the battle in which President Lincoln's friend, Senator Edward Baker was killed. Lincoln's second son Eddie was named after him. Paul Martinello will issue out a call for attendance as information is received from the National Regiment.

November 18- 19 *NR Remembrance Day Weekend, Gettysburg*

Paul Martinello is the coordinator for this season ending event for the Civil War reenacting community. The 19th is the 148th Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, which will be observed with brief memorial services in the Soldiers' National Cemetery.



December 10 *Holiday Open House at Fiddler's Green*

For the third consecutive year Karen and Chris Purrone have opened up their beautiful home to start the holiday season off in full-swing with a catered dinner. Mark this date down on your calendar as Company F will gather one more time before heading off to winter quarters.

