

# Company F Forward!

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



## Message from the President's Desk

Gettysburg, PA  
November 14, 2014

### Inside this issue:

Message from the President's Desk	1
Scheduled Events	3
Noteworthy	4
After Action Reports	5
Book Review	14
Hincks' Mess	15

Dear Friends:

Tomorrow's Remembrance Day Parade will conclude our most "successful campaign" season to date that began on April 5<sup>th</sup> in our third year as the CT State Coordinator for the Civil War Trust Park Day program at Fort Trumbull State Park in New London, CT. We conducted living history programs for old friends at the Seymour Historical Society and made new ones at events for the Cromwell Historical Society, the Cornwall Historical Society, the 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of the Town of Guilford, and the Town of Stratford and the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town of Ashford.

Co. F added school presentations to its programs, as our "Civil War Educational Traveling Team" accepted invitations from East Catholic High School in Windsor, Haborside Middle School in Milford and House of Arts, Letters & Science Academy in New Britain.

We paid honor and remembrance to the memories of sacrifices made by 14<sup>th</sup> CVI soldiers with our Decoration Day (Memorial Day) Flag Ceremonies, marching in the Naugatuck Memorial Day Parade and undertaking the restoration project of the headstone of Captain Jarvis Blinn in Center Cemetery in Rocky Hill, CT.

Co. F was invited and participated in events at the Chester Historical Society, at the series of four (4) Civil War events sponsored by the Cornwall Historical Society, highlighted by the Major General John Sedgwick Walking Tour in his home town of Cornwall Crossing, at the D.A.R. "Massing of the Colors" program in Wethersfield, CT and a living history event on Governor's Island in New York City.

As members of the National Regiment (NR), we took part in the 150<sup>th</sup> Battle Reenactments of the Wilderness & Spotsylvania, and Cedar Creek. Besides the NR Non-Commissioned Officers' School, we conducted our own School of the Soldier Classes to prepare our military component.

Irving Moy, President  
 Chris Purrone, Vice President  
 Paul Martinello, Treasurer  
 Gary Horton, Recording Secretary  
 Karen Purrone, Member-At Large  
 Newsletter Editor and Facebook Admin.  
 Bill Mellow, Webmaster

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

With our honorariums from events, individual donations and matching grants by companies, we have donated to date \$3,355 towards battlefield preservation with the Civil War Trust and other preservation projects with fourth quarter donations still to come.

And in 2014 we added 9 new members to Company F!

We want to thank you for your confidence in us by inviting us to hold and participate in events for you, which have added towards our success. We also want to thank each of our members for your contributions in time and effort in sharing your knowledge with the public at all the events you attend. We look at Karen Purrone's event pictures with you interacting with the public with a smile and joy in your face. We are fortunate that Co. F consists of a wonderful and compatible group of individuals, committed to educating the public. The camaraderie, joy and friendship we share in representing and sharing the Civil War Era makes us truly unique. We credit our success to all our collective efforts.

Your Obedient Servants,

*Irving Moy, President*

*Chris Purrone, Vice-President*

*Paul Martinello, Treasurer*

*Gary Horton, Recording Secretary*

*Karen Purrone, Member- At- Large*



### **2014 Preservation Donation Goal Met!!!!**

With our 4th quarter donation of \$659.00 to the Civil War Trust to support its Education Fund and battlefield preservation projects at the Slaughter Pen Farm in Fredericksburg, General Robert E. Lee's headquarters in Gettysburg, and project to save 304.1 acres on the Rappahannock Station, Second Bull Run, White Oak Road, Reams Station, Thompson's Station, Shiloh, Davis Bridge and Bentonville battlefields, we have exceeded our goal of \$4,000 in preservation donations for 2014 with a total of \$4,070.



## Scheduled Events

### Looking Ahead- 2015 Event Schedule

Thinking of scheduling an event with us? Attend one to see what we do! All living history events, unless otherwise noted, are from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. See you there!

Recruitment poster courtesy of Karl Bacon and the Naugatuck Historical Society

<b>April</b>	4	Civil War Trust Park Day at Fort Trumbull, 90 Walbach St., New London, CT. Report to the Visitor's Center at 8:30 a.m. with work gloves, rake, etc. for your assignment. Event is from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.
	9-12	NR 150 <sup>th</sup> Appomattox Court House Living History, VA
<b>May</b>	16	300 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Town of Tolland Living History Event
	23	Cemetery Flag Ceremonies
	25	Naugatuck Memorial Day Parade
<b>June</b>	6	Wallingford Historical Society Living History Event 180 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT
<b>July</b>	11	Old Saybrook Historical Society Living History Event 350 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT
	25	200 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Town of Griswold, Living History Event
<b>September</b>	12	Joseph Mansfield House Living History Event 151 Main Street, Middletown, CT
	26	Weston Historical Society Living History Event 104 Weston Road, Weston, CT
<b>October</b>	17	West Haven Veterans Museum & Learning Center Living History Event, 30 Hood Terrace, West Haven, CT
<b>November</b>	20-22	NR Remembrance Day Parade, Gettysburg, PA

### 2015 Annual Meeting

Our fourth annual meeting will take place at the Major General Joseph Mansfield House, home of the Middlesex County Historical Society, 151 Main Street, Middletown, on Saturday, January 17, 2015 starting at 10:00 a.m. We will be voting on the election of board members, 2015 budget, and schedule and other business. All members are urged to attend.



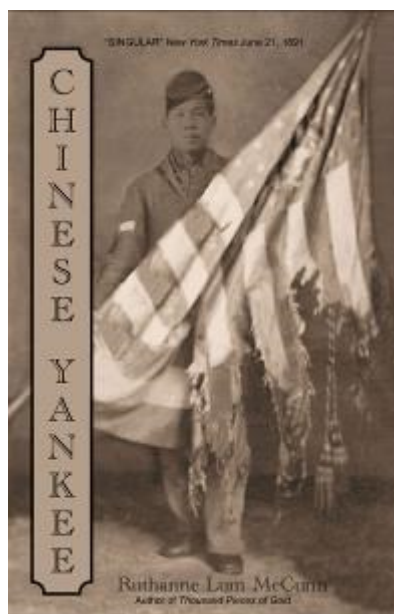
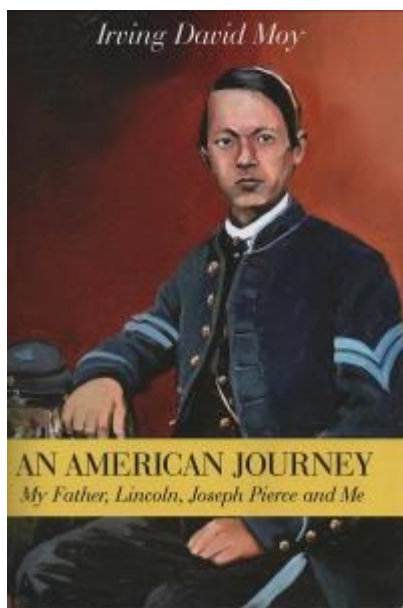
## Noteworthy

### Books on Chinese and the Civil War

Joining the selection, “An American Journey- My Father, Lincoln, Joseph Pierce and Me”, the story of Co. F’s own Joseph Pierce, available at [www.lulu.com/product/paperback/an-american-journey/12551610](http://www.lulu.com/product/paperback/an-american-journey/12551610), is the book, “Chinese Yankee” by Ruthanne Lum McCunn. “Chinese Yankee” is the story of Thomas Sylvanus (Ah Yee Way), who joined the 42<sup>nd</sup> NY, was blinded in his first major campaign and discharged. Although he never recovered he reenlisted twice, saved his regiment’s colors at Spotsylvania, lamed at Cold Harbor and survived 9 months in Andersonville. Ms. McCunn’s award-winning work has been translated into 11 languages, published in 22 countries and adapted for stage and screen. For more information, visit [www.mccunn.com](http://www.mccunn.com).

Finally, the book, “Asians and Pacific Islanders and the Civil War” will be available- Winter 2014- 2015 from the National Park Service (NPS). *“A group of researchers and writers has identified hundreds of Asians and Pacific Islanders who served in the Civil War. They share some of these stories in this new publication. Richly illustrated, this book brings to life the accounts of these once-forgotten warriors who fought and sometimes died for a nation in which they faced extreme discrimination.”* This book and others in the series devoted to the contributions of diverse ethnic groups to the Civil War, “Hispanics and the Civil War” and American Indians and the Civil War, are available at [www.eParks.com](http://www.eParks.com) and [www.wnps.org](http://www.wnps.org).

Irving Moy will join author, Ruthanne Lum McCunn and Carol Shively, NPS, at the Tucson Festival of Books on March 14- 15, 2015, to answer questions about the book, conduct book signings and to participate in a panel discussion on the book.





## After Action Reports

*Company F had a very busy Summer/Fall season. With so many events to cover, I couldn't fit all the After Action Reports in the previous newsletter. I had to carry over a couple to this quarter's issue. My thanks to Warren for combining several Cornwall events into one report.*

### On the March with Co. F: The Magic of Cornwall

When Irving Moy sent out the email on July 7 regarding the "Cornwall and the Civil War" programs, I read it with great interest, especially, the story about Major General John Sedgwick receiving a gold -tipped cane from his relative, a member of the Gold Family. I immediately emailed my friends, Charlie and Barbara Gold and asked about this. It turns out it was Charlie's grandfather who gave General Sedgwick the cane. I have known the Gold family, Ralph, Ann, Charlie and Barbara, for over 30 years. Their farm is a place I have deer hunted almost all of my adult life. When Barbara and I spoke on the phone shortly after, we both had a laugh of sorts, I didn't know she was the President of the Historical Society, and she didn't know I was a member of the 14<sup>th</sup>.



Barbara Gold, Warren and Bridget Stevens at the Cornwall Town Hall.  
Photo by Becky Stevens

I was immediately compelled for many reasons to support the coming Cornwall presentations in uniform, e.g. my like for Cornwall, my years hunting there, and especially, because of my friendship with the Gold Family and to represent Co. F.

The first presentation was by Raechel Guest on July 13, "Cornwall and the Civil War: Curator's Talk". I learned a great deal from her about Cornwall's involvement and contributions in the Civil War and about General Sedgwick and the Cogswell Brothers. The brothers were the first Native Americans to fight for the Union. I had driven by both gravesites many times over the years. How ironic I thought. After the talk at the Town Hall, we moved down the street to the Society building and I was able to take in their wonderful Civil War exhibit.



Family Day, The Civil War Experience, Cornwall Historical Society

Next was "Family Day, The Civil War Experience" on July 26. This was our Co. F living history event. It was a great day for all involved, and we started a tradition of sorts by eating at the Wandering Moose Café.

August 17<sup>th</sup> found me at the Historical Society again for the presentation, "Disaster at Cold Harbor" by Waite Rawls, President and Curator of the Museum of the Confederacy. This was a great presentation as well; the horror and casualties at Cold Harbor were staggering.

## After Action Reports, con't.

The next trip to Cornwall was on September 7th for the “Major General John Sedgwick Walking Tour” hosted by David Ward. This was a great day as 7 members of Co. F showed up in support of the event. We marched from the monument up the hill to the home Sedgwick had built and then marched back to his grave. The public turnout was large and it provided us a great opportunity to interact with them. After the event, it was off to the Wandering Moose for Chris and Karen Purrone, Irv and Julie Moy and me.



John Sedgwick Walking Tour



“Letters and Lyrics”

Our last trip to Cornwall was on October 5th for the presentation, “Letters and Lyrics”. Many Civil War letters from men in Cornwall were read by CBS Correspondent and Cornwall Historical Board Member, Richard Schlesinger. The readings were accompanied by period music and singing by Rick Spencer. A highlight for me was singing along with Sgt. Chris Purrone, the “Battle Hymn of the Republic”. Afterward, Chris, Karen, Bill and Nancy Mellow and I went to the Wandering Moose for lunch.

As a young teenager in the late 1960s, my father started taking me hunting in the state forest in Cornwall. I couldn't carry a gun at that time because of my age, but I remember wearing a hunting coat many sizes too big for me and carrying extra shotgun shells for my Dad in the pockets. A few years later, CT began a muzzle-loader deer hunting season. My first black powder deer kill was with an original 1861 model contract musket made by Eli Whitney in New Haven, CT. That happened not too far from the covered bridge in the state forest. I remember eating at the Wandering Moose many years ago when it first opened.

Since 1980, I have had the pleasure of becoming friends with the Gold's and hunting on their farm that has become a special, magical place for me. My Dad and I have taken many deer and had many fun adventures out in the forest there. He is now gone, but I still walk by many of the places where we hunted and feel that he is there, maybe watching over me. Although the “Civil War at Cornwall” programs are over at the Cornwall Historical Society, it is just beginning for me. I intend to take to the woods up there in December for the muzzleloader season with one of my original Civil War muskets and, hopefully, get a deer. One thing for certain, I will pass by General Sedgwick's grave and the Cogswell Brothers' gravesites and give the boys a well-deserved salute.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pvt. Warren Stevens



## 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Town of Ashford, October 11, 2014

The “Advanced Engineering/Scouting Team” consisting of Warren Stevens, Paul Martinello, Irving Moy, Bill and Nancy Mellow arrived on site mid-Friday afternoon to “get the lay of the land” and to set up the shelter flies and the company street. This was done with full knowledge of the pending forecast of rain for the next day, but also with optimism that in our four years as Company F, the rain has never been heavy enough to cancel an event. Our “advance guard team” of Mike Adiletta the Younger, Joe Adiletta, Warren and Paul, slept over and reported a cold night with no rain until early in the morning when they woke up to prepare breakfast.

## After Action Reports, con't.



And the rain came and continued at a steady pace as the rest of the company arrived in the morning early enough to arrive before Rte. 44 was to be closed for the parade that was to begin at 10:00 a.m. Lucky for us, the old Post Office Building was vacant and large enough to locate our display exhibits and civilians, Carolyn Ivanoff, Julie Moy, Jenn and Matt Bartlett, Kate Rohan and Roseann Adiletta. As the soldiers waited under the shelters for the weather to break and the parade to begin, “Dog Robber” fried apple fritters that took the edge off as we waited in the cold rain. Our camp was located near the reviewing stand; Lt. Martinello assigned a color guard consisting of himself, Privates Warren Stevens and Mike Conlin. The rain continued to come down with town residents lined up along Rte. 44 and the entrance into Pompey Hollow Park. As we watched from our camp, we could not help but to be impressed that so many came out and stood in the rain to celebrate with pride the anniversary of their home town.



When the parade ended a few made it to our camp, but mostly, as they headed for their cars. A few went into the building to speak with our civilians and looked at our exhibits. As we continued our wait, we all had a good time visiting with each other unlike other living history events where we are kept continuously busy with our public presentations. Matt Bartlett brought his 19<sup>th</sup> century accordion to play for our enjoyment. Next season his accordion and Gary Horton’s guitar will add to and enliven the atmosphere of our events.

Around 1:30 p.m. with no potential visitors in sight except for “Mark Twain” who reported spare crowds in the park and was leaving himself, so with permission, Co. F broke camp for the final living history event of 2014. For those who were able, we drove up Rte. 44 a short distance and ate lunch at the Mid-Way Restaurant. A big thank you to Mike Adiletta, the Elder, Mike Adiletta, the Younger, Joe Adiletta, Roseann Adiletta, Mike Conlin, Kate Rohan, Matt and Jenn Bartlett, Nick and Carolyn Ivanoff, Irving and Julie Moy, Chris and Karen Purrone, Warren Stevens, Bill Mellow, Ted Urbanski, Paul and Lauren Martinello for faithfully attending and representing Co. F.

--Irving Moy



## Cedar Creek

This trip to Cedar Creek was a new adventure, for I've been on trips with Warren and John separately, but not with Mark or all four of us together. We explored places that some have never been to and other places, not for a long time, such as Fisher’s Hill and Hupp’s Hill. The weather was good for sight seeing and we learned from each other in camp. I enjoyed another opportunity in commanding the company and the members of the 6th NH, 1st PA and 14th CT made it all work well both in camp and in the field. It was sunny, windy, cool and cold, but all part of the experience of Cedar Creek. Thank goodness the only sprinkles we had were on Thursday's traveling down. This trip was a good practice for next springs trip to the 150th Appomattox, 3 hours longer south. I look forward to seeing the battlefield action through Karen's camera and everyone else's too.

--Paul Martinello

## After Action Reports, con't.

Dear Mother -

It is true that war will bring the fires of hell and it is a cold, cold business at that. I know you don't like me to use that kind of language but it is a fit description of what Co. F experienced at the Battle of Cedar Creek in Middletown, Va., Oct. 18-19. Besides, it has been over two years since the 14th Connecticut Regiment joined this war; I'm no longer the wide-eyed boy you saw heading to Camp Foote at Hartford when I mustered into service. I have seen - and done - enough in this war to become a man.

At the onset, the Battle of Cedar Creek would appear to be a fine representation of Co. F, 14th CVI. Our lieutenant, Paul Martinello, was promoted to captain of the Fifth Company; our sergeant, Chris Purrone, was elevated to first sergeant; and private Warren Stevens made acting corporal. These promotions were necessary since former Colonel Mark McNierney, a Co. F associate member, was hand-picked to join the general's staff. With a good friend of Co. F now among the highest ranked in the regiment, we entered the Shenandoah Valley with great pride.

In addition to the captain, the first sergeant, and the acting corporal, the Co. F infantry at the Battle of Cedar Creek included the Adiletta trio (Mike Sr., Mike Jr., and Joey), Nick Ivanoff, Mark Morganski, and myself. We were the largest regiment of the brigade, which included our usual fighting partners, the 6th New Hampshire and the 1st Pennsylvania. As is often the case, Karen Purrone, Carolyn Ivanoff, and Rose Adiletta continued to follow their men in the campaign by offering their support and companionship.

Some of us had never been to the Shenandoah valley before so on Oct. 17, the captain led Morganski, Stevens, and me to join the first sergeant at the site of the legendary Battle of New Market, where students of Virginia Military Institute became the first collegians to leave classrooms to enter the fray. After their stand against superior Union numbers and in mud so deep several cadets left their brogans there, I hear the boys refer to that battlefield as the Field of Lost Shoes. We also saw the family farmhouse where the battle was fought and discovered there are still blood stains on walls in rooms converted for operating on the wounded.

By late afternoon, we arrived at Cedar Creek to set up camp. Co. F took up the majority of the company street and we were told to save room for late arrivals that ultimately didn't materialize.

I know you have often said I should inform you of any needs so that I do not give my greenbacks to the sutlers; however, mail to the Army of the Potomac has been spotty at best lately so we spent that Friday evening shopping. Do not worry - I did not spend any money for any item that wasn't absolutely urgent to buy. The price of mercantile goods certainly prevented any impulse or luxury purchases. You won't believe what these profiteers charge!

While the weather on Friday was very pleasant, Saturday was filled with annoyance. At first, there were the overcast skies and then the wind, which swooped down between the Blue Ridge and Allegheny mountains. I wondered how the stiffening breeze might affect my accuracy with the 1861 Springfield rifled musket. However, a three-hour morning drill that culminated in a 30-second speech by some political chatterbox from Vermont to honor some Green Mountain boys was equally annoying.



## After Action Reports, con't.

You may recall my first letters in which I reported duly doing my duty. After a time, I began to question the decisions of officers but only in private to you. After the Battle of 3rd Winchester on Oct. 18 and the Battle of Cedar Creek on Oct. 19, I have become hardened to the idea that some of those giving commands probably have spent more time in bars than with bars on their shoulders, a notion I no longer have any problem sharing with you or other members of the front lines.

During our Saturday engagement, Co. F was positioned along a creek waiting to support the artillery at the crest of the hill. At the appointed hour, we rushed the hill but there seemed to be no plan to pass through our own cannons, which created a mix of chaos and panic. Once we re-established battle lines, we moved to the edge of another small valley but inexplicable were ordered to put our rifled muskets by our sides and not fire, even though those rotten rebels continued to fire hot lead at our men. This inaction lasted about 10 minutes but it seemed excruciatingly longer. None among the enlisted men were surprised when a couple of our men took hits. Though we eventually carried the day, we carried our comments about the officers with us back to camp.

A clear sky ensured a cooler evening with strong winds and many struggled to sustain it. My attempt to fold a second blanket on top was foiled when I apparently rolled over and the second blanket rolled off without my knowing it, since I had buried myself beneath the lower blanket completely. With only one blanket and my uniform, there were brief moments of teeth chattering and I could never get warm enough to get the kind of comfort that induces sleep. It felt like it was freezing, even though the temperature gauge hovered slightly above it.

Joey Adiletta tried to sleep by the fire but the wind kept pushing the heat away from him, not to him. Still, it left him in fine position for the evening's most unexpected event. Although the officers had a smokestack coming out of a tent that no doubt was warm, their mess tent fly was knocked down by the wind and into the fire pit, creating a blaze that lit up nearby tents and prompted a fire brigade. When all the excitement was over, the only damage was to the fly, of which half had burned away. Forgive me if I say it probably served the officers right after their inaction in the field that day.

The Sunday morning that followed was also chilly, which is perhaps why the colonel cut short our drill after dress parade. Several of us spent the latter part of the morning getting a jump on breaking down tents, as we had received word we would be moving out later in the day. Then the sun emerged and warmed us sufficiently.

We were called back to order at 12:30 hours and marched to the bottom of yet another ravine. There, we rested for about 45 minutes. It was further evidence why the most frequent phrase in camp seems to be "hurry up and wait." If I had known what was to come, I might still prefer the waiting.

A swarm of rebels rose over a hill and began to fire upon us. Though our artillery replied at relatively close range, the scoundrels just kept coming. We were first positioned in front of the creek, which I took to be the place where we would make our stand but as the rebels advanced, we repaired to the other side of the creek over a narrow footbridge. The maneuver left our battle front inverted, so we actually spent a few frightening moments with our backs to the enemy. It was only a sign of things to come.

## After Action Reports, con't.

We were soon flooded by voices and commands, including a handful which we had never learned. It was pandemonium. One officer moved us to the right while another officer ordered us to the left. We retreated a second time to the crest of the creek ravine to put a stop to the rebel advance. I marveled at the precision of the rebels, who fired either in whole companies, whole ranks, or even whole brigades. Our response to fire by file was inadequate, as it resulted in few rebel casualties. The collective boom of the rebels continued to impress as we eventually moved to independent fire that looked like a haphazard reaction to the Confederates' well-coordinated attack.

Somehow, we were able to drive the rascals back over the creek and we pursued the enemy, this time without the benefit of the footbridge. A few of us got wet in the creek and we all had to dodge tree branches and pricklers to get to the other side. The rebels continued to fire in unison during their retreat but our advance was disorganized. Companies that were supposed to be lined up alongside each other somehow ended up behind each other; a major sent word the general had ordered us to attack but the colonel in the rear of the battle line ordered us to halt.

Since the major giving the advance command was McNierney, we were among the first in the brigade to charge up the hill since we know and trust him more than any of the other officers. Once again, units crashed into each other in the dash up the hill but we were rewarded when we caught up to the rebels while they were reloading. Some small hand-to-hand fighting ensued but the rebels quickly surrendered and the battle was won.

With the victory, the Union now has control of the Shenandoah valley, which now Lee can no longer use to feed his Army of Northern Virginia. It is a bewildering thought to figure out how we arrived at that conclusion considering the mishaps on the battlefields.

You'll be glad to hear I remain intact, other than my pride after being ordered not to fire and then turning my back to the enemy as well, both of which expose me to charges of cowardice.

I suppose since we won and I'm alive I should be grateful. However, the continued battlefield blunders make me think I've just been lucky and that if this war doesn't end soon, my luck will eventually run out.

My patience already has.

Your son,  
Pvt. John Morrison



## After Action Reports, con't.

P.S. - The captain apparently felt our frustration the day after the Battle at Cedar Creek. He took us to Fisher's Hill and Hupp's Hill, both sites of Union control in the run-up to Cedar Creek. Thanks to Gen. Crook, the Union routed Early's rebels at Fisher's Hill. Hupp's Hill was a staging position along a mile-long trench Gen. Sheridan ordered built. Being able to see those locations somewhat calmed us. Then we got a real treat; the captain took us to the 1961-62 winter headquarters of Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson in Winchester, Va., where he planned that devastating 1862 Shenandoah campaign. Though much of his furniture is still there, he, of course, no longer is. Although this man caused the Union so much trouble, the aura of the house demanded a certain level of respect without gloating. An added bonus was being able to touch a round sewing table made by Thomas Jefferson himself! The diversion lifted our spirits a bit. Time will have to heal the remainder of our unrest.

—John



### “Put the boys in, and may God forgive me for the order.”

This famous command, given by Confederate Major General John C. Breckenridge, on May 15, 1864 has stayed in my mind since visiting the Virginia Museum of the Civil War on our way to Cedar Creek. Paul Martinello, Mark Marganski, John Morrison and I left on the evening of October 16<sup>th</sup> and drove until we were in the historic Shenandoah Valley. I was always aware of the area and the New Market Battlefield but after our visit, I came away with a sense of reverence. Friday morning the 18<sup>th</sup> was bright and seasonable as we visited the museum and battlefield, meeting up with Chris Purrone. New Market is the place where the Virginia Military Institute students, young Confederates age 15-19 (I thought of Joe and Mike Adiletta Jr.) left the classroom and marched straight to battle two days later. Never in American History has this ever occurred again. The students charged across a field so muddy that it pulled off their shoes and socks, immortalizing the place forever as “The Field of Lost Shoes.”



This was just one of the many places that Paul had thoughtfully planned out for our trip. As we continued on the Valley Pike (RT. 11) on our way to the event, we passed many markers that showed the importance of the struggle for the valley. Reaching the event, we proceeded to set up our company street, seeing many familiar faces and renewing old friendships. The next morning was a role call at dawn, formation, maneuvers, a dress parade and then the battle that was nothing short of spectacular. The local paper stated that there were registered participants from 32 states, 3 foreign countries, 369 cavalry and 69 field cannons, although there seemed to be a little less cannon. Saturday night was cooking evening meals and great camaraderie around the fire. The weather grew cold and windy, we struggled to keep warm. During the night, a tarp blew down into a campfire and burned, no one was hurt thankfully.

Waking before sunrise, I found Joe sleeping next to the fire. First Sgt. Purrone arrived and we again had company formation before sunrise. After regimental formation, we were informed we could pack up our gear. Pvt. Morrison and I rolled blankets and packed knapsacks and marched to the baggage train. We did well; Pvt. Morrison slightly better than I, being a kid in his early 50s. We went through the sutler area that was very large, not quite as big as the one for the 150<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg event the year before but impressive none the less. Later, we all visited the Christian Commission that was the likes I have never seen. All soldiers in uniform were given a handkerchief full of nuts, dried fruit and cookies. We also received a cloth bag with soap, comb, pencil, candle, writing paper and other items to make us feel good again; these items were much appreciated. Of special note, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant brought many pies into camp, which made our time there very pleasurable.



paper and other items to make us feel good again; these items were much appreciated. Of special note, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant brought many pies into camp, which made our time there very pleasurable.



## After Action Reports, con't.

Sunday's battle tested the discipline of the men, officers, NCOs and privates alike. At one point there was much confusion in the Regiment and several drastic maneuvers took place to get us out of a tight spot, but we prevailed and drove back the Rebels back. After the battle on our march to the baggage train, I turned and looked back on Massanutten Mountain and thought how Stonewall Jackson had been there and looked down on the Union Army in 1862. The area left an impression on me that rivaled Gettysburg. Staying the night at a local inn, we set out the next morning for Fisher's Hill Battlefield, south of Strasburg, VA. This is where Confederate General Jubal Early entrenched an area 4 miles wide across the Shenandoah Valley to stop the Federals. A unique feature here was a large oak tree on top of the hill that served as a Confederate observation post; it is still there. Known as the Third Battle of Winchester, Confederate General Jubal Early suffered a crushing defeat here on September 22, 1864. Also called Ramseur's Hill, Confederate Major General Stephen Ramseur's forces were severely routed here by Union General Crook's Corp. Ironically, Early was able to regroup and attack a month later at Cedar Creek and put to flight a Union Army twice his size.



Our next stop was Hupp's Hill Civil War Park, outside of Strasburg. The area showed several cannon emplacements known as "lunettes" due to their crescent moon shape. The area also had a vast underground cavern that ran under the entire area.

Last on our trip was the headquarters of Stonewall Jackson, in Winchester. Perfectly preserved, the house had many of the original furniture and luggage that Jackson actually used when he stayed there. Our tour guide was a very knowledgeable elderly southern woman that seemed to know every fact about Jackson. One high point in the house was a sewing table made by Thomas Jefferson! John and I each made it a point to touch the table. We passed by the Union National Cemetery in town on our way out, hundreds of markers stood in quiet tribute to the fallen. We learned on the tour that Winchester had changed hands 13 times in a single day during the war.

After many hours on the road, we returned safe and better informed to CT. The trip was great, not only for the reenactment but also the places we visited before and after the event. I sadly parted with my comrades in battle, but I look forward to our next trip down south.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pvt. Warren Stevens



Cedar Creek 2014

The weekend of October 17 and 18 was a very exciting one for me. This would be my first BIG reenactment with members of Company F. I had already attended several smaller ones here in Connecticut, but this would be my first "two-dayer" and in Virginia, no less.

Chris brought me down to the Cedar Creek battlefield on Friday night to show me where the 6th Company was set up. It was a photographer's paradise...rows and rows of white tents pitched on company streets, with a glorious sunset as the background. There was lots of activity going on. Soldiers setting up dog tents, building fires for their evening meals, officers going over the next day's battle plans. And the horses...horses EVERYWHERE! I was in heaven!! We didn't stay long as the sun was setting and it was getting cold. As we hurried back to the car to make our way to our WARM hotel room, I wondered how everybody would fare, sleeping on the cold hard ground, in just a dog tent. We would find out tomorrow!



## After Action Reports, con't.

Saturday morning came too soon. Chris was up at 2:30 a.m. to get dressed. As First Sergeant, he needed to be there before reveille at 6:30. I got dressed and we drove back out to the camp. It was cold and dark. Some soldiers were already up, stoking fires and getting coffee ready. A little cold and stiff, but everybody make it through the night. More soldiers came in during the night, so the empty spots were filled with more tents. More photo ops with campfires, chilly soldiers and a beautiful sunrise.



After breakfast, our boys spent most of the morning drilling and getting ready for the Federal Dress Parade, Pass in Review that would be held before the cavalry battle at noon. You could compare the dress parade to a sea of blue, with wave upon wave of Union soldiers marching past the reviewing stand, flags proudly waving (the winds were quite strong, some of the soldiers really had to hang onto their flag poles!) Again more horses. There were even teams of horses pulling cannons and caissons...stuff I've only seen in the movies.

The day was warming up nicely by the time "Battle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Winchester" was scheduled to take place. I sat in the spectator's area with Roseann Adiletta, her sister-in-law and her husband (who had come up from Georgia to visit with Mike, Ro and family). We had a great view of the battle, but unfortunately, we were on the side of the field that the Confederates were advancing thru. The Union soldiers were up "over yonder" on the far side of the field. We could see blue uniforms, but couldn't distinguish faces. But it was still exciting to watch.

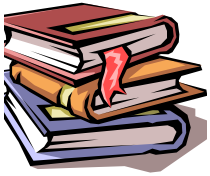
Sunday morning came, and Chris and I headed out to the battlefield once more. We were able to arrive a little later, as reveille wasn't until 7:00 a.m. This time I decided to stay in the car, napping, until the sun came up and got a little warmer. Learning from the day before, I wore extra layers of clothing and gloves, so I was able to deal with the cold much better. The morning routine for the soldiers was pretty much the same, but they were given permission to pack up their camps early in preparation for leaving right after the afternoon's battle. In short time, camps were broken down and those lucky enough to be parked close to the battlefield brought their gear to their cars.

The Battle of Cedar Creek was early Sunday afternoon. Again, I sat with Roseann, but this time Carolyn Ivanoff and Mark Marganski joined us. Spectator seating was still on the "Confederate side" but this time we were closer to the line of artillery. The ground shook every time the guns went off. This battle was more exciting than the previous one. And this time the Union troops got to come up a little closer to where we were sitting. Despite all the smoke from the cannons and muskets, I got a lot of great photos.

Even though I was only there for a few short days, I took over 650 photos (thank goodness for digital cameras!) Virginia is a beautiful area, rich in history, so much to see. I can't wait for the next battle for an excuse to come back.

Karen Purrone

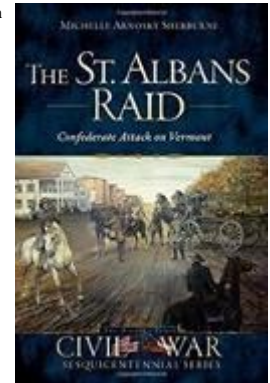




## Book Review by Matt Bartlett

The St. Albans Raid: Confederate Arrack on Vermont  
Michelle Arnosky Sherburne  
The History Press, 2014, 189 pp., \$199.99  
ISBN: 978-1-62619-629-2

Image courtesy of amazon.com



In the annals of the Battle of Gettysburg, there is always talk about the High Water Mark. While the area of the monument is somewhat contended, there are even those that state the monument should be farther north in Pennsylvania somewhere around Carlisle. The events which occurred in St. Albans are known, but not well known enough for all to admit. In this work, Michelle Arnosky Sherburne gives us a window into the conflict which occurred in northern Vermont which brings forth the thought as to what the actual High Water Mark is in the history of the Confederacy. In this work, Sherburne brings us a study into the actuality through fine research and sweeping narrative.

Michelle Arnosky Sherburne has worked in the newspaper business since she graduated high school and was originally from Pennsylvania. Ever since the 1990s, she pursued freelance writing and began researching the history of Vermont mainly on the effects of the Underground Railroad for about two decades. She has also authored *Abolition and the Underground Railroad in Vermont* and the co-editor of *A Vermont Hill Town in the Civil War: Peacham's Story*. She still works in the newspaper industry and tours around the state of Vermont giving historical presentations and lectures in the schoolroom.

When we usually think of the American Civil War, Vermont is the last thing when it comes to a battlefield. However, in the fall of 1864, the town of St. Albans was part of an attack from raiders. In this narrative, which reads somewhat like a thriller novel, Sherburne splits the raid into three main stages: Setting the Stage, the Raid itself, and the Trials of the Raiders in Canada. Throughout the first part of the story, Sherburne gives us a description not only of the raiders themselves, but of the town and the people residing. She also describes some of the weapons the raiders were using including Greek Fire. She also describes the Confederate Secret Service not only in this incident, but in other aspects of the war. As I stated before, much of the second section on the raid read like a thriller novel. Some of the events which occurred were quite horrifying not because of the action, but because this event is not heard in Civil War history as much as it should. The second part of the raid which was just as thrilling was the chase of the raiders which eventually led to their arrest. After the arrest of the raiders, the third section details the arrests and trials which the raiders went through.

I highly recommend *The St. Albans Raid* to anyone who is interested into the more unknown aspects of the war. This war touched everyone even when the action of the battlefield was far away from the state of Virginia. This work shows that even the terrible reality of war could reach a state so northern as Vermont. I praise Sherburne for bringing this subject more to the light of the public. There are some who already know about the raid, but for those who find this to be new information, this book is highly recommended.



## Hincks' Mess



### Dog Robber's Fried Chicken

- 1 Broiler or Fryer Chicken (3 – 3-½ pounds, cut up)
- 1 Quart Cold Water
- 1 Tablespoon Salt
- 1 Cup Flour
- 1-½ Tsp. Salt
- 1-½ Tsp. Pepper
- 1 Quart Vegetable Oil or Crisco

Soak the chicken in water mixed with 1 Tablespoon of Salt in a large pot for 2 hours or longer. Combine the flour, remaining salt and pepper in a bag.

Remove the chicken from the water and pat dry with a towel.

Add the chicken to the bag a few pieces at a time and shake to coat well.

Remove the chicken from the bag and set aside.

Pour enough oil or Crisco into a large deep skillet to fill about ½ full. The oil must be deep enough to cover the chicken entirely as it is added. Heat the oil until very hot, about 370 degrees F.

Add the chicken, skin side down, a couple of pieces at a time.

When the underside begins to brown, turn the chicken over and cook until the second side is browned.

Remove and drain to a large skillet that has been placed in a cooler part of your fire and cover.  
Serves 4.