

# Company F Forward!

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



Recruitment poster courtesy of Karl Bacon and the Naugatuck Historical Society



## DISPATCH FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

To the Members of Company F 14<sup>th</sup> C.V.I.

I would like to begin this report by acknowledging all the achievements that our past President Irving Moy has accomplished. Without his motivation, commitment and knowledge, we would not be the group we are today. From all of us on the Executive Committee, and our unit, thank you Irving for a job well done.

The Sesquicentennial is over and where do we go from here? What we do, is to keep moving forward. This year, we have over 14 different events scheduled. These include drills, living histories, and reenactments. We are going to keep improving our impression with more emphasis on authenticity. This will allow us to be a better group when we take to the field no matter what type of event we may be involved with. We are in the process of performing complete inspections on all our members' rifle muskets and training them on how to keep their firearms clean using period tools. Once this has been done, we feel the results will yield more reliable and cleaner rifle muskets. We plan to add more excitement to all our living histories with a variety of different scenarios which will give everyone, both civilian and military, the opportunity to become more involved.

Since the beginning of this year, your Executive Committee has met twice. We have had an annual meeting, a School of Instruction at Gettysburg, drill session at Fiddler's Green, Park Day at Fort Trumbull, and a school presentation. Consequently we are definitely moving in the right direction. In the next three months we have a variety of events scheduled. Please see our "Marching Orders" page in the newsletter.

In regards to preservation our unit has already donated \$1,400 in the first quarter of this year. Looking ahead we may be able to contribute in excess of \$3,500 towards preservation projects in 2016. Year to date Company F's total donations towards preservation is \$16,400. This could not have been done without the all of us pulling together.

The Sesquicentennial may be over but Company F marches on and the best is yet to come.

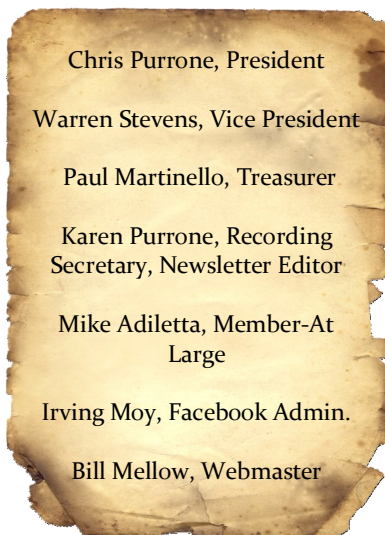
Regards,

*Chris*

Christopher Purrone  
President

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Mike Adiletta, Member-At Large

Irving Moy, Facebook Admin.

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## MARCHING ORDERS FROM THE FIRST SERGEANT

### 2016 Events

REMINDER: All living history events will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the designated location. Refer any questions to the event coordinator.

Our schedule for April thru June 2016

April 9<sup>th</sup> - Rifle Musket Inspection & Period Cleaning Instruction at Cpl. Stevens residence.

April 23<sup>rd</sup> - Preservation March Cornwall, CT. Be sure to check out Hincks' Mess. Chicken and Dumplings will be on the menu for this event!

May 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> -Camp of Instruction at Gettysburg. We will be camped on the Gettysburg Battlefield with the National Regiment. **This is a maximum effort event.** It should be great. So for all our men at arms, please make every effort to attend this event.

May 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> - the Company F Travel Team will be at the Keeler Tavern Museum in Ridgefield for visiting 7th grade students.

May 28<sup>th</sup> - Flag Day Ceremonies. We should know by the middle of May what cemeteries we will be visiting.

May 30<sup>th</sup> - Naugatuck Memorial Day Parade

June 11<sup>th</sup> - Windsor Locks Historical Society (living history). This should be a super event. The green is large so we will be able to do some maneuvers.

**Remember that we are all part of one team so please make every effort to attend the above scheduled events. Thank you.**



Woodbury 2015



St. Gabriel's School 2015



Remembrance Day Parade 2015



## TRAVEL TEAM

### Holy Trinity School

February 1, 2016

*"These are fantastic pictures. Great reviews from teachers and students about the presentation. The experiential learning is so valuable at any age. Thank you for making history come alive!"*

These words by Sister Kathleen Kelly, R.S.M., Principal, pretty much captures the atmosphere during the presentation made by our Civil War Educational Traveling Team to Grades 5-8 at Holy Trinity School in Wallingford, CT. Marge Bucholz gave a hands on presentation of Civil War period toys and games while Corporals Warren Stevens and Irving Moy, recruited students into the army and spoke about the arms, equipment and soldiering in the Union Army, All captured in the photographs of Karen Purrone.

Schools interested in a Civil War theme presentation can contact Irving Moy at [irvingmoy@yahoo.com](mailto:irvingmoy@yahoo.com)





## CORRESPONDENCE FROM OUR WESTERN OUTPOST

### **A Forgotten Battlefield:**

A Graduate Volunteer's Experience at Stones River National Battlefield

Steve T. Phan  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Spring 2016

Stones River National Battlefield. Admittedly, I only had a vague understanding of what transpired on the fields of Murfreesboro, Tennessee from 31 December 1862 through 2 January 1863 before I ever considered moving to the Volunteer State. But, as I formulated a plan for pursuing a graduate degree in history, it became quite clear in my mind that Middle Tennessee State University was a strong contender. With a concentration in Public History and the ultimate goal of working with the National Park Service as my focus, MTSU became my top choice over West Virginia University, West Georgia University, and Appalachian State University. There were two major reason I made this choice: first, I wanted to go a different route from many of my colleagues who were attending graduate school at WVU (my second choice); second, I wanted to pursue my professional degree in a Civil War centric state and near a National Park Service battlefield. MTSU and Stones River National Battlefield fit the bill perfectly.

Upon my acceptance to the program, including a graduate assistantship (this is my third semester as a teaching assistant) I was advised by one of my NPS mentors, a Ranger that I became acquainted with as an intern at Richmond National Battlefield Parks in 2012, that I must volunteer my services to Stones River after I made the move from Denver, Colorado to Murfreesboro, Tennessee. My Ranger friend graduated from MTSU with an M.A. in Public History and too volunteered at the park.

I paid an immediate visit to the park after my arrival. My first impression has been indelible etched in my mind. As you drive along historic Nashville Pike toward the visitor center (VC), you pass areas where on both sides of the ride where some of the heaviest fighting occurred on the last day of 1862 as Confederate General Braxton Bragg's Army of the Tennessee massive flank attack nearly drove the Union Army of the Cumberland, commander by Major William Rosecrans off the field into Stones River. Stones River National Battlefield is directly east of the VC across the Pike. As I suggest to every visitor at the NPS sites I have worked, an orientation stop the VC as your first stop is a must. When I first arrived, I was enthusiastically greeted by the park's volunteers that man the front desk, orientate visitors to the site, answer questions, work the gift shop and much more. It was there I first met Ranger Jim Lewis. I call him the Incomparable Ranger Jim. He truly is one of a kind. I introduced myself, detailed my background and goals for the future, and he stated quite simply, "I'm sure I'll be seeing you around," and departed to fulfill one of his many roles, law enforcement ranger. After my initial orientation to the park, specifically having the map and battlefield tour route fully explained, I moved slowly and intently through the park's museum. The NPS has done a commendable job in the past two decades expanding their narrative and interpretation of this complex struggle. I was pleased to see an honest, detailed, and researched storyline that included soldiers and civilians, and women, freed and the enslaved, North and South organized in three major themes: before the first shots at Fort Sumter in April 1861, the battle itself, and the post-battle narrative that provides an all-encompassing view of the Civil War. An orientation film in the museum's theater provides and detailed, visual account of the battle that resulted in over 24,000 casualties, but secured for the Union a base of operations to launch incursions into Alabama and Georgia.

The ground itself is amazing. 370 acres are preserved. It is a small fraction from the thousands of acres that both armies occupied during the battle. From a natural and visual prospective, the sight of thick, green forests, geological rock formations, lush green hills and the waters of Stone River meandering dissecting the battlefield along the Nashville Pike is quite inspiring. I carry period field glasses at each site I explore. I feel attached to the ground as if I was a ranking officer observing troop formations and movements 150 years ago. The maintenance staff does fine work keeping the trails

## CORRESPONDENCE FROM OUR WESTERN OUTPOST, CON'T

clear and maintaining the integrity of the ground and cemetery. I spent a few hours on the tour route. There are 6 stops on the tour. I proceeded in my car, as directed, to each stop, parked and proceeded on ground along the trails. There are interpretive waysides that provide information about the site's critical connection to the battle, silhouettes of soldiers (modeled after a younger and thinner Ranger Lewis) on the field to illustrate the position of the forces on the field, and artillery pieces that represent batteries (it was the Army of Cumberland's ability to concentrate their guns that prevented their route on 32 December and ultimately led to their victory on 2 January. As I departed the field, I began planning the steps needed to become associated with the park.

Through my wonderful NPS mentor, Carol Shively—she was instrumental in the development and editing of the *Asian and Pacific Islanders and the Civil War* published by the service for the war's sesquicentennial—I was able to connect with Stone River's Supervisory Ranger. Ranger Gib Backlund detailed the requirements and expectations of volunteers, and directed me to apply for a position on the park's website. After completing these steps, I was interviewed with Ranger Jim and Ranger John McKay at the park. It was thorough, filled with difficult questions and scenarios but comfortable, and I was able to connect to these two wonderful historians quickly. My role was quite simply: assist in living history programs, roving interpretation (move around the battlefield like an inquisitive skirmisher and assist and direct visitors to the park's VC, sites, cemeteries, etc., and front desk orientation at the VC.

Due to my first semester's intensity, I was not able to volunteer my services at the park until April 2015. It was exciting. I followed Ranger Lewis on a bicycle tour of the battlefield my first day with the plan that I would lead programs during the summer. It was a thrilling perspective of the battlefield. Ranger Jim is an incredible interpreter. He eloquently and with much knowledge, narrates the minute and major details of the battle; its larger connection and scope to the war, and the importance of the ground presently. During this last few weeks of the semester, I accepted a summer ranger position at Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in Chillicothe, Ohio. My plans at Stone River came to a premature end, but before departing, I was fortunate to be included in the park's living history program. Specifically, with Ranger Jim as the instructor (he is the living history coordinator and black powder expert/trainer) assist in a six-man gun crew for a Model 1857 Napoleon Twelve-Pound cannon. The reproduction beauty is loaded with a half to quarter charge, but does she roar! We were able to fire off 2 rounds and a demonstration for visitors a week before I left for Ohio. It was one of the most memorable Civil War experiences I've ever had!

Returning from Ohio in August, I reported directly to Ranger Jim for further orders. Like the Spring and due to my daunting graduate schedule (AND, the Denver Broncos games) I was delegated to one 4-5 hour shift every Saturday. I spent nearly all my time in the VC orientating visitors to the park, including my undergraduate students who had an assignment that directed them to visit and report on a historical. That, perhaps, has been the most rewarding aspect of working at Stones River National Battlefield. I was in my element and it was a true blessing to have the majority of my students see and experience this natural treasure. Their reports were wonderfully. Their glowing reactions to the site, the museum, and the various routes along the tour road fulfill my hopes and desires as an educator.

I am not sure where the road will take me next. I again will be leaving Tennessee to continue my pursuit of the NPS. More to come.

Glory to the 14<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. For Corporal Joseph Pierce

Regards,  
Steve T. Phan





## HINCKS' MESS

### Chicken & Dumplings

The secret to light, feathery dumplings is the steam, which expands the starch in the flour. Don't lift the lid while the dumplings cook or else the steam will escape and your dumplings will fall. 6 - 8 Servings

<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>MEASURE</u>	<u>INGREDIENT</u>
5	pound	broiler-fryer chicken; <i>cut up</i>
8	cups	cold water
4	stalks	celery; chopped
4		carrots; peeled & chopped
2	large	onions; chopped
1		bay leaf
8-10		whole peppercorns
3	tsp.	fresh thyme or 1/2 tsp. dried thyme
To Taste		salt & pepper
2	Tbl.	chopped fresh parsley for garnish

#### Dumplings

<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>MEASURE</u>	<u>INGREDIENT</u>
1 1/2	cups	all-purpose flour
3	tsp.	baking powder
1/2	tsp.	salt
1/4	cup	vegetable shortening
1/2 to 1/3	cup	cold ice water or 2/3 to 3/4 cup milk

#### **METHOD:**

Place cut up chicken in a large stockpot or Dutch Oven with water; *half* the celery, carrots & onions; bay leaf & peppercorns.

Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to low & simmer for at least 45 minutes to one hour or until chicken is cooked.

Remove chicken from pot. Once cool enough to handle, remove meat from bones and cut into bite-sized pieces and set aside.

Skim any excess fat on the surface of the broth; strain broth & discard vegetables.

Over medium-high heat, add remaining uncooked vegetables to broth and bring to a boil.

Reduce heat to medium and cook about 15-20 minutes or until vegetables are tender.

Once vegetables are cooked, return cooked chicken to the pot and add thyme, salt & pepper to taste.

Put all of the ingredients for the dumplings together in a bowl and mix with your fingers.

Scoop out tablespoon size batches of the dumpling mix and add to the simmering stock. Cover pot and simmer for 15 minutes without lifting the lid.