Its been 4 weeks since we set-up camp at the Lutheran Seminary and began a remarkable week. Much of the discussion post event have been about what a wonderful experience it was. Cooperation from the Borough, the National Park, the Reenactment Community, and Organizers was unprecedented and the years of planning paid off handsomely. The weather cooperated. The 142nd was the Color Guard for the opening of the Lutheran Seminary Museum, that was attended by Governor Corbett. We were there for the first shots ceremony on July 1, we had a moment of silence around the colors at 3:00 PM to mark the time in which the 142nd was heavily engaged, and struck our colors at 4:30 as the Sons of Confederate Veterans Color Guard marked the time the rebels had control of Seminary Ridge. We fought two small skirmishes on the actual ground, and had our Colors out there both days. The GAC event beginning on July 4, was an amazing logistical display. They proved they are the best at running these events, and we did not want for anything. We had over 50 of the 142nd attend over 4 days. Many old friends came back to the campfire and many new friends join us. Over 4 days there were 6 battles, 3 were amazing. The Wheatfield, Culp’s Hill, and Pickett’s Charge were a spectacle to behold. We were the Color Company and had the honor of carrying not only our own colors, but those of other regiments in our brigade. The rain came down as Pickett’s Charge concluded. Most fitting that 150 years ago on July 4, the rain came as well. While we packed our vehicles with wet canvas, we also took with us memories and stories that will be with us for a lifetime. It was a renewal and affirmation of all that’s good in this hobby, and why we do what we do.
We will be participating in a reenactment at the Renfrew Museum on August 10 & 11. This will be the first time the 142nd will be attending this venerable and fun event. Run by the 139th PVI, the park is a wonderful place to host a reenactment. With streams, and fields, wooded areas and located in historically relevant Waynesboro, PA, not too far from Gettysburg. This is coming home for me as reenactor. The reason I say this is that many years ago this was the first reenactment I ever participated in. For several years I would attend reenactments as an amateur photographer. Always drawn to the spectacle that is Civil War Reenacting, I really did not know how to join or get started. I would wonder through camps at events, and being a little bit shy (I know this might surprise some of you), many groups seemed to be out of reach. I made some inquiries about membership to ads in the Camp Chase Gazette I purchased at an event, one group sent me a 12 page application, and 20 page rules book. To be honest I answered less questions when I got hired at my last job. It seemed more like a job as opposed to a hobby. Another group I reached out to called me on the phone, the 1st Sgt who called was not inviting. Seemed more concerned about what I might do wrong than in helping me to do things right. I was a bit concerned. So I attended an event in Fairfiled, PA, again as a spectator. The lure of Sutler called out, and nice shiny Springfield rifle on the rack was irresistible. I had to have it. It didn’t take long, and $525 later I walked out with a rifle. I had no idea how to fire it, I didn’t even know I needed a sling, or a bayonet. All I knew was I had to have it, and once I bought it, I would be forced to take the plunge. I would need to buy other gear. My parents lived in Gettysburg at the time, and my Mom worked at Hoss’s Restaurant. She met Ron & Janet Palese there, and struck up a conversation. She told them of my quest to get involved. Ron said have me stop by his shop and talk. I needed a uniform anyway, so wondered into the Gettysburg Sutler, and he went through the store and picked out all I needed including a tent. He also invited me to come to the Renfrew event and fall in with the 139th. I took him up on his offer. The event was in two weeks, and I was excited but also nervous about what I would find. I knew nothing. So I showed up on Friday night, with a carload of stuff I didn’t need, and all the stuff I just bought. Cpl. Don “Doc” Dolbin, and Cpl. Mark “Jed” Herring met me at the registration desk. And they instantly made me feel at home. The introduced me to everyone, and showed me how to put up my tent. I was eager to get into my new gear, and I joined the campfire. Cpl. John Price was assigned to show me how to fire the weapon, and some basic maneuvers. He seemed real gruff, and I was terrified to make a mistake around him, only to find out that was his sense of humor, and persona he adopted. Reveille would sound and I didn’t sleep at all that night. (I still don’t the first night of every event.). We had a dress parade and I couldn’t figure out my left from my right. Then they said were going out for a tactical. I didn’t know what a tactical was, but said ok. Off we went. The action was fast and furious, and we had to cross the creek. Into the creek we went, no time to find the bridge. I halted at the creeks ledge, standing in $900 of Union blue splendor with a shiny rifle I was hesitant, but Lt. Don Bieseker convinced me it was in my best interest to go into the stream. A swift flick of his sword and a loud command “Into the creek soldier”, off I went….holding my rifle above my head just like Daniel Boone, with water up to my waist, and a big grin from ear to ear. The uniform was incredible, and I was hooked. What a great experience. My parents drove over to meet me for lunch. They arrived just to see me march back, wet from head to toe from sweat and creek water. The uniform was brand new no longer, and I found my calling, that of a living historian. When we broke camp that Sunday, I was exhausted, but also giddy with excitement that in a few short weeks, I would be back at Hagerstown, doing this all over again. I made lifelong friends that week. Ron Palese just retired at the Gettysburg 150th from the hobby after devoting 50 years of his life to living history. He still operates the Gettysburg Sutler, and I still shop there. Cpl. Don Dolbin, is now Captain Don Dolbin of the 139th. Cpl. John Price would help start the 142nd, and was our 1st Captain. He would go on to be Col. of Birney’s 1st Brigade, and retired a few years ago. Lt. Don Beisecker will be there this weekend, now a Pvt. again, his laugh and good humor is unmistakable. Cpl. Mark Herring would go on to form a Bucktail Regiment. Always a close friend, he died unexpectedly a few years back. A huge loss for all of us. It will be a bittersweet moment to walk to the registration table, but “Jed” will be with us. It is going home again. - K.S. MacGregor
April 13-14, Spring Muster, Chambersburg, PA
Excellent site, this will be a full blown event with rebs there, so not just drill, also battles. Fee incudes a steak dinner Saturday night. Top notch accommodations. Had an excellent time there last year.

May 3-4-5 150th Chancellorsville, Spotyslvania, VA
A 150th National level event. On sight right next to Spotsylvania battlefield. Expect 4,000 to 6,000 soldiers. The original 142nd participated in this battles. http://battleofchancellorsville.com/reenactors/registration/

June 15-16 Old Bedford Village, Bedford, PA
A company favorite, village with 18th and 19th century log cabins, no modern intrusions, we bivouac in the historic buildings. Fort on site. Kids battle scheduled also. http://www.oldbedfordvillage.com/

June 29-30-July 1 Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg, PA
1st Days action as part of the 150th Gettysburg. In conjunction with the opening of the new museum. Registration is closed! Camp at the Seminary as we did 2 years ago, with a battle right where the 142nd fought on the first day. This is a secondary event to the main reenactment the following weekend. Contact Keith MacGregor if interested. No walk-ons.

July 4-5-6-7 150th Gettysburg Reenactment- GAC event, Gettysburg, PA
This is the granddaddy of them all this year. Expect 8,000 to 12,000. 2 military balls, 7 battles over 4 days, commemoration medallion to all participants. Fireworks. Walk-ons are permitted. http://www.gettysburgreenactment.com/

July 27-28 Harpers Ferry National Park, Harper’s Ferry, WV
Our annual event has been moved to the end of July. Camp along the Shenandoah River, garrison this most historic town. No registration fee, Harpers Ferry will be instituting an on-line registration system this year. Email will be sent out when ready. http://www.nps.gov/hafe/index.htm

August 10-11 Renfrew Farm Museum, Waynesboro, PA
A first for us as the 142nd, great event that has a tactical, 2 battles, and load in 9 competition. Registration is CLOSED. Walk-Ons accepted at $10.00 http://renfrewmuseum.org/

September 7-8 Luray Caverns, Luray, VA
Beautiful site in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Battle of Manassas Gap and Battle of Luray, Military Ball, plus the Virginia 150th Mobile Museum will be there. Registration is CLOSED. Walk-Ons accepted at $20.00 http://luraycaverns.com/

October 19-20 149th Cedar Creek, Middletown, VA
Best event we do. 4,000 to 5,000 reenactors. Best time to be in the Valley. Civil War ball, dawn tactical plus 2 battles. Unit Registration is closed. Can register yourself for $20.00 until August 29 at:
http://www.ccbf.us/forms/2013_cedar_creek_registration_form.pdf

November 23 Remembrance Day, Gettysburg, PA
Monument ceremony, brunch at Dunlap’s(on your own), parade. Sesquicentennial participation ribbon. 142nd Federal Infantry flag presentation. No registration fee, but need to know if your coming for brunch.

December 7-8 Christmas at Harper’s Ferry, Harpers Ferry National Park, Harper’s Ferry, WV
Wonderful seasonal event that includes about 150 different living historians. Camp on the Square, next to Sheridan’s HDQ. Period Santa Claus, CW Ball, torchlight tours, caroling, maybe even some snow. Earn your Frosty Sons or Daughters title by participating. No fee but registration required by Harpers Ferry National Park. Forms will be available in early November. http://www.nps.gov/hafe/index.htm
Renfrew Museum & Park  
August 10 & 11  
Wayensboro, PA

Address for GPS:  1010 East Main Street, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania 17268  

To get there: From I-81, Exit 5, Route 16 East to Waynesboro, arrive at 1010 East Main Street on right.  
From Gettysburg: Head South on Route 116 towards Fairfield, Go through Fairfield, Turn Right on Route 16 West. Go 8.6 miles, look for Renfrew Museum & Park on Left.  

(717) 762-4723 for additional Information  
http://renfrewmuseum.org/

Luray Caverns  
September 7 & 8  
Luray, VA

Address for GPS:  101 Cave Hill Road, Luray, VA  22835


Check for more information:  

149th Battle of Cedar Creek  
October 19 & 20  
Middletown, VA

Address for GPS:  8437 Valley Pike, Middletown, VA

Take I-81 South to Exit 302 for Middletown. Make a right at the end of the ramp onto Reliance Road. Reliance Road will end in 0.5 miles at US 11; turn left and go through Middletown. The battlefield is just south of town on the right. Stop at registration if you did not receive your parking pass in the mail. If you have your parking pass, proceed to camps. Turn right at the Car wash, travel about 1/2 a mile, make left into the Union Camp area, turn left once inside the gate and follow the tree line up the hill. Birney’s Division will be camped near the Federal Volunteer Brigade. Same location as last several years.  

Check for more information:  http://www.ccbf.us/reenactors/
Mechanicsburg, PA - My apologies for the abbreviated newsletter. Typically you would find event descriptions here, but a compressed schedule won’t allow for an expanded newsletter this issue. The Monumental Journey articles will resume in October, along with event descriptions. A couple of notes: On the list graduates in the July newsletter I missed Pvt. Chris Rebmann- Home School. Congrats Chris!
Also, Pvt. Brent Rockwell is in boot camp in OK. I am sure he would be glad to hear from you.

His address is:
Pvt. Brent Rockwell
Echo Btry 3rd Plt I-79 fa bn
5960 Rothwell St.
Fort Sill, OK  73508

The fall campaign is upon us. Although unit registration is closed to these, you can walk-on or register yourself. Look at the schedule page for information. Cedar Creek registration goes up Aug 29th, so if your coming and have not registered yet, be sure to get registered, by logging into the website, and completing registration yourself. Very easy to do. Contact Stacey or myself if you have any questions. This year marks the 150th Anniversary of Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, which will be commemorated at Remembrance Day. The Federal Infantry flag is tentatively scheduled to be dedicated that day as well. Participant ribbons will be issued to all who attend. We hope you will make plans to be in Gettysburg for this remarkable day. We round out the schedule for 2013 back at Harpers Ferry for the Christmas event. We hope you can attend this year. It has been growing every year, and its a great event that gets you in the Christmas spirit.

First call for any Bylaw changes. We will only consider changes at the Unit Meeting in January. By-Law changes can only be submitted by full members in good standing and will be published in the December newsletter. The Unit Meeting will be held on a Saturday in January yet to be determined. Submit any Bylaw changes to Stacey Black or Keith MacGregor. These must be received prior to December 1, 2013.

Welcome Charles Mattina who was accepted as a full member at the Harpers Ferry event. Charles was out to due to surgery for much of 2012. Its great to have him back in the ranks again. Welcome Charles!

At Harpers Ferry we learned that Park Ranger John King, Lead Ranger for the Living History Division, was in a severe auto accident. Both of his legs were broken. We wish him a quick recovery.

Welcome Cole Atland, who fell in with us at 150th Gettysburg, and proved a good soldier, also good to see Jordan, Jeremy, and Gunner Guilliams back in the ranks again. The Guilliams clan made their Father (Lt. Will) quite proud, all proved good soldiers. Also Adam Tarantino flew in from New Mexico for the event. When he got back home, Adam was presented with his new son, Andrew. Congratulations Adam & Kristen, and welcome Pvt. Andrew Tarantino to the 142nd Family!

Best Regards, Keith MacGregor
Next Newsletter: November 2013