

OUR CAMP JOURNAL



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"We are but few in number but formidable." -Pvt. James Shelton, 7th Md. Co. B

November 2024



160th Cedar Creek

By Jeff Joyce

Private Jeff Joyce represented the 7th Maryland at the annual Cedar Creek re-enactment on October 19. Being the 160th anniversary of the battle the turnout overall (both re-enactors and spectators) appeared to reach pre-pandemic levels (at least from the view of the lowly private).

Arriving early Saturday morning with frost on the ground, Private Joyce eventually stumbled upon the Federal Volunteer Brigade (FVB) camp and joined the 3rd Maryland for morning inspection and breakfast. With two battle scenarios on Saturday (Battle of Hupps Hill at 11AM and the Confederate Morning Assault at 2PM) there was

little time for leisure and trips to Sutler Row.

After breakfast the FVB formed at 9AM for company and battalion drill, with first call for the morning battle at 10AM. Following the 11AM battle (which lasted 30 minutes) there was a short break to clean rifles and scarf down lunch. First call for the

afternoon battle was at 1PM, followed by much marching this way and that and standing around in the Sun (it had warmed into the mid-70s by the afternoon).

For the 2PM battle all Federal units represented the XIX Corps and corps badges were passed out beforehand. A new ma-

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Upcoming Campaigns

NOVEMBER

November 16-17: FVB Annual Meeting & Remembrance Day Parade (**Company event**)
*(FVB Event)

DECEMBER

Dec. 7th - Victorian Christmas at the Stone House
(Manassas National Battlefield)
Additional info to come.

Dec. 14th - Civil War Christmas in Camp at Fort Ward (Alexandria, Va)
Additional info to come.



The 7th Maryland at Laurel Hill

By. Jeff Joyce

In March 1864 the Army of the Potomac was reorganized in preparation for the spring campaign. The I Corps was broken up and the Maryland Brigade, including the 7th Maryland, became part of the V Corps under the command of Major General Gouverneur Warren.

During the subsequent Overland Campaign the 7th Maryland was heavily engaged, fighting continu-

ously from the Wilderness to Petersburg. On May 8, as the Army of the Potomac raced the Army of Northern Virginia to Spotsylvania Court House, the V Corps attacked Confederates entrenched at Laurel Hill.

Led by the 7th Maryland and the Maryland Brigade the attack was repulsed with heavy casualties. Major Edward Mobley, formerly of Company A, wrote in his diary "Started at 7 o'clock and after marching 2 miles came across the

Rebs. Charged their works and repulsed with heavy loss in officers and men."

Major Mobley recorded the loss of at least 60 men, including Colonel Charles Edward Phelps, the regimental commander. Phelps was briefly captured and in 1898 would be awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery at Laurel Hill. The Maryland Brigade as a whole lost at least 189 men. With the wounding of Colonel Phelps, Major Mobley assumed command of the 7th Maryland.

Forty years after the attack now Brevet Brigadier General Phelps, a judge on Maryland's Court of Appeals, had a granite monument erected at Laurel Hill to commemorate the Maryland Brigade's sacrifice.



Left, Col. Charles Edward Phelps, later breveted to Brigadier General, had a granite monument erected at Laurel Hill (right) to commemorate the Maryland Brigade's sacrifice.

Above, Maj. Gen. Gouverneur Warren leads the Maryland Brigade into battle.



160th Cedar Creek

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never practiced during morning drill was firing by file, with each file then immediately falling back to a new line established further back. The FVB was on the far right of the Federal line during both battles. Unfortunately, during the afternoon battle as the FVB retreated from the Confederate assault it was forced to wade across the muddy Meadow Brook that bisects the battlefield in more or less single file before reforming. The Confederates were smart enough to remain on the other side and take pot shots at the mud-splattered Federals.

Following the march back to camp Private Joyce said his farewells to the 3rd Maryland and caught the tractor shuttle back to Sutler Row to indulge in funnel

cake. After checking out the sutlers he headed home to clean his Enfield and mud-caked brogans, proud to have represented the 7th Maryland for the day.



Above, Pvt. Jeff Joyce, the 7th Maryland's field correspondent, poses in camp prior to the Saturday battle.

Right, the Federal Volunteer Brigade portion of the long blue line.



A Civil War soldier didn't have a tombstone. Two teens just got him one.

"It was sad to think of all he'd been through in his life, and he didn't even have a headstone," said Kendall Peruzzini, 13.

By Cathy Free /The Washington Post

American Civil War soldier Daniel Walterhouse was wounded in 1862 when he was stabbed with a sword in a battle. He then spent the last decade of his life penniless and living in a home for the destitute in western New York. He was buried in an unmarked grave.

Now, 114 years after his death, two middle-schoolers have gotten the Union Army soldier a gravestone.

"It was sad to think of all he'd been through in his life, and he didn't even have a headstone," said Kendall Peruzzini, 13, an eighth grader at Albion Middle School in Albion, New York.

"We thought it would be an honor to help him get the respect and recognition he deserved," added Mary McCormick, also 13. "Like a lot of Civil War veterans, he had a hard life."

The old saying goes that we die twice. Once when we take our last breath,

and again when our name is spoken for the last time. This, in part, is what led the teens to help the forgotten soldier.

They first learned of Walterhouse from a former schoolteacher who had taught them in a service-learning class — a class where students do hands-on projects related to social issues and topics such as history and the environment.

Even though Tim Archer was no longer their teacher, he reached out to them over the summer and asked if they'd be interested in taking on this project in their spare time. They consulted with their parents, then jumped in.

Archer, who is retired, was approached over the summer by a Civil War researcher from Michigan, George Wilkinson, who documents on his website the lives of soldiers from the 4th Michigan Infantry. Wilkinson had come across a news clipping that mentioned Walterhouse, and he was trying to figure out whether the soldier was buried in New York.

He was injured in the war and then destitute. "He was stabbed with a sword and wounded in battle," Archer said. "For whatever reason, he ended up living for a decade at the Orleans County Alms House — a place where people went when they had no money and nobody to care for them."

"These poorhouses were common at the time for people with no place else to go," he said.

The almshouse fell into disrepair through the decades and was torn down in 1960, Archer said. The half-acre cemetery on the property was fenced off and forgotten, with corn from an adjoining field growing around it.

Archer was knowledgeable about the cemetery because in 2011 he rallied his middle-school students, along with the county, to clean it up.

"There were broken markers everywhere, and most of the 200 people buried there had no headstones," he said. "The headstones that did exist had no names, only a number."

Archer, 63, said he immediately thought of asking Mary and Kendall to find out whether Walterhouse was buried in Albion. "They're good students, with a love for history," he said. "I knew they'd do an excellent job."

When he turned over Wilkinson's search request to the students, they headed over to the Albion town clerk's office and the Orleans County historian's office to look through old ledgers in search of the veteran's name.

After several weeks of research, they
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In the news clip, Wilkinson learned that Walterhouse had lived in western New York following 1½ years of service during the Civil War. He enlisted in 1861 while living in Michigan.

Kendall Peruzzini, left, and Mary McCormick searched old death ledgers at the Albion town clerk's office until they found Daniel Walterhouse's name. (Courtesy of Tim Archer)

A Soldier's Tombstone

(Continued from page 4)

found a death record and a 1902 record book from the Orleans County Alms House. They were able to prove that he'd lived there for a decade and was buried there, Kendall said.

He died in 1910 at the age of 87. Kendall and Mary then received permission from the Orleans County Legislature to install a headstone at the cemetery for Walterhouse.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has agreed to create the headstone, Archer said. The 230-pound granite marker will be shipped soon to Albion, where it will be installed and dedicated at the poorhouse cemetery next spring.

"It's our honor to provide this long overdue headstone for Mr. Walterhouse, a Union veteran who served our country honorably," said VA spokesperson Adam Farina, noting

that the girls sent in paperwork to prove where Walterhouse was buried.

The "VA is extremely grateful for the work of Kendall and Mary, who did tireless research to help make this happen," he said.

Mary said she was happy to team up with Kendall and tackle the request. Orleans Hub was among the first local media outlets to cover their project.

"It was like solving a mystery — we were really shocked and excited when we were able to track down the guy's information and get him what he deserves," Mary said.

Sometime in the spring, the teens said they'll hold a dedication ceremony in Walterhouse's memory, with help from their teacher. Because they don't know exactly where Walterhouse is buried, they'll select a place for the tombstone near other mark-

ers on the half-acre spot.

"It makes us happy to know this war veteran will no longer be forgotten," Kendall said.

Wilkinson, 66, said he was stunned and delighted by the teens' efforts.

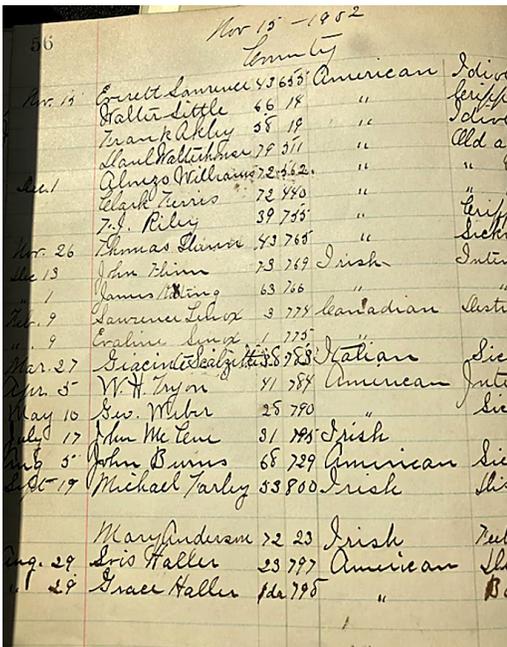
"They went to the county, got into the books and just ran with it," he said. "It seems hard today to interest younger people in the history that made up this country. To find two girls willing to pick up the torch, do research and get a headstone was really refreshing and inspiring."

"There was no personal glory in doing this," Wilkinson added. "It was just the right thing to do."

Residents of the Orleans County Alms House in about 1900. Civil War veteran Daniel Walterhouse lived there at the end of his life.



The Orleans County Alms House Cemetery was neglected for decades until Tim Archer and his students helped clean it up in 2011. (Photos Courtesy of Tim Archer)



This page in a 1902 Orleans County Alms House ledger proves Daniel Walterhouse, listed fourth, had lived there. (Courtesy of Tim Archer)

Mr. Lincoln's Address at Gettysburg

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrat-

ed it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."



Familiar Hints for Indiana Soldiers Taking the Field

VI. THE SICK AND WOUNDED.

Here is the sixth of the Familiar Hints to Indiana Soldiers Taking the Field given to Indiana volunteers in 1862 to help them become good soldiers, later republished by the U.S. Christian Commission to many other soldiers and that we have been running in Our Camp Journal.

Be brothers to those who suffer.

Your turn may come next. Be unselfish, for you are comrades. Stint yourselves for those who languish. Don't fret, because one breaks down. The best men may give out.

Share your canteen of cold coffee or water with the weary. You will not repent it. Better that you suffer in part, than have your regiment strewed for miles by the wayside.

Remember a bandage, even a

handkerchief, tightly bound above an artery, or both above and below, if there be much effusion of blood, may check the flow until relief comes.

In the hot sun, a sponge, or green leaves, in the hat, slightly wet, may prevent sunstroke. If threatened with frosted feet, or fingers, promptly apply cold water until reaction comes on.

If very cold and drowsy, don't give way to sleep until your extremities are warm again. If gruel cannot be procured for the sick, on the march, crush corn, extemporize corn meal, and you can, with salt and crackers make a very respectable substitute.

Stale bread, toasted hard, soaked

and seasoned will give nutriment, refresh the sick, and will require but a few minutes stop.

In all things, cherish the unity of feeling, which makes men one in sympathy, as they must be one in danger and adventure.

By Bill Hart



President Lincoln's Thanksgiving Day Proclamation

BY THE
PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED
STATES OF
AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign states to invite and provoke their aggressions, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere, except in the theater of military conflict, while that theater has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

Needful diversions of wealth and strength from the fields of peaceful

industry to the national defense have not arrested the plow, the shuttle, or the ship; the ax has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege, and the battle-field, and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. I do, therefore, invite

my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union.

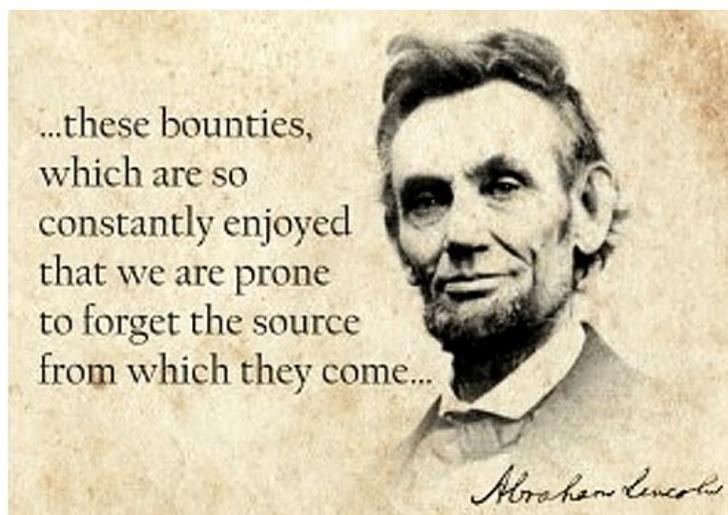
In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington this third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-eighth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President

WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State



Looking back at the 138th Anniversary of Cedar Creek



At left, Sergeants attempt to drag a wounded Cpl. Steve Bushg from the field, with limited success. With the Confederate battle line advancing, the heroic duo did their best to save Cpl. Bush from the shot and shell.



At right, Pvs. Steve Tabisz, Greg McGaha and Pat "Hightower" Ellis await the order to fire as a line of Confederates advances through the smoke



(Left) Troops stacked arms and waited for the onslaught for Sunday's Battle of Kernstown.



(Right) The 7th MD rounders team lost the season finale game to the boys of the 3rd MD by a score of 15 to 14.

(Right) Capt. Henson barks orders to the third company as (Far Rt.) Cpls. Jack Carrigan and Ron Toth provide a solid anchor on the company's left flank.



At left, the company gathers under the dining fly which, for once, wasn't needed to keep dry or for shade.



(Right) Pvt. Shane Comegys and Pvt. Dan Paterson relax before the impending battle.

OUR CAMP JOURNAL



*Civil War Re-enactors;
America's Living Historians.*

TREASURES.

JOY makes us grieve for the brevity of life; sorrow causes us to be weary of its length; cares and industry can alone render it supportable.

SERENITY of mind is nothing worth, unless it has been earned: a man should be at once susceptible of passions, and able to subdue them.

MEMORY is like a picture-gallery of our past days. The fairest and most pleasing of the pictures are those which immortalize the days of useful industry.

IF you wish to make yourself agreeable to any one, talk as much as you please about his or her affairs, and as little as possible about your own.

PUT away presumptuousness and pride: if they assail thy heart, think of the beginning and end of life. Narrow, indeed, are the cradle and the coffin: in both we slumber alike helpless, to-day a germinating dust, to-morrow a crumbling germ.

(Godey's Ladies Book - May 1854)



BEARDED CIVILIZATION.

It may not be generally known that beards are singularly connected in history with the progress of civilization.

The early Greeks and Romans did not shave. The Greeks began to use the razor about the time of Alexander, who commanded all his soldiers to shave, lest their beards should afford a handle for their enemies. This was little more than three hundred years before the Christian era; and thirty years after Alexander, Ticinius introduced the habit of shaving amongst the Romans.

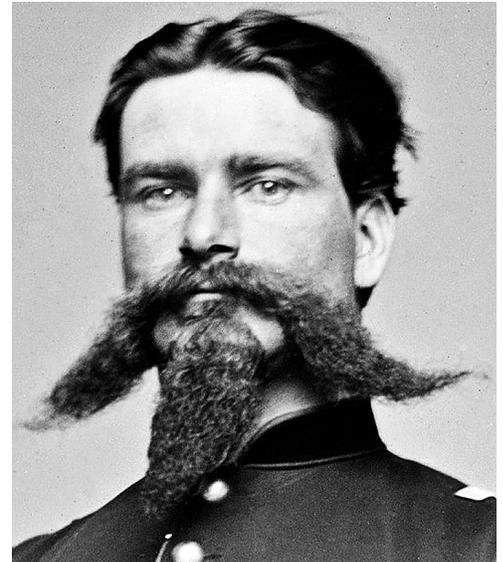
The Gothic invaders of the Western empire revived the habit of wearing the beard. The Anglo-Saxons were a bearded race when William the Conqueror invaded England, and, therefore, the Conqueror and his Normans ever after

wore the chin smooth, in order to distinguish them from the vanquished; and thus, even in the Norman invasion, the shaven chin became the emblem of an advanced civilization.

In like manner, amidst all the long controversies between the Eastern and Western Churches, the Western Church has invariably espoused the cause of the razor, whilst the Greek or Eastern Church as resolutely defends the cause of the beard. Civilization has marched in the West, and remained stationary in the East, in the land of beards.

When Peter the Great determined to civilize his Russian subjects, one of the means which he considered indispensable was the use of the razor, he, therefore, commanded his soldiers to shave every layman who refused to do it himself, and rare sport they had with the stubborn old

patriarchs, who persisted in retaining their much-cherished emblems of age and wisdom.



Colonel Percy Wyndham served in the Union Army during the Civil War. He was appointed command of the 1st New Jersey Cavalry Regiment in February 1862, and his regiment spent the early spring defending Washington, D.C.

Wyndham is obviously a master of the beard.