

Captains Desk Fall 2013

Brothers,

Summer is taking its last breath and the cool air of fall is upon us. This past season will stand out as the year of the “big one”, Gettysburg 150. Certainly those who attended the NPS event on the Battlefield participated in a truly historic event which at times was especially poignant. For me watching the recreation of Pickett’s Charge was worth the price of admission. Seeing those thousands of participants walk out of the woods and cross the undulating fields not only brought a sense of what the number of Confederates may have looked like 150 years ago but it was also a fitting tribute to the original event. To those of you who attended, thank you, and send a special salute to Lt. Tyler Putman and 1st Sgt Craig Geppert for helping the company run so smoothly.

On the other hand the big shoot ‘em up’ event was nothing more than a pageant. It was good to have a gaggle of folks with us from the 100th Ohio and others who couldn’t make the NPS, but the event was hot and the fighting anti climactic. Any attempt at authenticity was dampened by the proximity of cars and grandstands, but I think those of us that attended knew why we were getting into and it was just good to be among pard.

Looking forward there is interest among some to attend the Cedar Creek fight October 19, 20. If you are interested contact either Captain K or Orderly Sgt Geppert. I know it won’t be a maximum effort event but the Shenandoah Valley is spectacular this time of year and we generally have a good experience there. I have attached a message from the Federal Cmdr regarding the scenarios and other info, note the fact that we will be in the 3rd Brigade which has a designated camp area opposite the fence, North side. Please find your way there and set up camp according to the game plan. I’m being placed in command of the National Regiment there, which may only amount to a rough company, but I will have some extended responsibilities so I ask for your cooperation to help the thing work so we all have a positive experience. Remember to register beforehand or register upon arrival.

Remembrance Day, November 22, will be a week later than it usually is due to NPS events on the traditional date which would limit the parade and other activities, so if you haven’t found a room yet or haven’t changed your old reservation be advised to do so now. More information will be circulated at a later date but in the past we met near the High School around noon. Please see Col. Downes directive for wearing of Gettysburg 150 medals for those of you who received them.

From Orderly Sgt. Geppert;

Well the summer is almost over. The next event could be Chickamauga. Some of the lads in the GBURG area are talking about getting a bus. Check with Craig Carroll. Keith may also have the Web page set up with the updates on this. Then there is the Cedar Creek event, Oct 18-20th, which I am planning on attending. Hopefully the 116th will have a good turnout. Then the last event will be Remembrance Weekend, which is being held Nov 22-24th. Lately we have been having a good showing. Remembrance Weekend will be the last one for the 1863- 150th Anniversary.

I would also like to thank the lads for sending the pictures into Keith. Don't recognize all those young guys back in the days.

Hope to see you all at Cedar Creek and Gettysburg!

The following pages are cut and pasted from material recently received from various sources. Immediately following is a letter from the Federal commander for Cedar Creek which you may find helpful.

Following this letter you will find the National Regiment newsletter and a directive regarding the NPS medal we received at the 150th. Keep scrolling to see everything.

From the Federal Commander- Cedar Creek

Gentlemen,

2nd Winchester/ Cedar Creek is close at hand. There is some important information that I would like for you to share with your Commands.

The tentative Order of Battle is as follows:

1st Brigade – Col. Childs – 1st USV Regt.

2nd Brigade – Col. Young – 2nd USV Regt. (with companies from 3rd USV Regt.)

3rd Brigade – Brig. Gen. Tony Daniels – Mifflin Guard, National Regt., Vincent's Brigade (small companies from each)

4th Brigade – Brig. Gen. Dennis Shirk – Federal Volunteer Brigade, Birney's.

Cavalry – Col. Norm Hoerer

Artillery – Col. Rick Dennis

While we are still waiting on a detailed breakdown of registrations from the Foundation, our predicted numbers warrant the establishment of Brigades.

The tentative plan for camping is for the 1st and 2nd Brigade to camp opposite the Creek WEST (same as last year) and the 3rd and 4th Brigade to camp opposite the fence NORTH. The federal Cavalry will camp on the creek in its traditional location with the parking lot across the railroad tracks reserved for trailers. The Artillery will camp in the NORTHEAST corner. We will have port-o-johns in the NORTHEAST corner (artillery), along the NORTH fence (3rd and 4th Brigade), and opposite the Creek (1st, 2nd, and Cavalry Brigades).

SCENARIOS

At our urging, the Foundation has agreed to do a 2nd Winchester Scenario to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of this important opening engagement of Lee's Gettysburg Campaign. Lee sent Ewell's Corp to capture the federal garrison under the command of Maj General Milroy in order to secure his lines of communication as he marched north into Pennsylvania. The federal army fought the battle from a series of fortifications. In order to do this right, we have accepted the challenge of building two of the three forts – to wit – Fort Milroy and West Fort.

Fort Milroy was a part log and part earthen fortification that dominated the heights above Winchester. West Fort was a smaller artillery lunette built to support Ft. Milroy. We discussed this project with our friends from the Foundation and they have agreed to let us go forward.

Here is the plan.

1. **MATERIALS.** We are in the process of securing materials. The USV has ordered 6 bundles of slab wood that will be delivered to the site prior to the event. Maj. Ernsberger, the USV Chief Engineer was at the site last week and together with Butch, has secured additional logs and a source for mulch (to be used for the earthen portion since we can't do any digging on the battlefield).
2. **CONSTRUCTION.** We are going to do this ourselves on Thursday and Friday of the event. We will have all of the materials on site and a field manual on how to construct these fortifications. **WE NEED YOUR HELP.** Anyone that arrives early on Thursday or Friday can lend a hand. If your organization has an **ENGINEERING Dept.**, have them contact Maj. Ernsberger (his e-mail is above) to coordinate with him. The USV and reenactor volunteers built a 900 foot stone wall (22 tons of limestone) and 600 foot post and rail fence for Gettysburg in 6 hours. With enough hands, we should be able to lay enough logs and slabwood to simulate the two Winchester Fortifications.
3. **MANNING THE FORTIFICATIONS AND THE SATURDAY MORNING TACTICAL.** With the fortifications completed Friday, federal troops will be permitted to camp inside the works. Dog tents and shabangs inside and around the fortifications will be permitted. While voluntary, we need as many troops as feasible to take up a defensive position at the fortification. At dawn on Saturday, the Confederate Army will assault the works as the main objective of the **DAWN TACTICAL.** Troops from the traditional Federal Camp will be marched to the works as reinforcements. **ALL** of the Brigades, whether they take up position in the fortifications or not, will be present for the tactical. Cavalry will go dismounted. Artillery, since we are building a separate Lunette for guns, will be permitted, pursuant to Col. Dennis' discretion, to participate if they want to place guns in their on Friday night.

2nd Winchester Battle – Saturday Afternoon

The Federal Camp will designate Winchester. We will start with one Brigade in the fortifications. They will be assaulted from the South. I will call up an additional Brigade from Winchester (our camp) for support. The CS will then attack from the west (Creek) and press our right flank. I will call up a third Brigade to reinforce our western wall. The CS will then attack from the East (road and through the crowd). I will commit our last Brigade. Once done, the Federal Army will begin to fall back, and eventually retreat and Gen. Milroy will surrender (but then escape).

The US Cavalry will be ordered to keep our line of communication from the fortification to our camp open and to keep the CS cavalry off the flanks of our marching reserve Brigades. You will be busy.

Artillery will provide support from West Fort (a very forward position and one from which the guns will be captured by the CS) and from the ridgeline behind the Heater House.

Cedar Creek Battle – Sunday Afternoon

We will use the fortifications from Saturday as Gen Thoburn's VIII Corps works and place Federal Troops in the fortifications and in the CS camping area as we did last year to simulate the VIII Corps surprise attack and panic. We will probably use three Brigades for this, keeping one Brigade back a ways to represent the XIX Corp (Emory) that will be ordered up for support. Eventually, the entire US army will fall back to the heights behind the Heater house and from there will be rallied by Gen. Sheridan and counter attack.

This is a rough outline for the Event. All of this is subject to change. I have discussed this generally with my counter part, Gen. Gesuero, the CS Commander, but we will be going over it in more detail as we get closer to the event. Our decision to take up this challenge to construct period defensive works is to add some flair to this every year event.

Therefore, WE NEED THE FOLLOWING FROM YOUR COMMANDS:

1. IDEAS for more sources for building material. There is no budget for purchasing material. The 6 bundles of slab wood that the USV ordered is being purchased by us and donated to Cedar Creek. They will cut it up after the event and use it for firewood at next years big 150th. If your organization wants to purchase additional bundles and donate them to CC, let me know. The more the better.
2. LABOR!!! Encourage your men to come early and join the labor gang. If any of your men do an engineer or pioneer impression, get them out there. You will never find a better time to work that impression.
3. ENCOURAGEMENT to your men to campaign Friday night in the works. We need to defend our fortifications.
4. SUGGESTIONS. I always want your input on how to make this event the best it can be for your men. My line is always open.

As always, I have to give a great amount of thanks to Mike Kehoe, president of the CCBF, Tom Lomax , the Executive Director, Jim Lynch, this years Federal Coordinator, and of course our friend Butch who make everything possible on site.

I will continue to update you as more information is available.

Regards,

Brig. Gen. Darrell Markijohn

“THE REGIMENTAL”
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL REGIMENT
Fall 2013

Commander’s Corner

I trust everyone has fully recovered from our wonderful experience at Gettysburg in July. For me, this was without a doubt the most awe-inspiring event I’ve done in over 30 years of reenacting. It’s taken me a while to put this event into perspective, but here’s my take on the Living History.

As I just said, I never experienced anything like that before and, I never expect to experience anything like that again. Putting it into that perspective, I can’t compare any other event with this one. Gettysburg has to be put on a shelf to be treasured as a one-time, stand-alone happening that will never be equaled. It would be unfair to compare any other event with the Living History so I won’t even try.

It was, to me, the perfect event. The weather could not have been any better; there was enough rain and humidity to let us know we were at an event, but not enough heat to make it miserable. (Not like the following weekend). Every plan we made worked, and nothing happened that we didn’t have a plan in place.

I truly believe the rainbow was a sign of approval or perhaps even a blessing if your belief system trends that way. Any way you want to look at it, I was proud to have been a part of this event, and I’m glad we were all able to share the experience together.

I’m sorry that due to heat issues and exhaustion related to preparing for and running the Living History I was not able to join you at the GAC event, but everything I’ve heard tells me that all of you comported yourselves well and, considering the hellish weather, had as good a time as could be expected.

150th Anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga.

September 19, 20, 21 and 22, 2013

I know there are only a few lads from the NR going to this but here’s the information.

<http://150thanniversarychickamauga.com/index.html>

Registration is \$30 per person 14 and older (September 1, 2013 to September 10, 2013)

We don’t know who we will be falling in under at the event but be SURE to register as National Regiment so we’ll all be put together.

Contact Tim Viezer from the 8th Ohio at: tviezer@att.blackberry.net He has volunteered to coordinate information for this event.

Cedar Creek October 19-20, 2013. This is not an NR Event

There will be a contingent of the NR going to this event. If you want to go, registration is \$25 until September 30. Go to www.ccbf.us Make sure you register as the National Regiment. Mike Kraus will be commanding the NR contingent, and we will be brigading up with the Mifflin Guard and Vincent's Brigade to form a Federal Alliance battalion under the overall command of Tony Daniels.

Remembrance Day Gettysburg, Nov. 22

The NR has reserved a block of rooms for Remembrance Day weekend at the Days Inn on Rt. 30, east of town.

The dates are Nov. 22, 23, the rate is \$114 per room, per night. If you've checked for room rates for that weekend you'll see that's a TERRIFIC rate.

The number is **717-334-0030**; tell them you're with the National Regiment. Call NOW to reserve your room(s).

By the way, the NPS badges the NPS gave us at the Living History had a connection to a close friend of ours, read carefully.

HEADQUARTERS, NATIONAL REGIMENT

Special Order No. 6

To: All Members, National Regiment

From: Colonel Commanding, National Regiment

Subject: Unit Award

Type of Award: Gettysburg Campaign Medal

Period of Award: From 29 June 2013 to 4 July 2013

Citation:

For meritorious service during the period of 29 June to 4 July 2013, a campaign ribbon and device is hereby awarded to all members of the National Regiment present with, and participating in, activities of the National Regiment during that period.

Manner of Wear:

To be worn:

- 1.) On the left breast of the Uniform coat or blouse.
- 2.) In the same place of any civilian coat, excluding top, or over coats.

When Wear is Authorized:

This Award may be worn at:

- 1.) All non-19th century Parades, reviews, inspections and funerals, or
- 2.) Ceremonial and social functions

Appurtenance:

For service above and beyond the normal duties expected of members of the National Regiment, the following persons, making up the Color Guard and General Guides of the National Regiment during the above period, are hereby authorized to wear a device, or pin, in the shape, colors and form of the Flag of the United States of America, to be worn on the suspension ribbon of the Medal.

Right General Guide Pvt. Ross McNerney 8th OH

Left General Guide Pvt. Tim Boyd 1st MD

Color Bearer Pvt. Warren Stevens 14CT

Cpl. Rich Mansfield, 1st MD

Pvt. Ken Godfrey, 1st MD

Sgt. Eric Mueller, 1st.PA.

Cpl. Dave Cohill, 1st.PA.

Pvt. Henry Schmied 1st PA

Pvt. Brian Alexander, 2nd US

Pvt. Ethan Cooksey 5th/146th NY

Pvt. Chris Holob 96th PA

Pvt. Richard Pisarski 119th NY

Only the above named persons are authorized to wear the Appurtenance.

Application:

This Order applies to all National Regiment personnel, or to any non-National Regiment persons designated by the Colonel Commanding as authorized to wear the award described above.

When Effective:

This Order is effective as of 5 July, 2013

Given under my hand at the city of Cleveland, Ohio

This 8th Day of September 2013

Colonel Thomas M. F. Downes
Commanding, National Regiment