

# The Swamp Hog Gazette

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January 2003

## Captain's Corner Captain Greg Walz

With the singing of God Bless America at Acapulco Joe's my first year as your company commander and our 2002 season came to an end. To be honest it was not what I had expected. I would have bet good money that the 140th Antietam event would be the highlight of the season, but it wasn't. I thought that coming on the heels of September 11 we would see a surge of patriotism and a big increase in new recruits, but I was wrong. I looked at the schedule and was not excited about going the Perryville and Hartford City and almost everyone I talked to agrees with me that those were the two best events of the year.

Company A continued its steady progress towards improved authenticity both in camp and on the field. Our increased drill time has been noticed and other units are now stepping up their training. The amount of canvas and heavy equipment we take into our camp area has declined each of the past two or three years and that is a good thing.

I want to thank Lt. Wilcoxon for his steady and loyal service. Also, the support I felt coming from former Captains Lee Dunn and Steve Bouldin was greatly appreciated.

The good work and cheerful dedication of the NCO's was the glue that held everything together.

Company A is a very special group and every member is key to its success. So get those sweat stained dusty uniforms cleaned, clean and lubricate those muskets, start rolling cartridges and begin getting excited about 2003.

Best wishes for the upcoming holiday season for everyone in the Company A family and

I want to see everybody at the January 19 meeting in Marion.

Your Comrade,  
Capt. Walz

## January Meeting Information by order of Captain Walz

What: The annual Company meeting

Why: To set the schedule for 2002 and discuss rule and bylaw changes

When: 11AM EST. on Sunday, January 27, 2002

Where: The Marion YMCA

Other: Anyone wanting to suggest changes in any rule or bylaw must submit a written draft to the Capt. no later than January 5, 2002.

## Thank You

### Lieutenant Wilcoxin

Dear Gentlemen of the 19th Indiana, I would like to thank each and everyone of you that made this season so memorable. Starting with good leadership from Capt. Walz, the NCOs kept the company in good order and everyone reasonably happy. Our Drill and Military department are the envy of all around us. I have noticed from many different sources that everyone acknowledges the 19th is leading the way when it come to reenacting and putting forth effort. I don't know about you, that makes me feel proud of our group and I feel we are being true to our Mission of preserving the past. At Antietam, and Perryville, and even at Hartford City this unit stood out as the best. Our campfire activities

have become the stuff of Legends. Everybody wants to be around our fire and enjoy the evening with us, I think that speaks for itself. Our friend Donna Schmink, said of our efforts at Monument Circle on Nov 08, 2002 were much appreciated. The museum did more business than it ever has. With the television coverage we got that day we were both happy. The next event will be Mess Night. Please try your best to make it. This one should be the best ever. I am already to get started on next year,

Thank to you all.

Lt. Dave Wilcoxon

## Black Hat Battalion Leadership Meeting Recap

James Williamson

Steve Bouldin and I have traveled and behalf of the Nineteenth Indiana to the Black hat meeting in Joliet Ill. The following is a small recap of that meeting.

First, Pat Vogel of the 6th Wisc. And the Iron Brigade Commander was elected the new commander of the Black Hat Battalion.

As for scheduling, the Battalion has taken only a minimalist approach to the schedule by adopting only 3 events as maximums.

The first will be a Black Hat only drill week-end in May. It will in Yorkville, Illinois, not far from the Fletcher Farm where it was held in the past. Tentative date is May 17th and 18th and will be a full weekend drill.

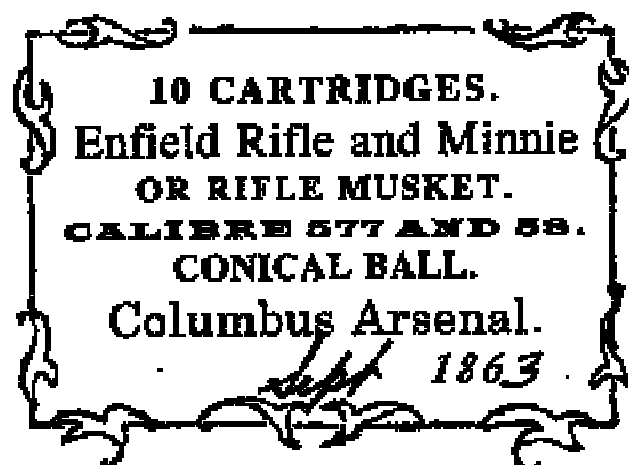
The second maximum event is the Cumberland Guard Drill at Culver. Dates are currently June 14th and 15th. Some discussion was brought up if that date was firm from some of the other units. Steve and I did promote the fall re-enactment at Culver. However without a firm date, no decision was made.

Lastly, but not least, the 3rd event will be 140th Gettysburg on July 4th through the 6th. Gettysburg was also designated a "campaign" event.

Other events were discussed. However it was decided not into include those as the max events.

One issue of great discussion was the lack of knowledge of what other units in the BHB were doing. Which events were good events worthy of long travel times to attend. Rick Keating, of the 104th Illinois, offered to publish all events of the Black Hat battalions on their web page. I asked that all scheduled by published in the newsletters for the people who do not have web access. It was asked that any event a unit though highly of, should be noted, and an open invitation given to any BHB members to come and fall in at these events.

As for command staffing of the various events. Overall command will set on an event by event basis and the command will have the option to selecting their staff for each event. Which means I may be in the ranks more often. Or not.



## Men of the Black Hat Battalion

Colonel Patrick Vogel

It is with great humility and honor that I accept the position of Black Hat Battalion Commander. My personal promise to each and every one of you is that I will fight the hard fight on your behalf, and that I will never expect more of you than of myself. I know that if I get out of line, there are many "old sages" out there that will point me in the right direction, and they are encouraged to do so. We all especially want to thank Colonel Terry Giffin for all he has done for the Battalion and also for what he will do in the future. I can only hope to attain the skill and expertise he has served this battalion with over the last few years.

The first order of business is to summarize the Black Hat Battalion meeting held on November 9th, 2002 at the Pilcher Park Nature Center in Joliet Illinois. After the election, the discussion turned to the schedule of Max effort Battalion events for 2003. With the exception of the Battle of Gettysburg, the Battalion Drill, and the Gettysburg Brigade Drill, (More on these later) there was little consensus on the events for next year. Another "old sage," Tim Kurasz was present and suggested that we stimulate cooperation between member units by posting all the events of individual units (events where they would request BHB participation) on our Web page, as graciously provided by the Illinois Battalion. This would allow all units to participate as they see fit and everyone could help out their brothers in the BHB. While there is a danger here that some events that had a sizable BHP participation in the past could wane, if we instill a true camaraderie in the Battalion, this should not be a problem.

This leads to the next item of business on the table, the Battalion Drill. The Battalion Drill will be held on the weekend of the 17th and 18th

of May 2003 at a location 10 miles from the previous location of Fletcher's Farm in Illinois. While participation has been sketchy in the past, it is imperative that each and every company commander makes an extra effort to attend. These weekends are where the sole of our Battalion is defined. It was decided that the Drill weekend will be our first Max effort Battalion event of 2003 and will be a 2 day drill, ending early Sunday. This will be more than just marching around in a field. It will truly be a camp of instruction with special guest instructors, company competitions, and free libations. More to come in subsequent correspondence.

The second Max effort Battalion event was chosen to be the Gettysburg Brigade Drill at Culver Military Academy in Indiana. The participants will be the Cumberland Guard, the Illinois Battalion, and ourselves. Nick Medich and his Battalion might also attend. Again this is an excellent opportunity for us to get together in a low pressure environment (no event schedule) and hone our drill and impressions prior to Gettysburg. I could elaborate on this event but Colonel Shackelford visited the event site on November 16th and gave an excellent detailed report, which I shall paraphrase at the end of this correspondence. Please read it and make your company decisions as we need to get numbers to Dave. If anyone has questions about this event or anything else for that matter, feel free to contact me at any time.

The last Max effort event for 2003 is the Battle of Gettysburg, July 4-6. There was some initial discussion of the possibility of boycotting this event due to potential problems like seen at Antietam this year. A single battlefield for all battles, civilian camps and parking lots in view during all battles, the ground itself, and of course our treatment by the eastern command. The decision was made that we should go, but with an attitude. It's Gettysburg after all and we will make it a good event, at least for us, despite the best efforts of the Farbs. I assure you that we

will not accept status as cannon fodder for the eastern units. More on this at the Battalion Drill.

This event, as with almost any Battalion event unless we are reenacting the early war encampments in Washington, will be a "Campaign Style" event. The definition of "Campaign Style," was the last item of discussion at the Battalion Meeting. "Campaign Style" does not mean complete absence of tents.

What it does mean is that if you are not prepared to pack your Wall or A tent on your back for 25 miles, it probably doesn't belong. With a small effort we can make our camp look correct, and distinguish ourselves. We will also be discussing ways of improving our camp impressions at the Battalion Drill.

Well, that's all for now but I plan on keeping the rank and file updated Monthly with e-mails and on our Web page. The Web page can be reached (or will be available soon) through the Illinois Battalion Website at [www.104thillinois.com](http://www.104thillinois.com). For those of you who were present at the meeting and feel I left anything out, or did not cover in sufficient detail, please express your comments to this audience or to me personally. Once again, it is an honor to serve the finest soldiers in the hobby.

## Mess Night Information

Sgt. Clayton Sevier

Mess Night in Nashville, Indiana:

Gentlemen, It is with great pride and foreboding, that we announce a Formal Dinner to be held in Nashville, Indiana on 8 March 2003 at the Brown County Inn. The telegraph number for the Inn is (800) 772-5249 at least it was last year. Please contact the Inn as soon as possible to make your reservations, the cost is a paltry \$79. per night. If you make your reservations early it will be possible to get fresh straw in your mattress. The Inn Keeper assured me that he does not allow Teamsters or Mormons to take a room at his Inn so I am confident that there will not be foul odors

or sinful apparition lingering. The Brown County Inn is at the corner of State Road 135 and State road 46 just a short distance from Gnaw Bone, Indiana

Please keep in mind that the dinner is not free. Therefore it will be necessary to send our Handsome and Gallant 1st Lt. Wilcoxon \$25 per person. For those married soldiers that did not have the opportunity to finish cipherin past 5x5 it will be important that you send \$50 to 1st Lt. Dave Wilcoxon, 591 W. Gerking Dr. Nineveh, IN. 46164. Gentlemen, it would be most kind of you to accompany your lady about the town of Nashville during the day and to proudly wear your uniform. There are many shops in which the economizing lady might find a pretty vase or even a dainty new handkerchief to bring back home. The sheriff frowns upon those men given to lounging about the street corners ,so I would suggest that you single men might want to find a local soloon. 1st Sgt. Clayton Sevier A-84

### MORE MESS NIGHT INFORMATION,

I just about forgot to tell ye that Cocktail hour is at 6 P.M. I know there's some of you men that needs a special extra drink to get ye set rite so this is the time to bring yer silly grinnin \*\*\* down to the bar an see just how big a lie you can tell an not getting caught. Dinner starts at 7 P.M. 1st Sgt. Clayton Sevier

## Quartermaster's Report

By Qms. Sgt. Jim DuMond

At the Cumberland Guard meeting in early November Col. Shackelford read a bit out of the Military Regulations concerning uniforms to those in attendance. He read that the "fatigue blouse shall be made of blue flannel cloth". Now we're not about to trade in our wool sack coats for a lighter material that's more comfortable to wear in the summer on a few lines of text in a book but it made me curious and I decided to

look into the matter further. I visited the state archives (which is probably 3 miles from my house) the following Friday to investigate quartermaster records. I arrived late and did not have enough time to look at everything that I wanted to look at but I'll share with you all what little I did find out. I looked at clothing ledgers for the 20th & 37th Indiana infantry. The books were in such poor condition that I could not photocopy the pages I wanted so I copied by hand what I could.

#### Ledger for 37th Indiana Volunteer Infantry

"Allowance for clothing for the year ending 31, Oct 1862"

Sergeants	\$46.66
Corporals	\$46.31
Privates	\$45.97

Most if not all of us are already aware that the men had to buy their own uniforms but we (I at least) may have been unclear as to how much money they had. The above list shows how much the enlisted men had to budget their uniform and personal equipment for an entire year. It doesn't sound like much, does it? Below is a list of equipment and their cost from the same page of the 37th's ledger.

"Company Clothing 1861"

Caps	\$0.99
Uniform Coat	\$6.56
Trousers	\$2.82
Sash	\$3.00
Blue Flannel Blouse	\$2.10
Blue Flannel Blouse, Lined	\$2.56
Shirts (flannel)	\$0.90
Drawers	\$0.71
Shoes	\$2.20
Socks	\$0.24
Over Coat	\$6.40

Blankets	\$2.44
Knapsack	\$2.78
Haversack	\$0.39
Canteen	\$0.32
Strap	\$0.14

The above list shows that the "flannel blouse" is quite different from the shirt. The above "uniform coat" is in reference to a frock coat. So now we can get into that old uniform debate again but this time when you're arguing uniform material the issue has now become a bit more murky. Also, in case you were wondering why I did not reference the ledger for the 19th, it's because there is no ledger for the 19th. The state's collection of these things is incomplete and what they do have is in very bad shape. I suggest we all seek ways to take an active role to try to protect what documents we do have because some of these may not be around after another 50 or 100 years.

I'll report more later. Until then, I remain your obedient servant,

## Taking Hits

Bill Hemmick

The biggest two problems with battles and "hit taking" is that there are too few hits taken early in the battle, and most hits are outright kills. What usually happens is that we all want to fight a while, burn some powder, have some fun, etc. etc. Then, after we fight for some time, we finally start taking hits. We all know this isn't correct and looks ridiculous to spectators. As we've discussed before, we need a better plan. Those of us who are veterans in the hobby, we should set the example and take that early hit. Besides, we may not have to clean our musket and won't use many cartridges!! Our hits need to be spaced evenly throughout the battle,

depending upon the Rebs fire power, the scenario, and the placement of big mud holes, right from the very first shots fired to the end.

The vast majority of Civil War soldiers who were shot on the battlefield were wounded rather than killed outright. In reenactments, the opposite usually occurs. The spectators and even ourselves would be better served and educated if we had much more wounded men than corpses. As a reenactor, it is simply much easier to be a corpse. It takes more effort and imagination to be a wounded soldier on the battlefield, but in the long run, it is worth the effort for all concerned. For a minor wound, one may be able to bandage himself up & become a walking wounded, and head back to the rear, or maybe even joining back in the ranks. One could help other comrades with water or a bandage or write a "death" letter to a loved on, or read some scripture for comfort. Many seriously wounded men tore open their clothing to inspect their wounds and could do little else. Use your imagination. Keep in mind that someone, maybe several people, are watching you. It is important to be practical and use common sense and to be safe.

Before taking a hit, make sure you are not loaded. Close cap and cartridge boxes. Don't "grandstand" too ridiculously. Don't take pictures or talk on your cell phone. Do stay in character, and do be safe. If one is lying in front of a battleline, earplugs are a very nice thing to have. We all should be wearing earplugs, but not bright colored ones. Also, depending upon how much rain we've had or if there's no way of determining the depth of a large body of water, a snorkel may be in your best interest.

Hopefully, this will promote more discussion so we can all do a better job of reenacting the Civil War experience.

## RECRUITING NEWS !

Cpl. Jerry "Waterdawg" Smith A-58  
and 1st Sgt. Jon Fraley A-84

Gentlemen please welcome into the ranks the following new Privates. Pvt. Jon Schaffer from Columbus, IN. Pvt. John Davis from Columbia City, IN. Pvt. Robert Lamprecht from Hobart, IN. and Pvt. Chris Hall from Osceola, IN. Please offer these new men a hot cup of coffee and a reasonably clean piece of hardtack when they come into camp this spring. I have just gotten communication from Captain Walz, he informs me that there will be about one hour of drill at the Company meeting in Marion, IN. on 19 January 2003 and the drill will be "light marching orders". Uniforms suggested, sense of humor mandatory. Also there will be a "Viking style meal" at Ryan's restaurant, Pvt. "Groundhog" Siler says his favorite meal is sweet taters an possum , Pvt. "Kleg" favors grits an possum , Sgt. Fogg prefers oysters an possum.  
Yer humble RECRUITERS :

## Election Results:



Congratulations to:

Capt. Greg Walz

1<sup>st</sup>. Lt. Dave Wilcoxin

1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Jon Fraley

2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant Ken Callaway

Q'mstr Sgt. Jim DuMond

Cpl. Mark Coutts

Cpl Bill Hendricks

Cpl. Jerry Smith

Cpl. Ron Cole

Treasuer Greg Walz

## A Friendly Reminder:

Please Pay Your Dues for th year  
2003. Make out the check to “19<sup>th</sup>  
Indiana Vol. Co. A” and mail to  
Captain Greg Walz  
c/o Walz and Company CPA’s P.C.  
1726 W. Lincoln Ave. Suite # 1  
Goshen Ind. 46526

## EQUIPMENT IDENTIFICATION : Sgt. Jon Fraley

GENTLEMEN, Why is it important to put your company number and name on all of your equipment? Gee, I forgot my sack coat at the last event , Sarge, it was blue, and smelled like smoke. Oh, yes ! That's my hat , it's the Black one. No, I didn't put my name and number on it. Over the last several years, 1st Sgt, Walz and I have been the last to leave the event and being last allows us to pick up all the forgotten items used by the brave and loyal men of Company "A". On many occasions said items were not marked as they should have been. Therefore at the up coming events there will be spot checks during the Captain's morning inspection to see that accouterments are correctly identified.

Friends, This past year was as most are, full of ups and downs, and you always hope to have more ups than downs when the big ball comes down. One of the downs for me was that I was not on top of our newsletter as I have in the past. With that in mind, one of my New Years resolutions is to try very hard to stay up to task on the newsletter. The newsletter is our key to disseminating information in both its written and online form to the company and our friends abroad. I would appreciate as much help from all of you as possible whether in the form of articles or ideas for articles. To the many new recruits, you come with a fresh insight, tell me what you would like to see and what kind of articles would help you to create the best impression you can.

This past year we have gone to the web with the help of Jim Williamson whose effort is greatly appreciated. I would like to thank all of those members who have contributed articles and ideas over the past few years. A special thank you to Jon Fraley who seems to always have a fresh idea and writes the most articles by far, he is one of the most important factors to the success of our newsletter.

Happy New Year and I'll see you in  
Marion.

## A New Years Resolution

By Ken Callaway