

# The Swamp Hog Gazette

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March, 2002

## Captain's Corner Captain Greg Walz

Several days ago I found myself cleaning my trusty Springfield just like I had so many times before and suddenly I realized that this season was going to be different. Gone are the chevrons that I wore proudly for 4 years and the new uniform just doesn't have that familiar feel. I have been doing my homework, but I know that it will take some time in the field before I will be able to relax and enjoy every moment as I did in the past.

Beginning with the last weekend in April at Ft. Wayne followed the very next weekend by the Lawrenceburg, IN I need the men of Company A to join me in working to make this season a success. I am very proud of who we are and the high standards we are setting, but this hobby is really a "team effort" and small units of individuals miss the big trills and special memories that come when a group of guys bond with each other and become part of something unique.

Ft. Wayne is our first chance to get together and work the rust off. I need to turn names in to pre-register for this one. Please e-mail, call, or send me a note if you can make this event.

Lawrenceburg is not just another event. We were invited to take part in this event based upon our performance at other events and the special quality of our musicians. This is what we have been working to achieve. We **MUST** get a minimum of 15 rifles and most of our musicians to this event. I have obtained a specific promise that if we show up with those numbers we will be paid \$1,000.

## Newsletter to go online by Ken Callaway

This issue of the Swamp Hog Gazette will be the final paper copy to be sent to our membership. Starting with the May issue the Swamp Hog Gazette will be exclusively online at [www.19thindiana.com](http://www.19thindiana.com) under the newsletter icon. Those members without Internet access will be sent a newsletter so that you can stay abreast of company information. Swamp Hogs with net access will be able to download and print a hard copy for their own use if desired.

In actual fact a March version of the SHG went on the company website at the end of February. The success of this idea is due to the time and effort of Jim Williamson. Jim tried many ideas and came up with the solution that you can see online. When you talk to him make sure to thank him for his great job on this project.

The March/April version contains all of the articles that were in the March online version for those who may not have read the online version. Those wishing to submit articles should still submit them to me as in the past and I will arrange the newsletter before passing it on to Jim. The article deadline as always is the 12th of the month to be submitted into the next month's newsletter.

## Civil War Slang by Cpl. Bill Hendricks

We often talk about doing First Person Impressions at encampments. Some of us find it easier than others so I would like to offer some help. One of the best ways to get started in doing a good 19th century impression is to know the language. Of course the language spoken

during the Civil War was the same on both sides. Or was it? Sure both sides spoke English and for the most part it was the same as we speak today, but throughout history language has been altered through "Slang". And the Military has always been a wealth of slang. What I intend to do in upcoming editions of the Swampfog Gazette is to supply you with documented Civil War period slang and its meanings. It may prove to be fun and interesting in that some of the terms you may be very familiar with and others may be new. None the less, we can have fun talking to each other and with the public using actual terms from 140 years ago. So let's start this month's lesson.

A-1: Prime, the best, first rate in every way.

A.W.O.L.: Absent without official leave.

Bellyache: To complain.

Big Ticket: An honorable discharge from military service.

Brass: Courage: nerve; impudence

By Hook or by Crook: By whatever means possible.

Coffee Boiler: A malingerer; a shirker.

Confederate disease: Diarrhea.

Deadbeat / D.B. : Anyone exempt from military action, even if in uniform.

The Elephant: Combat - i.e. "See the Elephant"

French Fever: Syphilis.

Horse Collar: A bedroll with straps, worn instead of a knapsack.

Jiffy: An instant; the shortest possible time.

Lick into shape: To train.

Mess: A group of soldiers eating together.

Neck decoration: The Medal of Honor.

Living off the country: Foraging.

Paper Collar / Paper Collar Soldier: A soldier from the Northeast (to a westerner).

Pig sticker : Bayonet.

Red Tape: Official formality; adherence to a prescribed routine, especially when delay occurs.

I just received this from Kimmswick. Apparent we are expected and all that attended the past couple of years know this is a fun event. We are going to need registration numbers in order to qualify for a food ration. In the past, the amount of food provided as been, well shall I say more the "Ample". Be prepared to eat well.

The daytime battles are held in the town. It's mostly a street fight from one end of town to the next. Spectators are up close so safety is a chief concern. However, dying theatrics can involve the spectators as well! Hopefully the Union Artillery will bring some good primers this time. We spent a goodly amount of time last year standing behind the cannons during the barrage exchange with the Rebs. Hearing Boom, Boom, Boom from them and Pop, Pop, Pop from ours. Apparently the Saturday Night Skirmish problems have been resolved. If you remember last we were bombarded with rockets and muskets. So plan to take lots of powder to this event. Bring a goodly amount of insect repellent as well. The town is next to the Mississippi River and some marshes are nearby. The mosquitoes are abundant. The town is just south of Saint Louis, Missouri and only about 15 minutes off the Interstate 55. So the travel is easy. There are no registration fees, but deadline for registration is July 15th. We'll need to know who wishes to attend by the end of June.

## Civil War Song of the Month by Cpl. Mark Coutts

"The Battle Hymn of the Republic"

Words by Julia Ward Howe Music: "John Brown's Body"

The origin of the famous song "John Brown's Body" is fascinating in itself. John Brown's body was hung from a gallows in Charlestown, Virginia on December 2, 1859. Colonel Preston of the Virginia militia, who was in charge of the execution, turned to the assembled crowd (which included Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and an aspiring young actor named

## Information on Kimmswick Event By Jim Williamson

John Wilkes Booth) and proclaimed:  
So perish all such enemies of Virginia! All such  
enemies of the Union! All such foes of the  
human race!

Only a month earlier, the man hanging from the  
hastily erected gibbet had thrown the nation  
into shock with his daring, suicidal raid on  
Harpers Ferry in a vain attempt to touch off a  
general slave uprising. Terror stricken, the  
South had tried, sentenced, executed, and  
martyred the fifty-nine year-old Abolitionist to  
whom slavery was "the sum of all villainies."  
John Brown might be dead, but his soul went  
marching on. Less than two years after his  
death, millions throughout the Union were chanting:  
John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in the  
grave,  
But his truth goes marching on.

Perhaps because of the fact that there are few, if  
any, more common American names than John  
Brown, "John Brown's Body" was not composed  
originally about the fiery Abolitionist at all. By  
a strange quirk of history, the namesake for the  
song was Sergeant John Brown of Boston, a  
Scotsman, a member of the Second Battalion,  
Boston Light Infantry, Massachusetts Volunteer  
Militia. Sergeant John Brown, as luck would  
have it, was also a singer, a second tenor in the  
battalion glee club.

One of the most popular airs sung by this club  
was an old Methodist tune which went:  
Say, brothers, will you meet us,  
Say, brothers, will you meet us,  
Say, brothers, will you meet us,  
On Canaan's happy shore?

As soldiers throughout time love to do, the men  
of Sergeant Brown's Company began to  
improvise verses to this melody. Of course,  
everyone in the company got a big kick out of  
the fact that most listeners assumed that the  
song was inspired by the martyr of Harpers  
Ferry. In time, of course, the song became  
identified with "Old Osawatomie" and attained

its tremendous popularity -for as the war  
increasingly developed along antislavery lines,  
the vision and sacrifice of old John Brown  
became a shining symbol throughout the North.

In New York City during the summer of 1861,  
the troops of the Massachusetts Twelfth  
Regiment came marching down Broadway  
singing "John Brown's Body." The crowd was  
instantaneously taken by the singing and  
promptly dubbed the outfit "The Hallelujah  
Regiment" while the song took New York by  
storm. As the war proceeded, the song swept  
across the nation. Hardly a month passed by in  
which some amateur chronicler did not employ  
the tune to relate a particular battle or incident  
of the struggle.

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe was in Washington in  
the late autumn of 1861, accompanying her  
husband, Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, who was a  
member of the Military Sanitary Commission,  
appointed by President Lincoln. One day while  
visiting the military camps, Mrs. Howe and the  
rest of her party began singing some of the more  
popular war songs, including "John Brown's  
Body." A member of this party, Reverend James  
Freeman Clarke, suggested that she write new  
words to the "John Brown" tune. Here is the  
story in her own words:

I replied that I had often wished to do so. In  
spite of the excitement of the day I went to bed  
and slept as usual, but awoke next morning in  
the gray of the early dawn, and to my  
astonishment found that the wished-for lines  
were arranging themselves in my brain. I lay  
quite still until the last verse had completed  
itself in my thoughts, then hastily arose, saying  
to myself, "I shall lose this if I don't write it  
down immediately." I searched for an old sheet  
of paper and an old stump of a pen which I had  
had the night before, and began to scrawl the  
lines almost without looking, as I had learned to  
do by often scratching down verses in the  
darkened room where my little children were

sleeping. Having completed this, I lay down again and fell asleep, but not without feeling that something of importance had happened to me.

The first draft of this song is dated November, 1861. It was published in the Atlantic Monthly in February, 1862, appearing on the first page of that famous journal. Mrs. Howe was paid five dollars by the Atlantic, whose editor, James T. Fields, supposedly gave the song its title. Mrs. Howe was born May 27, 1819 in New York City, the daughter of Samuel Ward, a wealthy New York banker. She married Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe of Boston in 1843. In the years after their marriage she and her husband became ever more involved in the Abolitionist cause. Her daughter, Florence Howe Hall, came to believe in later years that their home in South Boston might have been one of the numerous "stops" on the Underground Railroad which helped fleeing Negro slaves escape to Canada. It was during this period that Mrs. Howe met John Brown, whom her husband had described to her as a man who "seemed to intend to devote his life to the redemption of the colored race from slavery, even as Christ had willingly offered his life for the salvation of mankind."

In her later years, Mrs. Howe would become an outstanding champion of the woman's suffrage movement and enjoy a successful career as a lecturer and author. For the half century after she wrote her famous work, until her death in 1910 at the age of 91, and to this very day, Julia Ward Howe is best known as the woman who wrote, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", the first great inspirational song the Union produced during the Civil War.

## Quartermaster's Report

### By Qms. Sgt. Jim DuMond

I wanted to revisit a previous subject of identifying your gear. It is very important to label all your equipment with your initials or ID number. These markings should be made in a

discreet place on your equipment, however more distinct markings may be made on your canteen and knapsack. Since your musket is the single most expensive piece of equipment you carry it is of upmost importance to memorize the serial number of your weapon to be found on the barrel opposite from the lock behind the rear sight. Feel free to ask Cpl Coutts for a testimony on this matter. His Springfield was "lost" (actually stolen) out of the back of his jeep. It was later returned to the Billie Creek Inn (probably by a pissed off parent) and it was returned to him because he knew his serial number.

Just to give everyone fair warning, your equipment will be inspected by me at the discretion of the captain and those men who have not marked their equipment or memorized their musket serial number may find themselves "volunteered" for fatigue duty such as wood, water or Polecat Mess detail.

## Quartermaster's Report

### By Qms. Sgt. Jim DuMond

Since the start of the new season is right around the corner I wanted to remind everyone, especially the new Jonahs, to be sure to have all your equipment marked in the coming season. You should make these marks clearly yet unobtrusively. For example, put your initials on the inside flap of your haversack or on the inside of your belt. Your canteen especially should be so marked but much more conspicuously. Use your initials and/or your ID number (ie. mine is A-31) and make them so they are easy to read. You may use other decorations if you wish. For example, I will adorn my canteens this year with the fleur-de-lis due to the nickname given to me by my pards ("Frenchie") and also because of my French heritage. In doing this you can add some individual flair to your equipment without looking gaudy but be sure such marks are in good taste. I use a Testors white paint marker I bought at an art supply store for this, but if you

want to do it like they would have back then use a brush and a bottle of white paint. Get your equipment ready and have plenty of ammo prepared. The new season is right around the corner now.

## Coffee Bags for the Soldier by 1st Sgt. Jon Fraley

A new product by the enterprising and talented Pvt. Lee "groundhog" Siler. Gentlemen will also be amazed at the efficiency and economy of the full line of coffee bags and tobacco bags now being offered at the low cost of only \$2 per bag. Tobacco bags are hunter green check while the sought after coffee bags are natural duck and for the prepared soldier there is the housewife made of onsburg fabric. Pvt. "groundhog" Siler will have for your approval, the full line of bag products at Ft. Wayne and is willing to take orders thereafter. Please patronize the young man as he hopes to purchase a tin frying pan of some writing paper with the realized profits.

Ground Hog Bag Company  
Pres/Pvt. Lee Siler  
19th Ind A-Company  
[337cwshootme@prodigy.net](mailto:337cwshootme@prodigy.net)  
Pvt. Lee Siler  
274 Maple Dr.  
Albany, In 47320

We are the maker of fine made Coffee and Tobacco bag around. We make each our bag out of natural duck fabric and other fabric and machine made seam on our bag.

The new item that we are making is House wives. They made with small period cloth bag that include: super super strong navy blue thread, a metal thumb protector, and a needle in case of some type.

Coffee bag made out of natural duck fabric:  
\$2.00

Tobacco bag made from period green check pattern fabric: \$2.00

Grizzle Bear House Wife kit made from natural onsburg fabric: \$3.00

We can mail it to your tent or on site delivery.

## Attention Company ! by 1st Sgt. Jon Fraley

A new season is upon us and now is the time to prepare for the many enjoyable days on the Battle Field and around the camp fire. Roll those cartridges, sew on those loose or missing buttons, clean the inside of the canteen and let it air dry, and put neets foot oil on all the leather accouterments. Gentlemen look to the schedule for May and observe two important events. 1. Lawrenceburg, Indiana 3,4&5 Friday is education day, Sat. & Sunday are celebrations of the towns 150th birthday. Company "A" will be rewarded \$1000 IF we have 15 soldiers or more for their festivities that week-end. Gentlemen your Company is calling for your participation in this event. This is your chance to really do something important for your Company. 2. Indianapolis, Indiana 10&11 May 2002 at the largest Civil War Monument in the world. This will be an education day on the 10th with camping down town and re-dedication ceremony on 11 May. Gentlemen this is extremely important --- the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Our very own 1st Lt. Wilcoxon has caused \$10,000 to be contributed by 2 well known Industries within this State. This is an opportunity that seldom appears on the horizon, let us in large numbers seize the day, that we might truly honor and respect the gallant and brave sons of Indiana !

**MESS NIGHT**

## in Nashville, Indiana by 1st Sgt. Jon Fraley A-84

Ladies and Gentlemen of Company "A" were treated to a most sumptuous dinner with the most elegant details provided by our most noble and Valiant 1st Lt. David Wilcoxon. Assisting the good Lt. was our most valued and trusted Quartermaster Sergeant Jim DuMond. The entire Company was pleased to have as our Guest of Honor a most respected friend from the 79th New York Highlanders, Colonel Lance Dawson and his beautiful bride Mrs. Jennifer Dawson. Also we were honored to also have Ms. Donna Schmink from the Indiana War Memorials Commission and Museums at the table of distinguished guests. Pvt. Jerry Smith was voted as the "Private of the Year" and an appropriate medal was presented and worn for the remainder of the evening. Captain Steve Bouldin was voted as the "Officer of the Year" and an appropriate medal was given and a plaque honoring his service as Captain of Company "A" for the years 2000 and 2001. Q/M Sgt. Jim DuMond was taken by the consumption of apple pie and was fined repeatedly for insubordination while 1st Sgt. Clayton Sevier was fined for dereliction of duty, conduct unbecoming and reckless social behavior. Pvt. Dave Lesley should have been fined for some rather untimely and rude behavior while at the dinner table and in the presence of ladies. Pvt. Lee "Groundhog" Siler was able to tell some very funny jokes which he had found in the latest edition of Harpers Weekly. The Polecat Mess embarrassed everyone with their rendition of "The Army Bean" and without allowing the audience to recover from the horrible shock, proceeded with the E.W.D.N.S award. Captain Greg Walz was presented with the usual polecat tail and now may wear the award with great pride and distinction. There were a large number of lucky members receiving the prizes given out by a lottery method devised by Captain Walz. I would like to thank all those kind and generous members that gave the

variety of gifts. We were all entertained by the most fun visual effects rendered by Captain Walz. Each year Captain Walz has spent a lot of time creating one of the best picture shows, re-visiting the many events in the previous year. A very special thank you to Cpl. "Doc" Coutts for his most generous gift of \$150 and Captain Greg Walz for the \$100 gift certificate.

## Book Review: by 1st Sgt. Jon Fraley A-84

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN  
by Harriet Beecher Stowe

Many times within the last 6 years I have asked children in the 8th grade and in the 11th grade "have you read Uncle Tom's Cabin?" The response has been in the negative column on most occasions. Among reenactors, the answer is an occasional affirmative response. How did this important literary work influence the 19th century? When President Abraham Lincoln met her at the White House in 1862 he allegedly remarked: "So you are the little woman who wrote the book that started this great war!" Leo Tolstoy deemed it a great work of literature "flowing from love of God and man." The book was first serialized in the National Era, an abolitionist paper, in 40 installments beginning 5 June 1851. First published as a book on 20 March 1852, it sold more than 300,000 copies within the first year. Quite naturally many critics denounced the work as vicious propaganda. In 1853 Mrs. Stowe published A KEY TO UNCLE TOM'S CABIN which contained documentary evidence substantiating the graphic picture of slavery. Not until recently did I discover that such a "KEY" had been published, I have yet to find a copy. I would highly recommend reading and even re-reading this extraordinary, heart-rending, journey into the past. For those looking to enhance the 1st person vocabulary and quaint expressions, this is a gold mine!

### Fort Wayne Event

When: April 26 - 28

Where: Shoaf Park

Fort Wayne , Indiana

Scenario: Unknown

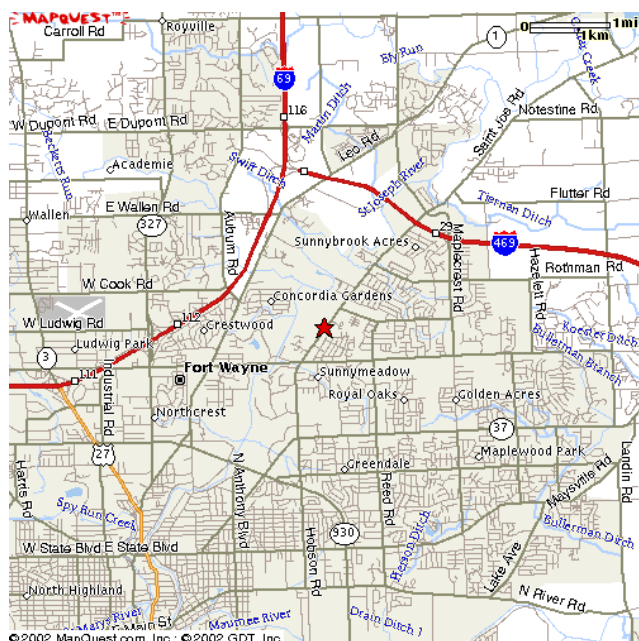
Uniform: Dress Hat, uniform coat, and if you have recently bought gaitors now is the time to break them in.

Tentage: A tents & dog tents

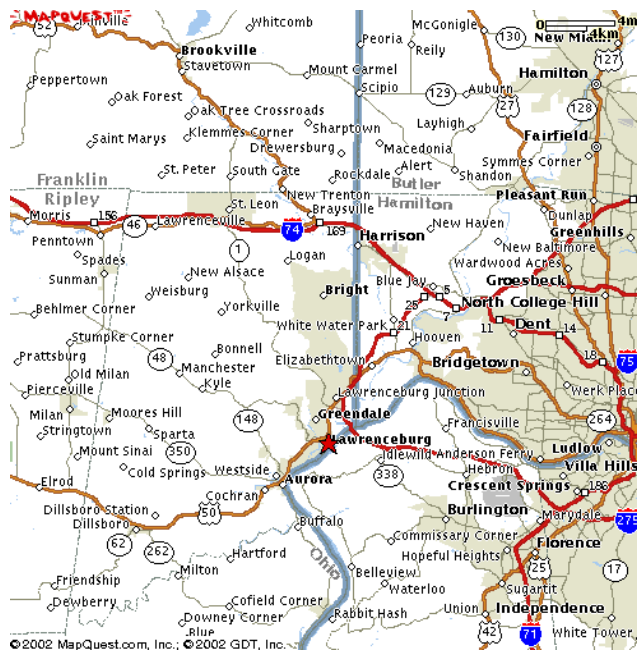
Amenities: Pottys, wood, straw, and water,

Saturday big feed, Reenactor flea market

Other: Friday education day. Captain Walz is the contact person for this event. This event is our first big drill weekend.



maximum attendance for this event because it allows us much needed drill time and could put \$1000 into our war-chest with 15+ members.



### Lawrenceburg Event

When: May 3-5

Where: Lawrenceburg, Indiana

Scenario: None

Uniform: Dress Hat, uniform coat.

Tentage: A tents & dog tents

Amenities: Port O-Pottys, wood, straw, and water

Other: Friday education day. Captain Walz is the contact person for this event. We need

## Antietam Update

Capt. Walz

The first registration cut-off is April 30 for Antietam. Since it was decided that those that sign up to go by the first cut-off will have their registration fee paid out of company Funds I would like to notify all members that they MUST contact me directly before April 25 or they will have to pay the registration themselves. I only plan to send in one registration form for the company.