

# The Swamp Hog Gazette

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## Captain's Corner

To be sure 2003 has been an unusual year for Company A and the hobby in general. When we met in January who could have imagined that the 140th Gettysburg would be postponed, 1st Sgt. Fraley would suffer a heart attack, and Cpl. Hendricks would be living in Alabama in September. This should serve as a lesson that nothing ever stays the same for long and that change is not always under our control. Accordingly, we should all savor our good times together.

As my position as your leader comes to an end I want to thank everyone that has made me, and my family, a welcome member of the Company A family. Since walking into camp at Greenbush on a cold dark night many seasons ago Nick and I have been blessed with some of the best times made possible by a bunch of special people that anyone could imagine.

Now it is time for new leaders to step up and keep the Company moving in a positive direction. This starts with the upcoming elections. The votes will be counted at the Company meeting on Sunday November 9. All positions are open and I ask anyone wishing to seek an elected position to contact me directly before October 1. After that date you cannot be placed on the ballot.

As of now the following members have notified me of their interest:

Captain:	Dave Wilcoxon
Lt.:	Lee Dunn
Is' Sgt.:	Ken Callaway, Mark Coutts
2nd Sgt.:	Jerry Smith
Cpl.:	Jon Fraley, Todd Newman,
Treasurer:	Jim DuMond

## Lt. Wilcoxon's Cabin on the Hill:

Brave and Loyal men of Indiana, Please draw your attention to the following important information. Those men that have volunteered to endure the long wagon journey thru Kentucky and into the beautiful mountains and valleys of Tennessee, there is respite at Ist Lt. Dave Wilcoxon's cabin. ALL men are welcome to spend the night of Thursday , 16 Oct.2003 at the humble abode of Lt. Wilcoxon. It is strongly recommended that every man take advantage of this opportunity, considering that we will leave PROMPTLY at 7:00 a.m. on 17 Oct. 2003 from the home of the Valiant and strong hearted Lt. Wilcoxon. Please understand that Lt. Wilcoxon is a Gentleman of humble, yet honest origin and that many of us will be offered a place on the porch or floor. Eating your evening meal before arriving at Lt. Wilcoxon's cabin is strongly advised as the pox has taken most of the Lt's cows and the mold has gotten into his flower bin. A word of caution to those weak of stomach, a family of skunks have now taken up permanent residence in the smoke house ; and that buzzing noise in the outhouse is a well established yellow-jacket colony. There is a map near-by giving guidance to each of us to Lt. Wilcoxon's cabin, it is my understanding that there may be some signs on the road , directing us to the cabin on the hill.

1st Sgt. Clayton Sevier A-84

## Mosheim, Tennessee/ Battle of Blue Springs :

Gentlemen, The time draws near for us to gird up our loins and travel to them thar hills of Tennessee and join our good friends in the 79th New York Highlanders. Please make note that the following are now registered for this enjoyable event. Jon Fraley, Tom Hession, Jerry Smith, Greg Walz, Nick Waiz, Mark Coutts, David Wilcoxon, Ron Cole, Jim DuMond, Jay Goszewski, Lee Siler, Jason Heiney, John Davis, Jeff Loucks, Holly Davis, and Tina Loucks. There will be 12 men on the bus, therefore it is mandatory that we will be going "campaign" style with minimal baggage. There will be NO need to bring food or tin plate, only a dipper to drink the coffee. PLEASE send \$100 to Lt. Dave Wilcoxon , 591 W. Gerking Dr., Nineveh, IN this 46164 By 6 October 2003. It is very important that amount be paid in advance so that the good and brave Lt. Wilcoxon does not have to visit your tent and wring this amount from your drawers and cause excruciating pain and embarrassment to your person. The bus will leave 17 October 2003 from Nineveh, IN and will proceed in a southerly direction until there appears on the horizon a familiar and welcome sign indicating breakfast is waiting for the soldier with a Docket full of gold or script. The Cracker Barrel in Seymour, IN has provided vast quantities of gravy and biscuits for the heavily burdened soldier and over wrought teamster, and will even have pancakes with whipped cream for the "nancy boys". Please remember that we are all Privates this week-end when we fall in with the 79th New York Highlanders. The acceptable uniform will be Frock coat , Kersey blue trousers, forage cap, 69 cal-musket is ok , 58 cal. musket is ok. Bring lots of cartridges and caps, this is a big gunpowder bum week-end ! We will, after registration, park the bus and form up as a company and march to our camp. We will exit the event as a unit and march back to the bus ! Sunday evening we will be staying in Knoxville, Tennessee at a Motel ( I will reserve 6 rooms) near a resaurant that serves large quantities of BEEF, HOG,

& BEER( if the state doesn't allow the beer, we will have our own) We will leave Knoxville on Monday morning and travel back to Nineveh, IN, We should be back to Nineveh about 2:00 p.m. If there are further questions, please contact me at (219) 462-1051, also please keep in mind that we will ALL be on the same time zone during this event BUT where we are going will be one hour ahead. 1st Sgt. Jon Fraley A-84

## NOTRE DAME: CEREMONY & FOOTBALL GAME 1 SPECIAL! SPECIAL I READ ALL ABOUT IT!

BRAVE and Loyal sons of Indiana you are invited to a rare event! We have been invited by the Sons of Union Veterans & the University of Notre Dame 's ROTC to participate in a ceremony at the statue of Father Corby on 8 NOVEMBER 2003 at 9:00 a.m. This will be a 21 gun salute ! Uniform Will be Dress Hat ( with all the brass, feather, & corp badge) Frock Coat , kersey blue trousers, gaiters, musket and tr@ps. Gentlemen, this is going to be a major anention getting event, therefore you are reminded to have your uniform cleaned NO crease in the pants, ALL brass shined, musket cleaned, bayonet shining , shoes polished. Corporal Jerry Smith would like to welcome everyone to his most cherished real estate & adopted Alma mater and would find it a favorable courtesy if each soldier should attend this event. Please remember that he has a sharp blade and a perfect memory There is a football game this same day at 2:30 p.m. and the ROTC unit has offered to us several tickets. The cost is \$48 per person. Those that wish to attend this game should send that money to Sgt. Jon Fraley, 3107 Parker Dr., Valparaiso, IN 46383-2474. This amount Should be made out to Jon Fraley and it should be in my hand by **24 Sept. 2003** after this date I will not be able to get the tickets, there are 25 available to us. I will have a map, directions and further information in the next

newsletter. Corporal Jerry Smith would like to further inform the destitute soldiers, that he would be happy to front the necessary capital to the soldiers that find themselves to be lacking the necessary \$48 to attend the football game. The sober and brave Corporal may be reached at (574)675-0231 1st Sgt. Clayton Sevier A-84

## Gettysburg Report

by Quartermaster Sargent DuMond

I rode out to Gettysburg with Steve Bouldin. He drove down to my house, I had him park his car in my garage and we left in my Vue. The drive there was OK, though we drove through 7 different rain storms on the way. Steve and I were both thinking the worst for the weekend. We arrived in camp with about an hour of daylight to spare on thursday. After setting up camp we went into town for dinner at the Gingerbread Man and met Dave, Jason, Lee the Elder and Lee the Lesser, Nick, Greg and JD and Mike from Goshen HS. The dinner was good as long as you didn't order the shoe-leather special (steaks) as Capt Walz and Lt Wilcox did.

Saturday morning we formed for a company drill. We had men from California, Tennessee, Illinois and Ft Wayne, Indiana join our ranks. We had perhaps 18 or 20 muskets online I think. We had a good drill and we experimented with using the 2nd Sgt (me) in a more pro-active role in keeping the turns correct for "on the right by files into line". I simply marched slowly ahead forcing the rear rank men to turn in front of me rather than cutting the corner. I think it is a successful idea. After the drill we formed up for the tactical which was simply a public battle demonstration. I fell in a hole and twisted my ankle while our battalion was re-deploying. I went to the aid station to get checked out and the doc said I was OK, just recommended I stay off of it for a while. I sat out the rest of the skirmish and went back to camp to lay down.

I felt better for the first official reenactment battle at the Railroad Cut in Mc Phereson's Ridge which strangely enough began at 6pm. It was an intense fight. I was fulfilling the duties of a second sergeant as a file closer and safety officer and I didn't realize the battle was getting to me until Capt. Walz instructed me to help the men bring up ammo from their cartridges boxes. My hands were shaking as I did so. I was so caught up in it and everyone (on both sides) did their thing right which helped the overall experience tremendously. Towards the end of it the Pennsylvanians on our right broke and ran and we were quickly surrounded and we were captured. When Capt. Walz was asked why we did not run like the others he replied simply "We're the Iron Brigade" to which the rebel officer answered "Oh, that explains it. You boys never run." It was probably the best battle re-enactment I have experienced in the 6 years I've been doing this.

The next morning we were representing the 17th Michigan which fought alongside the 20th Maine on Little Round Top. It was at this time I realized our division general was an idiot. He deployed the battalion that was doing the 20th Maine in the center of the hill rather than on the far left of it as they did historically, We were supposed to come in on their right just as the rebels were making their attack up the bill. The rebels were attacking us on our left just Re they should have but our idiot general was trying to make hand signals waving to the 20th Maine to get them to re-direct their attack. Well, they just came up Re they were supposed to, so instead of going in on the 20th's right we went in on their left. Their weren't attacks as vigorous as thought they should have been, but they had to fight through the wheatfield before they came at us and they spent allot of time down there before they came up at us. Overall the Round Top scenario was OK.

Saturday afternoon was the Culp's Hill scenario. We were the regiment which repulses the Confederate Attack off the hill. Since we were held in reserve until the very end we were engaged for

perhaps only 10 minutes. It was kinda anti-climatic since the rebels didn't retreat like they should have. Saturday evening we were invited to join the "Circle of Fools". Iron Brigaders from California who were formed with the 6th Wisconsin from New Jersey have this tradition of passing a bottle of wine and toasting whatever comes to mind. It was rather neat. My toast was to my ancestor Jacob DuMond of Co. H, 65th Indiana who served in East Tennessee, was captured and died at Andersonville. When we returned to camp we were visited by some fellows (Rufus and Tyree) from the 38th Ind. who were too funny with their negro black-face routine. I never laughed so hard. A likeness was made of me and Lee Dunn with Tyree. We'll see how well it came out.

We were to assume the role of the 72nd Pennsylvania for Picket's Charge. Re-enactors who do that impression were our color company for that fight. The 72nd were men from Philadelphia's fire department. They were the regiment who counter-attacked Armistead's breakthrough at the angle and ended Picket's charge. This of course would mean that we would once more be held in reserve until the very end. During the artillery duel which preceded the assault they pyrotechnics caught the grass at the base of the hill on fire. It wasn't spreading fast and there was no danger to anyone. It still had not burned itself out by the time the guns went silent and the rebels came out of the woods. When they moved forward the event staff scrambled to shovel dirt and sand over the flames to put it out before the rebel assault reached that point. From our vantage point high atop the hill we had a great view of their movements towards us. I estimate they had perhaps 1/3 the number from the 135th in 1998 but still it was impressive. Right on cue when the rebels crossed the wall we moved forward to push them back. Soon afterwards it was over. I said to a rebel officer who was laying on the ground behind us "That was a bitch of a climb wasn't it?" "yes it was" he replied quietly. Pvt. Anderson poured water from his canteen into a cup and offered it to him and when he took it he cried silently and hugged Eric. Allot of them were very emotional about it. It became plain to me that it was a much bigger deal for them than us to do

Picket's Charge right despite what they have done in fouling up previous battle reenactments.

To give you an idea of how smooth this went after we got back to camp and Steve and I walked to my car it took me only 10 minutes to go from the parking lot to the highway. The 140th Gettysburg was an amazing experience that far surpassed my (albeit low) expectations.



