



FOURTEENTH REGIMENT NEW YORK STATE MILITIA COMPANY E

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2006

COMPANY NEWS

By Frank Ruiz, Sr.

With apologies I admit that it has been quite some time since our last newsletter. There were quite a few circumstances that contributed to the newsletter not being published.

But it is safe to say that we are back on track.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that 2006 is our 10 year anniversary! Can you believe it? Most reenacting groups dissolve in 5 years. It is a testament to all the hard work, dedication, and support that all of have shown over the years!

For those of you who are not involved directly with the goings on of the group there are some changes that have taken place.

First of all we have a new web address.

It is www.14thbrooklyn.info. The old address was taken over by a real estate company and has since been abandoned. We were never advised that our 5 year registration had expired. And when we attempted to get it back we were ignored. That being said, we have secured the new site for 10 years!

The newsletter will no longer be mailed. It will be emailed to you and also available on our website in a PDF format. This will save the Company quite a bit of money.

We have moved our meeting and drill site to Old Bethpage Restoration Village this year. We will also be holding our Camp Wood School of the Soldier there April 1st & 2nd. One of the benefits of holding it at OBVR is that we are able to fire our weapons which we were unable to do at Ft. Totten the past few years. It is also more likely that we will draw new recruits through recruiting as OBVR is open to the public.

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

As most of you know Bruce Lionel and his Wife Martina celebrated the birth of their first child Danielle Mary on October 12, 2005.

A big Huzzah goes out to the Lionels!

The future of the Company is looking brighter everyday!

TAPS FOR CHARLES BARTOW

By Mike Barnett (Tooter)

Charles Bartow, a Company E., 14th Brooklyn soldier is buried at Evergreen Cemetery

Tony DellaRocca, who has assumed his identity, using all his energy and power of persuasion, finally got a new gravestone installed.

At the dedication of the new gravestone, several of his descendants from around the country, some of whom had not seen each other for years, gathered at the cemetery with nine reenactors: the exact number needed for the ceremony- An NCO in charge, seven in the firing party , and a bugler. Was his spirit looking down at us or was it just a coincidence ?

Tony delivered a short description of Charles Bartow's life as a 14th Brooklyn soldier, the riflemen fired three volleys, and I had the honor of sounding Taps.

As we spoke to each other after the ceremony, one of his descendents, choking with emotion thanked us.

Grasping for words, I said it was an honor, and I am from Brooklyn so this is my heritage also: inadequate words for how all of us felt.

My first event was the School of the Soldier with the 6th Wisconsin.

At the final assembly, Captain Bob "Bob Patterson", with tears in his eyes said:

"All they wanted was to be remembered?"

When we joined this reenactor group did any of us have any idea of those special moments that far transcend the word hobby?

3 OF OUR OWN SERVE IN N. Y. GUARD

Anthony DellaRocca, Bob Dra- beck, and Steve Ondra served in the New York State Guard. The three made the decision to serve their country in this capacity with no hesitation.

They were called up to duty during the Republican Convention here in New York City.

Bob's enlistment ended in 2005 and Anthony and Steve's enlistment will end early this year.

These men deserve recognition for their service in the Guard.



LETTERS FROM THE BOYS

By Tony DellaRocca

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A MEMBER OF
CO.E, 14TH REGIMENT, N. Y.S.M.

CAMP MARION, UPTON HILL, VA.

Oct. 15th, 1861.

We left Camp Wood, Arlington Heights, that is with our blankets and three days' provisions in our Haversack's to advance on the enemy, as we supposed, then very strong in number, entrenched on Munson's and Upton's Hills, but when we arrived at these strongholds, we found that the birds had flown and left behind one of their very strong forts mounted with two splendid pieces of cannon, one made out of a stove pipe, the other a pump log, and the poorest kind of entrenchment, about six feet high, looking as if the chivalry were to lazy to lift a shovel, or else its only a blind to lead us on; but if that is their game, they have made a great mistake, for General McClellan is too old a soldier to be caught with chaff. The first night after we came here the boys had to sleep on the ground without any covering, except the blue sky; the next day they built corn husk houses, but they were poor things to keep the cold and the rain out; we were out here but a very few days when we had a very hard storm of rain and hail; our huts were built on the side of the hill, and I had been on picket duty that day, and was quite tired and laid down in my shanty and was soon asleep. I woke up about 12 o'clock at night and found myself swimming in mud and water and half frozen; so of course I had to turn out. I put on my big overcoat and stood by the campfire until morning. It rained so hard that I could only keep half dry: as fast as one side would dry the other would get wet, but our tents have come up since that and we are now encamped in an opening in the pines. It is a very good place but not as nice as Arlington. I would have written before but we have been busy getting our camp to rights, beside we have had the picketing to do and have also helped build two forts since we have been here. The picketing is the worst duty we have to do; we go out and stay 24 hours; it is well enough in the day time, but at night we have to lay still without saying a word and our muskets ready to fire, thinking every bush is a man, and then the nights are so long. We have not been out in a week and hope we will not go soon again, not that any of us are afraid; we have all got over that, and do not know what fear is, as we see so much danger. I do not mean this as praising myself, I do the best I can, and so long as there is no fault found with me I am satisfied. Although it is lonesome to be away from home so long yet we have

a great deal of fun out here besides we have got our church where we have lectures and temperance meetings; we call it Fowler's Chapel, after our Lieutenant Colonel. The Young Men's Christian Association presented us with a large tent which we use for that purpose. We are very comfortable in our tent; we have put up a bed big enough for four of us and we sleep very well. Yesterday we had beef steak, sardines and tomato catsup for dinner, the extras we buy from the sutler.

J.B.

Brooklyn Eagle October 24, 1861



Abraham Lincoln

ATTENTION!

BY DECREE OF PRESIDENT
ABRAHAM LINCOLN, THE NCO
TEST AND NEWSLETTER ARE
NOW POSTED ON OUR SITE.

"14th Brooklyn Documents"

REGIMENTAL FLAG PROJECT

Mark Maritato has taken ownership of this project and is working on the artwork. He has been in contact with the flag manufacturer and Steven Hill. The last report was that they will be able to produce the flag. The flag will be fully embroidered as was the original which was done by Tiffany's of New York. Thanks should also be given to Pete Fales and Paul Gregorwich for their contributions to this project.

(Below is Mark's rendition of the flag)



EVENTS 2006

Anesthesia and the Civil War

By Paul Gregorwich

One of the biggest misconceptions of the American Civil War. All too often are men portrayed in books and movies "i.e., "Glory" "being operated on fully awake and screaming. So where does this long running misconception come from? Surprisingly since the first days of the war people have been believing this in spit of the truth.

Anesthesia, in the form of chloroform and ether had been available since the 1840s. Chloroform itself had been used lightly during the U.S. - Mexican War. Pain killers in the form of morphine and opium have been in use since before the American Revolution. By the 1860s the use of anesthesia was firmly implanted in almost every surgeon in the United States. During the beginning years of the invention of anesthesia there were strangely people who condemned it's use. Some clergy fought the use of it, saying that it opposed "God's plan for mankind's suffering." Even going so far as the blast the use of it during child birth since that was God's punishment for Eve's transgressions. By the 1860s this kind of issue was rare. In 1862 the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York stated, "the day is past where the administration of anesthetics in surgical operations is a subject of discussion."

Yet people still believe in the old story of a soldier biting a stick or bullet to stay from screaming while being cut. Medical records during the Civil War show a completely different story. Between 1861 and 1865 approximately 80,000 operations were performed with the use of anesthesia and only 254 were done without. The blame for the modern misunderstanding is to be placed on the soldiers as well as modern authors. Many books do little justice to the surgeons of the 1860s. To prove their "facts," they use quotes from misunderstood soldiers because it fits into what they believe to be true. One such book stated the following:

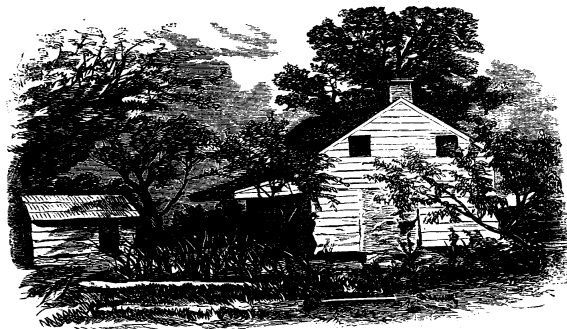
*A New Jersey soldier who watched two amputations wrote of the patients,
"Neither of them seemed to be under the influence of chloroform but a groan escaped them as the operation proceeded.".....Screams of agony and pain however usually accompanied every case put upon the operating table. Such sounds were clearly audible to the masses of prostrate men lying nearby on the ground and awaiting their turn.*

This common misunderstanding ran rampant in soldiers letters and diaries of the war. Most common site soldiers wrote about was seeing men thrash about on the table while being operated on; so much so that they had to be held down by two of three men when the surgeon did his work. To them this meant that the soldier must be awake and fighting against the pain being caused. The truth is the need for patients in the early stages of anesthesia to be held down persisted into the twentieth century. Early forms of anesthesia induced muscle spasms and verbal sounds uncontrolled by the patient. Though anesthesia did not always put men completely to sleep as often thought. With the inconsistent application of it's use some men didn't take to it fully and though they might be awake during the operation they still would feel no pain. There was also a risk of dying from its use, several did during the war. Men who might not be able to get the proper mix of air and anesthesia or were allergic to it would suffocate. Surgeons assistants often had to check the patients tongue during the operation as well to make sure it was not swallowed which would cause death. If the tongue began to swell, which was reported several times, then the patients tongue would have to be pulled out of his mouth with forceps so he could breath. Another little known fact is how the men were awakened from being under anesthesia. The sure fire way used most often was to pour chloroform on the rectum which would wake up the patient right away.

Though it may not have been pretty it worked and worked well. Many soldiers lives were saved and pain

reduced by it's use. The perfect example of the effect this has had on our lives is the statistics from the Massachusetts General Hospital. Between 1836 and 1846, only 39 surgical procedures were performed annually. Between 1847 and 1857 the number jumped to 189. From 1894 to 1904 that went even higher to 2,427. Thank God for anesthesia!

"....experience teaches us that although the wound appears trifling today, in attempting to save it "the limb" we will sacrifice a life in a few days hence." - Dr. J. J. Chisolm



TACTICS

BAYONET DRILL

By First Sgt James B. Tomsey

Here is a basic Bayonet Drill, to keep get you warmed up before the season begins! This year, with the help of Corporal Wakefield I will be training you all in the proper bayonet drill. We have touched on the basics the past few seasons, but this year I would like to organize a bayonet drill team and eventually get into Bayonet Drill competitions. The Original 14th was involved in many drill competitions including bayonet drill!

THE GUARD

The men will be placed in one rank, about four feet apart in the "Position of the Soldier."—*Scott's Inf. Tact.*, par. 88.

One time and two motions.

1. *First motion.* —At the word *guard*, the recruit will turn on the left heel, bring the left toes to the front, carry the right foot to the rear, the hollow opposite to, and three inches from the left heel, the feet square to each other, the arms hanging naturally by the *sides*.—*Fig. 1.*

Second motion. — Move the right foot, quickly, twice its length, to the rear and about three inches to the right; at the same time bend the knees so that the weight of the body shall rest equally on both legs, the upper part of the body leaning a little for-ward, the heels on the same line, the feet at right angles to each other, and the left knee vertically over the ankle.—*Fig. 2.*

NOTE.—THE WORD GUARD IS THE COMMAND OF EXECUTION FOR THE FIRST MOTION; AND TWO THAT FOR THE SECOND MOTION. THE COMMAND TWO SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN UNTIL THE FIRST MOTION HAS BEEN PROPERLY EXECUTED BY ALL THE MEN. THE PRESCRIBED LENGTH OF THE *GUARD*, TWICE THE LENGTH OF THE FOOT, MAY VARY SLIGHTLY WITH DIFFERENT MEN.

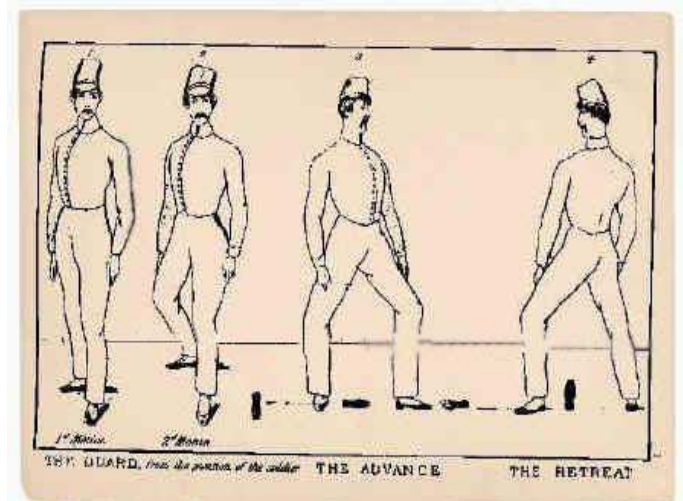


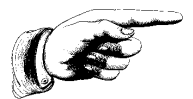
Fig. 1 Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

TO EXECUTE THE REMAINING MOVEMENTS OF THE FIRST LESSON, THE SOLDIER IS FIRST PLACED IN THE POSITION OF *GUARD*.

To Be Continued in the Next Issue....



COMPANY NEWS CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Elections were held at our January meeting for the Presidency and Board members. Frank Ruiz, Sr. was re-elected as President. Pete Fales, and Bruce Lionel were re-elected to the Board. Skip Munisteri is our newest Board member. He replaces Steve Ondra who served honorably. Congratulations go out to Skip and a big thank you goes out to Steve for his service.

I would like to personally thank Bob and Ed Lubers for their substantial donation to our organization. They are direct descendants of Charles and Stephen Bartow.

The majority of the funds will be used for gravesite restoration. We are truly grateful for their unselfish and undying support of our group over the years.

In February we held elections for the Field Staff and the results are as follows;

Captain Frank J. Ruiz, Sr.
Brevet 2nd Lt. Bruce Lionel
1st Sgt. Frank Ruiz, Jr.
2nd Sgt. Anthony DellaRocca
3rd Sgt. Steve Ondra.
Corporals
Mike Caliguri
Eric Drake
Bruce Lionel
Joe Tafuri
Congratulations to all!

MEMBERSHIP

It is with great pleasure that we welcome our new members. We would like to welcome:

- Pvt. Jack Sturiano Sr. ,
- Pvt. Bob Drabeck,
- Pvt. William Succoso,
- Civilian Robin Heaney

2006 EVENTS

The event schedule for 2006 was voted on at the February 11th meeting and from the response of the members it seems that we will have better attendance this year. Of course the complete proposed event list can be found on our website www.14thbrooklyn.info. We adopted a pretty aggressive schedule this year, likened to years past.

Camp Wood, which is our 2 day School of The Soldier will be held on April 1st & 2nd at Old Bethpage Restoration Village again this year. This is a high priority event for Fresh Fish and Veterans alike. For the Veterans it is a great way to get ready for the upcoming season. And for the Fresh Fish (New Recruits), it is a must! You will receive the proper training to allow you to participate in our events.



OFFICIAL 14TH BROOKLYN
MESSAGE BOARDS!

JOIN TODAY!

"DON'T LEAVE YOUR FELLOW
REDLEGS OUT IN THE COLD!"

Ask for information

WRITE IN

If you would like to have a spot on the newsletter please email Captain Teasdale, skibbo14@aol.com to submit your piece! Articles from Descendants are welcomed & encouraged!

"WIDOW'S WEEDS"

by: Robin Heaney

Ritual and strict etiquette were essentials of Victorian America. And, mourning was no exception. The nineteenth century had rules for mourning, and as Scarlett O'Hara learned, breaking the rules was frowned upon by proper society. Properly observing the etiquette of mourning was proof of gentility, character and good breeding for Victorians.

Traditions for men and women varied. A woman would mourn her husband for two and one-half to three years, while a man was required to wear mourning clothes for only three months.

Why the distinction? It may have been the result of financial need and the familial and social responsibilities of the sexes. While a man's surviving family was expected to provide financial assistance to the widow and her children, and to look out for the children's inheritance and well-being, society believed a widower needed a wife, as a hostess, a companion and a mother for his children.

During the first year, a woman was in deep mourning. Her "widow's weeds" were made of crepe, wool, cotton or black bombazine, a silk and wool blend, and all her clothes, except underpinnings were black. The mourning dress might have simple black braid trim or no trim at all. Most clothes were crepe, which did not wear well. It became limp and ap-

peared very shabby, turning a rusty color as it aged, hence the term "weeds".

The widow's bonnet would be made of a dull black fabric, and a weeping veil would cover the lady's face, and usually extended from the crown of the bonnet to her mid-calf. Little or no jewelry was worn. Plain black gloves, a black fan and a black-edged handkerchief were essentials. A woman also used black-bordered stationery. The borders on the handkerchiefs and stationery would decrease in size as the woman progressed through the different stages of mourning.

Later in the century, when less toxic black dyes were developed, a lady would also wear black underpinnings.

After the first year, the widow would go into second mourning. She could set aside the weeping veil, and add lace trims, white collars and cuffs, and black jewelry.

Mourning jewelry was often made of jet, black glass or onyx. Women also wore brooches and bracelets made from the hair of their beloved. During the war, wives, mothers, sisters and sweethearts would ask their soldier for a lock of hair before he marched off to war. If the loved one were killed, the hair could be made into a piece of hair-work jewelry or placed in a locket. Finally, in ordinary mourning, the woman could replace her dull black clothes with shiny black dresses, and add greys, violets, wines and some white to her wardrobe.

Continued on next page →

When she emerged into half mourning, she could be reintroduced to society.

Few original pieces of mourning wear remain since Victorians often burned mourning clothes. It was believed that keeping them in the home brought bad luck (a rumor started by clothing manufacturers to increase sales).

Mourning clothing for men usually included a black suit and a black crepe armband, worn for three months. At funerals, men also wore black shoulder scarves as a display of grief, and some men wore a "weeper" or hatband around their hats. Widowers were more likely to remarry than widows. If a widower remarried shortly after his wife's death, his new wife was expected to go into mourning for the deceased wife after the wedding. And, if a widow remarried during her mourning period, she was permitted to wear a simple wedding dress for her second marriage, but then was expected to continue mourning her first husband and return to her widow's weeds for the appropriate time.

Children in mourning, when under twelve, traditionally wore white in the summer and grey in winter, although there are some period photographs of young children in black. Often children, including babies, wore black trim on their bonnets and dresses. A child usually would mourn a parent for one year. A mother also would be expected to mourn her child for one year.

Other relationships merited different mourning periods. A woman would mourn a grandparent or sibling for six months, and an aunt or uncle, niece or nephew for three months. It also was traditional for a woman to mourn a friend for six months, if she had been remembered with an inheritance by the deceased. Perhaps, the most famous mourner of the nineteenth century was England's Queen Victoria, who mourned her husband Prince Albert after his death, for the remainder of her life.

Nineteenth century Americans were open about death. The war, child mortality, death in childbirth, and disease were harsh realities. Mourning was an important ritual of life, which brought families together and gave them time to grieve and to honor and respect their departed loved ones.

ARTIST MARK MARITATO

Our own Mark Maritato is a military artist. Please visit his web-site www.maritato.com to see his work. Below is a sample of his work which is available for sale. Mark also has a 14th Brooklyn limited edition print for sale.



ASSUMED IDENTITIES

Mike Ambrosino-Abraham Hawrey, No. 23
Claudia Ambrosino-James Flint
Sal Ambrosino-Van D. Richmond, No. 91
Jim Abril-James E. Reynolds, No. 64
Mike Barnett - Evan Davis, No. 20
Mike Caliguri - Robert P. Thurston
Justin Caliguri - Stephen B. Bartow
Mike Canavan- John Cox, No. 17
Tony Della-Rocca - Charles A. Bartow, No. 4
Eric Drake-Charles E. Wakefield, No. 89
Peter Fales - Eugene Fales, No. 27
Paul Gregorwich - Walter Seaman, No. 68
Jesse Henry-Robert A. Caldwell
Dave Holbrook- Asa Holbrook
Bruce Lionel - Aaron A. Storer, No. 70
Joe Manzello- Joseph Marfing, No. 43
Mark Maritato - Michael Stubbs, No. 73
Skip Munisteri- George E. Marshal, No. 47
Don Nencik-Smith Smith, No. ?
Steve Ondra - Herman (Henry) Richmond
Felix Prevete-Daniel Perine
Frank Ruiz, Sr. - Charles Teasdale, No. 79
Frank Ruiz, Jr. - James B. Tomsey, No. 80
Joseph Tafuri - William E. Kershaw, No. 40
Frank Valentine - Thomas F. Gibney, No. 30

Fourteenth Regiment, N.Y.S.M., Co. E
7 Oakmont Avenue
Selden, New York 11784



A FEW RED LEGGED DEVILS AT REST!
"END OF INNOCENCE" FILMING
MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK JULY 2001

INFORMATION

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SAFETY - FUN - AUTHENTICITY