

# THE REGIMENTAL DISPATCH: THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 12TH UNITED STATES INFANTRY, COMPANY A JUNE 2010

Volume 1, Issue 1

## Special points of interest:

- Remember to send in registrations for events
- The Regulars were the spit and polish of the army. They were tough, disciplined and well drilled. We need to see that we differentiate ourselves from the volunteer units just as the Regulars did in the Civil War.

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## Ruminations From The CO's Office

Our 2010 season is underway with a good showing at Peterboro, one of our Maximum Effort events. For all who came a big "Thank You!" I particularly want to thank Jim Hurd for commanding the field and for 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt MacMillan for commanding the company as well as Bill and Carol Mayers for the organizing work they put in. Well done all. For those who are new to us....Welcome Aboard.

As we now prepare for Erie Canal Village (our next Maximum Effort event) we should reflect on the things that make us what we are as a unit. We are a close knit family reenacting unit and we try to involve everybody. That has been our past and it will continue now and into the future. From a youngster beating a

drum or acting as a runner, to a senior private enjoying camaraderie around the campfire, and the wonderful civilians amongst us.... everyone is welcome. We have seen our youngsters grow up from drummer boys to soldiers carrying muskets and even one graduating from West Point. This is a family tradition we want to keep and encourage.

But we also need to reflect on who we portray.

The Regulars were the spit and polish of the army. They were tough, disciplined and well drilled. We need to see that we differentiate ourselves from the volunteer units just as the Regulars did in the Civil War. We represent a mostly forgotten aspect of the war. Many people are unaware of

the role of the Regular Army. It's our job to correct that with our knowledge, our passion and our portrayal to the best of our abilities.

Do some review of the drill; read a book or article on the role of the Regulars during the war; polish your brass; or work on developing an impression.

I appreciate being elected Commanding Officer and will do my best to enhance communication within the unit. We have great years ahead and until my next column....happy hunting (greybacks that is).

*Captain Charlie*

## Erie Civil War Weekend

Train Robbery, Irish Volunteers with Cassey Carr calling for the Saturday evening dance, blue berry pancakes, and breakfast burritos are a few of the items planned for the Erie

Canal Civil War Weekend. Please send in your registration and mess fee into the unit mailing address of 10085 Carousel Center Syracuse, NY 13290-0061

For the Saturday evening meal there will be chicken Bar-b-Que available. \$8.00 for adults ? For children.

## By-Laws Update

A bylaws committee was formed to review and recommend changes to our current document. Once they have been reviewed by the CO and presented to the Board, a special membership meeting will be called to vote on approval so they can be in place before our next Annual Meeting.

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War and Regular Recruitment

### Capt. Poltenson

Greetings All...

We will soon be starting the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cycle of events. At times like this public interest tends to grow and this is a ripe time to recruit. I personally got involved after the release of the movie "Gettysburg".



Most of us (sadly) are well beyond the years that an actual civil war soldier would have been. We need to recruit some young blood and we also need to

bolster our ranks. At events we host we need to make sure we have a recruiting table set up. I will be requesting approval from the Board to establish a small recruiting committee that will update our nice (but way out of date) flyers and see if we can create some actual period looking posters. It will be a committee directed to produce something tangible in a short period of time.

We need to let folks know

who we are and why they would want to join us. A recruiting strategy will differentiate us from the other units and the larger our unit the more clout we carry. We need to get ourselves out in the conscious of the public for there we will find our new members to carry us into the future.

If you have the time, talent and interest in this endeavor drop me a line. Poltenson12thus@yahoo.com

### Event Registrations and Communications

#### Capt. Poltenson

In the not-too-distant past all registrations for events were handled through Section Leaders and thence to the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt and (at the time) a separate Secretary. This accomplished several things. First, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt had an idea of what he had to work with for manpower and rifles. Secondly the Secretary made sure registrations were correct, mess fees were paid and asked the Treasurer for a check and mailed it all in. The CO was informed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt what the numbers were and all was relatively well with the world.

Unfortunately things have gotten lax in the last few years and communication has broken down. Effective immediately we will return to a modified version of this procedure. Due to our reduced numbers we will dispense with Section Leaders.

Prior to events members need

to check our website for the schedule ([www.the12thus.com](http://www.the12thus.com)) and confirm cost and mess fees. Then it is incumbent on everyone (civilian and military) to communicate with First Sgt MacMillan ([SgtMacMillan@the12thus.com](mailto:SgtMacMillan@the12thus.com)) not only so we have an accurate head count, but because, as Secretary, he coordinates with the Treasurer to send in registrations and mess fees.

Members should NOT be registering on their own as it makes it difficult to plan company streets, duty rosters and we are operating without an accurate headcount. **All registrations should take place through the unit.** This will help us plan and make it easier for all members (civilian and military) once you get to an event.

Sgt MacMillan has been at this awhile and I can assure you from long experience that his

disposition and charm improves considerably when people communicate with him. And as an aside to this issue I would request all members go to the website and print off a medical form, fill it out and keep it on you at all events. We will be looking for them during inspection.

Also, if anyone wants to communicate with me they may feel free to do so. My e-mail is [poltenson12thus@yahoo.com](mailto:poltenson12thus@yahoo.com). My phone number is 315-491-8033.

# Historical Numbers, Rank, National Events and Safety

*Capt. Poltenson*

There are a few items of interest to share with the military arm of the 12<sup>th</sup>. This is primarily informational but worth keeping in mind.

**Historical Numbers:**

Many units out there that we meet up with are filled with a variety of high ranking officers, sergeants, corporals and damn few (if any) privates. In the past we have tried to keep rank consistent with historical numbers. We will strive in the near future for greater authenticity and keep rank consistent with numbers we actually have. I will have more to report on this in a future column.

As part of the above it is important to remember that any-

one who holds any rank whatsoever (excluding medical officers) should maintain a private's uniform and accoutrements so that at any specific time they can take the field as a private. I can assure you that portraying a private most times can be a whole lot more fun.

**National Events:**

At national events where we are joined by the 4<sup>th</sup> US Infantry it is important that we stay with the 4<sup>th</sup> on the joint company street. We are sister units and Regulars. This is a long tradition with the two units and will be continued. The 4<sup>th</sup> (like the 12<sup>th</sup>) is a family unit. Family members are welcome on the company street as they always have been.

Unless you have a wall tent that cannot be accommodated on the street or Officers Row (and then you would be in the family civilian camp) you will want to be with us on the street. I can assure you there is much fun and camaraderie around the campfire and during the event. I look forward to being with the 4<sup>th</sup> US in the coming years and especially during the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events. The Regulars need to stick together and when we all fall in together.... it can be impressive.

**Safety:**

This has been an issue at some events during the past several years for some other units that

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**The surgeon says: Soldiers should have a full canteen at the start of the skirmish and end up with a empty canteen at the end of the skirmish. Civilians should also remember to drink water during the day at an event.**

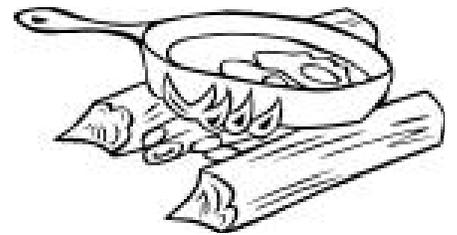
## 2010 Remaining Events

| Dates      | Place                                  | Registration Fee   | Mess Fee                     | Registration Deadline |
|------------|--|--|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| July 10—11 | Erie Canal Village, Rome, NY           | \$5.00   | 10.00 adult<br>5.00 under 12 | July 1, 2010          |
| July 24—25 | Massena, NY<br>Robert Moses State Park | \$5.00   | 10.00 adult<br>5.00 under 12 | July 1, 2010          |
| Aug 14—15  | Pierce Creek<br>Binghamton, NY         | \$6.00 military<br>\$5.00 civilian<br>under 12 free                | TBD                          | July 17, 2010         |
| Aug 21—22  | Hamlin Beach, NY                       | \$5.00   | TBD                          | July 24, 2010         |
| Oct 2—3    | Old Mill Village<br>New Milford, PA    | ?  | TBD                          | Sept 1, 2010          |
| Oct 15—17  | Cedar Creek,<br>Middletown, VA         | \$15.00 by 7/19<br>20.00 by 8/23<br>25.00 by 10/8<br>30.00 walk on | TBD                          | ASAP                  |

Please send the registration and mess fee to the unit mailing address is 10085 Carousel Center Syracuse, NY 13290-0061 so it arrives before the registration deadline.

## School of the Soldier – Camp Details

- 1) Fire
  - a) Wood – gather, split if necessary
  - b) Fire Pit
    - i) Dig a rectangle 5 to 6 inches deep a little wider than the grates. Cut down the center – lengthwise of the rectangle. Fold the sod on to the grass on each long side
  - c) Water buckets – ensure they are filled with water
  - d) Cover wood with gum blanket in case of rain
  - e) Clean up
    - i) Move grates off fire to cool
    - ii) Pour water from water buckets onto fire
    - iii) Fill in sod removed when pit was dug
- 2) Meals
  - a) General
    - i) Clean hands before cooking
    - ii) Periodically check drinking water jug and fill if needed
    - iii) Put water on to heat for washing dishes
      - (1) Breakfast – when meal preparation is started
      - (2) Lunch – when meal preparation is started
      - (3) Supper – about one hour before meal time is scheduled
  - b) Review menu and gather ingredients – any questions please ask civilian coordinating meal
  - c) Clean up
    - i) Put away remaining food
    - ii) Wash dishes
- 3) General Camp appearance
  - a) Ensure non-period items are out of site



Dish towels, dish clothes and bags are in grey box under table in mess area.

## You Know The Drill—Marching to the Front at the Oblique

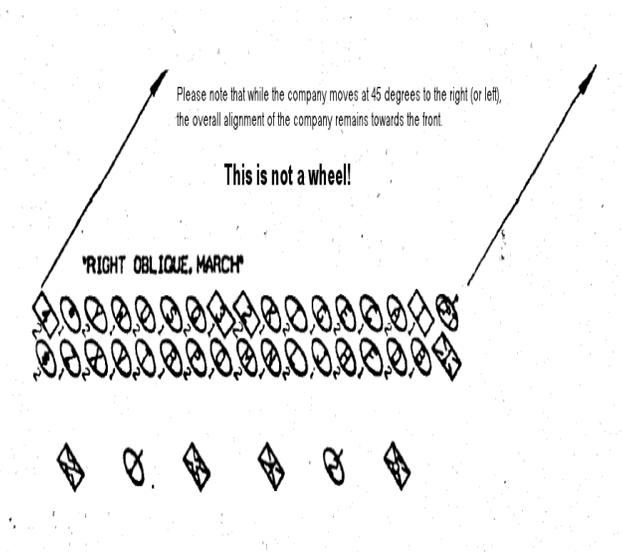
It seems that one of the most difficult maneuver for a line of reenactors to perform is the March to Front in Oblique. See the following excerpt from Casey's School of the Soldier.

"1. -Right (or left) oblique. 2. MARCH.  
340. At the second command, each man will make a half face to the right (or left), and will then march straight-forward in the new direction. As the men no longer touch elbows, they will glance along the shoulders of the nearest files, toward the side to which they are oblique, and will regulate their steps so that the shoulder shall always be behind that of their next neighbor on that side, and that his head shall conceal the heads of the other men in the rank. Besides this, the men should preserve the same length of pace, and the same degree of obliquity."

The key here is that you should be looking at the back of the shoulder of the person to your right (Right Oblique) or left (Left Oblique). Care must be taken not to step into alignment with that person. Doing so transforms this into a wheel. The object of the Oblique is to maintain the line of the company's front toward the enemy while moving the company to the left or right, whereas a wheel changes the direction of the front. It is also a fundamental element use in forming and unforming columns of companies in battalion exercises.

Care in the execution of maneuvers like the Oblique set the 12th US apart and demonstrate our attention to accuracy and excellence. Be proud of the fact that we are the Regulars!

Private Jim Hurd  
Chief of Staff  
12th US



## Peterboro Civil War Weekend—Carol Mayers

Thank you to all of the members of the 12th US who participated in the 18th Annual Peterboro Civil War Weekend. There were 1048 paid visitors for Saturday and Sunday.

The education day was successful. Fifth graders from Madison,

Stockbridge and Morrisville-Eaton schools visited 21 stations. The event had coverage from the Oneida Dispatch, both print and on line, Time Warner channel 10, Syracuse Post Standard and Madison County Courier.

The concert by the 77th Regi-

mental Balladeers and the Irish Volunteers provided music on Saturday and Sunday and combined for a concert on Saturday evening, which was well attended by reenactors and public. Despite the rain we all went home with dry canvas.

12th US Infantry Co. A

10085 Carousel Center  
Syracuse, NY 13290-0061

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## Historical Numbers, Rank, National Events and Safety (contd.)

*(Continued from page 3)*

we contend with and it is an area we do not want to become lax in. The 12<sup>th</sup> US Infantry is not a cowboy unit. Our members should look like Regulars and only have those correct accoutrements carried by Regulars. No knives or pistols. We will also strictly adhere to the United States Volunteers Safety Regulations. This will make sure everyone who goes to an event will return home in the same state they arrived in.

For anyone that is not sure what the regulations say go to our website ([www.the12thus.com](http://www.the12thus.com)) and go to the link for the United

States Volunteers. I encourage everyone to read them. The 12<sup>th</sup> has a reputation for being safe and it's a reputation we want to keep.

Let's continue to have a great season, have fun, do the Regulars proud and be safe. See you on the field.



## This Week in History, Jun 22 - Jun 28

- Jun 22, 1864 Lee strikes back at Petersburg
- Jun 23, 1862 Lee confers with his generals before the Seven Days' Battles
- Jun 24, 1862 Lincoln consults Winfield Scott
- Jun 25, 1864 The construction of a tunnel begins at Petersburg
- Jun 26, 1862 Battle of Mechanicsville
- Jun 27, 1864 Battle of Kennesaw Mountain
- Jun 28, 1862 Confederates capture the St. Nicolas

