

About the 12th US Infantry Reenactment Regiment

The 12th United States Infantry is a Civil War Reenactment organization based in the Syracuse, New York region, formed for the purpose of promoting educational aspects of the American Civil War; to teach its historical significance through activities, programs, and living history demonstrations; to authentically portray both Union soldiers from the 12th US and Northern civilians - their life, clothing, equipment, actions, and battles; and to encourage family participation and the friendship of all who hold the same interest.

The unit was formed in 1987 and portrays Company "A" of the 12th United States Infantry...A regular Army command. Members come from all over Central New York and the Southern Tier. The 12th is the host unit for the annual Erie Canal Village Civil War Weekend in Rome, New York, the location of a period upstate canal village. The unit is also a member of the United States Volunteers (USV), the largest national reenactor organization in the United States.

What Reenactors Do

Civil War living historians, or "reenactors", engage in a variety of activities. Examples include:

- Participation in full scale battle reenactments, with up to 10,000 or more participants on the field. These are national events.
- Enjoy camaraderie of friends around the campfire, on the battle line and at various events.
- Provide educational presentations.
- Participate in "living history" demonstrations.
- Attend period "balls" and socials.



The 12th United States Infantry

The numerical designation "Twelfth" has been borne by four regiments of infantry in the regular service of the United States. The first was organized July 16, 1798 and disbanded June 15, 1800. The second and third were raised temporarily during hostilities, the former in 1812, the latter during the Mexican War. The present regiment was organized by direction of the President in a proclamation dated May 4, 1861.

The 12th was an integral part of the V Corps notable "Regular Division" under General George Sykes. The 12th served with distinction in every major campaign in the Eastern Theatre of the War. In their years of service until being taken out of the field in 1864 due to significant losses, they participated in the following campaigns and battles:

Siege of Yorktown, April, 1862
Gaines' Mills, June 27, 1862
Malvern Hill, July 12, 1862
Cedar Mountain, August 9, 1862
Bristoe, August 27, 1862
Bull Run 2d, August 29 and 30, 1862
Chantilly, September 1, 1862
South Mountain, September 14, 1862
Antietam, September 17, 1862
Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862
Fredericksburg, April 30, 1863
Chancellorsville, May 1 to 5, 1863
Gettysburg, July 2 and 3, 1863
Bristoe Station, October 14, 1863
Rappahannock Station, November 7, 1863
Mine Run, November 27, 1863
Wilderness, May 5, 1864
Spottsylvania, May 8 to 19, 1864
North Anna River, May 23, 1864
Tolopotomy Creek, May 30, 1864
Bethesda Church, June 1 and 5, 1864
Cold Harbor, June 2 and 3, 1864
Petersburg, June 18 to 30, 1864
Weldon Railroad, August 18, 19 and 21, 1864
Peeble's Farm, September 30, 1864

RELIVE THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR 1860-1865



12TH REGT. UNITED STATES INFANTRY REENACTMENT REGIMENT COMPANY "A"

INVITES YOU TO JOIN

**THE BACKBONE OF THE
CIVIL WAR ARMY....
THE REGULARS**

*AND THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF LIVING
HISTORY REENACTING*

*THE 12TH REGIMENT, COMPANY A, INC.
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK*

Why Be A Reenactor?

Living history reenacting is a hobby with countless facets and people become reenactors for many reasons. All experience and enjoy reliving aspects of the American Civil War while in the company of new friends.

Civil War reenacting helps to perpetuate the memory of the common people who did so much to shape our nation during the 1860's. While working to achieve this goal, reenactors learn more about this period of our history through first hand experience.



Who Becomes A Reenactor?

People from all walks of life and of all ages become involved as reenactors. The 12th US Infantry includes men, women, children and families. Active members are as young as 12 (16 to carry a weapon) and as old as 80. We include soldiers, field music (fifers, drummers, buglers), medical corps, "civilian" ladies and gentlemen and other impressions. The hobby of reenacting has a role for nearly everyone.

In general, reenactors are people with a special interest in the Civil War. As reenactors, our goal is to provide an accurate representation of a Civil War soldier or civilian, to the public, your fellow living historian, and yourself.

Where Do Reenactments Take Place?

The 12th US Infantry participates in numerous local events around the Central New York region. We also take part in several large reenactments in Pennsylvania or Virginia every year. Some events are "**Maximum Effort**" events where the entire unit is encouraged to attend. Attendance at all reenactments is not compulsory, however certain minimal attendance requirements are included as part of your membership.

Your Civil War Portrayal.

Most reenactors assume a role, or "first person impression", as a 19th century individual. What portrayal is best for you?

Roles for most members of the military portion of the 12th US Infantry are varied. Most male members aged 16 and above portray soldiers of Company "A" of the 12th and fight in the battles at reenactments. These soldiers are led by officers, sergeants and corporals who are selected and promoted based on knowledge of tactics and period military impressions. The military portion of the Regiment also includes medical impressions and Field Music.

What About Civilian Impressions? Is There A Role For The Family?

Non-military members include ladies and gentlemen who choose to portray civilians of the period. These roles afford an almost infinite number of opportunities, including Ladies Aid Society and laundress impressions, newspapermen, civilian businessmen, 1860's craftsmen, etc. Civilian reenactors are limited only by their imagination and those occupations which are accurate to the Civil War period.

How Do I Get Started?

The 12th US Infantry reenactment regiment has programs in place to assist the new recruit or civilian reenactor. New members are shown the ropes by more experienced reenactors who teach practical aspects of reenacting, equipment procurement, and the organizations authenticity standards. We have made an arrangement with an experienced local "sutler" to provide new recruits with a "starter" package to get them on the field. During the "off season" monthly regimental meetings and drills are scheduled along with period Ballroom dance lessons to keep recruits and experienced alike up to standards.



If you want to wear the proud uniform of a Regular Army soldier, or the dress of a mid-19th Century lady...If you want to learn more about our nations heritage.... If you want to learn more about his wonderful hobby....

Contact

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