

April-June 2012

Company F Forward!

A Living History of Co. F, 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry



Message from the President's Desk

Inside this issue:

Message from the President's Desk	1
After Action Reports	2
Antietam Caisson	10
Hincks' Mess	11
Scheduled Events	12



I was surprised and pleased with the receipt of the following letter:

January 10, 2012

Dear Mr. Moy:

My name is Jack Wang, as a big history fan, it is my honor and pleasure to write this letter to you.

Earlier in 2011, before my graduation from law school Juris Doctor Program, I by chance found your website with a picture portraying a Chinese figure dressed in federal military uniform. I can't describe how astonished I was when I noticed that there was indeed Chinese fighting in the U.S. Civil War. I kept on reading and going through as many articles I can lay hands on, the more I dug, the more convinced I am about the truth hidden behind the veil.

I remember back in May 2011 when I showed the picture of Joseph Pierce to my Texas colleagues, they were all looking at me like they are idiots. As you know law students like to use "big words," we started arguing that this is hearsay and whether hearsay exceptions apply. I said this is an historical document which is one of the 26th hearsay exceptions, and one of them said I should put the author on the stand to testify that the picture is authentic. I know how silly this sounds, but that's what people become after 3-4 years studying case books!



As an alien in this country for most of my life, especially a Chinese boy, people always tell me that Chinese never took part of any part of the formation of this great nation. Because of your research and the result of your publications, what people think of as Chinese will eventually be reversed, and people will know that as well as people from other cultural heritage, the Chinese also participated in one of the most critical stages of the formation of this country.

Once again I would like to thank you for setting up a nice website and to organize a fan page on Facebook to let more and more people learn about the Civil War, the brave Connecticut infantry, and the mysterious story of Joseph Pierce.

Sincerely,
Jack Wang
Liang-fu Wang, J.D., LL.M., LL.B

Message from the President's Desk, con't.

First, I make the following disclaimer that the webpage is the result of the efforts of Bill Mellow and the Facebook page that of Chris and Karen Purrone. But I want to share this letter with you not so much as a "fan letter" about Joseph Pierce, but to say to all fellow Civil War Era re-enactors, historical society people, librarians and the readers of our newsletter, that the work you do each day and the presentations and stories you share in your portrayals at events, do have a positive effect on people whom you might least expect.

Your contributions in this regard go a long way in showing that everyone contributes in their daily lives to the history of our great Nation. It is my privilege for me to thank you for your work and contributions in presenting, teaching and preserving our nation's history to a present and future generation.

Your Obedient Servant,
Irving Moy



After Action Reports

New England Brigade Meeting (Civilian)
Nichols College, Dudley, Massachusetts
Saturday February 11, 2012

By Susan Kirsch, Civilian Impressions Chair, Co. F, 14th CVI.



The agenda for this annual brigade meeting called for separate meetings of civilians and military starting at 9:30 a.m. This meeting was facilitated by Wendy Joje-Inglis, Civilian Representative to the Board of the NEB, and attended by a handful of other female civilians including Diane Asselin, Marge Buchholz, and myself.

We discussed the need to focus on recruitment for both military and civilians as the current cohort of re-enactors and living historians is "aging out" with many planning to exit the hobby at the end of this four-year Sesquicentennial cycle. We discussed several possible reasons why younger people have not been attracted to re-enacting, what we might be able to do about that, and possible target age groups and audiences for recruitment.

We reviewed the list of NEB events for 2012 and focused on the Wickham Park event "Connecticut To Arms" to be held September 28, 29 and 30 as a Maximum Effort for civilians. Some possible scenarios that may be developed include the arrest of certain women suspected of Secesh sympathizing, aiding and abetting (we believe one of their husbands is a blockade runner) and plan to enlist the aid of a Provost. We also discussed a scenario enacting the murder or massacre of civilians.

We talked about including Christmas-related themes if the Wickham Park event focuses on Fredericksburg, including decorating a tree with simple, period-appropriate ornaments, some of which the public – adults and children – can help make such as paper chains and paper cones that hold candy and small treats; possibly real candles in reproduction clips.

After Action Reports, con't.

We also agreed to attempt more Meet-and-Greets by both civilians and military, after battles (particularly Saturday battles) to support recruitment efforts.

Both groups broke for lunch and then met combined at 1:00 pm. During the conjoined meeting, President Bob Graves stressed the need for authenticity. He emphasized remaining in period garb throughout the entire event. He stressed the need for attendance at events to support the Brigade.

Field Commander Matt Burbank reinforced Mr. Graves' comments about authenticity; he addressed the need of some re-enactors to leave events early to meet duties at home and advised that people pack accordingly (lightly) and to remain in period garb until the official end of the event. He also addressed the need for the separation of those who coordinate and run a large event and those who attend to participate and re-enact. He said that trying to do both was too much work for one person or for the same people. Mr. Burbank also asked for a designated civilian liaison at each event, with whom the event coordinators and the military can communicate.

Civilian Representative Wendy Jope-Inglis then spoke and concurred about need for a civilian liaison in the Town of Unity at each event.

The Safety Officer then reported that the NEB had a very good season safety-wise with few injuries, and when illness or injury occurred it was dealt with promptly and efficiently by both public safety (paramedics, EMT's, ambulance services, etc) and by the re-enacting community. He stressed the need for safety with all weapons and emphasized the need for a fire bucket at each fire or brazier, and to be extremely cautious when conditions are dry and/or windy; never to leave fires unattended. He reinforced the need for safety around horses and to be vigilant about children playing around fires, horses, and weapons. The Safety Officer referred to a case of heat exhaustion at Woodbury and stressed the need for a) a buddy system and b) identification such as a medical card to be on the person of every re-enactor at all times.

He referred to the USV safety rules, to which the NEB subscribes. He reminded the group of the age limits for carrying weapons (16 with parental consent per USV rules). He urged caution about having children split wood; he wants adults to do this. He also talked about dealing with a unit of underage soldiers attempting to take the field at one event. He reminded everyone to not break scenarios as this can cause injuries and cited an example of one man spontaneously deciding he would deliver one last shot to the opposing side and firing too close to two men on either side of him. He referred to non-NEB-member units being inattentive to safety rules and principles and that must change.

The Living History committee reported on the preparation of maps at each event and their desire for reports to be prepared on a regular basis by 1st Sergeants and Officers. The committee chair stated he would prepare material for online access.

Elections were held. Matt Burbank was re-elected as Military Commander. Bob Graves was re-elected as President. I believe it was Bob Page who was re-elected as Member-At-Large. It was voted that insurance is to be renewed and paid.

New Business: Fresh ideas were solicited for 2012 and the future. Some that were put forward were finding opportunities for tacticals, at immersion events (re-enactors only) as well as at some public events as long as safety can be emphasized. Meet-and-Greets were put forth.

There will be no NEB Symposium this year. Matt Burbank hopes to hold it next year. I will gladly photocopy the listing of events complete with handwritten notes for any who so desire (my listing is geared toward Civilian activities but of course includes military).

After Action Reports, con't.

New England Brigade Meeting (Military)

By Paul Martinello

Chris and I represented Company F at our first New England Brigade meeting. Susan represented our civilians. We attended separate military and civilian meetings in the morning, broke for a quick lunch and then came together for the formal NEB meeting. We voted on events and chose the ones that Company F would be able to support. We were welcomed in and met some new as well as old friends there. We are paid NEB members and plan to support 3 events in 2012.



School of the Soldier, Part I

February 18, 2012

By Paul Martinello

All Company F soldiers attended, except Gary, in Part I. That gave us 10 soldiers (Mike Sr, Mike Jr, Joe, Nick, Mark M. Mike C, Warren, Irv, Chris and Paul.)

The drill went well and covered most of the planned topics. All our members paid strict attention to the instructors, as they reviewed the details. Old practices at the manual of arms were changed to conform to Casey's manual. Instructions on the old drill, versus new drill, were very helpful. This allowed for the changes to be easier to be understood.



A tremendous thanks goes out to Chris Purrone for pastries, the use of his warehouse as schooling facilities, and delving into Casey's for countless hours and days to aid in us drilling correctly.

We will review discrepancies with the NR when we meet the weekend of March 3 for the NCO School and report back to our School of the Soldier Part II to be held on March 17th. Part II to include:

- ♣ Fix Bayonet
- ♣ Stack Arms
- ♣ Take Arms
- ♣ Unfix Bayonet
- ♣ By company into line
- ♣ How to roll cartridge
- ♣ What's in Haversack vs. knapsack
- ♣ How to make a blanket roll
- ♣ How to fold a greatcoat

After Action Reports, con't.

NR NCO School
March 3, 2012
By Paul Martinello

Paul rode down with Chris in a rented car and had a very positive, relaxing drive down, looking forward to a challenging weekend. We hit S&S Sutler of Gettysburg, met up with Carolyn and Nick Ivanoff, Mike, Mike, Joe and Roseann Adiletta, and then checked in to our hotel. Then we all met at Dobbins House Restaurant for dinner, and meeting Mark McNerney of the 1st PA Reserves in the basement bar. A big thanks goes out to Mike Sr. for picking up the tab at the bar and in the restaurant. Members of the 119th NY were quartered between our rooms. Saturday morning came quick; the school was another good one, held at the Gettysburg Fire House. It was good to see our NR pardes and getting acquainted with new ones. Actual drills brought out our questions and surprising responses. We were on target and were helping the other instructors and members. Lunch was good, then more classes. We left to tour the battlefield, ran into Jeremy Christensen and Jill at the 14th CT monument at the wall. After exchanging friendlies and photos, we parted, and Chris and I headed to O'Roarke's for a quick bite, then back to Fire House for show and tell. We were a hit, with many members of the NR, not just looking but picking up Chris' original rifles and swapping info and details with other collectors was great. We turned in, looking forward to Sunday. Chris and the Co. F boys were in line for dress parade while Mark and I were instructed on being the Adjutant, who runs the dress parade. We each got to do it once right through. It was very exciting to have one our of members, lead the NR in the dress parade. Both Mark and Paul, in future events, may be asked to step up to the Adjutant's position. We took back with us all that we learned and confirmed, to Co. F for part 2 of our School of the Soldier.



School of the Civilian

25 Progress La., Seymour CT
Saturday, March 17, 2012

Susan Kirsch, Civilian Impressions Chairman/Member-at-Large, Co. F, 14th CT CVI



The first School of the Civilian for Co. F 14th CT was attended by Marge Buchholz, Carolyn Ivanhoff, Susan Kirsch, Nancy Marganski, Lauren Martinello, and Karen Purrone. Carolyn provided the group with her offer to peruse materials she brought, to cut out bonnet forms from buckram, to avail ourselves of trims that she offered to the group. Marge Buchholz showed quilt examples she had made and displayed work-in-progress on a period-correct dress. Susan Kirsch displayed an album of CDV's from the 1860s and samples of The Citizens' Companion, and distributed to the group an article on how to re-cover antique parasols. She displayed caps of various styles and demonstrated how to make a cockade. Some attendees cut out the materials for a cap. The group discussed its Brigade flag project and discovered that, before we begin the project, we have a few more questions (which can be answered in short order). The group responded to many questions about getting started and further involvement in civilian re-enacting throughout the morning.

Both military and civilian members had a brief meeting during lunch, after which Irving Moy demonstrated how to roll and fill cartridges "Paper Ladies", which the civilians observed or took part in as well.

I would like to thank all of those who provided a wonderful holiday lunch and a great place to meet; and it couldn't have happened without fantastic participation!



After Action Reports, con't.

School of the Solider, Part II

March 17, 2012
By Paul Martinello

Attending today's class were Mike Sr, Mike Jr and Joe Adiletta, Irving Moy, Mark Marganski, Chris Purrone and Paul Martinello.



We brought to the table all that we learned and confirmed at the NR school of the soldier and made sure all learned Casey's the correct way. We reviewed manual of arms, fix and unfix bayonet as well as form company. We were once again treated to pastries and coffee by the Purrones as well using Chris's work facility again. Briefly covered stacking arms but will be practicing this at all our living histories this year. Then during break, Paul showed all the soldiers how a knapsack is packed and what items can be carried, where and how. Then he transferred them to a blanket roll for that type of carry. We broke for lunch in the break room where the ladies held their classes. We relaxed and reviewed our first to CWT donations for 2012. We also welcomed in Nancy Marganski into Co. F. After lunch, we held a cartridge rolling class for all interested. Irving lead the class, with Susan in attendance and Chris and Paul lending a hand. All classes were well received by all.



Civil War Trust Park Day: Fort Trumbull

March 21, 2012
By Irving Moy

Despite the rain and dreary weather the first Connecticut Civil War Trust Park Day worksite in the program's history was a complete success. A total of thirty-nine (39) volunteers from Co. F, the 2nd CHA, the 22nd MAVI, the US Coast Guard Academy and the general public cleaned, scraped and painted exhibition rooms and the gun casements inside the fort. A Park Maintainer in thanking us told me that we were able to do as much work in 7 hours that would have taken him and his partner 3 weeks to do.

Kudos to Jon Lincoln, Park Director and his Park Maintainers, Rick Niedojadlo and Jim Corey and Seasonal Park Interpreter, Alice Sheriff, for their behind the scenes preparation for the day, especially, to Rick and Jim for mixing the additive to the paint due to the weather to keep up with all the rollers and brushes that were actively used; to Cliff Carter, President of the Friends of Fort Trumbull that donated \$450.00 worth of supplies for the day; to Mary Stephens, Civil War Trust park Day Coordinator, for adding Fort Trumbull as a site and for the volunteer T-shirts and patches; and to Cadet Matthew Martin, US Coast Guard in bringing 18 cadets from special thanks to co-whose recommendation to site to CWT made the day annual Park Days at Fort ahead. Finally, and most to all the volunteers! Huzzah! Huzzah! Huzzah!



After Action Reports, con't.

A news article of the day's event can be accessed from the New London Day at <http://www.theday.com/article/20120401/NWS01/304019914/1018>

But Jon Lincoln has the last word, *"The fort looks so much better-I don't think the rooms have been that clean since the renovations 12 years ago. Cold and damp are far from ideal conditions for painting and cleaning, but didn't dissuade any of the volunteers from working hard. Everyone did a great job and we are very appreciative...I hope Fort Trumbull will be included in the CWT Park Day for years to come. My only regret is that it comes but once a year!"*



Musket Training

April 14, 2012

By Paul Martinello

We all met at the Purrones for a shoot and clean event, to expose the newbies to firing and cleaning the Springfield rifle. Chris, Paul, Mike, Sr., Mike, Joe, Mark and Irving were in attendance. The weather was great and we had a blast...get it? They fired in line and we explained how they need to get to know their own piece and not be afraid of their rifle. We showed how to handle it and where



to place the bands in relationship to the front ranks head. Then we showed them how to clean and dry their rifles. Hopefully they went home and applied what we taught them to finish cleaning and then finished up with a nice oil down of the metal parts. Thanks to the Purrone's once again for opening up their home to Co. F.



Diocesan House Clean Up

April 21, 2012

By Paul Martinello

(This taken from an email from Paul to Cindy Winslow, Comptroller at the The Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut regarding our clean up of the Diocesan House in Hartford)

Hi Cindy,

Well, the weather held out for us this past Saturday.

We swept the driveway of sand, raked out the sides on front driveway, along with the gravel parking spot. We swept out the portico steps up and down, the garbage can area, did our best at piecing the cement walk way near the back entrance lamp post and down the sloped driveway. We raked out the tire treads on the dirt there too. Some spots in the driveway patches are breaking down, so we vacuumed up any loose gravel and tried not to disturb the rest.

We trimmed the tan bush near the storage bin off the back driveway, which had extended onto the side walk. We weren't sure if the landscape folks were coming back to do that or not, so we just trimmed it.

After Action Reports, con't.

We then hosed down and swept out the covered portico driveway to clear out the dust. We were banking on Sunday's rain to rinse off any residue left behind by our sweeping. If there was anything we missed or you still want done, let me know.

I've included our link to photos taken by our photographer for our events section in our newsletter.

We are honored that you've continued to let us provide this service each year, and look forward to hearing from you again. As always, any donations you wish to make can be sent to the following address, which we will use for battlefield preservation.

Sincerely,
Paul Martinello
Treasurer
Co. F, 14th CVI

(And this is the reply email Paul received from Cindy)

Paul,

I did receive the photos and thought I had responded to your e-mail but now realize that I did not. The property looks much better and we thank you for your wonderful service and your attention to the finer details like piecing together the back walk.

Thank you to you and your volunteers for a job well done.

Cindy Winslow
Controller
The Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut



Booth-Dimock Library Living History Event

April 28, 2012

By Irving Moy

Our first living history event of the 2012 campaign season got off to a rousing start as 18 members and friends of Co. F pitched their tents and shelter flies on the front lawn of the Booth-Dimock Library along Route 31, Main Street, in Coventry. This was our first living history event at a library and proved to be most successful as the public throughout the day visited the encampment areas for the various Civil War related presentations drawn by its services and its offering of Company F as a library program. Our military contingent commanded by 2nd Lt. Paul Martinello demonstrated drills, firing demonstrations.



Thank you to our cleanup crew: Chris, Lauren, Carolyn, Julie, Mike C., Bill, Paul, Joe, Irving and Karen



After Action Reports, con't.



The soldiers interacted with the public regarding the life of a Union soldier in the field, his equipment and uniform. Presentations and displays were made comparing the knapsack to the blanket roll, weapons used by the 14th Connecticut, manufacture of cartridge ammunition, food display of soldiers' rations and Joseph Pierce, a Chinese soldier who fought with Co. F from 1862- 1865.

Our civilian contingent presented the contributions of the US Christian Commission, still a very little known organization, medical care for the wounded and contributions on the home front by women in helping the North to win the war. Presentations and demonstrations included... Karen Purrone had with her a period replica of a camera for her impression as news correspondent and photographer. Our ladies worked on making a flag for our company.



Co. F cook, Dog Robber, Bill Mellow, prepared a meal that we all, including the library staff, enjoyed consisting of biscuits with honey butter, rutabaga and chicken stew and sweet tater pie. Dog's new book, "Hinck's Mess"...the Civil War Union Army Cook, will soon be available, as he again enthralled the public with his discussions and cooking over our open fire pit.

Huzzahs for their contributions for making this another successful event go to Nick Ivanoff, Carolyn Ivanoff, Susan Kirsch, Lauren Martinello, Paul Martinello, Bill Mellow, Julie Moy, Irving Moy, Karen Purrone, Chris Purrone, Mark Marganski, Peter Hrechanyk, Mike Adiletta, Sr., Joe Adiletta, Mike Adiletta, Jr., Matt Reardon, Peter Garafalo and Mike Conlin. Roseann Adiletta came as a spectator to watch her men in action, but we hope to see her in period dress in the not too distant future. Finally, special thanks go to Amy Dexter, co-librarian, for her behind the scenes preparation with local approvals and publicity, and her invitation to Co. F to hold this event.



This is copy of the ad that was placed in The Chronicle Willimantic, a local newspaper circulated in Coventry and the surrounding towns, announcing our Living History event at the Booth-Dimock Memorial Library.

We hope to submit similar ads to this in other local papers before all our events.

Co. F, 14th Conn. Vol. Infantry
IS NOW RECRUITING MEMBERS, MILITARY AND CIVILIAN
WE WILL BE SETTING UP A LIVING HISTORY ENCAMPMENT
AT THE BOOTH & DIMOCK LIBRARY IN COVENTRY ON
SATURDAY 4/28/2012 FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 3:00 PM



Come and see the soldiers drill and fire their muskets. Talk with the civilians about their roles in supporting our boys in blue.
We are a family oriented, historically accurate recreated regiment involved with living histories, battle reenactments, and parades along with contributing to preservation efforts at various Civil War sites. In addition, we are members of The National Regiment and The New England Brigade. Don't be a spectator, join now!
Call us at 860-605-3214 or visit our website <http://www.cof14thcvi.com/>

April 2, 2012

Members of the 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, Company "F"

I would like to personally thank each of your members for the financial donation which helped to offset the cost of rebuilding the Civil War era Caisson, owned by the National Park Service, Antietam Battlefield, Maryland.

We have enclosed a picture of the finished caisson.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Bill A. Schultz

2d Conn. Heavy Arty





Hincks' Mess

Sweet Potato Biscuits

Makes 10 biscuits

2 Cups All Purpose Flour	¼ Cup Shortening
4 Tsp. Sugar	1 Cup Mashed Sweet Potatoes
3 Tsp. Baking Powder	½ Cup Half and Half Cream or Heavy Cream
1 Tsp. Salt	
1 Tsp. Cinnamon	
½ Tsp. Ground Nutmeg	

METHOD:

Pre-heat the oven to 400 degrees F.

In a small bowl, combine the first six ingredients.

Cut in the shortening until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs.

Combine the sweet potatoes and cream and stir into the crumb mixture just until moistened.

Liberally coat your hands with flour because this batter is very sticky.

Turn out onto a floured surface and knead 8 - 10 times.

Pat or roll out to ½ inch thickness.

Cut with a floured 2-1/2 inch biscuit cutter.

Place 1 inch apart on a greased baking sheet.

Bake for 9 - 11 minutes or until golden brown.

Honey Butter

½ Cup Butter, softened
2 Tbl. Honey
1 Tsp. Ground cinnamon

METHOD:

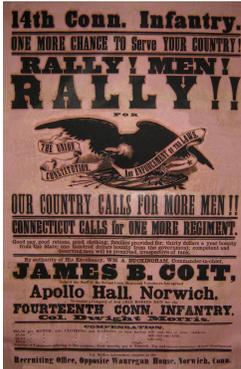
In a small bowl, beat the butter, honey and cinnamon until blended.

Put the mixture into a ramekin, cover with Saran Wrap and refrigerate until needed.



"Fire burn and cauldron bubble.
Make some stew or there'll be trouble!"

Dog Robber works his magic over the
fire pit at Coventry.



Scheduled Events

Scheduled Events in May, June, July and August 2012

A call for attendance will come from the event coordinator(s) with a date to respond, "yay" or "nay," to assist in planning the day's schedule and military structure for the event. The coordinator(s) will send out detailed information on the event and will submit "After-Action-Reports" to Karen Purrone, Newsletter Editor, for publication in our quarterly newsletter.

May 27 *Seymour Parade and Seymour Historical Society Living History Event*
Company F will march with the Seymour Historical Society motor brigade and then return to the Seymour Historical Society located on 59 West Street to conduct a living history event from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Irving Moy and Carolyn Ivanoff are the event coordinators.

May 28 *Rockville Memorial Day Parade*
Company F will march with the Alvin Skinner Camp of the SUVCW. Meet at the New England Civil War Museum/GAR Hall on 14 Park Place for a ride to the start off point of the parade. Paul Martinello is the event coordinator.



June 9 *Wallingford Historical Society Living History Event*
Company F will conduct its third of six living history events but the first with the Wallingford Historical Society located on 180 South Main Street from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Irving Moy is the event coordinator.

July 21 *Easton Historical Society Living History Event*
Company F. will conduct its fourth living history event but its first with the Easton Historical Society located on 691 Morehouse Road from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Irving Moy is the event coordinator.



August 11 *Annual Company F Picnic at Lincolnshire*
This has been a welcome break in our schedule and a fun event to see everyone not in wool or civilian apparel. Come and see the latest additions to the Lincoln Museum and gardens. Irving and Julie Moy are the event coordinators.