

Company F Forward!

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



Message from the President's Desk

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Dear Friends:

2015 marks both the conclusion to the 5 year commemoration of the Civil War and the 150th Anniversary of the Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. It is fitting that we conclude with a few appropriate remarks to mark both occasions.

The War of the Rebellion or American Civil War was the most defining event in our Nation's History. The South professed to be fighting for self-government, whereas, the North fought to preserve the Union. But underlying the South's argument was the issue of slavery or the right to own slaves. The Union victory in 1865 settled both issues. No state or responsible political leader has since threatened to succeed from the United States. The abolition of slavery and passage of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution, referred as the "Civil War Amendments", brought about the most sudden and radical social change in the history of this or any country. In the course of 5 years, 4,000,000 slaves were freed and granted equal citizenship rights with their former masters along with the destruction of the social organization and economic infrastructure of half the country.

Tragically, President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated and did not live to oversee the reunification of the South during the period of Reconstruction. As a result, the questions that underlay the issues of Union and slavery such as, the relationship between the national government and state governments, how powerful the national government ought to be, what role it ought to play in our lives and race relations still persist to this day.

But the consequences of the Civil War have profoundly impacted our national character to the rest of the world, where the United States has become and continues to be, in Lincoln's words, "the last best hope of earth" and the destination for all oppressed peoples around the world.

Abraham Lincoln's example as the embodiment of honesty, hard work, eloquence and his commitment to the principles on which this country was founded, is a universal message.

Leo Tolstoy, the Russian writer, tells the story how in 1906 while visiting the remotest parts of Russia, he was asked to tell the gathered crowds stories about the famous men of history. Tolstoy entertained them for hours with stories of Alexander, Caesar and Frederick the Great. But as he finished, the local chief asked about a particular individual, "But you have not told us a syllable about the greatest general and greatest ruler of the world. We want to know about him. He was a hero. He spoke with a voice of thunder; he laughed like the sunrise and his deeds were strong as the rock. His name was Lincoln and the country in which he lived is called America, which is so far away that if a youth should journey to reach it he would be an old man when he arrived. Tell us of that man".

Tolstoy later reflected on the reasons for the worship of Lincoln's name throughout the world and how legendary his personality had become, he concluded that Lincoln overshadowed all other national heroes because of the supremacy of his peculiar moral power and in

Irving Moy, President

Chris Purrone, Vice President

Paul Martinello, Treasurer

Jeff Lawrence, Recording Secretary

Karen Purrone, Member-At Large
Newsletter Editor and Facebook Admin.

Bill Mellow, Webmaster

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

the greatness of his character. *"Washington was a typical American, Napoleon a typical Frenchman, but Lincoln was a humanitarian as broad as the world. He is bigger than his country---bigger than all the Presidents together".*

We of Company F, 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry are grateful and honored to portray the Civil War Era and to encourage a continuing discussion and study of its issues, and the life and legacy of President Lincoln, which continue to hold great meaning to the collective good of our State, Nation and the World.

Your Obedient Servant,
Irving Moy

Scheduled Events

Scheduled Events in June, July, and August 2015

All living history events will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the designated location. Refer any questions to the event coordinator.

Recruitment poster courtesy of Karl Bacon and the Naugatuck Historical Society



July 11 (\$) Old Saybrook Historical Society Living History (Irving Moy)

July 25 (\$) 200th Anniversary Town of Griswold (Irving Moy)

August 7-9 2nd CHA Woodbury Event

August 15 Annual Company Picnic (Irving & Julie Moy)



Noteworthy

2015 Second Quarter Donations

Donations totaling \$1,700 were made to the following organizations, the Civil War Trust to save battlefield land at Champion Hill; Antietam; the Slaughter Pen Farm in Fredericksburg; Perryville, KY; Mill Springs, KY and Stones River, TN; to renew our Regimental Color Bearer Donor Level at \$1,000, and to support its Civil War Education, and Student Field Trip funds; the New Britain Historical Society, and Winsted CT Civil War Tower Restoration Fund.

Noteworthy, con't.

2015 Tucson Festival of Books
March 14-15, 2015

The festival held on the campus of the University of Arizona drew a crowd of over 130,000 over the two-day event to hear 400+ authors and to see over 300 exhibits. The festival is the 4th largest held in this country. Irving Moy, who was on its advisory committee and a contributor to the new National Park Service book, "Asians and Pacific Islanders in the Civil War", was invited along with author Ruthanne Lum McCunn and Editor Carol Shively, NPS, by the Western National Park Association to promote the publication. The trio gave presentations and participated in panel discussions along with Author Lisa See on the topic, "Exploring the Asian American Experience in the Civil War and Other Wars" and then on the "Asian American Experience in the Civil War Era". Irving also had period toys for children to try and enlisted children into the army by having them stand on the Number 18 while he asked if they were "over 18". The older children made a Civil war cartridge under his direction in the National Parks Experience tent. He was pleasantly surprised to see how much the children enjoyed playing with Marge Bucholz's toys that she lent for the activities. The two days were exceptional busy but the presentations, children activities and book, itself, were well received. Many expressed their lack of knowledge that Asians actually fought in the war and asked many questions. The new book can obtained from :

www.eparks.com/store/produce/118828/Asians-and-Pacific-Islanders-and-the-Civil-War



2015 Bells Across the Land

For the past four years, the National Park Service and many organizations and individuals have commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and the ongoing efforts for civil rights today. The NPS commemorated the symbolic end by ringing the bells at Appomattox Court House at 3:00 p.m. on April 9, 2015. The ringing coincided with the moment of the historic meeting between Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant to discuss terms of the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia in the McLean House. From here, bells reverberated across the country from Independence Hall, Old North Church in Boston, the Virginia State Capitol, Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta and from battlefields, national cemeteries, state capitols, county courthouses, town halls, historical sites, universities, schools, homes and places of worship. Bells were rung precisely at 3:15 p.m. EDT for 4 minutes, with each minute symbolic of a year of the war.

Paul Martinello recruited the participation of the two Catholic churches and the Somers Congregational Church in his town of Somers, CT. Bells were rung in the congregational church by school children with members of the Somers Historical Society present. Irving Moy participated in a brief program to mark the occasion with the ringing of the bells at the Wallingford Historical Society.



Bell from the original Wallingford Town Hall.



Ray Chappell, President of the Wallingford Historical Society rings the bell while Irv Moy stands at attention.

All photos on this page courtesy of Julie and Irving Moy



After Action Reports

NCO School: Gettysburg, PA

February 28- March 1, 2015

As I waited for Paul to arrive at my home, I was filled with anticipation as I looked forward to begin the trip to my first NR Officer and NCO School in Gettysburg. After breakfast, we started on our road trip that would prove to be yet another one for the books. Paul had thoughtfully planned an interesting side trip on the way down. Our first stop was Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia, PA, where we toured the USS Olympia, the oldest surviving vessel of the Spanish American War and oldest surviving steel warship in the world. This was Admiral Dewey's flagship during the Battle of Manila Bay. It was on May 1st, 1898 Dewey said to the Olympia's commander, Captain Charles Gridley, "You may fire when you are ready Gridley", enshrining those immortal words to history. My first impression of this ship was a cold and drafty place; the quarters displayed all the amenities of a modern ship but still rudimentary. The crew still used hammocks, beautiful wood work carving throughout, dental, medical, and galley rooms punctuated with gun mounts. The single thing that stood out was the age of steam power. The ship used coal, what a messy environment it must have been with coal bunkers, ash elevators and ash disposal hatches; the guns used shells but with black powder. At full speed, the ship consumed 633 pounds of coal a minute. In contrast, it still carried top sail rigging to sail should the coal run out. Also on site was the USS Becuna a WWII BALAO class submarine built in New London, CT. But the surprise of my life came when touring the museum. There was a world of things to see regarding the age of sail and steam. In the back was a working wooden boat shop where small boats were built by various groups. On a raised platform was a monitor with a running slide show on the American Whaleboat. There were various period photos and sketches showing whaleboats when suddenly the screen displayed the Revolutionary War Whaleboat replica I had built in 1990!! Astonished, I called Paul over to verify. I left the museum pleasantly stunned. Of special note was the Battleship New Jersey anchored across the river. Although it was a half a mile away, it loomed large, perhaps next time I thought. We resumed our trip and reached Gettysburg in the early evening. We met Sgt. Purrone and enjoyed a great dinner at a place called Gettysburg Eddies. After that, we hit a few of the sutler stores before retiring to the Days Inn for the night.

Saturday morning we rose early and enjoyed the breakfast provided in the room off the lobby at the Days Inn. Half the National Regiment (NR) was there, and eating was punctuated with seeing people we hadn't since the Cedar Creek event. We arrived at the Gettysburg American Legion Hall where the school was held, registered and prepared for what was to be a very memorable day. We were soon joined by Nick Ivanoff and Sgt. Purrone. After opening remarks by Colonel Downes, the classes began. Sgt. Purrone and I were together for the slide show on the wreck of the paddle steam ship Arabia that sank in 1865. The ship was entombed in mud-like silt that preserved all of its cargo intact. When discovered, 220 tons of cargo was extracted from the wreck totaling over 1 million objects that looked new. Tools, nails, clothing, shoes, bottles, rifles and even crates of food, vegetables and pickles so preserved that a jar was opened and consumed during the dig! This presentation was nothing short of amazing. Many objects that had been disputed over the years were confirmed as being used during the Civil War by this presentation. A number of sources for authentic period items were listed that offered items from the Arabia.

The next class the Sgt. and I attended was on duties of sergeants, corporals and privates. This was professionally presented in detail regarding training, duties and responsibilities and NCO leadership. Appearance, mannerism, uniform requirements and conduct were highlighted. There is a lot more to it than just wearing stripes. Along with the historical overview was the modern interpretation with emphasis on safety, combining this with our reenacting in the field.

After a short break, classes resumed. The next series of classes were focused on the 1865 appearance, activities and field campaign impression of the Union Army during the final days in pursuit of Lee's Army. The general overtone was that of anticipated victory, survival and attempting to preserve one's clothing and equipment so as not to have to draw and pay for new items at the close of the war.

The next class was on what each soldier should have in the field during the 1865 campaign. This was a well presented class and covered in detail, uniforms, leather gear, field equipment, haversacks, knapsacks and so forth. Part of this class discussed making horseshoe bedrolls and the contents, rolling greatcoats and so forth. It also covered what each soldier should and should not have. It was essential that each soldier back then had the basics to keep his body, clothing, equipment and weapon clean and in working order. Some very helpful information was presented to keep the balance in being authentic and things to show to the public during the 150th Appomattox Court House event.

After Action Reports, con't.

Foraging and Cooking in the field was next and was very extensive and detailed. Everything from food types, packaging, crates and boxes, distribution, mess cooking, kettles and so forth. Much emphasis was put on this in preparation for the upcoming Appomattox event. It is intended that we will be supplied daily by a horse drawn wagon and be issued our food in period type boxes. This should prove to be a very rewarding and unique experience for us.

Shelter Halves and Camping on the march was covered next. This class covered aspects of setting up the shelter halves while on the march. A detailed handout was distributed showing how to make our own shelter half for those so inclined. I believe that Co. F has demonstrated a high level of skill already with the setting up of camps from our many living history events and battle trips.

A very nice lunch followed with an announcement by Colonel Downes that the schedule was modified to conclude the school on Saturday afternoon due to an impending snow storm expected on Sunday.

The next class after lunch was Guard Mount and duties of officers, sergeants and corporals using an actual formation, posting and relieving of the guard. This too will be performed at Appomattox.

The last class was a battalion drill led by our own Sgt. Purrone. The Sgt. led us through various exercises in Casey's Manual as a practice for battalion formations expected at Appomattox. I viewed the selection of Sgt. Purrone for this as a reflection of the high level of training and excellence Co. F is known for. As it is his habit, the Sgt. drilled everyone until they got it right, no matter how long it took!

The school ended in the late afternoon with informal discussions and plans for next year's school. I am pleased to report that I have volunteered to give a class on period musket cleaning in the field and it is tentatively a go. We departed and hit the various sutler stores again and made plans for dinner. Nick, Carolyn Ivanoff, Sgt. Purrone, Paul and I went to La Belle Italia restaurant on York Street for dinner. Good food was enhanced by fine companionship.

The next morning was grey and foreboding. Paul and I ate in the hotel but by the time we left, the snowstorm hit. It was a steady fine snow almost all the way home. We stayed in contact with the Sgt. who was less than an hour behind us but reported several accidents and mishaps. Everyone made it home safely and that was the most important thing. I enjoyed myself immensely that weekend, the trip down, the school, being in Gettysburg again (with the temperature less than 100 degrees) visiting sutlers and above all, being with members of Co. F.

Respectfully submitted,
Pvt. Warren Stevens



Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, MA

I hereby submit the following report to the President and his Administration of the 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Company F.

Attending the event were Jan Desiato, Marge Bucholz, Diane Aselin, Rosann Adiletta, Karen Purrone, Carolyn Ivanoff, Lauren Martinello, Julie Moy, Matthew Bartlett, Warren Stevens, Mike Adiletta, Joe Adiletta, Chris Purrone, Nick Ivanoff, Paul Martinello and Irving Moy.

On the instant of the 7th of March in the year two-thousand and fifteen, the men and women of the 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, Company F, attended the closing ceremony of the Mort Künstler Gallery at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. The event ran from the hours of one in the afternoon (thirteen hundred hours) to four (sixteen hundred hours). Due to the design of the building, the soldiers and the civilians had to be separated with the men at arms downstairs and the civilians upstairs midst the gallery. The soldiers set up camp at the bottom of the staircase in a foyer style layout which was in conjunction with a room playing a video of the life of Norman Rockwell. Many of them had openly admitted to not bringing as much with them due to the limited space of the foyer. The presence of the firearms and the bayonets spurred a sense of paranoia among the security guards who sternly reminded our reliable soldiers not to take their bayonets with them around the museum, especially the upper level where more of the valuable paintings were located. Also, due to the nature of the location, the soldiers were devoid of their usual programs of drills and demonstrations but the integrity of the living history was still upheld. Since the soldiers were in the lower level of the museum, Joe Adiletta was sent to patrol the lobby in order to let people know where the soldiers were and where the civilians were located. Close to the end of the event, all members of the group were invited to take a picture with Mr. Künstler.

After Action Reports, con't.



As for the civilians, they were placed within the gallery of Mr. Künstler's work. Much like the soldiers, the civilians were placed on restrictions around the paintings mainly ensuring that we not have food around the paintings and only eat in the lobby. The initial area for the civilians was rather small making it difficult for our medic, Carolyn Ivanoff, to set up and was given another room in the gallery with more space. There, she could properly set up for her presentation. At one point during the day, Mr. Künstler gave a short lecture about some of his paintings which some of our group were able to attend. After the talk was over, Mr. Künstler set up a place to sign books or prints and many of our members partook of that pleasure. The experience of the civilians was rather interesting also due to the nature of the museum. Many people

who gained admission to the museum purchased the audio tour of the gallery and would often walk right by the presentations of the civilians. However, many of those people came back around after their audio tour and went through the presentations of our group. One of the greatest points of the day was a visit from a member of the Lenox Historical Society with the possibility of an event which turned out for a program in 2017. These types of events help to better grow Company F and proves that the wealth of knowledge which our members have is in great demand all over the Northeast.

Therefore, I highly resolve that the event of Mort Künstler's Gallery closing was a success which helped our group grow even more in the realm of living histories.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Bartlett
Pinkerton National Detective Agency



2015 Civil War Trust Park Day
March 28, 2015

This annual national event normally takes place on the first Saturday in April but because this Easter falls on that weekend, the event was moved to the last Saturday in March. Winter 2014-15 has not been kind to New England, and this cold day began ominously with snow showers that continued throughout the day. Any worries I had of few volunteers turning out were set aside as I entered the Visitor's Center when I saw hot coffee and chocolate being served along with snacks by the "Friends of Fort Trumbull" to many volunteers who had arrived early and ready to get started. Two groups were formed, one to work on the outdoor grounds and the other to clean the inside of the Visitor's Center and Conference Center Building.

A Certificate of Appreciation from the Civil War Trust was given to 1/c Cadet Matthew Miller for his past 4 years of leadership in recruiting cadets from the academy to participate in this event. 3/c Cadet Brendon Flynn, who has assumed Cadet Miller's role, arranged for 29 cadets to join 13 volunteers from the community, including Co. F members, Geoff Constantine, Warren Stevens, Chris and Karen Purrone, Irving and Julie Moy, for a total of 42 volunteers.

Co. F 14th CVI is the state coordinator for this event and thanks 3/c Cadet Flynn, Cliff Carter and the Friends of Fort Trumbull for providing support and refreshments, Roger Dawley, CT DEEP, for arranging support staff, Eric Gileau, Eric Hansen and Mike DeWire to be on hand to lend to lend assistance.



After Action Reports, con't.

150th Anniversary of Lee's Surrender to Grant at Appomattox Court House

April 9-12, 2015

April 10th
Appomattox Court House, VA

Dearest Mother –

It's over.

How long I have waited to write those words. Despite the advances of our Army of the Potomac the previous year, it didn't appear this day would ever come. It was in doubt even earlier yesterday. Yet, God has delivered us to the Promised Land.

We arrived to set up camp two days ago in the late afternoon under dubious skies that seemed to wait until we erected our tents before opening up. The size of the rain drops forced us to seek shelter elsewhere for over an hour. It didn't take long for the grounds to become saturated.

The evening hours were no better. The air was thick with moisture, enough that none were thirsty. When "lights out" came, there was a steady mist. In short time, the mist turned into a monsoon. There was little need for candles during the night as the lightning provided enough flash to see clearly inside my tent. This continued through the dark hours, which made sleeping all but impossible for most of the men, let alone a light sleeper such as myself.

Somehow, my gum blanket that I attached to one end of my tent held up to the thrashing of the rain. It was the first time I used my gum blanket in such a matter, thanks to help from Little Joe Adiletta. Luckily, the gum blanket was on the end facing the wind and rain. If those changed direction during the night, I might have become soaked. Others were not able to avoid that fate. Leaking tents and rivets through our hay provided a sopping awakening. "Camp cough" is rampant among the men. The damp and wet have only accelerated it. We awoke this morning not to saturated grounds but simply mud, so much so the soldiers have named this place "Appo-mud-dox."

The morning ritual was the same. We awoke to the drum and bugle, which provided the usual tune that we have heard ad nauseam. I cannot wait to arise one morning in a natural way, instead of being blared out of my blanket. The hearty but repetitive breakfast provided enough energy for the morning action. We began a top a rolling hill on the outskirts of the village. Our early-morning attack in a dense but disseminating fog was repulsed by the Rebels, who fought bravely despite being seemingly outnumbered. When the 5th Corps emerged from the trees, the beginning of the end was at hand. HUZDAH!!

The engagement became even more furious as we advanced down the hill to the valley floor. With Appomattox Court House village in the background, we were treated to the most glorious sight in our three years in the army. A Confederate cavalry rider approached our lines under a flag of truce. We were thrilled to earn another battle victory. However, our excitement turned to euphoria when we realized the truce was to allow for the surrender of the Army of North Virginia. Forage caps were tossed in the air and there was such a scream from our men, it was as if we all attempted to drown out all the Rebel Yells from the past few years.

After a brief respite in camp, we were assigned picket duty outside the front of Wilmer McLean's house., where the surrender ceremony took place. Confederate General Robert E. Lee entered through a back door at 1:30 p.m. Our General Grant arrived around 3 p.m. with mud-enveloped boots. How grand it was to see the man who brought us to this moment. I was privileged to get a personal salute from Gen. Grant.

Lee eventually emerged from the house and Grant saluted his foe from the porch. Riding his horse Traveller, Lee strolled to the front of the house and passed right before us en route to the Confederate camp. Several Confederate generals stood behind me and uncovered when Lee passed. Many Virginian belles swooned as Lee modeled a magnificent uniform and noble disposition despite defeat. We were ordered to refrain directing unsavory or boasting comments to the Rebels. The rumor is that command came from not only Gen. Grant but President Lincoln himself! Once Lee departed, Gen. Grant emerged with his staff; we could only marvel at the moment. It was odd to balance contentment with utter joy.

It would be nice to report the history of the day made us forget about the mud below us that night in camp, but I cannot vouch to such. For some reason, the stew created by the company cook actually tasted edible that night. With great satisfaction, we spent hours in the dark trying to absorb what had occurred that day. Many marked the moment by leaving their tents and sleeping on both levels of the McLean House porch.

After Action Reports, con't.

The mist that continued to plague us the next morning could dampen our uniforms and supplies but not our hearts. However, our concern for the sickness led us to ask permission from regimental officers to begin the journey home early. We were told the Rebels would stack arms and surrender their weapons the next day, but we opted to forego that ceremony in the interest of good health.

Thus, we are en route. Our steps are lively and the conversation loud and boisterous. The knapsack doesn't seem to weigh nearly as much as it has all these years. The officers have taken the opportunity to relax somewhat, perhaps in an attempt to present themselves as somewhat human. Our orders are inexact at this moment as we head north. The rumor is there will be a Grand Review in front of the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., in May. I am torn between participating in such a remarkable event and getting home to you a few days earlier.

However, as I remain your dutiful son, I have become a dutiful soldier that I hope has made you proud. I do not know exactly when I will return to you, but know that day is coming soon.

Company F - Forward! Huzzah!

I remain your loving son,
John Morrison



“Assassination”

It was with great anticipation, excitement, and no small amount of nervous jitters on my part that Company F, 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry gathered with several other participants at Hoffman Auditorium on the Campus of Saint Joseph University on Tuesday, April 14 to participate in a special, one-night-only presentation of *Assassination: The Story of a President's Murder and a Nation's Heartbreak*, a dramatic presentation directed and produced by Central Connecticut State University History Professor Matthew Warshauer. The troops were all present by 6:00 p.m., and were put through the paces a few times so that everyone knew their roles when show time finally began. Aably commanding the men was Sergeant Christopher Purrone, who did an outstanding job despite illness, fatigue, and being unavailable for rehearsals due to his participation in the 150th Anniversary event of Lee's Surrender to Grant at Appomattox Court House in VA.

When 7:15 p.m. finally arrived, the men took their positions by the entrances to the theatre, making a fine showing and greeting the guests. The attendance was most impressive; the theatre was filled beyond capacity, with ushers bringing in extra chairs, and Company F magnanimously surrendering their private box to allow for more viewers. The crowd was so large, that the 15 minutes of door-guarding turned into 50. Private Stevens took the extra precaution of helping guarantee the safety of the soon-to-arrive President Lincoln by ensuring that guests did not sneak illicit weapons onto the premises. Sadly, even he could not prevent the infamous John Wilkes Booth from carrying out his infamous crime after Professor Warshauer's introduction, and our President was assassinated as the proceedings began. Company F fanned out amid wild excitement among the crowd, and Miss Clara Harris (Nancy Mellow) desperately implored someone to stop the fleeing assassin.



After the men of Company F succeeded in securing the venue, the proceedings continued with a series of dramatic readings chronicling the tense, angry, sad days following the assassination of Lincoln. These included articles from local papers like the *Hartford Daily Courant*, as well as national ones like Horace Greeley's *New York Tribune*. Also featured were Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton (Jacob Cohen), who feverishly dictated telegrams to expert telegrapher Ted Urbanski, and Mrs. Lincoln's personal attendant, Elizabeth Keckley, played most ably by Tammy Denease. Also appearing in front of a picket of Company F's finest, were Sergeant Fred Lucas of the 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery and Private Justus Silliman of the 17th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, portrayed by me and John Morrison respectively. Lee Jones, playing Confederate and Union prisoner General Richard S. Ewell also made a cameo, closely guarded by Company F, of course. Certainly a highlight of the show was Benjamin Astrachan's excellent interpretation of John Wilkes Booth himself, in all his arrogant, self-righteous glory.

The event came to an emotional climax with an 8-minute slide show of historic images related to the Lincoln Assassination, shown to the tune of Jay Ungar's famous waltz "Ashokan Farewell," played by the Opus 4 String Quartet (or trio, as it was), Percy Chen, Taylor Chen and Megan Cloutier and an outstanding rendition of Walt Whitman's "O Captain, My Captain" delivered by the

After Action Reports, con't.

“Connecticut Humanities Poetry Out Loud” contest winner Owen Elphick. At last, with Company F on stage as an honor guard, President Lincoln himself (Howard Wright) closed the show as only he can. *“To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell.”*

I speak with confidence for his colleagues in Company F when I say that our participation in this special event, marking the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln’s assassination, was an extremely special privilege that will linger long and fondly in our memories. A special thanks is extended to all who participated from Co. F, Nancy Mellow, Carol Deleppo (Mary Lincoln), Mackenzie Marien, Richard and Rebecca Donohue, Bill Mellow, John Morrison, Mike Conlin, Sal Carmosino, Doug Quigley, Warren Stevens, Chris Purrone and Karen Purrone (photographer) and Irving Moy, who coordinated our participation in this event and directed the rehearsals with our company. Thanks also go to Mark Bassos, who had the confidence to recommend Co. F for this honorable role. Last but absolutely by no means least, our gratitude goes out to my mentor, Professor Matthew Warshauer, for staging this production in the absence of a competent theatre director, and allowing us to play the roles we did. Let no one say Professor, that historians cannot do drama.

Very respectfully,

Private Mike Conlin, AKA Sergeant Fred Lucas



300th Anniversary Town of Tolland, CT

May 16, 2015

The dawn that began with dark skies and rain turned into a glorious day for Co. F’s first living history event of the season and its first for the Tolland Historical Society. Even holding the event as part of town’s 300th anniversary was in doubt as the town officials at the last minute changed its mind about allowing use of its town green. But thanks to the relentless efforts of Barbara Cook, Tolland Historical Society, to keep the hopes of the event alive and the generosity of Steve Boyer, The Country Butcher at Spring Meadow Farm, for making his farm land available to hold the event, it turned out even better than having it on the green and was a wonderful way to begin our campaign season on a high note!

The turnout by the public was enthusiastic and steady throughout the day. It was gratifying to step back and be able to see both civilian and military camps all at once and to see the interactions. As they entered the event the public was greeted Matt Bartlett, as a Pinkerton spy, but playing his accordion so not to reveal his cover, walking past Joe Adiletta’s display on the history of the 14th CT and my display of Joseph Pierce and the NPS book, “Asians and Pacific Islanders and the Civil War” and then coming out into the open to a shelter fly with Julie Moy’s display and presentation of the U.S. Christian Commission. From there they walked down an incline to the lower plateau where they came upon Carolyn Ivanoff and her display on Civil War medicine. This then led them to a shelter fly with another exhibit area setup with the arms used by the 14th CVI during the war, a knapsack and cartridge making displays. The fair ladies of the company, Mackenzie Marien, Carol Deleppo, Roseann Adiletta and Kate Rohan mingled with and interacted with the public. In the afternoon, Jen Eastman-Lawrence, the Nightingale of Colt Meadows, offered a recital of period songs.



As the public entered the military camp, they were met by Private Ted Urbanski, who demonstrated the use of the telegraph as a means of communication during the war; joining him in his shelter fly was Surgeon Mick Bedard, assisted by Pvt. Sal Carmosino, recruiting children into the army. From there, they were greeted by Privates Dane Deleppo and Jan Des to take part in “manual of arms” drills in the company street while the rest of the company soldiers along with Bill and Nancy Mellow interacted with the public as they entered the street of tents and cook’s area.

The public was treated to firing demonstrations in the morning and afternoon. At the start of each session Cpl. Irving Moy addressed the public as to the causes of the war, reasons why volunteers enlisted and fought, and then was assisted by Privates Mike Conlin and Jeff Lawrence in demonstrating the uniform and equipment issued to the common Union soldier, “manual of arms” and “firing by 9 times”. Sgt. Christopher Purrone then led the firing demonstration with the entire

After Action Reports, con't.

company including Mike Adiletta, the elder and Mike Adiletta, the younger, “the Boy” (James Lawrence) and Pvt. Warren Stevens where upon they laid heavy fire and smoke on the “enemy” to the delight of the spectators. At conclusion of the afternoon demonstration, Irving Moy, as President of Company F, addressed the public about the significance of the 150th anniversaries of the conclusion of the Civil War and Lincoln’s assassination, followed by a single volley in salute.

The entire company received thanks from the public throughout the day for presenting this event as an educational experience much to their appreciation and delight. Steve Boyer offered to hold this event on an annual basis. After taking down the camps and loading our vehicles, Lt. Paul Martinello and Barbara Cook joined us for a supper of pulled pork sandwiches, bacon pork beans, cole slaw and dessert prepared by The Country Butcher as a gift from our own Mick Bedard, who lives in Tolland and was a wonderful way to conclude a satisfying day with friends.



2015 Decoration Day Cemetery Ceremonies

“The 30th day of May, 1868”, as being “designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit”.

General John A. Logan
General Order No. 11, May 5, 1868

Heeding General Logan’s order, members of Co. F conducted its annual observance of Decoration (Memorial) Day by laying flags and paying its respects to the men of Co. F who are buried in cemeteries across our state. Brief ceremonies were observed at the gravesites of Capt. Jarvis Blinn, who died leading the 14th CVI in its first battle at Antietam and whose headstone we restored in 2014; Pvt. Elijah Bacon, who won the medal of honor at Gettysburg in Maple Cemetery (Berlin, CT); Center Cemetery (Rocky Hill, CT), Maple Cemetery (Berlin, CT); Capt. Samuel A. Moore, 2nd Lt. Theodore A. Stanley and 24 other Co. F men buried in Fairview Cemetery (New Britain, CT).

A surprising discovery was the gravesite of Lt. Col. Sanford Perkins who assumed command of the 14th CT after the death of Capt. Blinn and led the men on its charge up St. Marye’s Heights at Fredericksburg where he was severely wounded in his neck, which forced his mustering out of service. He married a woman from Torrington where he lived when he enlisted with the 2nd CT Heavy Artillery; promoted he later joined the 14th CT. The surprise is we believed he and his wife are buried in Center Cemetery in Torrington, CT where their gravesite is identified by a monument! Were their remains disinterred and relocated to Torrington or was a monument just placed on a family plot to identify his service and existence in the hometown of his birth? Some detective work to do!



The final stop was Walnut Grove Cemetery in Meriden, CT where respects were paid at the gravesite of Cpl. Joseph and Martha Pierce. Pierce is pictured on the cover of the new NPS publication, “Asians and Pacific Islanders and the Civil War”.

The observance ended with lunch with present day Co. F comrades and friends, Chris and Karen Purrone, Paul and Lauren Martinello, Bill and Nancy Mellow, Warren Stevens, John and Kathy Morrison and Julie and Irving Moy at the German restaurant, East Side Restaurant.

After Action Reports, con't.

2015 Naugatuck Memorial Day Parade May 25, 2015

For the second year Company F participated in what is believed to be Connecticut's largest Memorial Day parade, to conclude a weekend of activities to honor the men and women who served and who gave their lives in our Nation's armed forces. Marching in the First Division, we were led by Mackenzie Marien and Julie Moy carrying our company banner, followed by President and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, played by Lew Dube and our own, Carol Deleppo, who always create a huge enthusiastic response from the spectators, especially, the children along the parade route. Their escort and guard were the soldiers of Company F, Chris Purrone, Mike Adiletta, Jr., Mike Conlin, Warren Stevens, carrying our brigade flag, Mike Winkler, John Morrison, Joe Adiletta and Irving Moy. Our own Mattie Brady, Karen Purrone, captured photos along the parade route. Special thanks go to Mike Adiletta, Sr., Kathy Morrison and Karen Purrone for providing shuttle rides to the parade's assembly point, who along with Sherrie Monaco and Roseann Adiletta greeted us on the town green at the parade's end. We are grateful to the Naugatuck Veterans Council for extending an invitation for us to march in the parade.

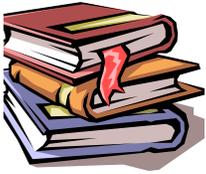


Travel Team

The season for Company F's Civil War Education Traveling Team got underway in earnest fashion when Cpl. Irving Moy and Private Warren Stevens made presentations on life of the common Union soldier for three days from May 12-14, 2015 to 240- 7th grade students at the Keeler Tavern Museum in Ridgefield, CT. The presentations were part of the overall theme, "Why did Ridgefielders Volunteer to Fight in the Civil War"?

Then on May 25th the entire team consisting of Company Cook, Bill Mellow, Union Spy Matt Bartlett, Privates, Gary Horton and Warren Stevens and Cpl. Irving Moy made presentations to 50 students and 6 teachers at the Two Rivers Magnetic High School, located at the historic Samuel Colt Factory Complex in Hartford, CT. The school presentations were covered by Co. F Photographer, Karen Purrone. We thank Hildegard Grob, Keeler Tavern Museum and Sacha Kelly, Two Rivers Magnet High School, for extending invitations for us to speak to their students.

Information on our school presentations can be found on our website, www.cof14thcvi.com on our "Presentations" page.



Book Review

A Perfect Book on a Lesser Known Subject

Asians and Pacific Islanders and the Civil War

Carol A. Shivley, ed.

The National Park Service, 2015, 258 pp., \$14.95

ISBN: 9-159922-703597



Image courtesy of nps.gov

There have been an incredible amount of studies of immigrants and immigration patterns during the Antebellum period and Civil War period but most of them focus only on the people who had come westward such as the Irish and the Germans. Very little is ever studied about the immigration from the east. Now, thanks to the National Park Service, a book has recently come out concerning the Asians and Pacific Islanders who fought during the Civil War. Not only does this book deal with their actions during the war, but gives glimpses into the lives of the people before and after the conflict and other aspects about their immigration which is not usually covered. What is produced here is a book that not only informs but educates the masses about a lesser known aspect of the people who fought this horrible war.

Carol A. Shivley is the editor of this work about the many Asians and Pacific Islanders who fought in the Civil War. Among the contributors of this work are Dr. Gary Y. Okihiro, Ruthanne Lum McCunn, Ted Alexander, Dr. Justin W. Vance, Anita Manning and Terry Foenander. Among the contributors were many other experts on the subject of Asian Americans in the Civil War including Jack Kuo Wei Tchen, Steve Phan, Carol A. Shivley and Irving Moy.

The overall format of this book is quite easy to pick up and dive right into. Many other works on immigration during the Civil War become bogged down in details to the point that the actual combat narrative of these people does not come into the text more than halfway through the book. But here, the work is sectionalized and easy to read just tidbits of people you may have heard nothing about before. Because of this, the reading is fast and keeps you interested. The many contributors have put in a labor of love to not only tell you about these people, but inform you about the culture which was prevalent during the time of the Civil War when it came to the Asian Americans who arrived in the country. Some of the stories of these men might leave you shocked to learn the way in which the United States Government treated Asians and Pacific Islanders during the reconstruction period. But overall, it is hard not to be inspired by the acts of these men during the heat of combat.

I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the subject of immigration during the American Civil War. Very rarely do we hear about eastern immigration during the nineteenth century, but now with this book from the National Parks, that void has been filled. The overall format of the book makes it an easy but informative read and the presentation of the book is of the highest quality. With high resolution pictures and a glossy finish, this book definitely shows the great care in which it was produced. When asked about a good source for any book on immigration, this will be on the top of my list for a suggestion. A fine work that all who participated should be proud of.



Hincks' Mess

Alabama Banana Bread

When a blockade runner made it to Mobile with a cargo of bananas this was a delicious recipe that was made. If you can't get pecans try walnuts or almonds or hazelnuts. If you don't like nuts, leave them out.

1- $\frac{3}{4}$ Cups of sifted flour
2 Teaspoons of baking powder
 $\frac{1}{4}$ Teaspoon of baking soda
 $\frac{1}{2}$ Teaspoon of salt
 $\frac{1}{3}$ Cup of butter
2 eggs
 $\frac{2}{3}$ Cup of sugar
1 Cup (about 3) mashed ripe (black) bananas
 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cup of chopped pecans



Pre-heat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Sift together the flour, baking powder, soda and salt.

Beat butter until creamy.

Add sugar gradually and continue beating until light and fluffy. Add eggs and beat well.

Add flour mixture alternately with bananas and nuts, a small amount at a time, beating after each addition until smooth.

Turn into a well-greased 9x5x3 inch loaf tin and bake for about 1 hour and 10 minutes or until bread is done.

Yields one loaf.

It's a Small World After All!

by Bill Mellow

I had the pleasure of presenting my Hinck's Mess program on the evening of May 6, 2015 to the Wallingford Post of the American Legion located on the grounds of the Masonic Home and Hospital.... a very nice piece of high ground indeed! As I was setting up, I noticed one of their members looked familiar, but try as I might, I could not place him. Immediately before my presentation, Dave Gessert, Post Commander, came over to me and said that he would like to introduce me to his Vice Commander, Al Reed.

Bingo!! I looked at him and knew immediately. He looked at me but was not really sure who I was. I said to him, "1968, OCS". Bingo!! Al and I were classmates and graduated from the same Officer Candidate School in June of 1968, 46 years and 11 months ago, the last time we saw each other!

