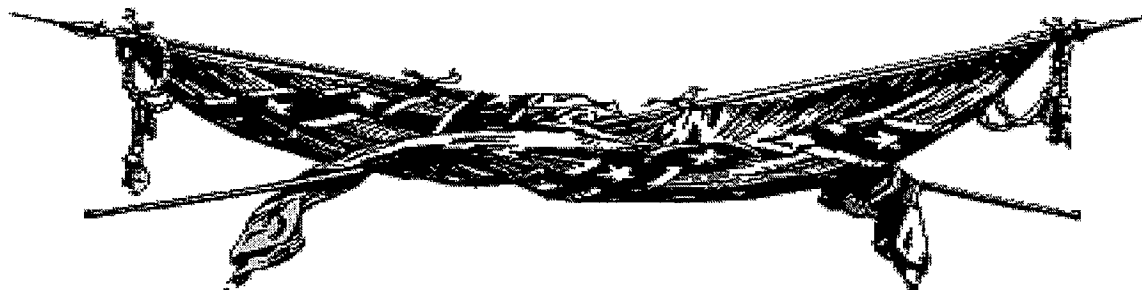


# 1<sup>ST</sup> Nebraska Volunteer Infantry

## November 2009 Newsletter



### OFFICERS

#### Business

President:	Rex Wright
Vice-President:	Jhude Sedlacek
Secretary:	Marc Witkovski
Treasury:	Lloyd Coates
Historian:	Roger Brightwell
Quartermaster:	T.J. Howard
Civilian Coordinator:	Janet Tucker

#### Field

Captain:	Lloyd Coates
1 <sup>st</sup> Sergeant:	T.J. Howard
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sergeant:	Rex Wright
1 <sup>st</sup> Corporal:	Bill Deardoff
2 <sup>nd</sup> Corporal:	Gage Stermensky
Chaplain:	Paul Lahowetz

### Authenticity Committee

Larry Angle	Bill Deardoff
Paul Lahowetz	Rex Wright

### COMMANDERS CORNER

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your wonderful support over the past four years during my term as Captain of the unit. It has really been a wonderful experience and an honor to lead you all on the field of battle. Hopefully you all will continue to support the new Field Commander as we move forward in the coming years. Again thank you for your support.

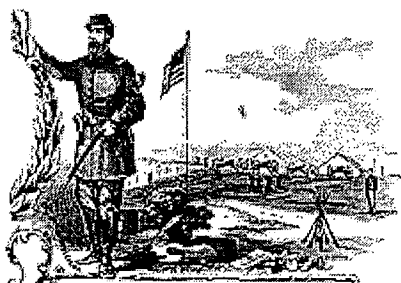
---

### The Talk of the Time

I found the following article as I was going through some of my old 1<sup>st</sup> Nebraska documents. I'm not sure who the author was or the source of the material but for those that are interested in improving their First Person Impression the following may prove beneficial.

There's a lot of talk these days about first person impression. First person may seem similar to learning a foreign language, and any Gringo turista knows you're not even going to get fed, much less find the can if you don't 'talk the talk'.

Since some of us may not know how the civil war era folks talked; this is an attempt to



provide us with a 21<sup>st</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> century interpreter. As a general rule, we were a Victorian society. Language was more formal. However, like today, once people got to know each other better, things loosened up considerably.

First person is not hard to learn. We all learned the school of the soldier and the manual of arms. Think of it as drill. (No, not skirmish drill, damn it!). We don't have to learn this by the next meeting or we don't HAVE to learn it at all. Just think of it as a challenge, something to make our impression believable.

Following is a list of some of the common Civil War terms and phrases. Some are still in use today! (Note: Term or phrase is in caps):

ATTEND TO THE INNER MAN - Eat;  
BAD FIX - Unpleasant situation;  
BARFOOT - Plain-barfoot coffee would be black coffee;  
BEGGAR TICKS or BEGGARS LICE - Seeds that stick to clothing;  
BLUE PILL - Bullet;  
BREAKNECK SPEED - Dangerously fast;  
BUG JUICE, BUST-HEAD - Liquor;  
BULLYRAG - To scold;  
BUNGAY! - A profanity like 'Go to Hell!';  
CHUM - Buddy;  
COFFEE COOLERS - Worthless soldiers;  
COMRADE - Friend;  
CONCK - A fighter;  
COTBETTY - A man who meddles in womens work;  
CROOKED STICK - Pervert;  
CUT STICK - Leave fast;  
DADBURN - Mild Oath;  
DAMAGED - Drunk;  
DINGBAT - Cannon ball;  
DOUGH FACE - Gullible person;  
DULL MUSIC - Tedious work;  
DUNKY - Clumsy;  
FETCH UP - Stop suddenly;  
FIT - Suitable;

FLUMMUX - To give up;  
FRESH FISH - Raw recruit;  
GAL-BOY - Feminine-acting man;  
GALOOT - Worthless fellow;  
GOBBLE - Whip the enemy;  
GO BOIL YOUR SHIRT - Buzz off;  
GRAY JACKERS - Rebs;  
GUN STOPPER - Tompion;  
GUTTED - Pillaged;  
HANDS OFF - Keep out, leave alone;  
HANKER - Desire;  
HARDLOOKING - Mean looking;  
HONEYFUGGLE - Swindle;  
HORSE - Beef;  
HOWDY - Hello;  
HUSTLE - Hurry;  
JIG IS UP - It's all over;  
KICK UP A RUMPUS - Cause a disturbance;  
LET DRIVE - Shoot;  
LIKE A DUCK ON A JUNE BUG - Very fast;  
MUGGINS - Scoundrel;  
PARD - Friend;  
MUNG NEWS - Falsehood;  
NOBBY - Stylish;  
OLD NICK - The devil;  
PEG OUT - Die;  
PET LAMB - Zouave;  
PIE EATERS - Country boys;  
PILL BOTTLE - A gun;  
POPPYCOCK - A lie; B.S.;  
ROUGH AND READY - Prepared to fight;  
RUM SUCKER - A drunk;  
SAVED HIS BACON - Saved his life;  
SCROUGE - To crowd or squeeze;  
SET TO - Began;  
SHENANIGAN - Trick or prank;  
SHOWED HIS TEETH - Showed his meanness;  
SLEWED - Intoxicated;  
SOFT CORN - Flattery;  
SPOOPSY - Steve Jipp;  
STEPPER - High spirited person;  
TALKING IRON - Pistol;  
TIPPYBOB - Wealthy class;  
TOAD STICKER - Sword or bayonet;  
YAHOO - Greenhorn;

One of the major concerns to the soldier was of course his food. Many slang terms developed on this important topic. To wit:

SOW BELLY OR SOW BOSOM – Salt pork;  
JAVA – Coffee;  
SINGERS – Biscuits;  
SLAP-JACKS – Pancakes;  
BLACK STRAP – Molasses;  
DESECRATED VEGETABLES – Dried vegetables;  
OLD HORSE – Corned beef;  
DRAMS – Whiskey ration;  
GRAB A ROOT – Go eat;  
HARDBREAD – Hardtack;  
SALT HORSE – Preserved beef;  
GRUB – Food in general;  
SKILLYGALEE – Hardtack soaked in water and fried in pork grease, yum;  
BALED YAY – Desicated vegetables;  
DOGROBBER – Soldier doing the cooking for the mess;  
SMOKED YANKS – Result of sitting around the fire;  
FORAGING – Living off the land;

The soldiers' equipment as well had their pet names;

HORSE COLLAR – Blanket roll;  
TAR BUCKET – Tall forage cap;  
BEE HIVE – Knapsack;  
GUN – any type of weapon that fired;  
SARDINE BOX – Officer's shoulder straps;  
SHEBANG – Brush arbor;

The common soldier was often disgusted with the term Brevet and often referred to a mule as a "Brevet Horse", a chicken as a "Brevet Turkey", etc.

Some or all of the words above were used in phrases, much like our slang of today. Some phrases were quite unique:

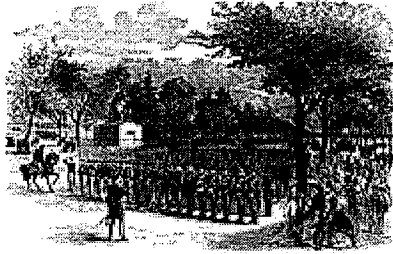
WALKS LIKE A VIRGINIA FENCE – Someone who is quite intoxicated. A crook was also called a Virginia Fence.

LIKE A THOUSAND OF BRICK – Something that is very heavy;  
JACK AT A PINCH – Doing something as a last resort;  
TO SEE THE ELEPHANT – This is NOT a correct Civil War term! It means not receiving what one hoped for, and was used mostly during the Mexican War and the California gold rush;  
BIGGEST TOAD IN THE PUDDLE – Most important person in the group;  
TO DO UP BROWN – Make something perfect;  
CARRY GUTS TO A BEAR – Do something completely worthless;  
THAT'S THE CHEESE – Something that is well done;  
THAT FILLS THE BIN – To agree with something;  
HANG UP THE FIDDLE – Give up;  
HOW'S THAT FOR HIGH – How about that?;  
KNEE HIGH TO A MOSQUITO – Someone who is short;  
DYED IN THE WOOL – Ingrained trait;  
NONE OF MY FUNERAL – Not my concern;  
PADDLE ONE'S OWN CANOE – Be self-sufficient;  
ON THE SQUARE – To tell the truth;  
LONG ROW TO HOE – Difficult task;  
STICK IN THE MUD – Slow person;  
TURNED UP HIS TOES – Someone who has died;  
AN APPOINTMENT WITH CAPTAIN HEMP – Someone about to be hanged;

Soldiers were also fond of adding "Mr." To inanimate objects, i.e. "I took Mr. Canteen by the neck", or "Mr. Bullet whined in my ear". Profanity was not uncommon during the war and it was similar to that in use today. Try not to use it around visitors in a living history setting.

For fun, pull these out when you have a few spare moments. Let some of the words and phrases creep into your everyday

conversation. Everyone knows reanactors are crazy . . . this should prove it!



### Event Reports

The following is a summary of the event reports for those events we've participated in since our last newsletter:

#### **Ralston 4<sup>th</sup> of July:**

This was the coolest (temperature) Ralston Parade that I remember. Prior to the parade we met the instructors for the Papillion South High Marching Band. Their theme for their halftime shows at their 2009 Football Games is the Civil War. The August Living History was a result of our meeting them. A couple weeks after the parade I received a photograph that someone had taken of us during the parade. The photograph was doctored to remove the spectators. There is the possibility that the photograph will be used for publicity for the parade next year. Next year they are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ralston Parade.

#### **Dillard Nebraska (Reenactment)**

This event was sponsored by the 165<sup>th</sup> New York. It was a small event and except for the HOT and MUGGY first evening the weather was good. This event will be held next year and will be an every other year event after next year. The Candlelight Tour scenario that

we put on was a blast. The scenario involved some missing payments to a local civilian farm with a different twist and turn each time we put it on. To this day I still don't know who the culprit in the scenario was.

#### **Papillion South High School Living History**

This was a one day event (Friday evening) that we put on for the Papillion South High School Band. We provided them with a little on the History of the 1<sup>st</sup> Nebraska, Camp life and some drill (marching). The event ended with a mock battle that the band members really enjoyed.

#### **Nebraska State Fair (Living History)**

A big thank you goes out to Eric Frank, Matt Tucker and all the others that participated in the Living History event at the State Fair. In addition to the Living History, the unit participated in the Veterans Day celebration on Friday. We meant several potential recruits at the event. Consideration should be given to putting on a Living History event at future state fairs because of the recruiting opportunities.

#### **Pawnee City (Reenactment)**

This was our sponsored event for the year and was a Muddy River Battalion Max Effort event. We had fairly good participation by the Muddy River Battalion and other Nebraska and Iowa units. Having the battle on the new ground this year added a little more authenticity to the battle scenario. The highlight of the event at least for me was the Sunday Morning Sunrise Attack on the Rebel Camp, where we completed surprised the Jonnies. I would expect that they might try to even the score next year at Brownville. A special thank you goes out to those that participated in Friday's Living History for the schools. I would also like to take the time to offer a special thanks to TJ Howard, Matt Tucker and Eric Frank for their hard work in preparing for the event.

### **Fortseque (Reenactment)**

Well, we had no issues with Calvary this year or at least they did not come charging through our line. We did have one small detachment of men from our unit that kept the Calvary at bay during Sunday's battle and the Calvary guys weren't real happy about that. They also did away with the evening meal on Saturday which wasn't really missed. This was a Muddy River Max Effort event. The Candlelight tour was located in the Confederate Camp and we had some that participated in that event. At Sunday's battle our company was assigned to the School House so we got to fight from the second floor of the school. Except for the cold evenings the weather was great and the event went well. I'm not sure whether this event is scheduled for next year.

### **Recruiting Committee**

Feedback from the surveys we sent out earlier indicates that we should develop a committee to aid in recruiting. Eric Frank has volunteered to chair that committee. We are in the process of developing a Recruiting Committee. We want to put a little more structure around our recruiting efforts to ensure that we are following up with those that have expressed an interest in joining the unit and those that have not renewed their membership.

### **New Members**

Since our last newsletter we've met several potential recruits at our events and hopefully they will be joining the unit in the near future. Keith Rockefeller has moved back to Lincoln and has rejoined our unit. If you haven't already welcomed him please give him a warm welcome.

### **Membership List**

An updated membership list has been included with the newsletter. Please let me know if there are any additions or corrections that need to be made to this list. The list also contains past members who have not renewed their membership and people that have expressed an interest in joining the unit. The list is not all inclusive. I will email an updated list out as soon as I get it updated. I have at least three addresses that are missing from the Friends portion of the list.

### **2010 Events**

We will not be setting our event schedule until after the first of the year but the following list includes events that will probably be considered for our schedule next year. Please note this is for information purposes.

Verdigree Tactical: May 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Elk Horn, Iowa: June 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>

Adams, Minnesota: June 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>

Diller, Nebraska: July 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>

Pipestone, Minnesota: Aug 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

Brownville, Nebraska: October 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>

Twin Rivers Campaign – November 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>

Of special note we have been asked to provide a camp and cooking for a group of actors and others the week prior to the Pipestone event in Pipestone. They are making a movie about Civil War Drummers and have asked us to provide a camp and cooking. More information to follow as to the specifics on what they want us to do.

The Twin Rivers Campaign is a First Federal Division event. The Muddy River Battalion

is part of the First Federal Division. The event is a recreation of the 1862 Fort Donaldson Campaign. Colonel Crofutt from the Muddy River Battalion has asked for permission for the battalion to portray the 1<sup>st</sup> Nebraska Volunteer Regiment. This will be an opportunity for us to participate in a recreation of a campaign that the 1<sup>st</sup> Nebraska was involved. We are already looking at ways of getting to the event either by bus or other modes of traveling to reduce the cost of traveling. My understanding is the event is at a location about 4 to 5 hours south of Saint Louis.



### Conclusion

I know I'm a little late in getting this out and as a result this will probably be the last newsletter for this year. My goal was to get four newsletters out and we got three out. I would expect that we will put out the next one sometime in February of next year after the schedule has been established.

Please excuse any grammar or typo errors you may find in this newsletter. Proof reading my own work has never been a strong point for me.

Your Most Humble and Obedient Servant,

Captain Lloyd Coates