



VOLUNTEER INFANTRY NEWS



A publication of the 1st Oregon/20th Maine Volunteer Infantry

<http://www.1stovi-20thmaine.org/>

January 2012

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Congratulations to all who agreed to serve and were elected to office this year. Now it's time to start a new year of reenacting. Our first drill and general membership meeting will be Saturday January 7th at Dallas High School, 1250 SE Holman Ave., Dallas Oregon. Bring soft soled shoes for use inside the High School. Drill starts at 10:00 am followed by a general membership meeting at Noon. At the meeting all members will be asked to review and approve our budget and events calendar for this year. You will see an advance copy of the meeting agenda and the proposed events calendar in this newsletter. I am committed to keeping the meeting on task and plan to adjourn after one hour.

Print your renewal forms for the NCWC and 1st Oregon from the websites and bring your checkbook. Steve Betschart, our membership chairman, will be taking your renewals at this meeting.

At least seven of us have signed up so far for our trip March 28 thru April 2nd to the 150th anniversary of the Bat-

tle of Shiloh in Tennessee. We will be discussing this event and answer your questions about the trip. There is still plenty of time to make a decision to join us.

As we move into 2012 we all will be working on our taxes. Remember we are a qualifying organization that allows us to deduct expenses associated with our hobby as a volunteer under Charitable Contributions. Expenses like uniforms, equipment, travel expenses, meals, and dues are deductible. These are potential tax benefits but you should consult your own tax advisor before claiming any deductions for reenacting.

Chairman

Mike Scott



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Photos Courtesy Marisa Yoakum

WHO ARE YOU?

By Kate Eakman, Editor

How good is your impression? Do you look and sound like a man or woman from 1863 Maine?

Let me encourage you (me, too!) to look closely at your impression. If you think it is perfect, as someone to critique it. Then make a list of read that need improvement – your hair, your clothes, your speech, your language, your accessories, your food, etc.

Now choose one or two areas and focus on improving them. You have time. Our first reenactment isn't until the summer. That's plenty of time to make a purchase, hand make an item, or learn some information.

The stated purpose of the NCWC is to interpret and present information about the civil war period of American history...through living history presentation, public battle reenactments, [and] educational presentations made through historically accurate first person characterizations.

And the 1st Oregon's website states: We are a family oriented reenacting group ded-

icated to the preservation of American heritage through living history recreations.

Our reason for doing this is to accurately portray men and women of 1863. In other words, we ought to be striving for perfection.

Let me give you a top to bottom appraisal of the places I have seen an almost universal need for improvement.

HAIR – Men, it should be short, and of even length all around, above the collar and parted on the side. No ponytails, no floppy bangs. Ladies, your hair should be parted in the middle, confined neatly and off of your face, including your bangs.

FACE – Men, bears, mustaches, and/or sideburns are appropriate. Ladies, no makeup or facial piercings and no multiple ear piercings.

GLASSES – No gradient lenses. No plastic frames. Small lenses in metal frames. Small means 1-1 ½ “ wide and less than or equal to 1” tall. Bifocals should have obvious lines across the lens. Colored lenses: amber or yellow lenses = shooting lenses. Blue lenses = weak eyes, or recently

bled patient.

CLOTHING FASTENERS – No plastic buttons. Not all buttons were wood or shell. Most were made of glass, ceramic, or china.

HANDS – No nail polish, even clear. No French manicures or other obviously artificial nails or nail art.

FOOTWEAR – Men, brogans or boots in brown or black leather only. Leather soles, not rubber or crepe. Leather laces. Ladies, Black or brown leather boots with a heel of 1” or less. Leather soles and laces. No speed laces. Colored shoes to match your dress for dressed up events.

Bare feet are appropriate in camp and at home, but no nail polish, toe rings, or French manicures.

Now that we have covered your look, what about the person in the clothes?

PERSONA – do you have one?

To find out if you have developed a persona, or you are simply camping out in period clothes, see if you can answer [these](#) questions.



From the Captain's Tent

This is Captain Rice. O.K. men and boys. It's time for our next year of reenacting. 2011 was a great year for our club. I expect 2012 to be better yet.

January 7th (Saturday) is the date for our next drill in Dallas. Steve Betschart is hosting us at the Dallas High School. NCO's please meet at 9:00. Everyone else please arrive before 10:00 with your "walking" shoes on. Uniforms are encouraged, but not required. Your attendance is desired above all else.

We have a bunch of new NCO's, so let's get going. See you all soon.

Mitch Rice, Captain

First Sergeant's Report

Here we are coming into a new year and a new campaign season! First of all thank you to all who voted. Also, thank you for another opportunity to serve as the 1st Sergeant of the 1st Oregon/20th Maine in our upcoming season.

The upcoming drills are really important to our unit. These drills will help make us look better than the average "set at home units" that stick out like a sore thumb come to actual battle re-enactments!

Please decide to participate January 7th at Dallas High School in Dallas, OR. Drill starts at 10:00 am followed by a general membership meeting at Noon. However I would like to see all NCO's there by 9:00am to go over some things. (NCO's please don't forget your Casey's manual)

Happy New Year to you!

First Sergeant Nathan Fuller, Co. A



1st Oregon Volunteer Infantry

**1st Quarter Board Meeting and
General Membership Meeting
Saturday Jan 7, 2012 Noon
Dallas High School**

Mission Statement:

The First Oregon Volunteer Infantry Inc. is a non-profit educational corporation organized to promote research into and to provide public awareness of the period surrounding the American Civil War through historic demonstrations, living history exhibits, battle reenactments and competitive shooting of Civil War era weapons.

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| I. Call to Order | Mike Scott |
| II. Approval of minutes of Nov 5, 2011 meeting | Cheryl Rice |
| III. Treasurer's Report and approval of annual budget | Mike Scott |
| IV. New Business | |
| A. Approval of 2012 calendar of events | Mike Scott/Mitch Rice |
| B. Discussion of 150 th Battle of Shiloh trip | Mike Scott/Mitch Rice |
| C. Presentation on updated website | Bruce Sackett |
| D. Donation to the Sheridan House | Steve Betschart |
| V. Other Business | |
| VI. Adjournment | |

Board Meetings for 2012

- 2nd Quarter 5:00 pm Saturday May 19th Cheadle Lake Reenactment**
3rd Quarter 5:00 pm Saturday Sept. 2nd Fort Stevens Reenactment
4th Quarter after Veterans' Day parade, Saturday Nov. 3rd Fort Vancouver

150th Anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh

All members of the 20th Maine are encouraged to participate in the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh, from March 28—April 1, 2012 at Pittsburgh Landing, Tennessee.

Chairman Mike Scott has already booked his trip and reports that currently members can make the trip for \$600.

The first thing you need to do is register on the 150th Shiloh website www.shiloh.150org. Register as follows:

- Unit name:**
20th Maine Co. A
- Affiliation:**
1st Federal Div.
- Army:**
US
- Branch:**
Infantry
- Camping:**
Period Campaign

You will pay your registration fee of \$20 via credit card thru Pay Pal.

Reservations were all made online and members are encouraged to do the same

and attempt to fly into Memphis on March 28th at the same time for ease of transportation, etc. Mike has booked his flight via American Airlines #1453 leaving PDX at 8:20 on the 28th, connecting to AA #1366, arriving in Memphis at 6:15. Departing Memphis on April 1st via AA #1675 at 6:55 am, arriving AA #1185 in PDX at 11:25 am.

Hotel accommodations can be had to the Days Inn Graceland, which is close to the Memphis airport, and next door to Graceland. Single rooms can be reserved for \$69.55 at the moment.

Mike has already reserved a 12-passenger van for transportation purposes, hats off to the Chairman for thinking ahead!

The plan of action: spend Thursday morning touring the battlefield at Shiloh prior to reporting for duty at the reenactment on Thursday afternoon. After the reenactment all will return to Memphis (100 miles from the location of the reenactment) on Sun-

day afternoon and fly back to PDX on Monday, April 1st.

Mitch Rice has graciously offered to drive out and carry rifles, ammo, and canvas for the soldiers.

Obviously, booking early garners the best prices, so don't wait too long to make your reservations. The current breakdown of the cost is:

Round-trip airfare	\$448
1/12 use of van	63
Shared room	35
Registration	20
Total	\$601

This is the first concerted effort to get members together for a large-scale event back east in 15 years. If you have never taken part in this sort of event you should seriously consider it. Talk to Greg Moore, Rolla Harding, Scott Eakman, Jim Ross, Steve Betschart, Mitch Rice, and Mike Curtis for their take on what these events are like and what participating in one can do for you.

As a side note, this event takes places during the end of Spring Break in Oregon.

And finally, cont on page 7

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Date	Event	Location	Coordinator
Jan. 7	Drill & General Meeting	Dallas High School	Steve Betschart
Feb. 11	Drill	Ft. Vancouver	Greg Moore
Mar. 9—11	NCWC Winter Quarters	Salem 4-H Center	
March 17	Drill & Preparation for Shiloh	Ft. Yamhill	Mike Scott
Mar 28—Apr 2	150th Battle of Shiloh	Shiloh, Tennessee	Mike Scott/Mitch Rice
April 21	Regimental Dinner and Awards	Gray Gables, Milwaukie, OR	Rice/deBroekert
May 19—20	NCWC Reenactment	Cheadle Lake, Lebanon, OR	Ron Rogers (EC)
May 25	Alki Middle School History Day	Vancouver	TBA
May 28	Soldiers' Bivouac	Ft. Vancouver	Greg Moore
June 2	Starlight Parade	Portland, OR	Bob Olson (EC)
June 9—10	NCWC Tactical	Colton, OR	Jim Munson (EC)
June 16—17	Squaw Creek	Sisters, OR	deBroekert/Yoakum
June 30—July 2	NCWC Reenactment	Willamette Mission, Keizer, OR	Steve Betschart (EC)
Jul 21	Vintage Baseball	Ft. Vancouver	Greg Moore
Sep 1-3	NCWC Reenactment	Ft. Stevens, Hammond, OR	Jim Munson
Sept 8	Campfire and Candlelight	Ft. Vancouver	Greg Moore
Sept 22—23	NCWC Reenactment	McIver State Park, Estacada, OR	Mike Tamerius (EC)
Nov 3	Veterans' Day Parade	Ft. Vancouver	Mitch Rice
Nov 10	NCWC Veterans' Day Parade	Albany, OR	
TBA	Christmas Party	TBA	

OREGON OCCURRENCES

The following is a list of officers who served in the 1st Oregon Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The list was current as of 31 October 1865, the date the first members of the regiment were mustered out of service.

Colonel - George B. Currey (Commander)
Lieutenant Colonel - John M.

Drake
Major - William V. Rinehart
Captains - Charles Lafollett (Commander, Company A);
 Ephraim Palmer (Commander, Company B);
 Clark P Crandall (Commander, Company C);
 William S. Powell (Commander, Company D);
 Ferdinand O. McGown (Commander, Company E);
 Ebner W. Waters (Commander, Company F);

Andrew J. Boland (Commander, Company G);
 Loren L. Williams (Commander, Company H);
 Franklin B. Sprague (Commander, Company I);
 and Alphonso B. Ingram (Commander, Company J)
Surgeon - Horace Carpenter;
 Samuel Whitmore (Assistant Surgeon)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Oregon_Volunteer_Infantry_Regiment

Colonel Currey expressed a hearty dislike for the accepted practice of keeping troops in garrison during the winter. Under his command, Oregon units were scattered from Fort Steilacoom on Puget Sound to Fort Hall in southeastern Idaho.

Elements of the 1st OVI conducted extensive patrolling and scouting operations along the Oregon Trail and throughout southeastern Oregon but did not experience any major engagements.

They protected immigrant trails and escorted wagon trains from Fort Boise to the Willamette Valley. Two companies escorted survey parties, and another constructed a road in southwestern Ore-

gon. With the discovery of gold in the Blue Mountains in 1861, the regiment also took on the task of protecting the freight trains and miners associated with the gold fields of the Blue Mountains.

While scouting sixteen miles from Camp Wright on the Selvie's River, near present day Burns, Captain Loren L. Williams and a party of twenty Oregon infantrymen from Company H were ambushed by a band of hostile Indians.

Williams and his troops fought a harrowing retreat back to Camp Wright, defending themselves for about fifteen hours before they reached safety. All along the way Indians fired from con-

cealed positions. At one point, they even set a brush fire in the soldiers' path to prevent them from escaping.

Despite their continuous attacks, the Indians only wounded two soldiers.

In his report, Williams stated that his long-range rifles killed fifteen Indians. He also stated that his superior weaponry was the only thing that prevented his party from being overrun.

http://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/entry/view/1st_oregon_volunteer_infantry/ and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Oregon_Volunteer_Infantry_Regiment

cont'd from page 5 Mike Scott requests that you email him after you have registered so that he can keep track of who is attending and reserve an additional van if necessary.