



# VOLUNTEER INFANTRY NEWS



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

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

February 2012

Page 1

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

I want again to thank Bruce Sackett for the work he has done on our new website. It is updated, connected to Facebook and Twitter, and it looks great.

Thanks to the 14 members who paid dues and completed their renewals at the January drill. But we have a long ways to go to get everyone renewed. Please go to our [website](#) to find our 2012 renewal form. Dues are \$17 individual/\$25 family.

You can find the NW Civil War Council renewal form on their [website](#). Dues are \$15 individual/\$30 family. You will need one NCWC form for every family member. Send your forms and checks to Steve Betschart, our membership chairman.

We are about 60 days away from the 150th Battle of Shiloh. There is still plenty of time to sign up and join us. We are in contact with Colonel Jim Crofutt, Commander of the Muddy River Brigade (4th Brigade), 1st Federal Division. We will be forming up with them. I understand over 100 artillery pieces have been

registered for this event. Ten of us are now going to Shiloh; Mitch Rice, Nathan Fuller, Pat Gage, Sam Steidel, Greg Moore, Ben Keeley, Casey Scott, Mike Scott, Dave McCloskey and Mark Hagedorn.

Our next drill is at Fort Vancouver at 10:00 am Saturday February 11th. We will be forming up at the Visitors Center. I am trying to get in contact with Mike True, Operations Officer, of the Fort Vancouver National Trust

to possibly look at some space that day for our Regimental Headquarters.

After drill I would like to invite all men going to Shiloh to join me at lunch to make our final plans for the trip.

*Mike Scott*

Chairman  
503-368-7279  
[cdrmikescott@nehalem.tel.net](mailto:cdrmikescott@nehalem.tel.net)

Table of Contents	
Chairman's Corner	1
Editorial	2
From the Captain's Tent	3
First Sergeant's Report	4
New Webmaster	4
New Members	5
Oregon History	6
2012 Calendar	9
150th Shiloh	10
Monkeyshines and Tomfoolery	11

## SOME WORDS OF THANKS AND AN APPEAL

I would like to begin this editorial by thanking some people who make my publisher/editor life both interesting and easy.

A big "Thank you" to those of you who read and comment on the *Volunteer Infantry News*. I love hearing your comments, reading your suggestions, and finding out what you like (and don't like) about each edition. Keep on talking to me and helping to make this the newsletter YOU want for our club.

A second "Thank you" to the men who write columns each month: Mike Scott, Mitch Rice, and Nathan Fuller. These gentlemen are on time and require no prompting or reminding. Each month I say "time for your article" and *voilà!* the articles arrive in my in box. In addition I appreciate that all three authors are such excellent writers and proof-readers. All that I have to do is reformat their words

to fit the pages of the newsletter.

Finally, "Thank you" to the good people who wrote special articles for this edition of the *Volunteer Infantry News*. Bruce Sackett wrote an introduction to the new website. Check it out if you have not done so, and let him know what you think. Steve Betschart submitted the first of three articles about Oregon in the Civil War. If you plan to portray an Oregonian in the 1860s you need to read this series.

Don't see what interests you here? Looking for something civilian-related? Want to see an article about weaponry? Prefer information on improving your persona?

Let me offer you a few ideas regarding to get what you want in future editions.

#1 – Write to me and tell me what you want to read about. Be as specific as you like. And if you

want to hear it from the lips of a specific person, tell me that, too!

#2 – Ask someone you know who is an expert in that subject to write an article and email it to me.

#3 – Write it yourself. Submission requirements are pretty easy to work with: submit your article with your name spelled properly for your by line. That's all there is to it!

The more YOU write, the better this newsletter will be!

Finally, I want to add my appeal to those of you who have not renewed your membership this year. I know how easy it is to put it off—we tend to make Steve chase us down to get our memberships in. But we're up to date now, and you should be, too. Go online, get your forms and mail it in. Then you will be ready for the season!

Until next month,

*Kate Bakman*

# FROM THE CAPTAIN'S TENT

**H**ello everyone. This is Captain Rice speaking.

Thanks to all that attended the January drill in Dallas. There was a remarkable difference between the marching of January 2011 and the marching of January 2012. Good job everyone. However, nearly all the NCO's are new. They will need to work with the group to hone the skills necessary for their new position. It looks like it is going well, but you will have to take some abuse as they practice on you.

February drill will be soon. I plan to take advantage of the large parade ground at Fort Vancouver and spend about 20 minutes practicing Skirmish drill. We will

be marching in a battle line too. Our wheeling is looking pretty good, but I will probably rely on "Right Turn" and "Left Turn" for quick changes in direction. Drill is a lot of fun when we do it well. Wearing uniforms is strongly advised, but remember, your presence is desired over any need for uniform. Fort Vancouver is close to most of our members. Please come on up for an invigorating two hours.

I'm looking forward to the season. I'll be traveling with nine others members to the big event in Shiloh Tennessee. I strongly encourage anyone still thinking about it to "pull the trigger" so-to-speak and buy your ticket. See you all in Vancouver.

**FEELING LIKE YOU DON'T BELONG?**

**KEEP THINKING YOU ARE FORGETTING SOMETHING?**

Have you renewed your 1st Oregon/20th Maine and NCWC memberships?

**Renew today! Forms available online.**

[1st OVI/20th Maine](#) dues are \$17 per individual and \$25 per family.

[NCWC membership](#) is \$15 per individual and \$30 per family. You can have as many as you want in a family as long as you live under the same roof. You **MUST** fill out a separate form for each member of the family and a minor release form if you plan to leave a minor child at an event in the custody of a responsible party.

# FIRST SERGEANT'S REPORT

**O**ur Dallas drill was a success! NCO meeting, drill, general membership meeting, and lunch after words all made for a great day. Speaking with our new and old NCO's I think we came up with some great ideas for our new campaign season. I also think that with everyone's participation we can bring history to life to our company street.

Every soldier put forth their very best effort

at our drill. In my opinion, we as a Company did better this year than last year at this same drill. I am excited to see what a well-oiled machine we become this year!

Our general membership meeting also went well, covering our upcoming schedule of events amongst other topics of discussion. I appreciate the open door position this club takes to hear all of us. You will not see this same position in every club, believe me.

The next drill will be

held at Fort Vancouver February 11th at 10:00am. I may or may not be in attendance. My baby boy's due date happens to be February 12th (President Lincoln's birthday.) I hope that you all are planning on attending.

Also, remember that it isn't too late to sign up to go with us to the 150th Shiloh event back east! Talk to Mike Scott or Captain Rice for details.

Your humble servant,  
Nathan Fuller  
1st Sergeant, Co. A

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW WEBMASTER—BRUCE SACKETT

By Bruce Sackett

**T**o start off the new year, we have a new website - same address, but with a new design and a fresh look!

The pages of information about the 1st Oregon and 20th Maine, joining the

unit, Civilian opportunities and more are still there. In addition, I have added a Calendar, comprehensive Links page and a large photo gallery. I want to be able to add more photos, and encourage you to send me those that you may have to build on the gallery. I will

post them as quickly as I can.

I expect that there will be many adjustments and changes in the coming months. I really believe the website should be dynamic and useful so that we have a strong web presence and a good reason to get (cont'd page 6)

# NEW MEMBERS FOR THE 1st OREGON/20th MAINE!

**J**anuary has brought us high winds, some snow, and best of all, several new members to the 1st Oregon/20th Maine.



Early this month I received an email from Angela Porter announcing the birth of Andrew Wayne Porter. He arrived on the 9th at 6:09 am, weighing in at 7 lbs. 9 oz. and 19 1/2 inches long (or

on his little legs).

Angela reports that “Everyone is happy and healthy! So far Noah is enjoying

being a big brother, I'm sure that will change as time rolls on.” From the looks of the photos Noah is doing a great job as big brother.

Our second addition is an entire family. Welcome to Jeremiah, Alanna, Henry, and Samuel Bishop! The Bishops are not new to reenacting (well, Henry and Samuel are pretty new to it) so expect them to slip into the military and civilian streets with ease.

Contact information for Jeremiah and Alanna is:

825 SW 10th Ave.  
Albany, OR 97321



## CIVIL WAR IN THE OREGON COUNTRY (1850-1868) PART 1: CONFLICT & CONTAINMENT

(Editors' note: This begins a three-part series discussing Oregon during the Civil War written by our own Steve Betschart, President - Northwest Civil War Council (ret), Colonel - Army of the Willamette (ret). Normally Steve presents this as a PowerPoint presentation, but he kindly agreed to modify it to fit our needs here. Part 2 will be presented in our March edition of the *Volunteer Infantry News*.)

**T**he Civil War period (1861-1865) in the Oregon Country (Washington & Idaho Territories, Oregon and northern California) was really an outgrowth of the 1850's. The result was that military and political authorities had to accomplish three goals: First, enforcement of the Indian treaties made during the 1850's which

placed tribes of this area on reservations. Next, protection of settlers and commercial interests (especially in central and eastern portions of the region from hostile tribes that opposed further white expansion into their lands. Finally, authorities needed to monitor and thwart efforts by various pro-Southern groups which were either real or perceived threats. Part one of this three part series will deal with the first of these goals.

Most folks who live in Oregon just don't think of it as a potential Indian-White battleground, but it was. The murder of Marcus and (cont'd on next page)

---

(cont'd from page 4) everyone coming back to see what is new. I think it is important that information about our unit, events and history is easily available on the internet.

My first computer was a VIC-20, I've been building websites since 1998 and working for a computer company for the last 15 years. I love this stuff, and look forward to continuing to build and improve the new site.

In addition, with the change in the website I have been able to set up a mailing list for use by all of our members. By send-

ing to [companya@1stovi-20thmaine.org](mailto:companya@1stovi-20thmaine.org) you are able to communicate with everyone in the group without having to keep a big collection of email addresses!

Please note, if you have a change to your email address to make sure that it is updated with our membership coordinator so that you can receive these emails. Also, if you choose to opt out of the list, please just drop me an email at [bruce@theblueandthegray.com](mailto:bruce@theblueandthegray.com) and I will take care of it right away.

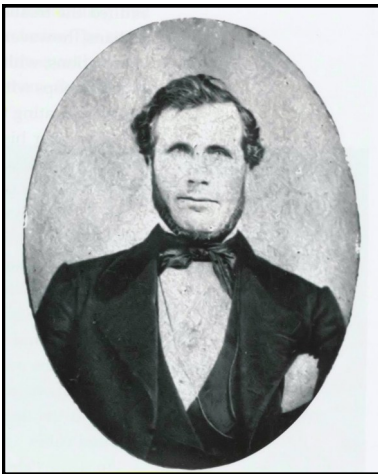
# Volunteer Infantry News

February 2012

Page 7

(cont'd from page 6) Narcissa Whitman in 1847 and the Cayuse Indian War that followed it brought out the first organized military resistance, led to territorial status for Oregon in 1849 and the passage of the Oregon Indian Bill by Congress in 1850. This act terminated Indian land titles with the idea of removing tribes to the interior (eastern side of the Cascade Range).

However, Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Oregon Territory Joel Palmer decided that the best plan was for native tribes to sign treaties and be relocated



west along the coast on reservation lands not desired by whites for minerals or other development. He had the support of Washington Territorial Governor Isaac Ingalls Stevens. Native leaders like Chief



Kamiakin of the Yakima Tribe became more and more concerned about the numbers of white settlers (53,000 by 1853 compared to an estimated

25,000 Indians). Treaties were made at the

Great Council of 1855 but many whites ignored the agreements and violated Indian Territory. The result was war.

The period 1853-1858 is sometimes called The Great Outbreak with a series of conflicts that stretched from British Columbia to northern California. The Puget Sound, Rogue River, Yakima and Spokane Indian Wars were deadly with 850 regular soldiers of the 4th & 9th US Infantry and 3rd US Artillery involved plus over 5,000 volunteer militia from Oregon and Washington territories involved in suppression of the native tribes. Casualties were heavy but treaties were signed.

By February 14, 1859 as Oregon became the 33rd state in the Union the threat of hostile action west of the Cascades had been essentially eliminated. One example of how this policy worked was the forcible removal of southwestern and eastern Oregon tribes to what was called the Coast Reservation, a stretch of land 125 miles in length and 25 miles wide. It was actually three "agencies" in one: the Alsea, Siletz and Grand Ronde. This turned out to be a very diverse group with approximately 30 name designations at the Siletz Sub-Agency alone.

Military forces were given the job of keeping hostile miners and settlers from "eradication" of natives on the Coast Reservation, keeping the Indians from escaping and maintaining peace (cont'd on page 8)

# Volunteer Infantry News

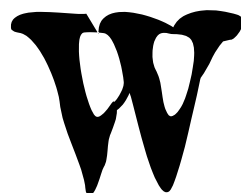
February 2012

Page 8

(cont'd from page 7) among the various tribes and bands collected there. It turned out not to be "good ground" especially for eastern tribes unaccustomed to the climate of the coast. Food shortages were chronic ... Siletz Indians had to live on less than a three dollar annual subsistence.

How did military forces achieve the goals of reservation control? They built a series of forts and blockhouses. In fact, the mid-1850's were noted for construction of many such installations including Forts Hoskins, Yamhill and Umpqua for the Coast Reservation along with Fort Dalles, Simcoe, Walla Walla and many others in the eastern regions. The real center of military control for the region was Fort Vancouver. Life for regulars, and later volunteer forces charged with reservation supervision, was pretty boring and tedious.

But it had to be done and it was done by units such as our very own 1st Oregon Volunteer Infantry, the Washington Territorial Infantry, and Company D, 4th California Volunteer Infantry to name but a few. But not all the tribes were "contained" and the area of military operations shifted to the east with the Snake Indian Wars. That will be the subject of our next segment in the story of Civil War in the Oregon Country.



## WHAT TO READ AND DO

For a good overall picture of this time period I recommend Kurt Nelson's book

*Fighting for Paradise: A military history of the Pacific Northwest* (2007). To understand the development of the reservation system in Oregon take a look at *Fort Hoskins Illustrated* by David Brauner with Nahani Stricker (2006) then take a drive down to Benton and Polk counties and have a look at the locations of Forts Hoskins Hoskins and Yamhill. Of course there are always the two standard reference works for all members of our unit ... *A Webfoot Volunteer: The Diary of William Hilleary 1864-1866* (1965) and *All Quiet on the Yamhill* by Royal Bensell (1959). The Bensell book details life with Company D, 4th California Volunteer Infantry.

## WANTED:

Newsletter publisher looking for article submissions. Particularly in need of articles pertaining to Civil War-era weaponry; unique and period recipes for cooking over the fire; refining your persona; civilian opportunities for living history; biographies of 1st OVI/20th Maine members.

Interested?

Contact the [Publisher](#).

# Volunteer Infantry News

February 2012

Page 9

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>
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 14	Regimental Dinner and Awards	Gray Gables	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 Base Ball	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,	Mike Tamerius (EC)
Nov 3	Veterans' Day Parade	Ft. Vancouver	Mitch Rice
Nov 10	NCWC Veterans' Day Parade	Albany, OR	
TBA	Christmas Party	TBA	

## 150th ANNIVERSARY OF SHILOH

**A**ll 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](http://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 at the Days Inn Graceland, close to the Memphis airport. 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 Sunday afternoon and fly back to PDX on Monday, April 1st.

Mitch Rice has offered to drive out and carry rifles, ammo, and canvas for us.

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.

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.

## MONKEYSHINES AND TOMFOOLERY

Humor and Witticisms from  
President Abraham Lincoln

Lincoln was addressing some visitors, and he said, "Some Union supporters oppose any accommodation or yielding to the South in any manner because the Confederates began the war and should be held responsible. Now this reminds me of a good story I heard once, when I lived in Illinois".

"A farmer had a vicious bull that took after anybody who tried to cross the field. One day a neighbor climbed the fence and was soon running for his life. This man was fast, though, and he got to a tree with the bull close behind. There was no time to climb the tree, so he led the bull in a chase around the tree. He finally was able to grab the bull by the tail. The bull was now at a disadvantage. He couldn't catch the man and he couldn't shake him from his tail. The more they ran the madder the bull got. He pawed up the earth and bellowed until you could hear him miles away. Finally, he broke into a dead run, the man still hanging onto his tail.

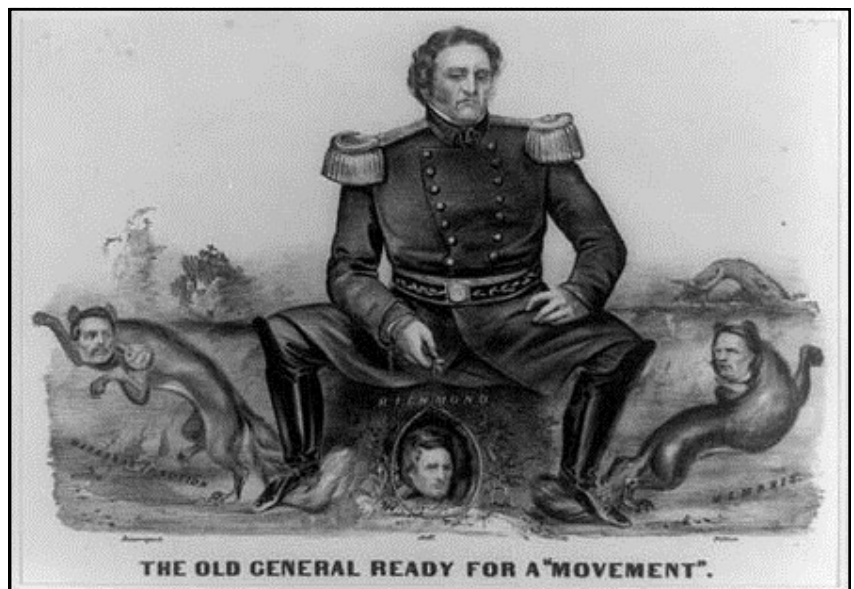
"The neighbor, now dragging along behind, shouted at the

bull, 'Darn you, who commenced this fuss?'

"That's our situation here," summarized Lincoln. "It's our duty to settle this fuss at the earliest possible moment, no matter who commenced it".

- It has been my experience that folks who have no vices have very few virtues.
- If I were two-faced, would I be wearing this one?
- Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.
- He can compress the most words into the smallest ideas better than any man I ever met.
- When you have got an elephant by the hind leg, and he is trying to run away, its best to let him run.
- Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally.
- If this is coffee, please bring me some tea; if this is tea, please bring me some coffee.
- Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle.

<http://www.angelfire.com/my/abrahamlincoln/Humor.html>



<http://www.totalgettysburg.com/civil-war-political-cartoons.html>