

Rock County Volunteer

The Newsletter of the 33rd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry

June 2001
Volume 17, Issue 4

CLEANING A SPRINGFIELD RIFLE MUSKET, IN 51 STEPS

WAUWATOSA PARADE

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The 33rd Wisconsin will again march in the Wauwatosa July 4th parade. The parade will take place on Wednesday, July 4, and not over the preceding weekend. Remember, this is a major fund raiser for the unit and we have received \$300 in the past.

Those participating should get to Jeff Saeger's house between 6:45 and 7:30 am for pre-parade coffee, juice, and donuts. We should plan on leaving Jeff's house by 7:45 to get to the staging area around 8:15. Step off is at 9:00 am. For those not coming to Jeff's house initially, please plan to meet up at the Mayfair Mall parking lot. We will be somewhere in the south east corner, by the North Avenue egress. Ask parade officials for parking instructions upon arrival.

Directions to Saeger's house: Take 94 west to 45 North. Exit at North Avenue and go east to 83rd Street (you will have driven the parade route at this point). Turn South on 83rd and continue until it dead ends at Ludington and Milwaukee Avenue. Turn east on Milwaukee Avenue. Jeff's is the fifth house from the corner, on the South side of the street.

At parade's end, people may return to Jeff's house for a brat-fest. People attending are asked to bring a dish to pass. Jeff promises to get the grill going early for those who may have other plans for the holiday.

Please RSVP to Jeff as soon as possible if you can attend, especially so if you plan to stay for the picnic. Jeff may be reached at 414 771-5127; email to saeger@execpc.com.

- 1) Get up.
- 2) Have breakfast.
- 3) Take shower with Springfield. Whole bathroom reeks of the smell of gunpowder.
- 4) Dry Springfield. Clean Springfield by running ramrod down barrel with small rag wrapped around it.
- 5) Discover that I should have put the ramrod in the other way. How do I know this? Because it is now stuck at the bottom of the barrel, and absolutely refuses to budge.
- 6) Attempt to pull out ramrod with hand.
- 7) Attempt to pull out ramrod with pliers.
- 8) Attempt to pull out ramrod with vise-grip pliers.
- 9) Put ramrod into vise, and pull.
- 10) Twist ramrod, pull some more.
- 11) Put bleach in barrel, let sit for an hour, in the hopes it will destroy cloth.
- 12) Remove bleach, attempt to pull ramrod out of barrel with various implements.
- 13) Put acetone in barrel, let sit for an hour, in the hopes it will destroy cloth.
- 14) Remove acetone, rinse barrel in hot water, attempt to pull ramrod out of barrel with various implements.
- 15) Pour oil down barrel, in the hopes it will loosen cloth.
- 16) Attempt to pull ramrod out of barrel with various implements.
- 17) Look in Yellow Pages under "Flamethrowers." No listing.

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- 18) Put on shoes.
- 19) Go to fencing club, where there is a Giant Vise.
- 20) Put ramrod in Giant Vise; twist, turn, grunt and sweat for 15 minutes. No movement whatsoever.
- 21) Ponder.
- 22) Put ramrod in vise, with barrel on workbench. Take broken fencing blade and hammer; place blade against tip of barrel. Gently tap blade. Slight movement!
- 23) Being the genius I am, tape two broken blades together so they straddle the ramrod, hammer board into work bench to use as support, and begin hammering the twin blades. Slow, slow movement. But movement!
- 24) Fifteen minutes later, ramrod is out of the barrel. Clean up mess at club, and return home in triumph.
- 25) Ponder some more.
- 26) Decide barrel must be cleaned properly.
- 27) Take small rag, tie around narrow part of ramrod (like I should have done the first time), insert carefully into barrel.
- 28) No problem. Slide up and down, to remove gunk.
- 29) Push ramrod all the way to bottom of barrel.
- 30) Pull out ramrod.
- 31) Ramrod comes out. Cloth does not.
- 32) Oops.
- 33) Ponder the heights and depths of human intelligence.
- 34) Attempt to fish cloth out with ramrod. No success.
- 35) Attempt to fish cloth out with jagged end of broken foil blade. No success.
- 36) Take safety pin and make fishhook with it. Tie string to end.
- 37) Insert string and fishhook into barrel, drop to bottom. No success.
- 38) Try to push hook onto rag with ramrod. No success.
- 39) Ponder some more.

- 40) Cut safety pin in half, make much smaller fishhook.
- 41) Tape hook to ramrod, so just small tip protrudes.
- 42) Push ramrod into barrel.
- 43) Snag rag.
- 44) Remove rag.
- 45) Take clean rag, TAPE it to ramrod.
- 46) Push into barrel, and then pump up and down.



- 47) Replace tape and rag as needed.
- 48) Remove ramrod.
- 49) Reassemble piece.
- 50) Lightly coat metal with oil.
- 51) Go to liquor store.

B.C. Milligan
Company K, First Penna. Reserves

[Editor's Note: I recall Dan Sayles trying this exact same method during the Grignon Home event in Kaukana some years back.]

**NORTH FREEDOM – LARUE
MID-CONTINENT RAILWAY
MUSEUM EVENT**

This year's event at the Mid-Continent Railway Museum will take place on July 14-15 at the museum in North Freedom, Wisconsin. We will be portraying the 33rd Wisconsin as it guards and patrols a stretch of rail line located in Union controlled Tennessee.

Soldiers should wear standard uniforms and equipment for our late-war western impression, including sack coats, slouch hats, and regular

accoutrements. Please plan to bring food for breakfasts and midday meal. The 33rd is sponsoring a catered Saturday evening meal at the LaRue Tavern featuring brats and the fixings.

We are anticipating a good turnout for this event, including 50 or more reenactors. The military camp will be set up in LaRue on Museum property, and across from the tavern. Civilians will be set up at the depot located at North Freedom. The two encampments

are separated by about 5 miles of rail line.

As with last year's event, we will be portraying vignettes and scenarios as they pass our positions. The breastwork at the

trestle will be the major outpost to defend. There will also be patrolling along the rail line itself.

There will be a confederate presence at the event this year, courtesy the 24th Michigan. The rebs will have their own camp during the day, and will engage the Union patrols and attempt to gain control of the trestle.

The major rule for all attending is that there for participants along the tracks, the train does not exist as such. **NO ONE MAY ATTEMPT TO BOARD OR DISEMBARK FROM THE MOVING TRAIN. NO ONE MAY FIRE MUSKETS AT THE TRAIN. NO ONE MAY ATTEMPT TO STOP THE TRAIN. NO TRAIN ROBBERIES WILL BE TOLERATED.** *Anyone violating these rules will be promptly removed from the event.*

A mail call will take place at the event. Please address your mail to your pard as follows:

[Name]
33rd Wisconsin Vol. Inf.
1st Brigade, 4th Division
17th Army Corps

Your letters should be in a small envelope, either a modern white envelope or a period small envelope.

Mail received will be stamped and cancelled from Edgerton, Wisconsin. Mail will be delivered by the train to the encampment.

Please place your letters in a larger envelope and mail to:

Mark R. Reitz
550 Pine Acres Drive
Baraboo, WI 53913-1216

Plan to be creative in coming up with scenarios for use during the weekend. Sanitary commission, visiting family, convalescing soldiers, and soldiers returning to or from furlough are only a few of the impressions which are possible. Try to come up with something that will be engaging for the public as well.

Costumed participants will be entitled to ride the cars throughout the

POC for the event is Mark Reitz, who may be contacted at 608 356-3129; email mreitz@baraboo.com.

Directions to North Freedom and LaRue: From Madison and Milwaukee, take I-90/94 north to Hwy 33 (Exit 106). Follow Hwy 33 west to Baraboo, about 13 miles. Continue on 33 through the city, until 33 meets with Hwy 12 (landmark: Quik Trip) Then continue straight on Hwy 136 about five more miles. Turn left onto CTH PF, then 2 more miles to North Freedom. The museum is located straight ahead at the stop sign (there's only one in the village). To get to LaRue, turn left at the stop sign and follow CTH PF to LaRue, about 5 miles. The encampment at LaRue is across from the tavern, at the rail crossing. Parking is available at the county shop on the other side of the tracks.

Roll Call

by Nathaniel Greene

"Corporal Green!" the orderly cried;
"Here!" was the answer loud and clear,
From the lips of a soldier who stood near,
And "Here!" was the word the next replied.

"Cyrus Drew!" then silence fell;
This time no answer followed the call;
Only his rear-man had seen him fall:
Killed or wounded - he could not tell.

There they stood in the failing light,
These men of battle, with grave, dark looks,
As plain to be read as open books,
While slowly gathered the shades of night.

The fern on the hillsides was splashed with blood,
And down in the corn, where the poppies grew,
Were redder stains than the poppies knew,
And crimson-dyed was the river's flood.

For the foe had crossed from the other side,
That day, in the face of murderous fire
That swept them in its terrible ire;
And their life-blood went to color the tide.

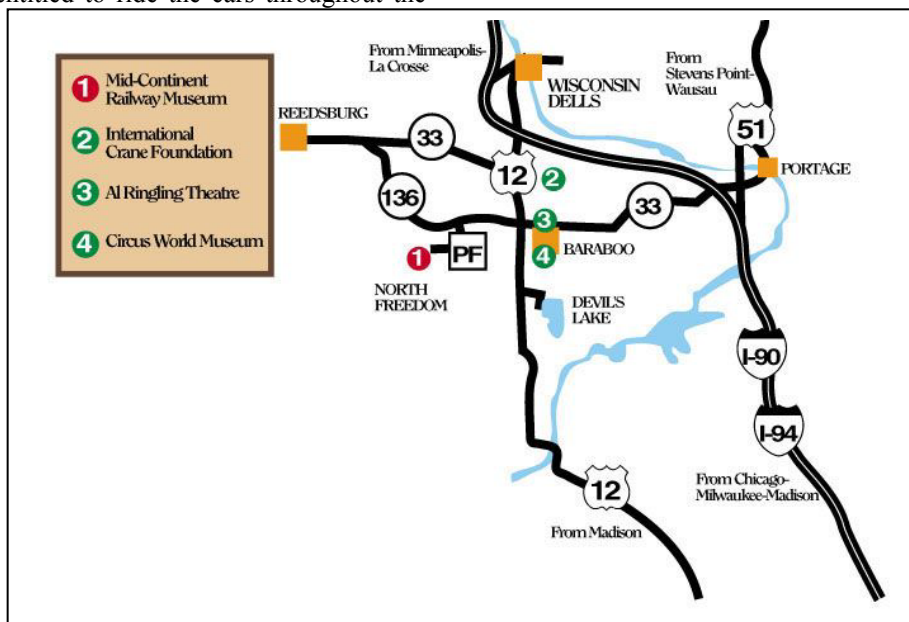
"Herbert Cline!" - At the call there came
Two stalwart soldiers in the line,
Bearing between them Herbert Cline,
Wounded and bleeding to answer his name.

"Ezra Kerr!" - and a voice answered "Here!"
"Hiriam Kerr!" - but no man replied.
They were brothers, these two; the sad wind sighed,
And a shudder crept through the cornfield near.

"Ephraim Deane!" - then a soldier spoke:
"Deane carried our regiment's colors," he said,

"When our ensign was shot; I left him dead,
Just after the enemy wavered and broke"
"Close to the roadside his body lies;
I paused a moment and gave him to drink;
He murmured his mother's name I think;
And Death came with it and closed his eyes."

"'Twas a victory, yes; but it cost us dear:
For the company's roll call, when called at night,
Of a hundred men who went into the fight,
Numbered but twenty that answered
"Here!"



weekend. Additional information regarding the museum may be found at their website: www.mcrwy.com.

In addition to the Saturday evening meal, which will be catered through the tavern at no cost to participants, Kirk at the tavern will also be offering his all-you-can-eat Sunday breakfast buffet. There is a charge for this breakfast, but all are encouraged to attend.

Directions from points north, including LaCrosse: Follow I-90/94 south to Wisconsin Dells. Take Hwy 12 south (Exit 92), and continue about seven miles to Baraboo. At the first light, (landmark: Quik Trip) turn right onto Hwy 136. Then follow directions above to get to North Freedom.