

# The Drumbeat

First Vermont Battery of Light Artillery  
Vermonters for Battlefield Preservation  
Co. A, Third Vermont Volunteer Infantry



November 2004

Official Newsletter of the VT Civil War Hemlocks

Volume VIII Issue 11

## Our Heritage

The Hemlocks take enormous pride in their commitment to historical accuracy, be it in the uniform, camp life or on the field of battle. As with any organization, maintaining quality and high standards requires a serious commitment by each and every one of the individual members. In our case, this is not only a financial commitment but a spiritual one as well! Being "good enough" is not in the Hemlock vocabulary. We continue to strive for historical accuracy. As new information about our brethren of 140 years ago comes to light, we adapt. Being a Hemlock means adopting an 1862 mindset. We do not utilize modern tools or methods. We use what they used, eat what they ate and live as they lived. We do the things we do and act the way we act because we ARE men of the Old Brigade and the Gray Horse Battery! Only by developing this mindset and applying it, can we truly come close to experiencing what it must have been like to serve for three years in Company A or the 1st Vermont Battery. To do less would be a grave injustice to those Vermont Boys in Blue who went south in the defense of the Union, never to return. Join with us in portraying and honoring those brave boys from Vermont with the green in their caps. We invite you to become a Hemlock in flesh and spirit!!

## Report from the Picket Post

**Event Coordinator Needed!** Jeff Gratton has decided to step down from his post as the event coordinator. We need a volunteer for this position. The responsibilities are to be the point of contact for outside individuals and groups interested in hiring the Hemlocks for their event, bring those event requests before the group, coordinate logistics for those events that we vote to do and promote and market the Hemlocks. If you have an interest in this highly paid and prestigious position, please contact Commander Dick Swift at 802 476-6516 at your earliest convenience. The group recognized and thanked Jeff for his work in the position over the past several years. We hope you're not a stranger Jeff, it would be nice to see you in company formation on a regular basis!

If you need buckles or would like a copy of Butterfield's Camp and Outpost Duty, see Sgt Wakefield.

**NOTICE: starting with the January meeting, all members are requested to bring their musket and traps to every meeting. This includes those soldiers that serve predominantly in the artillery but may also fall into the infantry ranks on occasion. The Sgt wishes to conduct drill.**

## Meeting Summary

The clerk's and adjutant's reports were given.

We were advised that Pvt Jeff Gratton is stepping down from his position and we will need a new event coordinator. Jeff was thanked for his efforts over the years.

The trustees met and approved payment of a few small bills.

## Infantry Report

Sgt Wakefield reported that he, Sgts Neill and Southwick and Pvt Buswell made a trip to Gettysburg. They spent time on the Battlefield, visited gun #233, chased sutlers around town and generally had a fine time of it. Sgt Wakefield has procured a supply of Butterfield's manual on camp and outpost duty. They are \$12 and should be considered a requisite for officers and NCOs. The Sgt also reported that Sgt Southwick is now well versed in song and can do a reasonably good (at least in the company of mule drivers) rendition of O'Reilly's Daughter. The good artillery Sgt has to learn however that the sutler shops of Montpelier may not be the best venue to rehearse the song. [BTW, this song was one of Col Edward Cross's (5<sup>th</sup> NHV) favorites].

### Artillery Report

Sgt Southwick stated that the guns are stored for the winter. Gun #229 is accessible (at least somewhat) should we need it before the normal season kicks off. Gun #229's limber is in the Sgt's shop where we can effect repairs over the winter. There are a number of repair/maintenance details that need to be manned. The Sgt will have a list for the next meeting. Having done some reading on the subject, the Sgt offered some reflection on what it takes to supply an artillery battery. There were 72,243 horses in the Battle of Gettysburg. The required rations per horse per day: 10 gallons of water, 12 lbs of grain and 14 lbs of hay. Each horse produced 2 gallons of urine and 12-15 lbs of manure per day. Do the math and it is staggering! For the 3 days: 2.1 million gallons of water, 2.6 million pounds of grain, 3 million pounds of hay, 433,000 gallons of urine and nearly 3 million pounds of horse s...!! It must have been everywhere!! Of course it probably wasn't quite that much because three to five thousand horses were killed during the battle, leaving how many pounds of rotting horse flesh? This gives you a little perspective on the logistics involved in supplying an army!

And finally the Sgt did admit to rehearsing the song in public places that perhaps were not the best suited for the purpose!

### Authenticity

Pvt Buswell advised that while in Gettysburg he procured some Armisport Enfield barrel bands which fit the Euroarms tolerably well and much closer to the originals. They run about \$22-24 each.

### Old/New Business

Grady received a check from the Morse Farm. They purchased all of the shirts they had on consignment (\$351). They wish to be re-supplied. There was general discussion on shirts and question from Frank if anyone might be interested in golf shirts.

Sgt Wakefield requested that, in preparation for the next campaign season, all members start bringing muskets and traps for drill as of the January meeting.

There was discussion of fund raising activities, the status and purpose of the artillery account, grant writing efforts, etc. Sgt Drown reported that the most recent grant writing venture has failed. The grant writer has found herself in a situation where, because of other commitments and demands, she can no longer aid or assist us. This is (I believe) our third failure at trying to get someone to write a grant for us. The consensus of the group seemed to be that we should not waste any more time trying to find a grants writer. Grady brought up the possibility of producing a show of some kind and mentioned that we could probably get the Barre Opera House. Discussion ensued. No decision made on this suggestion.

Frank advised that he had received a copy of recent 18<sup>th</sup> VT Regiment minutes (he is a member) and there was concern expressed over the Hemlocks not having paid the \$1,000 toward flag preservation. We were told by the 18<sup>th</sup> some time ago to hold onto the money until there was movement and a clear and proper recipient of the money identified. We have been holding the money as requested and have not been advised otherwise by the 18<sup>th</sup>. We authorized Frank to communicate with the 18<sup>th</sup>, see if the money should now be released and to whom.

Grady brought up the solicitation letter to Norwich. This is something that has been in the works for awhile. I (Herb) was supposed to send a letter to Norwich and I regret to say that I haven't done so. Doc and Henry agreed to collaborate on a letter and get it off. My apologies to the group on this one!

Henry discussed the upcoming McDowell event in the Spring of 2005. This should be a good, quality event. Henry is looking for a head count. Let him know if you are interested. We are hoping to raise a company from Vermont and New Hampshire. The website for the event: <http://www.battleofmcdowell.org/>.

We voted to purchase 50 lbs of FFg powder. Sgt Wakefield expressed a desire to work on practice musket fire next season. He would like to work on firing three rounds per minute. It has been a few years since we have

done any live fire with the muskets. If you have interest in doing so, please contact your respective infantry corporal.

End of meeting

**Artillery live fire update:**

I haven't had much luck with the National Guard re: access to the Underhill Range to fire #229. I am going to continue discussions with them. I am still optimistic that we will be able to use it. I have made contact with a large landowner in Irasburg who has expressed an interest in allowing us to live fire #229 on his land. I will be asking Sgt Southwick (or his delegee) to accompany myself to the land in the near future. I am hopeful we can find a suitable site there and will be able to live fire this coming season! Herb

IF YOU DO AN INDIVIDUAL EVENT SUCH AS A SCHOOL OR CIVIC ORGANIZATION, PLEASE ADVISE THE COMPANY CLERK OF THE PARTICULARS INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS OR ATTENDEES SO WE CAN MAINTAIN A RECORD OF THESE ACTIVITIES.

**The next regular meeting of the Vermont Civil War Hemlocks will be held at 7:00 PM on Monday December 13, 2004 at the Hardwick GAR Memorial Building on North Main St. The meeting will be preceded by the monthly trustees meeting at 6:00 PM.**

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**DRUMBEAT BACK ISSUES - many available, contact Herb if interested**

**Civil War Hemlocks embroidered caps - only \$15 and \$5 from each hat goes to the Old Pete Fund compliments of Pvt Frank Buswell...**

**Dave Hare has some excellent music CDs available for a very reasonable price AND \$5 from each goes to the purchase of gun #229.**

MEMBER GUIDES - If you need a member guide, please contact Herb or Ron.

**All members are requested to bring their musket and ALL traps to each event** (unless specifically notified in advance that it will not be necessary). By doing so, we can mass infantry OR artillery as needed.

The good Quartermaster Sergeant now has issue style (Mickey Black) stockings in stock. See him for these and your other needs. Everyone needs a quality Abe Thomas blanket. We have these in stock as well.

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**CASEY'S  
TITLE THIRD.  
SCHOOL OF THE COMPANY.  
General Rules and Division of the School of the Company.**

**LESSON FOURTH.  
ARTICLE FIRST.  
To march by the flank**

135. The company being in line of battle, and at a halt, when the instructor shall wish to cause it to march by the right flank, he will command:

1. *Company, right--FACE.* 2. *Forward.* 3. MARCH.

136. At the first command, the company will face to the right, the covering sergeant will place himself at the head of the front rank, the captain having stepped out for the purpose, so far as to find himself by the side of the sergeant, and on his left; the front rank will double as is prescribed in the school of the soldier, No. 352; the rear rank

will, at the same time, side-step to the right one pace, and double in the same manner; so that when the movement is completed, the files will be formed of four men aligned, and elbow to elbow. The intervals will be preserved.

137. The file closers will also move by side step to the right, so that when the ranks are formed, they will be two paces from the rearmost rank.

138. At the command *march*, the company will move off briskly in quick time; the covering sergeant at the head of the front rank, and the captain on his left, will march straight forward. The men of each file will march abreast of their respective front rank men, heads direct to the front; the file closers will march opposite their places in line of battle.

139. The instructor will cause the principles of the march by the flank to be observed, in placing himself, pending the march, as prescribed in the school of the soldier, No. 367.

140. The instructor will cause the march by the left flank to be executed by the same commands, substituting *left* for *right*; the ranks will double as has been prescribed in the school of the soldier, No. 354; the rear rank will side-step to the left one pace before doubling.

141. At the instant the company faces to the left, the left guide will place himself at the head of the front rank; the captain will pass rapidly to the left, and place himself by the right side of this guide; the covering sergeant will replace the captain in the front rank the moment the latter quits it to go to the left.

## ARTICLE SECOND

### To change direction by file

142. The company being faced by the flank, and either in march, or at a halt, when the instructor shall wish to cause it to wheel by file, he will command:

1. *By file, left (or right)*. 2. MARCH.

143. At the command *march*, the first file will wheel; if to the side of the front rank man, the latter will take care not to turn at once, but to describe a short arc of a circle, shortening a little the first five or six steps in order to give time to the fourth man of this file to conform himself to the movement. If the wheel be to the side of the rear rank, the front rank man will wheel in the step of twenty-eight inches, and the fourth man will conform himself to the movement by describing a short arc of a circle as has been explained. Each file will come to wheel on the same ground where that which preceded it wheeled.

144. The instructor will see that the wheel be executed according to these principles, in order that the distance between the files may always be preserved, and that there be no check or hinderance at the wheeling point.

## ARTICLE THIRD.

### To halt the company marching by the flank, and to face it to the front.

145. To effect these objects, the instructor will command:

1. *Company*. 2. HALT. 8. FRONT.

146. The second and third commands will be executed as prescribed in the school of the soldier, Nos. 359 and 360. As soon as the files have undoubled, the rear rank will dose to its proper distance. The captain and covering sergeant, as well as the left guide, if the march be by the left flank, will return to their habitual places in line at the instant the company faces to the front.

147. The instructor may then align the company by one of the means prescribed, No. 100.

## ARTICLE FOURTH.

### The company being in march by the flank, to form it on the right (or left) by file into line of battle.

148. If the company be marching by the right flank, the instructor will command:

1. *On the right, by file into line*. 2. MARCH.

149. At the command *march*, the rear rank men doubled will mark time; the captain and the covering sergeant will turn to the right, march straight forward, and be halted by the instructor when they shall have passed at least six paces beyond the rank of file closers; the captain will place himself correctly on the line of battle, and will direct the alignment as the men of the front rank successively arrive; the covering sergeant will place himself behind the captain at the distance of the rear rank; the two men on the right of the front rank doubled, will continue to march, and passing beyond the covering sergeant and the captain, will turn to the right; after turning, they will continue to march elbow to elbow, and direct themselves towards the line of battle, but when they shall arrive at two paces from this line, the even number will shorten the step so that the odd number may precede him on the line, the odd number placing himself by the side and on the left of the captain; the even number will afterwards oblique to the left, and place himself on the left of the odd number; the next two men of the front rank doubled,

will pass in the same manner behind the two first, turn then to the right, and place themselves according to the means just explained, to the left, and by the side of, the two men already established on the line; the remaining files of this rank will follow in succession, and be formed to the left in the same manner. The rear rank doubled will execute the movement in the manner already explained for the front rank, taking care not to commence the movement until four men of the front rank are established on the line of battle; the rear rank men, as they arrive on the line, will cover accurately their file leaders.

150. If the company be marching by the left flank, the instructor will cause it to form by file on the left into line of battle, according to the same principles and by the same commands, substituting the indication *left* for *right*. In this case, the odd numbers will shorten the step, so that the even numbers may precede them on the line. Then captain, placed on the left of the front rank, and the left guide, will return to their places in line of battle, by order of the instructor, after the company shall be formed and aligned.

151. To enable the men the better to comprehend the mechanism of this movement, the instructor will at first cause it to be executed separately by each rank doubled, and afterwards by the two ranks united and doubled.

152. The instructor will place himself on the line of battle, and without the point where the right or left is to rest, in order to establish the base of the alignment, and afterwards he will follow up the movement to assure himself that each file conforms itself to what is prescribed No. 149.

#### **ARTICLE FIFTH.**

#### **The company being in march by the flank, to form it by company, or by platoon, into line, and to cause it to face to the right and left in marching.**

153. The company being in march by the right flank, the instructor will order the captain to form it into line; the captain will immediately command:

1. *By company, into line*; 2. MARCH.

154. At the command *march*, the covering sergeant will continue to march straight forward; the men will advance the right shoulder, take the double quick step, and move into line, by the shortest route, taking care to undouble the files, and to come on the line one after the other.

155. As the front rank men successively arrive in line with the covering sergeant, they will take from him the step, and then turn their eyes to the front.

156. The men of the rear rank will conform to the movements of their respective file leaders, but without endeavoring to arrive in line at the same time with the latter.

157. At the instant the movement begins, the captain will face to his company in order so follow up the execution; and, as soon as the company is formed, he will command, *guide left*, place himself two paces before the centre, face to the front, and take the step of the company.

158. At the command *guide left*, the second sergeant will promptly place himself in the front rank, on the left, to serve as guide, and the covering sergeant who is on the opposite flank will remain there.

159. When the company marches by the left flank, this movement will be executed by the same commands, and according to the same principles; the company being formed, the captain will command *guide right*, and place himself in front of his company as above; the covering sergeant who is on the right of the front rank will serve as guide, and the second sergeant placed on the left flank will remain there.

160. Thus, in a column by company, right or left in front, the covering sergeant and the second sergeant of each company will always be placed on the right and left, respectively, of the front rank; they will be denominated *right guide* and *left guide*, and the one or the other charged with the direction.

### **Other Info, Events of Interest**

May 6-8, 2005 Virginia McDowell - authentic living history event details and website TBA

Internet CW ancestor search tool <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/info.htm>

161. The company being in march by the flank, if it be the wish of the instructor to cause it to form platoons, he will give an order to that effect to the captain, who will command:

1. *By platoon, into line.* 2. MARCH.

162. The movement will be executed by each platoon according to the above principles. The captain will place himself before the centre of the first platoon, and the first lieutenant before the centre of the second, passing through the opening made in the centre of the company, if the march be by the right flank, and around the left of his platoon, if the march be by the left: in this last case, the captain will also pass around the left of the second platoon in order to place himself in front of the first. Both the captain and lieutenant, without waiting for each other, will command *guide left* (or *right*) at the instant their respective platoons are formed.

163. At the command *guide left* (or *right*), the guide of each platoon will pass rapidly to the indicated flank of the platoon, if not already there.

164. The right guide of the company will always serve as the guide of the right or left of the first platoon, and the left guide of the company will serve, in like manner, as the guide of the second platoon.

165. Thus, in a column by platoon, there will be but one guide to each platoon; he will always be placed on its left flank, if the right be in front, and on the right flank, if the left be in front.

166. In these movements, the file closers will follow the platoons to which they are attached.

167. The instructor may cause the company, marching by the flank, to form by company, or by platoon, into line, by his own direct commands, using those prescribed for the captain, No. 153 or 161.

168. The instructor will exercise the company in passing, without a halt, from the march by the front, to the march by the flank, and reciprocally. In either case, he will employ the commands prescribed in the school of the soldier, No. 363, substituting *company* for *squad*. The company will face to the right or left, in marching, and the captain, the guides, and file closers will conform themselves to what is prescribed for each in the march by the flank, or in the march by the front of a company supposed to be a subdivision of a column.

169. If, after facing to the right or left, in marching, the company find itself faced by the rear rank, the captain will place himself two paces behind the centre of the front rank, now in the rear, the guides will pass to the rear rank, now leading, and the file closers will march in front of this rank.

170. The instructor, in order to avoid fatiguing the men, and to prevent them from being negligent in the position of shoulder arms, will sometimes order support arms in marching by the flank, and arms on the right shoulder, when marching in line.

### **School of the Soldier - School of the Company - Instruction for Skirmishers**

#### **Table of Contents**

#### **LESSON FIFTH.**

#### **ARTICLE FIRST.**

#### **To break into column by platoon, either at a halt or in march**

171. The company being at a halt, in line of battle, the instructor, wishing to break it into column, by platoon to the right, will command:

1. *By platoon, right wheel.* 2. MARCH

172. At the first command, the chiefs of platoon will rapidly place themselves two paces before the centres of their respective platoons, the lieutenant passing around the left of the company. They need not occupy themselves with dressing, one upon the other. The covering sergeant will replace the captain in the front rank.

173. At the command *march*, the right front rank man of each platoon will face to the right, the covering sergeant standing fast; the chief of each platoon will move quickly by the shortest line, a little beyond the point at which the marching flank will rest when the wheel shall be completed, face to the late rear, and place himself so that the line which he forms with the man on the right (who had faced) shall be perpendicular to that occupied by the company in line of battle; each platoon will wheel according to the principles prescribed for the wheel on a fixed pivot, and when the man who conducts the marching flank shall approach near to the perpendicular, its chief will command:

1. *Platoon.* 2. HALT.

174. At the command *halt*, which will be given at the instant the man who conducts the marching flank shall have arrived at three paces from the perpendicular, the platoon will halt; the covering sergeant will move to the point where the left of the first platoon is to rest, passing by the front rank; the second sergeant will place himself, in like manner, in respect to the second platoon. Each will take care to leave between himself and the man on the right of his platoon, a space equal to its front; the captain and first lieutenant will look to this, and each take care

to align the sergeant between himself and the man of the platoon who had faced to the right.

175. The guide of each platoon, being thus established on the perpendicular, each chief will place himself two paces outside of his guide, and, facing towards him, will command:

3. *Left--DRESS.*

176. The alignment being ended, each chief of platoon will command, *FRONT*, and place himself two paces before its centre.

177. The file closers will conform themselves to the movement of their respective platoons, preserving always the distance of two paces from the rear rank.

178. The company will break by platoon to the left, according to the same principles. The instructor will command:

1. *By platoon, left wheel.* 2. *MARCH.*

179. The first command will be executed in the same manner as if breaking by platoon to the right.

180. At the command *march*, the left front rank man of each platoon will face to the left, and the platoons will wheel to the left, according to the principles prescribed for the wheel on a fixed pivot; the chiefs of platoon will conform to the principles indicated Nos. 173 and 174.

181. At the command *halt*, given by the chief of each platoon, the covering sergeant on the right of the front rank of the first platoon, and the second sergeant near the left of the second platoon, will each move to the points where the right of his platoon is to rest. The chief of each platoon should be careful to align the sergeant between himself and the man of the platoon who had faced to the left, and will then command:

*Right--DRESS.*

182. The platoons being aligned, each chief of platoon will command, *FRONT*, and place himself opposite its centre.

Waterbury 3 July 2004



**November 2004**

\* - indicates this is not a Hemlock event at this time but is on the schedule for your information and/or may be supported by individual members. May receive "official event" status at a future meeting.

May 28-29 Woodstock - Memorial Day Celebration - infantry and artillery with encampment

May 6-8 McDowell\*

Winter / Spring - round rolling, work details, drills. Dates TBA

**2005 Engagements**

VT Civil War Hemlocks  
50 Palmer Lane  
Jericho, VT 05465