



## The Second NJ Brigade

New Jersey's Civil War Brigade

Winter, 2019  
Volume 4, Issue 2

The Second NJ Brigade is a 501c non profit organization. The board meets once a month and is represented by members of all Impressions. The Executive Board: President Mike Milling, Vice President Robert Bowell, Treasurer Lin Kaufer, Secretary Abby Belcastro.

# THE ADVANCE



### Editor:

Abby Belcastro

### Editor in Chief:

Mike Milling

### Contributors:

Bob Bowell

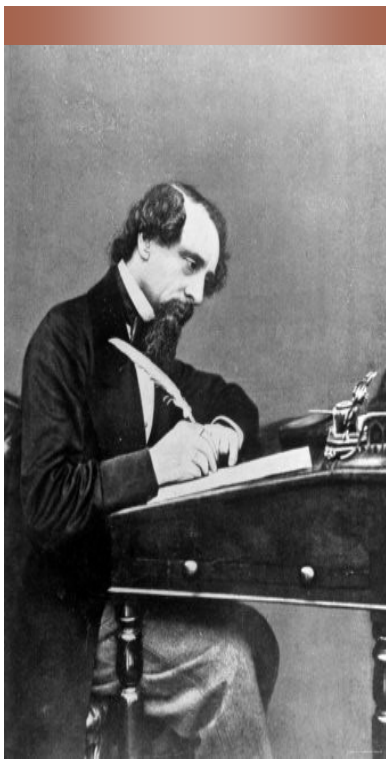
Don Lopuzzo

Fr. Dave Moreno

Jeff Rordriguez

Brian (Moose) Zilinski

## 2019 BOARD INITIATIVES



- Launched our public Facebook & Instagram pages
- Donated \$440 to the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) to preserve battlefield acreage.
- Donated \$465.75 to The Gettysburg Foundation (for luminaries honoring fallen 2D members)
- Received grants for Sibley tent & civilian dining fly
- Updated the organizational by-laws
- Created new Timelines brochure
- Bestowed 2 medals of merit
- Created recruitment video for website.
- Began planning two new programs for our 2020 season

*“Character is like a tree and reputation its shadow. The shadow is what we think it is and the tree is the real thing - Abraham Lincoln,*

Welcome to our 2019  
New Members!

Alex Alvarez

Ryan “Dill” Ariemma

Charles Clayton

Fred Eckert

Jonathan Ortiz

Lucas “Pickles” Piccolo

Aaron Seigel



## NEW EVENT ACTION REPORT

Report of Corporal D.E. Lopuzzo, 7th NJ Vols. Co. A  
Encamped at Belle Vista (Lambert Castle) - May 18-19, 2019

Sir:

As requested, I submit to you a somewhat detailed report of the operations of your company, Company A - 7th Regiment New Jersey Volunteers, stationed at Belle Vista (aka Lambert Castle) in and around Paterson, New Jersey on the 18th and 19th day of May in the year of our Lord 2019. This encampment was a major achievement for the company as we changed our approach and attempted to make the most authentic camp set-up to date. After studying photographs and first hand accounts, the company set up shelter halves in both the regulation and improvised manner, hung clothes lines with clothes, and displayed barrels and boxes in a most haphazard manner. The men also dispensed with chairs and instead sat upon the ground and made use of the supply boxes.

In addition to camp set up, the men toured Lambert Castle and feasted at local eating establishments like the Allwood Diner. It should be noted that the proprietors of that diner not only knew what war we were portraying, but also recognized the Zouave uniform’s Tunisian influence from their own Greek ancestry. The infantry company was joined by our civilians, the 1st New Jersey Artillery, and a wonderful set up by the Signal Corp who led the way in our attempt to create a more authentic camp.

The encampment was filled with drilling and demonstrations that were met with much ovation by the locals visiting the grounds. I have no doubt that our return next year will be met with an even greater turnout by the neighboring civilian population.

I remain, your obedient servant:

Donald E. Lopuzzo,

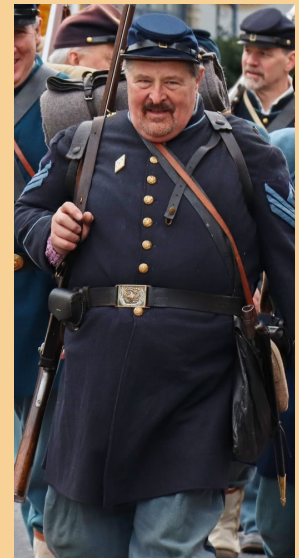
Corporal, Company A - 7th Regiment of Infantry New Jersey Volunteers



## MEDALS OF MERIT

**Greg Belcastro**—Greg was officially hooked in the world of reenacting after attending the 135 Gettysburg in 1998. Since that time, Greg has become an instrumental member in directing the organization through some of its most difficult times: including taking over Lou Kaufer's presidency in 2013 upon his passing. Greg, continued Lou's work, pulling the organization through some of its toughest years. Greg has also been the program coordinator for two of our biggest annual events for over a decade: Historic Speedwell's June living history, and Winter on the Home Front, and his coordination of these programs brought so many visitors that Speedwell was able to win several attendance-based, multi-million dollar grants for building and grounds restorations. Greg was awarded a certificate of honor from the Friends of Historic Speedwell in 2015 for his dedication and service to the site. Greg's commitment to public and organizational service, along with his kind and level-headed demeanor have kept the Brigade successful and growing, and we believe him to be the very epitome of our creed, *NJ Civil War Preservation, Dedication, Family*. We are proud to honor Greg Belcastro with *Medal of Merit: #003*.

**Rich Walker**—Rich joined the Brigade in October of 1996, rising up through the ranks with his vast knowledge of antique firearms. As Ordnance Sergeant, and the Brigade's Safety officer, Rich ensures that all members' weapons are clean, safe and working properly, as well as attending to field safety during skirmishes and firing demonstrations. Rich also took on the paramount task of rewriting the Brigade's outdated Safety Manual, and his work was so comprehensive that it was adopted by the United States Volunteers organization, and the 2nd Federal Rifles. Rich has also been the Brigade's Recruitment Officer, and a sitting board member for over a decade. New members often point to Rich's professionalism and quick responses as their reasons for choosing the 2nd Brigade, and we have him to thank for most of our membership. Rich's devotion to the preservation of historic firearms, his consistent professionalism, and unique ability to fill our ranks with new members make him an embodiment of our creed, *NJ Civil War Preservation, Dedication, Family*, and we are proud to honor Rich Walker with *Medal of Merit: #004*.



## THE LEGACY OF COL. FRANCINE



Francine's official portrait

Without Col. Francine, we wouldn't have a 7th NJ Infantry to portray. A Philadelphia native and son of the Frenchman Jacque Louis de Francine, Louis Raymond Francine was born in Philadelphia on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1837 to a family whose history was filled with tales of brave knights, duels, and most importantly, their military duty to France, which must have had a great influence on the young boy. Louis' father groomed his sons in this same duty, which later in their lives transferred as a duty to the U.S.

The Francines were comfortably wealthy by Louis' late childhood and the family lived in a large house on Cooper Street in Camden N.J. He attended a private school run by Lafayette and Talleyrand Grover, and from there, he went to a military school in Long Island. This was in preparation for completing his military training in France. He was highly intelligent, even at 14, and in 1851, his father took him to France for schooling where he stayed for the next two years with his Aunt, the Countess de Brissay. In the winter, he lived in Paris, and then moved to his Aunt's estate, The Chateau d'Heronville in the summer. There was a private chapel there as well, and long walks with the chaplain strengthened Louis' Catholic faith.

He took several trips back and forth between the U.S. and France before being admitted into the *Ecole Polytechnique* in Paris, the Government School for officers and engineers of the French Army. Eventually, Louis realized that he had more of a chance for active duty in America than France, and after a discussion with his father, he decided to return to the U.S. Conflict between the States was looming upon his return to Camden in 1861, and as a Captain, he decided to raise a group of recruits from Cape May County, forming the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Co. A that we portray today.

The Regiment was mustered into service at Camp Olden, Trenton, and sent to Washington with 920 men on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Camp was at meridian Hill, D.C. and they stayed there until the early part of December, 1861. Four Regiments made up the Second New Jersey Brigade, and Louis was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel of the 7<sup>th</sup> on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1862. He stood out to both his commanders and his troops during the Peninsular campaign, quickly followed by his superb command at Chancellorsville. From his own report:

"At midnight I moved my regiment to the right of our line by order from General Meade through General Humphreys, and joined the brigade, and under orders from Major Tremain, Sickles' staff, filled up a gap occurring between General Birney's right and our immediate front. After a short time my regiment advanced into the woods in front of the breastworks, and by maintaining a flanking position under a very heavy fire for over three hours, captured five stands of colors [flags] and over three hundred prisoners; among the latter, one colonel, one major, and several line officers. The colors were taken from The 21st Virginia, 18th North Carolina, 1st Louisiana, 2d North Carolina, and the 5th from some Alabama regiment. The second North Carolina we captured in total."

The report goes on to say that the ammunition started to run low and muskets began to foul. They then fell back into the woods and the 2nd North Carolina closed in on them. The 7<sup>th</sup> charged them and captured their colors and practically the entire regiment. Only six months later, he would take total command on the 2d brigade at the age of 25.



Col. Francine with his captain's bars, 1861

While some might argue that Louis' wealthy upbringing may have made him entitled, it had little effect on making him a fine leader. Though he was known for his refinement, (returning from Paris, he brought seven dress suits, each lined with different colored satin) this had little effect on the way he led his men into battle as he was skilled at relating to both the lowly private and the officer. He was described as level-headed, down to earth, yet tough in battle, and he was a great inspiration to his men.

The Peach Orchard at Gettysburg would be his final command, and on the morning of July 2<sup>nd</sup>, just off Emmitsburg Road, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps troops made up a thin line about a mile long. The 7<sup>th</sup> N.J. met the enemy, fighting late into the day with heavy losses. Late in the afternoon, the 7<sup>th</sup> was defending a battery, which eventually broke and retreated through the ranks. Trying to maneuver his men to once again face the enemy, Francine ordered his regiment to fire and charge, but they were forced back and Francine was hit and severely wounded. Two weeks later he succumbed to these wounds, dying in a Philadelphia hospital on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1863 at the age of 26.

The 7<sup>th</sup>'s monument on the Gettysburg Battlefield marks the place he fell during the battle, and every year on Remembrance Day, we salute him and the men who fought with him on that fateful day.

Col. Francine is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia where several of our members make an annual pilgrimage to remember Francine's bravery and keep his history alive.

Battles Francine's regiment took part in:  
Yorktown, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Seven Plains, Savage Station, Glendale, Malvern Hill, Bristoe Station, Bull Run, Chantilly, Centerville, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg.

Battles after Francine's death:

Wapping Heights, McLean's Ford, Mine Run, Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Spottsylvania Courthouse, Deep Bottom, James River, Fort Sedgwick, Poplar Spring Church, Boydton, Plank Road, Fort Morton, Hatcher's Run, Armstrong House, Capture of Petersburg, Amelia Spring, Farmville. They were also present at Lee's surrender.

~by Jeff Rodriguez, edited by Abby Belcastro, 2019



Original 7th Veterans at Remembrance Day, Gettysburg. c. 1880



Francine Graveside dedication, 2001



Francine Graveside Remembrance, 2018

**Most Common  
Visitor 'Nonsensicals' &  
What They Really Mean:**

*"Is that a real fire?"*

*Is this the kind of fire troops  
used? Is it wood fire? Coal?  
How did you start it?*

*"Are those uniforms/  
dresses hot?"*

*Why did they wear so much  
clothing? Did they really  
wear wool in the summer?*

*"Who were the bad guys  
and the good guys?"*

*All I know is a war hap-  
pened, and someone had to  
be wrong.*

*"Is that real food?"*

*I've seen fake food at other  
exhibits, so is this display or  
are you actually cooking?*

*"Did you actually fight in  
the Civil War?"*

*I know absolutely nothing  
about U.S. history. Please  
explain to me what this is all  
about.*

*"Do you get paid to do  
this?"*

*This is a really great pro-  
gram! I hope you get com-  
pensated for you time.*

*"Is that a real horse/cow/  
chicken?"*

*I've never seen livestock in  
real life before and I'm over-  
whelmed and don't know  
what to say.*

## SAY WHAT???

### "Nonsensical" Visitor Questions and How to Handle Them

We've all heard them: "aren't you hot in those clothes?" or "Is that a real fire?" or "Is that a real gun?" And when you've heard this question for the thirtieth time on a 90° day in the beating sun, it's hard not to get frustrated with J. Q. Public. However, if we really sit down to think about these questions, something that becomes evident is that our visitors are marching ever farther away from the history we're portraying, meaning that the general frame of reference for experiencing things like camping, shooting, or just existing in a world without central air/heat is as foreign to our visitors as dying of dysentery.

Like any form of learning, visitors are looking to put what they're seeing in our camps and demonstrations into context. But for many of our patrons, firearms and wool uniforms, or anything outside the world of their smart-phone just isn't something they have a frame of reference for. And as infuriating as it might be to have to answer a 'nonsensical' question for the eightieth time over a weekend, not only is it part of our job to answer visitors' questions, but they have no idea you've had to answer "is that a real fire?" fifty times before they asked it.

So how do we deal with nonsensical visitor questions in a way that helps contextualize history and also keeps us from going insane?

- ◆ **Re-frame their question by asking them to clarify what they're interested in learning.** In response to "is that fire real?" we can ask, "do you mean is this the kind of fire that the soldiers would have had?" or "are you asking how we got it started?" Often-times a visitor's not really sure what words to ask to get the answer they're looking for.
- ◆ **Create a connection with something they already know.** In response to "are you hot in those clothes?" You can connect to how soldiers today wear tons of gear in the desert, so wearing wool in July isn't really much different than what soldiers are doing now. So yes, you are hot in those clothes, but so our modern soldiers serving in the Middle East.
- ◆ **Use "Yes, but....."** This can be a teaching moment. "Yes, I'm hot, and it's uncomfortable, but it's what the soldiers wore and they sweated just as much as we are right now....." In the case of guns, "yes, it's real, but we only fire blanks out of it for safety reasons."

- ◆ **Joke about an obvious anachronism.** The public isn't stupid, contrary to their nonsensical questions, and they can tell when something doesn't feel authentic. So if you're drinking Gatorade out of a tin cup and they say "so, they had Gatorade back then?" laugh it off. Make a joke. In 100° when you're sweating off your underwear, the visitor's comment may not seem funny, but 99% of the time, it's meant in jest, and they're not trying to catch us in an un-truth. Some visitors are intimidated by, or don't understand people dressed in period clothing, and their jokes are a nervous way of dealing with their discomfort. Not taking ourselves too seriously is a good way to make them feel more comfortable.
- ◆ **Be upfront about what's authentic and what isn't.** A lot of nonsensical questions can be cut off at the pass if we're just honest about our kit. If the display is mostly reproductions, say so, and explain why. If you're doing something that's on the cusp of authentic, but not quite, just be honest about it. Ex: "They wouldn't have had a stamped motif on this embroidery project, they would have drawn it themselves. But since I'm not a good artist, I decided to use this stamped pillowcase."

More often than not, visitors just don't know how to ask what they really want to know. And at the end of the day, without visitors, we're just a bunch of weirdos running around in funny clothes. Which, while that's an enormous enjoyment in our hobby, it's important to keep in mind that most of reenacting is public education. And we never know. What's starts as a nonsensical "is that a real fire?" can turn into a great discussion that leads to someone either being interested enough to join up, or impressed enough to hire us for another event.

Will there always be the visitor that just asks a ridiculous question for the sake of ridiculousness? Of course. Will there always be unteachable visitors? Absolutely. And it's totally fine to have a bit of fun after hours sharing stories about the worst questions of the day. But for the most part, the public is just trying to learn, and we're here to help them along, even if they say nonsensical things.

- Abby Belcastro, 2019



### What Crazy Questions Have You Heard?

Tell us, and we'll give some helpful hints about how to respond in the next issue!

Send your crazy questions to [abbyale21@gmail.com](mailto:abbyale21@gmail.com).



## MEMORIALIZING THE ORIGINAL 2D BRIGADE

### Our Most Well- Known Member

So far, the private we have the most extensive story on is Heyward Emmell.

He kept a diary throughout his war experiences, and it was preserved by the Madison historical society.

Through that diary and other Morris County records, we know a great deal about Mr. Emmell, as well as other members of Company K, who were his comrades.

For more information on Emmell's diary, see the "Book Nook" section of this newsletter for a book review!



After Don Lopuzzo located a Civil War soldier buried near his hometown (see our Spring 2019 Issue), Ed Bubnick and I wondered how many others may be in the area. We approached the board about embarking on a search for the original men who made up our brigade.

The board approved the project, and Amery Vasso supplied me with a national list of all NJ Civil War soldiers. The list is expansive, and much of the information is missing since most of these soldiers were the sons of farmers or shopkeepers whose lives and stories have been lost to time. Sometimes all that's left is a name.

With Ed's help of locating grave-finding websites, I have begun a herculean project of hunting down as much information as I can on each soldier of the 2nd Brigade and adding them to our website so they're never forgotten.

Out of a list of several hundred, I've managed to locate enough information to warrant a webpage for thirty-six soldiers, and counting. By culling enlistment forms, historical societies, old obituaries, and doing general google searches, I'm slowly uncovering their stories. Some are short, with just their birth and death dates, and maybe a line or two about the battles they saw. Others are full family histories passed down, or annotated in journals and historical records. Some have photos, but most don't, in which case, at Ed's suggestion, I've posted a photo of their last resting place, and their location if viewers are ever interested in visiting them.

Right now the majority of my focus is on the 7th NJ Infantry, since that's the list of names that I have, but the goal is to eventually have the stories of the artillery, cavalry, 22nd, and signal corps soldiers all housed on our website under the banner, "The Original 2D Brigade."

Go check out their pages. And if you know the story of someone enlisted in one of our impressions, please let me know so they can be added to our rosters.

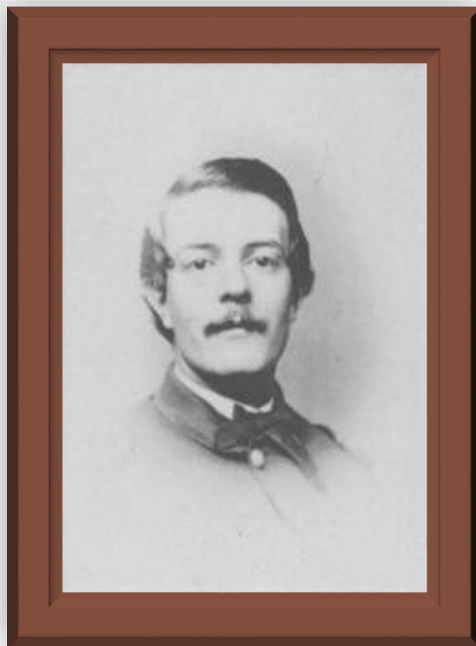
~Abby Belcastro, 2019





Joseph Abbot  
7th NJ 1st Lieutenant  
Killed in action, August 29, 1862

Merrit Bruen  
Co. K Quartermaster Sergeant  
Heyward' Emmel's friend & the  
possible holder of Emmel's diary.  
Died in action, August 24, 1864



Garrett Bush  
Private, Co. C  
He survived the war, living to age 73.  
Native of Pinebrook. Buried in Denville.

## Unknown Soldiers

Not all of the 7th's burials are known. Many were put in mass graves that are now lost to time.

Here is a short list of the members we haven't been able to locate:

- Erastus Ackley
- Lemuel Adams
- John Anderson
- Henry Angleman
- James Babbit
- Leo Batchtold
- J. Ballentine
- Edgar Barber
- William Bassell
- Henry Baum
- William Brant
- Austin Brown
- John Bruen
- Stephen Bruen
- Theodore Bruen
- Nathan Buell
- Timothy Burroughs
- Stephen Cannon
- David Cargill
- Watson Chidester
- Waldemer Christenson
- Orson Crane
- John Cronin
- George Curtis
- Alexander Davenport
- Augustus DeForrest
- George Derrickson
- James Donahue
- Christina Dublin
- John Dougherty
- William Dutcher

# FUN IN THE FIELD

Our Favorite Photos from the Year

## PHOTO CONTRIBUTORS

Randy Andrese

Abby Belcastro

Michelle Catona

Don Lopuzzo

Marie O'Grady

Top – Randolph Parade

Left – Lambert Castle

Right – Jamesburg Parade

Left – Timelines Fashion Show

Middle – Training Camp

Right – Timelines Fashion Show

Bottom left – Lambert Castle

Bottom Right – St. Patrick's Day Parade



# RESEARCH, RESEARCH, RESEARCH

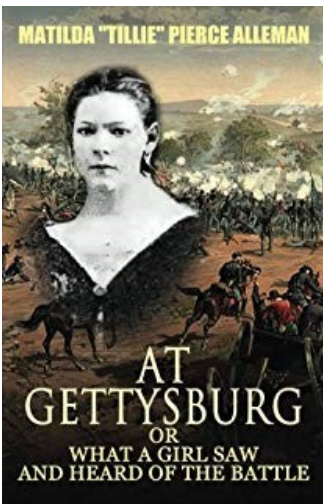
Books, Classes, Seminars, & Tours

Over the summer, I stumbled upon the Shriver House Museum in Gettysburg. Unlike most museums in the town, this historic house preserves the stories of non-combatants who experienced the battle of Gettysburg first-hand, including the life and involvement of Matilda Pierce, a neighbor who stayed with the Shrivvers during the battle. Pierce later wrote an autobiography chronicling both her experiences being stuck at Little Roundtop during the 3-day battle, and the subsequent aftermath Gettysburg faced when the armies left. Pierce's memoir, "At Gettysburg," is available for sale in the Shriver House gift shop, and on amazon.com if you'd like to purchase it.



Both the tour and resources provided by the museum showcase a part of the Gettysburg story that's often overlooked: the Civilian experience. Their abandoned homes were raided by Confederate forces, their parlors turned into gruesome hospitals, their beds and floors taken over by the dead and dying coming off the field. Their crops and pantries were destroyed, their wells contaminated, and months after the battle, there were still bodies left decaying in their farm fields. The smell of rot and death was so heavy, it could be smelt all the way to Harrisburg.

As reenactors, we spend much of our time researching and discussing camp life and battle history, but it's always good to remember that the aftermath of those camps and battles took a toll on the inhabitants of the towns and farms the battles were fought in. The Shriver House is an excellent time capsule to capture this often overlooked history.



I highly recommend a visit to the Shriver House Museum, located at 309 Baltimore Street in downtown Gettysburg. Next time you're there to do some battle research, swing by the Shriver House for an excellent tour and a different perspective on our Civil War history.

~Abby Belcastro, 2019

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"Many a Union soldier would have gone to "Libby" or "Andersonville" had it not been for the loyalty and bravery of some of the citizens in thus secreting them."

— Matilda Pierce Alleman, *At Gettysburg*

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# WHO'S WHO?

## Showcasing Our Brigade Membership: Fr. David Moreno

Fr. David Moreno, lovingly known as Fr. Dave in our community, has been a fixture in our Brigade since 1998, performing wedding ceremonies for our membership, hosting mass on the Gettysburg Battlefield every Remembrance Day, and educating the public on the Civil War Chaplain's duties throughout his tenure.

This year, Fr. Dave celebrated his 50th anniversary as a priest of the Salesian order. In honor of this momentous occasion, I sat down with Fr. Dave to ask him some questions about his love for the hobby and his journey through the priesthood.

**AB: Fr. Dave, when did you first become interested in the Civil War & reenacting?**

DM: From 1975 to 1978 I lived in Europe while I was pursuing studies in Theology at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ireland. I visited about a dozen countries in Europe, including many famous historic sites. I have always been interested in history and after my ordination as a priest in 1979, I went to Fordham University and earned an M.A. in Early Modern European History, a subject which I taught in a seminary for a number of years. In the summer of 1990, at the urging of a friend, I visited Gettysburg for the first time...and it was love at first sight! I attended several reenactments as a spectator at Museum Village, Monroe, NY, and in 1998 finally took the step of getting involved in reenacting. I am very grateful to Major Larry Golding for being my initial contact and encouraging me to get involved. Soon afterwards I met our late, beloved Captain Lou Kaufer, and I began a very happy association with the 2nd NJ Brigade and the 7th NJ Vols.

**AB: How did you know that becoming a priest was the life you wanted?**



DM: The Book of the prophet Jeremiah says that before we are born, while we are being formed in our mother's womb, the Lord has called each of us for a special mission in this world. Somehow, eventually known in our hearts, we understand what we're called to do. I felt called to the priesthood at an early age, served as an altar boy at Mass, and was very impressed by the wonderful, dedicated parish priests who served in my hometown of New Bedford, Massachusetts. New Bedford has its own Civil War connections, including being the place where Frederick Douglas lived, and the hometown of Sgt. William Carney of the 54th MA who was awarded the Medal of Honor due to his heroism at Battery Wagner. So, from an early stage I just felt that serving the people of God as a priest is what I was called to do.

**AB: Can you tell us a little about your specific order?**

DM: There are two kinds of priests in the Catholic Church, diocesan priests who live their lives serving in a particular geographical diocese, and religious order priests who are committed to the work of a particular religious order or congregation. Some of the better known orders include the Jesuits,



Franciscans, Dominicans, & Benedictines. I belong to a congregation known as the Salesians, the second largest order in the Church after the Jesuits. We have some 14,500 priests and brothers in about 130 countries around the world. The Salesians were founded in 1859 in northern Italy by St. John Bosco who named the order after one of his favorite saints, St. Francis de Sales. As Salesians, we live with other priests and brothers in community, drawing support from the prayers and fellowship and the work that we share. St. John Bosco, known as Don Bosco, was a very zealous priest, and his life and dedication, especially to young people and those most in need of help, are an example to all of us.

**AB: What are some ways that being a priest has influenced the way you approach your Civil War impression?**

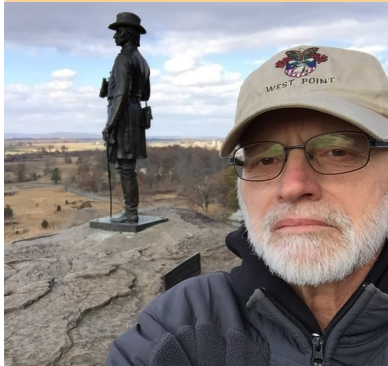
DM: Having a hobby of some kind is important for everyone. Having a hobby such as Civil War reenacting in which one makes such wonderful friends from all over the country is a tremendous experience. Being able to exercise my priesthood in the hobby as Chaplain makes the experience a truly blessed one. I have celebrated countless Masses over the years at numerous events, including a highlight for me each year, Mass on the battlefield at Gettysburg, right at the statue of Father Corby, Chaplain of the Irish Brigade, each November on Remembrance Day. I have also joined with members of the brigade off the field as they have suffered through difficult times such as illness or the passing of a loved one--the passing of Lou Kaufer, Mark Catona, Jim Malmo, Andy Greinesen and so many others-- and as they have rejoiced in happy times--the weddings of Tim and Marie O'Grady, Jeff and Theresa Rodriguez, and of Matt and yourself come to mind as examples. I have developed a great respect and admiration for Father Corby and the other men of all denominations who served as Chaplains during the Civil War, and also for the men and women who serve as chaplains today. They serve as examples of dedication to duty for me as I carry out my own responsibilities as Provincial Secretary of our Salesian province.

**AB: Anything else you'd like to tell us?**

From 1998 through 2012, while I lived in Jersey, I was very active in the hobby. Since my transfer to New Rochelle, New York, and my current responsibilities, my time has been more limited and I very much miss not being any to get out to more events. However, I very much enjoy the events in which I am able to participate. I remember in prayer all of my friends in the Civil War community at Mass every morning, wherever I happen to be.



Fr. Dave & 2D members at his 50th Jubilee



## The End of an Era: Allentown

As all good things must come to an end, we said goodbye to our annual reenactment in Allentown, NJ this year.

We took the event over from the 14th NJ in the early 2000s and the town has looked forward to our camp in Heritage field every October. For more than fifteen years, Bob Bowell has been our stalwart coordinator for this event, working with the town of Allentown and our umbrella organizations to bring quality programming to the annual town festival. From fake cornfields to historic baseball games, to period ambulances and cavalry displays, the Brigade and our umbrella organizations used to see 60–70 infantry, and around 200 re-enactors set up camp as both Yankee and Rebels. 200–300 spectators a weekend walked through our encampment every autumn.

Over the years our program was always helped by Allentown resident, Ron Dunster. He was the unofficial mayor of the town, and took excellent care of the Brigade. He and his wife used to bring large home-cooked meals to the event for all our participants, and Ron was honored at one of the Brigade's holiday dinners for his work with our unit. The event was never quite the same after his death., and we've noticed a downturn in both reenactor participation and patron attendance in the last three years.

We made the executive decision to end our time at Allentown this year, and while we'll miss Heritage Park in the autumn, we'll always have the wonderful memories of this program and the knowledge that we brought Civil War history to the Allentown area for almost twenty years.

- by Bob Bowell & Abby Belcastro, 2019

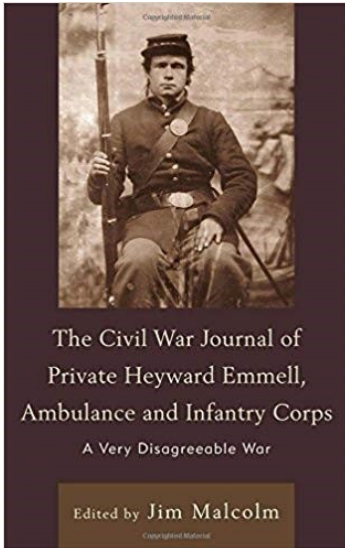


## BOOK NOOK

What Are We Reading?

# *“The Civil War Journal of Pvt. Heyward Emmell, Ambulance & Infantry Corps”*

by Private Heyward Emmell



The original journal is housed at the Madison historical society, and the book's editor, Jim Malcom, happens to married to the director of said historical society. Jim's wife, Kate, thought the diary was important for public consumption, but didn't have anyone to sit and transcribe. Jim volunteered, not only transcribing the tightly packed handwritten scribbles, but also corroborating any of the events mentioned, combing the library and local historical societies for photographs, and indexing every name and place.

He gives a short forward in each chapter to give some background to the entries, and also includes an epilogue describing what happened to Emmell after the war ended.

There's no evidence to why Emmell decided to keep a journal for his wartime activities, since there are no other journals, or any writings at all, extant by him. But from his enlistment date in 1861 to his last day on Oct. 8, 1864, Emmell captures the day-to-day drudgery, hunger, terror, and sadness facing the lowly privates of the Union Army. What struck me as most interesting is what he chose to write about. He rarely mentions rubbing elbows with anyone important, even though battle records put him running with the biggest names of the day. Based on his tone and observations, Emmell had signed up to do a job, and he was doing it, and going home. He writes about the little things; being cold, being hungry, being rained on, being scared. He's a bit obsessed with the weather, with almost every entry mentioning something about the temperature. He's a candid observer, calling things for what they are, and noting absurd commands coming from above. Anytime something big happens, it's no more than a line, while he waxes poetic on the picket lines, the building of forts, and daily camp life. He lists the dead or wounded sometimes, specifically if they were dear to him, and he gives detailed accounts of the battle scenes in the later half of the book once he becomes a stretcher bearer. He does manage to make it through his 3-year enlistment without ever being wounded, although he loses most of his friends and acquaintances along the way. It's easy to see he's affected by all the loss and carnage he's surrounded by, but he also maintains his warmth and humor, even in the darkest entries. I surmise that Emmell was a quiet observer, an every-day sort of man who was just trying to get through a really bad time. I enjoyed spending time in his head, even if I wouldn't want to spend time in his world.

- by Abby Belcastro, 2019

## What is an Immersion Event?

“Immersion events are small reenactments that attract campaigners. Reenactors carry everything with them with no resupply from a vehicle...and essentially lose themselves entirely in the war for the weekend.

Speculation among reenactors is that smaller, focused events is where the hobby is headed. Some units are thinking of staging parts of battles as authentically as possible, complete with the scaled down, but statistically correct numbers of casualties, and the maneuvers mentioned in survivor accounts. The thinking is that events where only several hundred troops are participating can be much more manageable and affordable to stage.”  
~ Essential Civil War Curriculum



# Immersion Event: Missionary Ridge

Our own, Brian (Moose) Zilinski took part in an immersion event this past October, and submitted a wonderfully detailed after-action report for the Advance. It's so comprehensive, that it will be getting its own Special Edition Issue in January! But to whet your appetites, here is a sample of what to expect in our Special Edition:

## After Action Report

### Missionary Ridge Immersion Event or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Authentic Events

By Brian Zilinski

Excerpt:

“About a year ago, I found a stirring on the interwebs about an upcoming recreation of the Battle of Missionary Ridge...The idea was this would be was **full immersion**. The participants would recreate the actions between of the 64<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer



Infantry (OVI) and the 4<sup>th</sup> Florida Infantry Regiment, down to the most minute details based upon as many primary source first person accounts that as could be found. The event planners combed through diaries, contacted historical societies, and several state and national archives were visited many times by the event planners in their attempt to: Get. This. Right. Registration was limited in the hopes of achieving the actual numbers of men on the regimental rosters for the days of November 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>.

After reading over the required list of accepted accoutrements and uniforms, I decided to set a goal for myself that this was the event I wanted to attend and would put in the work I needed to do to make it a reality.

“...I registered for the event to make it official. Registration was \$40, expensive compared to most events, but it included your rations for the weekend, with any profits afterwards went going to the historical preservation of nearby Browns Ferry, where Federal forces opened the “cracker line” that allowed food, munitions, and supplies to reach the starving Union forces in Chattanooga. forces in the city of Chattanooga to prepare for the Union breakout almost a month later. I had the choice to sign up with several companies, and after scanning the names of those already registered, I decided to throw in my name with Co. D under Capt. Sam Galyon.



“...Pulling into the parking area I felt a certain sense of the surreal. What had I done? What was I doing here? After months of preparation, planning, and research I arrived at an event where I knew virtually no one, with no instructions besides for “Be onsite no later than 12 PM and bring 40 rounds of ammunition.” Knowing that we were interpreting the 64<sup>th</sup> OVI had been enough for me up to that point, but now I felt strangely unprepared. Too late! I had taken my first step into the mindset of a Federal civil war soldier - fall in, and await orders....”

Be sure to tune in for our Special Edition, “Immersion Events” coming in January!



# The Legacy of the 22nd

Black regiments begun being raised to the Army of the Potomac after 1863, the first being the 54th Massachusetts. As more and more black units amassed, New Jersey's men wanted to add their patriotic fervor. The 22nd Colored Troops was officially organized in January of 1864, consisting of 681 New Jersey recruits ready for action.

Through the last two years of the war, the 22nd saw active battle at Petersburg, and Fair Oaks. They were an intrinsic part of the last push through the Richmond-Petersburg line, and were some of the first troops to enter Richmond under union occupation. They were present when Lee signed his surrender papers, and participated in Lincoln's funeral procession during the war's conclusion.

To tell this amazing story, Bob Bowell, with the help of Greg Belcastro and several other board members, created the 22nd USCT in the late mid-nineties. Bob took his idea to a man named John Morton of Asbury Park. John became excited about the idea and he recruited several people from Asbury Park to form the first 22nd company with 20 members. The original members included Asbury Park active duty police officers, and many other interested men and women of various ages and professions. The 22nd made its first appearance at the beach battles in Asbury Park. It was a great success with an estimated 3,000 spectators in attendance.

Most black reenacting units in existence then, as now, were primary living history groups bringing their messages to small venues in churches and schools. None, locally, were trained to fight safely in the field, but the 2nd Brigade provided that training and raised the 22nd to the level that easily made them the match of any other modern reenacting group.

While attendance in the 22nd has dwindled due to retirements and members relocating, the 22nd had a banner year in 2019 with their Morristown, NJ Juneteenth demonstration, and the dedication of the "Buffalo Soldiers, United States Colored Troops 22nd Regiment Cemetery" in Franklinville, NJ.

We hope that we'll be able to recruit more members in 2020 to continue telling this important story.



## The 2D Board

Is there something you'd like to bring to the Board's attention? A new idea? A new impression? Something that can make the brigade better?

We'd love to hear what you have to say! Please contact your impression head and ask them to bring your idea to the Board's attention. Or, contact president Mike Milling, and ask if you can make a special presentation to the board at one of our meetings.

## COMMITTEES

We have created three new committees as part of our Board this year:

### Advertising:

Abby Belcastro  
Paul Egbert  
Amery Vasso  
Brian Zilinski

### Recruiting:

Brian Zilinski  
Rich Walker  
Lin Kaufer

### Safety:

Matt Belcastro  
Hans Artz  
Michelle Catona  
Rich Walker

Have ideas for how we can advertise our programming better, recruit more members, or work on our safety? Please contact our committee members with your ideas!



*Thank You,*

*to everyone for your continued dedication and participation in our organization. We've had an excellent year, and we couldn't do it without all of you!*