

## Manassas NMP Living History

### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry at Bulls Run

September 16-18, 2011

Hosted by:

The Hard Head Mess

#### Introduction

The Hard Head Mess would like to thank you for your inquiry about 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Living History on September 16-18, 2011 at Manassas National Military Park. This event will feature marching the battlefield tracing the actions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry at Bull Run, reading docents from the men we attempt to portray, and demonstrations for the public telling the story the boys of 1861 on their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Like most Hard Head Mess battlefield Living Histories this will be a moving event. Kit requirements listed below will be enforced and we want to make sure you read and understand these as the impression for the Second Wisconsin in July 1861 was far different than what they become know for later in the war. We will have a uniform and equipage overview to get more familiar with this general impression. **This is an invitation only event.**

#### Event Requirements

- Each invited participant needs to meet the uniform & equipage requirements established by the event hosts. These requirements can be located directly after this section. **All clothing and equipage must be accurate in terms of pattern, construction, and materials compared with original articles at all times.** Unacceptable clothing and equipage will be removed. We will not go into precise detail, but all buttonholes, buttons, and homemade garments shall be sewn by hand. Machine work if documented is acceptable. Accouterments should be sewn by hand except where documented. Please take note as we will have an inspection before the event begins on Saturday morning. Anyone failing to meet the requirements may be asked to adjust their gear to meet those guidelines or surrender participation.
- We will have only 40 slots available to represent the Second Wisconsin Volunteers for this weekend due to staffing limitations with the National Battlefield at Manassas. We recommend registering early to be a participant for our living history weekend.
- We are asking all participants to send in a \$20.00 registration fee to cover rations for the event and a small donation towards battlefield preservation.
- Although we are not marching over 10 miles this weekend, please be ready for an exhausting day. Try to start walking and hydrating well before the event begins.

## Our Impression

We will be portraying the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry as they would have looked on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1861.

Clothing and Equipage for this impression should consist of:

U.S. Issue Waistbelt

U.S. Issue Cap Box – Shield Front Preferred, Pattern of 1850 acceptable

U.S. Issue Cartridge Box & Belt – Pattern of 1857 Preferred, Pattern of 1861 acceptable.

Black Buff leather *preferred*; black bridal leather acceptable. **.69 caliber boxes are preferred.**

- Note use the correct cartridge box for the caliber of your weapon.

U.S. Issue Bayonet Scabbard – Pattern of 1851 (sewn) Preferred; Pattern of 1859 (two rivets) acceptable

State Issue Gray Cap

State Issue Gray Frockcoat – Gray frock coat based upon originals worn by early war Wisconsin troops. (Federal Issue buttons, button holes, and linings sewn by hand).

State Issue Gray Trousers (handsewn buttons, buttonholes, and cuff facings)

Suspenders or Billet Belt

Civilian Pattern Drawers (handsewn)

Civilian Pattern Shirt (handsewn)

Wool Socks preferred, cotton socks accepted

U.S. Issue Bootees

Civilian Wool Blanket

Federal Issue Rubber Blanket or Painted Cloth – optional

Weapon:

- Pattern of 1816/1822 Harpers Ferry Conversion Musket **Preferred**
- Pattern of 1842 Springfield Musket Preferred
- Pattern of 1855 Springfield Rifle Musket Acceptable
- Pattern of 1861 Springfield Rifle Musket Acceptable

Mess Furniture

Personal Items

## History of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Uniform and Equipage at Bull Run and Event Requirements

In order to put together the unique state & federal issue look of the Ragged Second Wisconsin at the battle of Bull Run, we have put together a overview on putting together the basics for this impression. We invite all interested in this event to read Howard Madaus' *Appendix III: Uniform of the Iron Brigade at Gettysburg July 1, 1863* in Lance Herdegen's book [In the Bloody Railroad Cut at Gettysburg](#) for a fine overall summary of the uniform and equipage of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin in both 1861 and beyond.

## What they wore on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1861

Smatterings of state issued and federal issued uniform & equipage. Some items of known prevalence include the state issue haversacks of heavy white duck with blue stripe and leather closures, state issued seven inch canteens, the double brimmed shako or kepi as the soldiers removed the whale and wire stiffeners, and the gray coat frock coat & trowsers encompassing a wide variety of differing materials & patterns that were generally light gray in color to medium gray. Federal leather accouterments, state issue or civilian blanket, Pattern of 1816/1822 Harpers Ferry Conversion Musket in .69 caliber or & Pattern 1855 Springfield Maynard Rifle-Musket in .58 caliber issued in Company B. According to Captain Thomas Allen, knapsacks were left behind. Also Allen points out all officers were clad in gray as they packed away their best uniforms of blue.

Captain Thomas Allen also states, "...for we were all dressed in the dilapidated gray with which we left our state," from his article The Second Wisconsin at the First Battle of Bull Run. Read October 1, 1890. This means although the 2<sup>nd</sup> received their summer uniforms of cottanade in July, these were not worn due to cool nights as written by Alan Gaff in his book If This is War, page 165. This is supported by Allen's remarks noted above and not the new cottanade uniforms that Charles C. Dow discussed in his letter dated on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

Here is a link to the Oshkosh Museum Virtual Museum showing Corporal Walker Rouse in his state issue uniform in Washington from 1861. Just a heads up the leggings worn are private purchase and not state issue to my knowledge. Do not wear leggings for the event! This will also give a good idea of the state issue cap we are looking for as well.

<http://www.oshkoshmuseum.org/Virtual/exhibit3/e30033b.htm>

## State Issue Frockcoat & Trousers.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin frockcoats would be of similar pattern, material, and construction to the ones worn by the 1<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry 90 day regiment. An existent state issue frockcoat as worn by Sergeant Warren M. Graham of Company "B" 1<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment is in the holdings of the Milwaukee Public Museum. Based on this coat and standards put forth by the state, the state issue frock coat should have:

Gray cloth, plain single breast, hand sewn buttons and buttonholes, nine **federal eagle buttons attached in the front**, a standing collar, tail pockets with two federal eagle buttons affixed, and *without* piping or welting on the collar and cuffs. Coat should be lined.

Here is a link to the Milwaukee Public Museum Virtual Tour – look for the Warren M Graham frock coat to see the coat for yourself that would be very similar to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin's state issue frock coat. <http://www.mpm.edu/exhibitions/featured/virtual-exhibit/> If someone needs additional pictures, I have some I can share from my past inspection of the Warren M. Graham frockcoat. Coats were of all different shades of light to medium gray due to the contractor whom procured these items for the state. Made of light gray jean, satinette, or broadcloth.

*For those that already have a Park City Grays Militia Frock Coat or a light to medium gray Confederate issue frockcoat that is accurate based on construction, materials, and pattern with an original specimen including federal eagle buttons, you will have met the standards for this item.*

**Trousers** should be light gray in color, hand sewn buttons and buttonholes. Militia pattern preferred. If you want a black stripe down the seam as in the original trousers, this can be had but for an additional fee. Materials of jean cloth, satinette, or broadcloth. The state prescribed the following regarding trousers: Gray cloth, plain, black welt 1/8 inch wide in the outside seam. Black welt on the trousers is *optional*. In various shades of light to medium gray. Button, buttonholes, and cuff reinforcements should be sewn by hand. There are not any known surviving examples of this item.

*For those that already have a pair of light to medium gray militia or Confederate pattern trousers that is accurate based on construction, materials, and pattern with an original specimen you will have met the standards for this item.*

### **Gray Kepi/Shako with black stripe**

The ONV had a series of caps made for the Park City Grays based on the 7<sup>th</sup> New York militia cap and that pattern was similar except for the double brim in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin's cap. These will be without the stiffeners, have the black strip across the circumference of the cap as seen in the 7<sup>th</sup> New York cap, and the double brim but they can add for an additional cost however *this is optional*. Lined, hand sewn leather sweatband, thin painted leather black brim with no edging, leather chin strap, and two 5/8 inch general service eagle buttons attached on each side of the chin strap. The state prescribed the following regarding caps: Gray cloth, 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment style- patent leather strap.

### **State Issue Tin Canteen**

Pat Cunningham and Greg Lawson of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum are working with us to make these canteens based on one in the WVM collection used by a soldier in the 6<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin. Cost is \$49.95 and need to contact Tom Klas ASAP. If these can not be procured, we will opt for U.S. Pattern of 1858 Smoothside Issue Canteens with a leather strap, and New York Depot jack chain cork attachment preferred.

Where to Buy.

*Wisconsin Veterans Museum Group Order – Tom Klas*

### **State Issue White Haversack**

Richmond Depot has agreed to make the state issue haversack as documented. This was untarred, white with blue ticking strip on the strap. Tarred haversacks would not have been seen until after Bull Run for those whom lost these items during the battle, therefore the current tarred federal issue should be avoided.

Where to Buy.

*Richmond Depot*

### **.69 Caliber Harpers Ferry Conversion Musket, Bayonet & other options**

Original Harpers Ferry Conversion Muskets are preferred but costly. For those looking for a project, Pedersoli carries a flintlock Harpers Ferry that can be converted to cone in barrel or French drum conversion. Gunsmith Todd Watts whom can be contacted through the Blockade Runner Sutler would be an excellent source to defarb on these conversions. Another acceptable option for the .69 caliber weapon would be to go with the less expensive defarbed 42 Springfield. A third option knowing Company B of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin had Pattern of 1855 Springfield's would be to have defarbed Pattern of 1861 Springfield reproduction also in .58 caliber to be a close substitute. All modern makers' marks should be removed on reproduction muskets and rifle muskets. As for **Bayonets**, originals are the best or high quality reproductions with correct stamps for the model of bayonet you are using. Harpers Ferry, Springfield, or Pattern of 1855.

Here is a link to Pedersoli Firearms to see their Harper's Ferry Reproductions and Colt (French Conversion) Reproduction: <http://www.davide-pedersoli.com/?item=ArmiCategoriaDettaglio&CategoriaId=240&lang=en>

Where to Buy.

*Lodgewood MFG.*

*Todd Watts – Blockade Runner Gunsmith for Musket Defarb*

*John Zimmerman*

### **Federal Leather Accouterments**

Should have Pattern of 1857 or 1861 .69 caliber cartridge box, shield front cap box, and sewn or two rivet scabbard for your bayonet. If using a Springfield, no need to purchase the .69 caliber federal leather accouterments – use what you have to be correct for the .58 caliber rifle-musket. These should be hand sewn and if possible black buff leather preferred. Here is a quote concerning *accouterments* from Monday, June 24th of 1861 on the Second's arrival in Harrisburg, PA. It is from an unknown 2nd Wisconsin soldier:

About noon, Col. Coon received a telegram from the Secretary of War containing an order on the Harrisburg Arsenal for our muskets and 40 rounds of ball and buck shot cartridges, and directing the Regiment to proceed to Washington immediately. It was a busy time for us the balance of the day and, in fact, nearly all night it is not a small job to distribute arms accouterments and ammunition to 1,000 and we did not leave for Baltimore till 1 o'clock.

Where to Buy.

*Nick Duvall – If you want to have a group order, let me know. Nick would like to help us out!*

*L.D. Hanning & Company – Tim Welch*

### **State Issue Blanket or Civilian Coverlet:**

We have no solid documentation at this time on the state issue blanket other than soldiers stated they were of heavy wool. I recommend getting a good 100% wool blanket with handsewn edges if a folded edge is used. Can be in solid colors (stick to dull colors – earth tones) or solid and stripes, with varying dimensions. These blankets should be around 3-4 lbs. in weight to keep you warm. Civilian Coverlets made of wool and cotton are also appropriate for use as a gift from the home

front. Hand sewn boarders with documented patterns, construction, and materials. *Federal issue blankets should be avoided* as the Second Wisconsin had the state issue blanket for Bull Run.

Where to Buy.

*County Cloth – should be in stock by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Also Needle & Thread of Gettysburg will carry this blanket as well. Checked civilian pattern.  
Carter & Jasper*

### **Civilian Shirt:**

The body of the shirt may be either hand or machine stitched, but entirely hand sewn civilian shirts (which were more common) are preferred. All buttons & buttonholes shall be entirely sewn by hand. Hand felled seams, woven shirt patterns, square gussets or the set in sleeve, and cotton and linen materials should be common features in pre-Civil War era civilian shirts. All civilian shirts must be based on a documented pattern, construction techniques, and materials.

Correct buttons of bone, shell, china, milk glass, hard rubber, or wood in two or four hole styles shall be attached by hand.

### **Drawers:**

Civilian drawers should be made of fabrics such as cotton catton flannel, cotton osnaburg, or linen. Other features include hand-sewn buttonholes, buttons, and tieback grommet holes. Buttons may be bone, china, or other documented compositions. Civilian drawers should also ride rather high on the waist.

### **Stockings:**

Can be of wool or cotton materials based on a documented pattern, construction and materials. Darker colors preferred in civilian stockings.

### **U.S. Pattern Jefferson Bootees (Shoes):**

Black dyed, semi rough out leather, squared front, one inch heels, four sets of shoelace holes with one in the vamp, accompanied with leather shoelaces. Leather soles can be either pegged or sewn. Heel rims, inlet heel rims, and hobnails are all acceptable.

### **Suspenders or Billet Belt:**

They were made out of cotton drill or linen, with differing degrees of sophistication. Common styles ranged from simple straps with hand-sewn buttonholes (poorboys), to sewn straps with two or three tined brass adjustments & leather ends on each side. Any documented suspenders of correct pattern, construction, and materials are acceptable.

Billet belts may be worn as well. Please select a pattern common to the class of your impression. Black or russet in color, with single or double roller buckles of brass or steel. Machine or hand sewn construction.

### **Spectacles:**

For those who need vision correction, you must purchase a set of period eyeglasses filled with your prescription, wear contact lenses, or go without any which is very correct. Period spectacles of the mid 19th century had features such as oval or rectangular frames, arch or crank bridges, and straight or sliding temple pieces with a small teardrop final. Frames were commonly made out of brass, silver, or gold. Lenses were obviously made out of glass.

### **Mess Furniture:**

We recommend as a minimum that all participants carry their own tin cup, knife, and fork. No stainless steel allowed.

- A. Tin Cup: Made of tin, with proper lipped bottom, wire reinforced cup handle. No crimped bottom cups.
- B. Knife: Plain wood or bone handles with straight steel blades.
- C. Fork: Plain wood or bone handles with 2-4 steel tines.
- D. Spoon: Made of stamped steel or iron, with a fiddle or oar shaped handle.
- E. Combination Set: Must be of a documented pattern, with steel knife, fork, & spoon attachments.
- F. Plate: Made of stamped or hot dipped tin, approximately 8.5 to 9.5 inches in diameter. No pie plates or canteen halves.

### **U.S. Issue Rubber Blanket or Painted Cloth:**

Rubber or Gum Blankets were the primary ground cloth of the infantry during the war. Made of rubber with a white linen backing, small brass grommets, with dimensions of 46" x 71". As an alternative to keep the moisture off your back, think about getting a painted cloth. These are simple tarred canvas oilcloths cut out to sheets to keep a barrier between one and the earth.

### **Personal Items:**

Since this a public event and part of what we do will be educating the public it is requested the participants bring their personal gear appropriate to the historical time period and the campaign impression we are striving for.

If you need medication, please bring them along in a period container or poke sack. The only modern items you are allowed should be your car keys, medications (if needed), and contacts if you wear them for vision correction.

### **Rations:**

We will be issuing rations on Saturday morning. Your fee in part will pay for rations and will be based on what the Second Wisconsin soldiers would have been issued or commonly foraged during this time.

**Drill Manuals:**

We will be using Chandler's Tactics ( D.W. Baxter's Volunteer's Manual will be a close substitute for Chandler's if you do not have access to a copy) for the School of the Soldier & United States Infantry Tactics for the School of the Company. Please review Dom Dal Bello's Instructions for Guard and Pickets for Guard duties during this living history weekend as well.

**Contact Information for Uniform & Equipage Sources**

Richmond Depot  
PO BOX 4849  
Midlothian, VA 23112  
<http://www.kabar44.com/index.htm>  
e-mail: [sales@richmonddepot.com](mailto:sales@richmonddepot.com)

W, W, & Company  
Dan Wambaugh  
6150 W. Michigan Avenue #M-21  
Lansing, MI 48917  
(517) 303-3609  
<http://wwandcompany.com/>  
e-mail: [colstoughton@hotmail.com](mailto:colstoughton@hotmail.com)

L.D. Haning & Company  
Tim Welch  
9560 Neiswander Road  
Ashville, OH 43103  
(614) 837-5475  
<http://www.ldhaning.com>  
e-mail: [luther@ldhaning.com](mailto:luther@ldhaning.com)

Nick Duvall  
116 W. Walnut Street  
Kingston, PA 18704  
(570) 283-9297  
<http://duvallleatherwork.com/index.html>  
e-mail: [duvall\\_leatherwork@hotmail.com](mailto:duvall_leatherwork@hotmail.com)

Lodgewood Mfg.  
William Osborne  
131 Center Street  
Whitewater, WI 53190  
(262) 473-5444  
<http://www.lodgewood.com/>  
e-mail: [lodgewd@idcnet.com](mailto:lodgewd@idcnet.com)

Todd Watts - Blockade Runner Defarb Gunsmith  
1027 Bell Buckle/Wartrace Rd.  
Wartrace TN 37183  
(931) 389-6294  
e-mail: [bri@blockaderunner.com](mailto:bri@blockaderunner.com)  
<http://www.blockaderunner.com/Catalog/catpg2a.html>

John Zimmerman  
P.O. Box 1351  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425  
(304) 535-2558  
<http://www.edsmart.com/jz>

Carter & Jasper, Mercantile  
Joe Blunt  
2955 Mill Run Blvd  
Kissimmee, FL 34744  
e-mail: [carterandjasper@yahoo.com](mailto:carterandjasper@yahoo.com)  
<http://www.carterandjasper.com/index.html>

County Cloth  
Charlie Childs  
13797-C Georgetown Street, NE  
Paris, OH 44669  
(330) 862-3307  
<http://www.crchilds.com/>  
e-mail: [crchilds@bright.net](mailto:crchilds@bright.net)  
Catalog - \$6.00

## Further Reading

Although there are plenty of on-line and written materials on the Second Wisconsin, here are some specific to our impression.

Gaff, Alan D. If This Is War. Dayton, OH: Morningside House. 1991.

Otis, George H. The Second Wisconsin Infantry Ed. Alan D. Gaff, Dayton, OH: Morningside House. 1984.

Some great letters and writings from the original men of the Old Second! Hard to find but well worth trying to find a copy. Many good stories of Bull Run.

Aubery, Cullen B [Doc]. Echoes From the Marches of the Famous Iron Brigade.

Gaithersburg: Ron R. Van Sickle Military Books, 1988.

80% of the text in this book is the war-time diary of Cornelius Wheeler of Company "I", Second Wisconsin Vols. A little book full of wartime docents.

Well gents if you have any questions feel free to contact me.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

Tom Klas

[klastom@charter.net](mailto:klastom@charter.net)

(920) 885-9313

Hard Head Mess

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry at Bulls Run

September 16-18, 2011

Hosted by:

The Hard Head Mess

Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form, participant release form, and remit \$20.00 registration fee and send to:

Tom Klas  
115 Gould Street  
Beaver Dam, WI 53916  
klastom@charter.net

Registration Deadline: *July 15, 2011*

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry at Bulls Run**

**September 16-18, 2011**

**Hosted by:**

**The Hard Head Mess**

**Participant Release Form**

**I, UNDERSTAND THAT; THE HARD HEAD MESS, ITS**

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, IS IN NO WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURY, DISMEMBERMENT, DISABILITY, OR DEATH INCURRED DURING ACTIVITIES THAT I ATTEND ON SEPTEMBER 16, 17, AND 18TH, 2011 AT MANASSAS NATIONAL MILITARY PARK; I ALSO AGREE THAT THE HARD HEAD MESS, IS IN NO WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY PERSONAL PROPERTY LOST, STOLEN, OR DAMAGED DURING SEPTEMBER 16, 17, AND 18TH, 2011 AT MANASSAS NATIONAL MILITARY PARK . I WILL HOLD HARMLESS THE ABOVE-MENTIONED PARTIES IN RELATION TO ANY LOSS, DAMAGE, INJURY, DEATH OR OTHER CONSEQUENCE OF MY PARTICIPATION.

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Unit:\_\_\_\_\_

Name  
(Please Print):\_\_\_\_\_

Signature:\_\_\_\_\_

This form must be sent in prior to the event or completed at the event in order to participate.

**Registration Deadline: July 15, 2011**