



THE IRISH VOLUNTEER

Official Newsletter of the 116th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Co. B



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January 2003

Joe and Holly Sullivan Editors

ADMINISTRATION

IN THE FIELD

Capt. Steve Stowell

BEHIND THE DESK

Chairman, Kevin Burton

ON THE HOME FRONT

Civilian Advocate, Lynette Stowell

Official Web Site of 116 PVI

<http://www.116pvi.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Company Drill . Our first company drill of 2003 is scheduled for Saturday, January 25th from 10 AM till noon. (Note the change of date) at Aldrich Park in Salem. The park has a flat ball field for marching and a small covered area if necessary. The Park is located at the corner of 15th and Mill Street SE. (The board will meet at the Ned Baker Real Estate office 2339 State St from 12:15 PM- 2 PM.)

From I-5 take the HWY 22 Mission St Exit 252. Proceed West on Mission. Turn right on 17th. Turn Left on Mill go two blocks. The Park is on the left.

From Dallas and points West come over the Salem Bridge(Center St) continue to 14th and turn right. Proceed South on 14th past State St and turn left on Mill. Go 1 block to the park on the right.

From Park go North on 15th to State St. Turn right and proceed to 2339 State St for the board meeting.

Board Meeting . Our first Board Meeting of 2003 is scheduled for Saturday, January 25th from 12:15 till 2 PM at the Ned Baker Real Estate office 2339 State St , in Salem from 12:15 PM- 2 PM.

Winter Quarters. February 22nd & 23rd at Camp Riley. This will be a two-day event, Saturday and Sunday, February 22nd & 23rd. Camp Rilea is west of highway 101 midway between Seaside and Astoria. More information can be found at <http://www.proaxis.com/~cavalrylin/winter.htm>

The Vote is in. Tie vote averted!!

This years board position vote turned out to be a photo finish for the Civilian Advocate position as Mrs. Lynette Stowell tied Mrs. Holly Sullivan in the final recount for that position. Since our by-laws do not indicate how do handle situations like this, our Chairman Kevin Burton suggested that Holly and Lynette might consider sharing the position. After a brief discussion with her family, Holly graciously decided to concede the contest to Mrs. Stowell, who accepted. Both shook hands and were seen smiling as they parted, although some mentioned afterwards

that Mrs. Sullivan seemed to be enjoying the outcome too much.

The following people also won board seats as a result of this election:

Chairman - Kevin Burton

Secr. Treas. – John Baker

Quartermaster – Mark Stevens

Board Member – David Baty

Board Member – Beth Miller

Board Member – Joe Sullivan

New MEMBERS section on www.116pvi.org

Our website has a new “Members” section that currently contains the NCWC application, the Safety Rules and our 116th Administrative Rules and By-Laws. The Administrative Rules and By-Laws are password protected and are therefore only accessible to members. Watch for the password in the February newsletter, which will be sent to all members that have renewed their 116th applications for 2003.



A Message From Our Chairman

Hello everyone well it is time again for a new year of re-enacting. If everyone could please send in any dates on activities that they know about and would like others to join in on it would be great so the board can get together a schedule of events. If you know of something and only have an approximate date that is ok as well.

I hope everyone had a good holiday season and that you have your wool ready for this season. If you haven't used all your money as of yet :) Think about new brogans or even a knapsack. They always go over big at events! Can't wait to get started How many matches have you gone through? Well it's almost time.

God bless and see you soon!
Kevin Burton
Chairman 116th PVI coB

Membership Renewal Time

It's that time again. 116th membership renewal applications were sent out with the November newsletter and are now due. NCWC renewal applications are also due and should have come with the NCWC newsletter (*Bugle Call*) or you can download it at;
<http://www.116pvi.org/membershipfor.ms.htm>

Once you have filled out the application, send it in with your 116th application to:

John Baker, Secretary Treasurer
2339 State Street
Salem, OR, 97301

The NCWC applications will be signed by our unit commander and then sent on. All NCWC applications must have our unit commanders signature before the NCWC will approve the application. One more thing, after January 31st, there is a \$5 late fee for the NCWC application.

Trivia

Trans-Mississippi is mentioned a lot in Civil War books. What was it?

A vast area west of the Mississippi River which included Missouri, Arkansas, western Louisiana, Texas and Indian Territory under command of Confederate Kirby Smith.

Jefferson Davis May Have Ridden in an Electric Car!

We are all aware that our ancestors who lived in the Civil War era were incredibly backwards. How their descendents, (namely, ourselves), have managed to advance to such a high degree of civilization as that which we now enjoy, with our amazing educational establishments, the resulting literacy of our populace and high literary achievements of our children, our highly developed man-made (I should say, of course, *person-made*) moral base, our capacity for hard work, the freedom of our regulated speech, and our innate genius, is a mystery.

Every once in a while, however, one of our forefathers did manage to stumble onto something spectacular, even without our help. One interesting example is the demonstration of electricity as motive power (like, you know, using like an *electric motor* to, like, move something), achieved by Dr. Charles Grafton Page.

For many years Dr. Page occupied an important position at the Patent Office in Washington. In 1838 he exhibited in London a car propelled by battery power around a circular railway track. (You didn't read that wrongly, dear ones; I did say "1838".)

By 1845 Morse's partner, Alfred N. Vail, observed that a hollow coil of wire possessed the property of sucking a soft iron core into its center with considerable force when an electric current was applied.

Dr. Page saw this interesting phenomenon demonstrated, and conceived the idea of using that force in an electric motor. In 1850 he constructed a machine that developed over 10 horsepower.

The Congress of the United States was preoccupied at this time with the Compromise of 1850, a proposal by Henry Clay that temporarily settled differences between the North and South over the extension of slavery. As a result of Clay's Compromise, California was admitted to the Union as a free state, and the territories of Utah and New Mexico were permitted to practice slavery. (Remember, the people of the time had not yet reached to point of realizing, as we have, that slavery was Not an Issue. *They* thought it was a very important issue, one which could and probably would eventually spark a war or something, which just goes to show.)

Despite the political storms, Congress found time to appropriate sufficient money for Page to construct an electric car. Page's electric car ran on an experimental trip from Washington, DC, to Bladensburg, Maryland, on April 29, 1851, atop the C&O railroad rails. It reached a speed of 19 miles per hour on level ground. Unfortunately, the high cost of producing electricity by zinc primary batteries precluded commercial use.

Although Jefferson Davis held a seat in the senate that year there is no evidence that he actually got to ride the electric car. Who knows, however; perhaps one of our "modern historians" may find evidence that he did!

NOTICE

We are looking for photographs of our 116th group in action, to be used on our web site. If you have any that you would like to share, please get hold of Joe Sullivan at 541-929-6450

Evening of Merriment Enjoyed by All

Members of the 116th Pennsylvania Volunteers able to obtain furloughs escorted their wives, various ladies of the region, and sundry children, to a gala Christmas party on Saturday, December 8th past. A good time was had by all.

The festivities began with a sumptuous banquet, followed in due time by necessary official politics and business, which were, for the most part, quickly gotten over and just as quickly forgotten.

Many of those present displayed unusual theatrical abilities when they performed a short but touching drama for the enjoyment of the rest of the party. The author of the play, who wishes to remain anonymous, confided to this reporter her gratitude for the serious spirit which the actors brought to the skit.



Various thoughtful depictions followed. Mrs. Michael Wagner and Miss Elizabeth Miller gave a short demonstration of Southern table manners, which will be of use to anyone so unfortunate as to find himself alone and at dinner in the home of Rebels.



Mrs. Steven Stowell and another young lady visually enacted the clear-sighted and academic research methods used by many Revisionists

and modern writers of Civil War era history. Our thanks to all of these ladies.



Mr. Kevin Burton brought tears to the eyes of all listening with his soulful rendition of "The Minstrel Boy". He could have avoided the vocal performance by crowing (as a rooster), but manfully opted to sing instead. This reporter was unable to discern whether the audience fully appreciated the substitution.

Mrs. Kevin Burton led all present in a gift exchange, at the end of which there was nothing left, (right?).



The renowned dance master, Joseph Hadley, arrived with an orchestra in time to complete the evening of merriment with sundry dances.

Advice From the Past

"The fifth part of a century almost has sped with the flight of time since the outbreak of the Slaveholder's Rebellion against the United States. The young men of today were then babes in their cradles, or, if more than that, too young to be appalled by the terror of the times. Those now graduating from our schools of learning to be teachers of youth and leaders of public thought, if they are

ever prepared to teach the history of the war for the Union as to render adequate honor to its martyrs and heroes, and at the same time impress the obvious moral to be drawn from it, must derive their knowledge from authors who can each one say of the thrilling story he is spared to tell: "All of which I saw, and part of which I was."

From an Introduction to the book *Andersonville: A Story of Rebel Military Prisons* by John McElroy, 1879, First Edition

(Modern Translation: If we really wanna do accurate impressions, impressions which do justice to the people we tell the Public we represent, we ought at least to get our facts from the people who really, actually, and in the flesh, lived through the Civil War. Basing our impressions on hearsay, documentaries, and looking back through 2003-colored glasses might cause us to misrepresent those we claim to honor, at best, and will make liars of us all, at worst.)

140th Gettysburg July 4-6th 2003

We are trying to find out how much interest there is in the 116th attending the 140th Gettysburg reenactment next year. If you have any interest in attending, or would be interested in helping to coordinate, please get hold of Steve Stowell.



Romance at Fort Hoskins Where Love was Ruled Improper

By Ben Maxwell
Journal, 9/19/1941



Lieutenant H. H. Garber was a lonesome young man. Here he was in 1859 third in command of the 4th United States infantry, at probably the farthest west of all American forts, away from home and mother, away from sweetheart and school day comrades, stuck in a vast wilderness of forest and underbrush tangle at Fort Hoskins in Kings valley near the entrance to the vast Siletz Indian reservation.

And just across the Luckiamute river a pair of bright eyes peered at him through the ferns, a mocking little laugh like water over pebbles floated to him, a brown hand waved and the lieutenant was lost.

The river was neither swift nor deep. Garber left his sword-belt on the bank, pulled off his boots and went over.

Presently the little Indian maiden, Pink-Cloud-in-the-Sunset, proudly boasted that she might just as well be called Mrs. H. H. Garber, to all intents and purposes, and so when Garber was sent from Fort Hoskins on a duty trip to Fort Vancouver, Pink Cloud dutifully followed her lord and master. The errand was not a long one and soon the young officer and his dusky companion were back at Fort Hoskins.

Then only did Captain Christopher Colon Augur discover that his aide had allied himself with the enemy for were not the Indians the object of white dominance and were not their efforts to hold to their own real acts of resistance and hostility? So Captain Augur, in an outburst of indignation-which from parallel evidence

of the goings on of the period seems rather odd-arranged the lonely but dashing young man in stern and excoriating words. "You can't bring that squaw into this fort," was the gist of it all. Garber, still flushed with longing for his Siletz beauty, replied wrathfully. He denied everything. He called names. He cited other instances that struck rather close home.

And so Lieutenant Garber was court-martialed and deprived of his commission-not for immoral conduct or treason or any thing like that, but for speaking disrespectfully to his superior officer. Six months later Garber died-whether of a broken heart we do not know, and a sagging headstone erected by his comrades still marks his grave after nearly 80 years.

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Only unflattering records and oral traditions remain to titillate the jaded appetite of the curious historian regarding obscure Fort Hoskins, once located near the hamlet of that name in Kings valley. For more than 70 years this now abandoned fort site, erected in pioneer times to protect settlers from Indian depredations and Indians from white encroachment, has heard no reveille nor witnessed a parade of company soldiers.

Brothers B. Y. and O. E. Frantz now own and have lived on the site of old Fort Hoskins for 71 years. Their father, who crossed the plains in a covered wagon drawn by oxen from his native Iowa because he hoped to "get redder apples and better fishing in the Oregon country," purchased the fort site from Roland Chambers in 1866. Only one year before the last company of soldiers had marched away and the government ordered fort buildings sold at auction. B. Y. Frantz was then only six but he has vivid memories of what Fort Hoskins looked like before demolition started.

"The arsenal stood a bit to the north and the officers' quarters were whitewashed and plastered," he recalls. "They stood out in front overlooking the valley. The hospital stood 800 feet east of the barracks and we made it our home for 14 years after father came to Kings valley. The receiving ward was our living and dining room."

Near the barracks, and in the center of what used to be a two-acre parade ground the fort flagpole used to stand. Before it was felled and hauled away to strengthen a grist mill still standing in Kings valley this pole was two feet in diameter at the base and about 100 feet high. Local tradition relates that when it was erected in the 1850's soldiers and officers deposited coins and the company roster under the foundation stone.

Frantz has never undertaken to unearth the stone and see, but he has recently made that arrangement with others. When

Professor J. B. Horner of Oregon State college erected a flagpole and marker to commemorate Fort Hoskins his marker was placed in an oak tree about where the old guard house used to stand. The Frantz brothers are sure about this because soldiers who returned to the fort in the 1870's and 1880's to recall old memories were always emphatic about the spot.

Fort Hoskins, old records relate, was the consequence of much bitter bickering between civil and military authorities. Theoretically it was erected to protect the eastern entrance to the expansive Siletz reservation. White settlers wanted it in Kings valley as a means of protection. Military authorities, however, wanted it on the Siletz to keep the Indians in check.

Anyway, Captain Augur and a company of the 4th infantry reached Kings valley on July 25, 1856. Here they met Lieutenant Phil Sheridan and during the winter of 1856-57 built the fort.

To Lieutenant Sheridan was delegated the duty of hacking a 35-mile trail over the Coast range to the Siletz river where a blockhouse was considered essential. He celebrated this achievement and fulfilled the letter of his orders by driving over the trail with an empty wagon. But the trip was such that Sheridan's body and soul and the wagon scarcely held together. He did not attempt to return with the wagon.

In the 1870's B. Y. Frantz recalls seeing a strange procession starting over this steep trail bound for the reservation. Indians had obtained grain in Kings valley and a stolid buck astride a bony and spavined nag was riding at the head of a column of four squaws. Each was trudging along with a 200 pound sack of grain on her head and the destination 35 miles away at the end of Phil Sheridan's precipitous trail.

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B. Y. Frantz displayed a handful of corroded lead bullets weighing more than one ounce each, and said: "We picked them up here on the farm where the soldiers erected their targets. They set up four or five targets around the fort in conspicuous locations. When they banged away hostile Indians camped along the banks of the Big Luckiamute in the valley below could observe the splendid marksmanship."

For many years after they took possession of the fort site as a farm, the Frantzes kept plowing up skeletons, beads, blankets and other evidences that the Indians used the tract as a burial ground. They probably could find countless more relics, but long ago decided that the bodies of the Indians ought to be let lie in peace, just as those of other people.

The brothers recall that the fort buildings were rough-hewn, but no more so than the soldiers who manned them. Rations of government issue were not always as

delicate as the food back home, so the soldiers would raid the farms of settlers and confiscate pigs and cattle to supplement the salt horse and beans. It was heavy insurance but the settlers would endure an occasional official raid if it would protect them from the less selective forays of the nearby redskins.

And just across the Luckiamute was always to be found that little surcease from care which lovely women can provide. Tradition even has it that most of the soldiers spent more time with the squaws than with drill and more fights over women took place than over the restlessness of red warriors.

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W. M. Hilleary, Linn county volunteer, assigned to Fort Hoskins as a raw recruit in 1864-65, recalls unpleasant experiences at an inactive post with little excuse for nine years of garrison history.

In recollections published in 1883 Mr. Hilleary recalls leaving what is now the state fairgrounds at Salem in 1864 and marching to Fort Hoskins as a member of company F. The raw recruits frequently fell out of line and raided roadside orchards for they trudged along and spent their first night sleeping in Senator Nesmith's barn because tents for the company were lacking.

In Hilleary's opinion the only reason for sending F company to the fort was to consume supplies left behind by regulars who had previously departed. What he subsequently relates sustains this point of view.

Upon arrival home federal volunteers, accustomed to the best in bountiful Western living, found a number of barrels of salt pork left for their consumption. This meat, packed in New York 12 years before, bore the date 1852. Inexperienced camp cooks attempted to make company soup by putting bean rations for 80 men into two iron kettles, each containing 12 gallons of water. When the putrid pork, directly from the barrels marked 1852, was added and the disgusting mess began to stew Hilleary relates that coyotes from 50 miles around were attracted to Fort Hoskins for mess. He touches, too, upon the lack of soldierly discipline and relates that the captain of his company was inexperienced and reluctant to drill his men in the presence of more qualified officers. With the company on the parade grounds the orders most often heard were "parade rest" or "rest at will." After issuing this command the captain would retire and drill was over for the day. Since discipline was lacking post morale was low. Desertion was common and settlers in Kings valley, since labor was

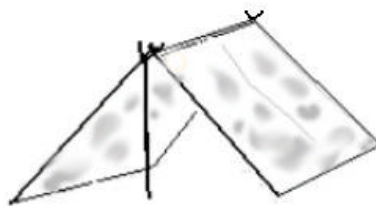
scarce and wages high, condoned or actually encouraged this source of farm help.

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Carousing at Fort Hoskins was commonplace. On Monday evening, January 12, 1863, a crowd of roistering soldiers was found roaring drunk in a saloon operated by Hodes and Schuck. The resort had been opened against the explicit wishes of the fort commandant. Just as the guard entered the gate of the fort with his inebriated prisoners the saloon blew up and in a few moments the building and contents were wiped out by fire.

Suspicion pointed to soldiers but disgusted civilian authorities could find no conclusive evidence and the relieved commandant asked no questions. After 74 years the explosion still remains a mystery. "Whiskey and cards were not openly sold at the fort because the law forbids," Hilleary relates. "But the sutler is a very accommodating person and, it being you, will let you have whiskey and cards on tick and charge it up as pipes and books. And he don't have to struggle much with 'his conscience, for is not the whiskey drawn from pipes and the deck of cards are they not the illustrated history of four kings?" At dress parade, April 6, 1865, orders were read for company B to go to The Dalles and company F to report at Vancouver. On the morning of April 13 the captain and lieutenant climbed aboard the ambulance and rumbled away through the mud toward Cooper's Hollow. Company F and W. M. Hilleary marched toward Corvallis. Private Hilleary relates: "We left Fort Hoskins without a sigh of regret."

How to Remove mold and Mildew from Canvas!



Do you have mold stains on your canvas? Winter is the time that we spend getting our gear in order, so here is short "how to" taken from

<http://backpacking.about.com> that you might find helpful.

1. First, kill the mold.
2. Brush the mold and mildew from the material.
3. Wash the affected area with a solution made up of 1/2 cup Lysol to a gallon of hot water.
4. And/or rinse with a solution of 1 cup of lemon juice and 1 cup of salt to a gallon of hot water.
5. Allow the material to dry in the sun.
6. Next, bleach the mildew stain.
7. Wash or soak the affected area with one of the following, depending on the material.
8. For most fabrics, you can use a non-chlorine bleach.
9. For colored fabrics, use a solution of 1 cup of lemon juice and 1 cup of salt to a gallon of hot water.
10. For color safe fabrics, use a solution of 2 tablespoons of bleach to a quart of water.
11. Allow the bleached area to dry thoroughly.

Tips:

Brush the materials outdoors so as not to leave mold spores in the house.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

This is your newsletter and all are encouraged to submit articles to it. All Announcements, Advertisements, Letters to the Editor, and articles must be received by the 19th of the month to make the next newsletter.

Make submissions to:

Editor

24465 Gellatly Way

Philomath, Oregon, 97370

Or email:

<mailto:editor@116pvi.org>

CLASSIFIEDS

Place your classified ads here, free to members