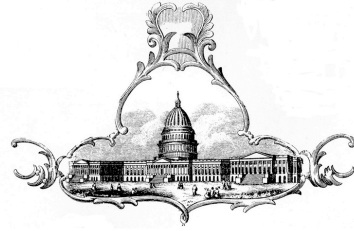




The Light
NEWSLETTER OF COMPANY K
Fifth Michigan Infantry
"Saginaw City Light Infantry"
Proud Member of the Cumberland Guard



1st Half of 2012 Edition

From the Chairman

Time has really flown by for me these first 6 months of 2012, and there appears to be no slowing down. I am sure many of you feel the same way. We continue to grow as a more cohesive unit, grow in numbers, and grow in our personal lives. Congratulations to Will, Wendy, and big sister Hannah Eichler on the new addition to your family Vallanee Rose!

Scott has information on our newest potential members farther along in this newsletter. We welcome you, and look forward to many years of fun, friendship, service, and honor for those soldiers we represent. We do expect that all members will work on ways to improve their impressions both in their minds and material. There are old newsletters and articles on our website www.unionreenactor.com that will offer guidance on the daily lives of a soldier. The website is also the place to find recommended vendors and uniform guidelines. DO NOT let the guidelines or lack of equipment keep you from coming out to an event! Many of us have or can get the items you need.

As a unit we continue to grow in our knowledge, our experience and our cohesiveness. We all have something to share. Robert May stopped us during a drill last year and reminded us that we need move as one. When we got to shoulder arms, we should all move together at relatively the same speed. I saw a photo from Greenfield village where men from other units were going to shoulder arms. Most were doing it correctly; however, one individual was looking off in la-la land at order arms. At the Combined Arms Drill the boys from the 5th could execute the commands without thought. We saw some lads from other groups who could not "by file into line." Our experience, when mixed in with less-experienced lads, will help them learn. We have a great group! Through the years we have melded. All of our personalities and strengths have made us who we are.

We do need to get a quorum together soon. Whether it's at a cartridge party or in Lansing at the museum, we need to have our elections and discuss events.

Your pard, Jeremy Buschlen

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Commander's Column

APOLOGIES

Wow! It has been a long time since our last issue of The Light. My apologies to you all; it is certainly our intention to get at least four issues out per year with the hopes of it being every two months. It seems as though my time is spent these days doing mostly homework and it leaves little time for any extra time to put out my share of the newsletter. Will Eichler has been after me since March to get something out...well here it is on the threshold of June. Better late than never I guess. I shall endeavor to do better in the future. With that said, I have been able to keep up a good communication and keep you updated as best I can through e-mail, Facebook and phone calls.

YOUR NEWSLETTER TOO

This is your newsletter too and I know all too well that you all can write. So with that said, let's see some more contributions to the newsletter other than the same old people like myself, Will Eichler or Jeremy Buschlen. Perhaps it might inspire us to get the Light out on a regular basis if we had some other good stuff pushing us on to write our columns. While for the most part we all go to the same events, we experience them differently, so why not write about your experiences in the field. I for one would love to read some stuff on Shiloh. I bet we all have some great stories about that event. Or perhaps some research on some obscure aspect of the Civil War? I am currently working on a research project which I plan to have out toward the end of summer about what the 5th Michigan did and experienced from leaving the Fort in 1861 through the Peninsula campaign. I got lots of stuff to share.

MEMBERSHIP

We are growing. Three cheers for that!!! Kris Green, Justin McLaren, Adam Nini, Scott Stimer and Dalton Litwiller are all our fresh fish. While we still have to vote on their memberships (those of you who haven't filled out the application yet...go to www.unionreenactor.com) Please welcome these men and if you haven't already please get to know them and make them feel at home in our ranks.

- Kris Green rejoins us from being a member earlier in the history of the 5th.
- Justin McLaren found us through our website I believe and has a Masters in History.
- Adam Nini was reenacting, then left the state and is now back and joining up with us.
- Scott Stimer is a friend of Beau Shaver and also friends with Capt Humphrey (5th Texas fame) and his family. We will try not to hold that against him.
- Dalton Litwiller is the son of Jennifer Mitchell Litwiller and the grandson of our beloved Doc Mitchell (7th Mich) who has since passed but was loved by all.

Welcome new pard. You have joined a great group of men and it now that much better because you are in it too.

SHILOH

Without a doubt, this reenactment will stay at the top of my list of top five reenactments ever. From the minute we got off the bus and found our camp on the floodplain of the Tennessee, to boarding the paddle wheeler at 1:30 am to landing at the actual Pittsburgh landing and throwing down to marching across the actual battlefield and going into battle to the rations and the knocking over the sutler wares to the baking of bread...it never stopped being a great

event. A truly great company of 37 men and a great battalion of 500...For those of you that missed it, you will have endure our stories for years to come. It was awesome and worth all the preparation.

CONGRATS!

For those that haven't yet heard; Will & Wendy Eichler have a new baby; Vallanee Rose Eichler born on April 11th. Congratulations to your family.

COMBINED ARMS DRILL

It was an honor stepping up to command the battalion this year at combined arms drill. We had a total of three small companies and we indeed drilled. So much so that many of the boys were tired and falling asleep by 9 pm at the Lowe Inn scenario set up by the Sally Port Mess. My special thanks to Chris Buzzard for serving as First Sgt for the company and Jeremy Buschlen for commanding the company as a Lt. You both did an outstanding job.

GFV

Since I didn't attend Greenfield Village as I had hoped this year (between homework and work I just had too much to do and couldn't come out to play) I can't report on it. I do know that we had six attend from the 5th this year. Thank you for turning out boys. Unfortunately we had major attrition hit not just me...we started with 16 pre-registered. Will Eichler served as Lt Col once again this year. Next year we will have to come closer to our target registered numbers. I really miss going to this event as it is a great place to interact with the public and do what we do best.

FUTURE EVENTS

June 8-10 Civil War Days Dexter MI - The 4th Michigan has invited us to attend their event. The 4th has been huge supporters of everything we do. It is probably time we paid them back for their supporting us. Jeremy Buschlen will be in command of you boys. Jeremy Bevard (Sally Port Mess) will be there as a period civilian sutler and has many things to sell to the soldiers that would have been sold back then. (See two letters below from Russ Paul). Unfortunately I can't make it...my daughter is graduating from high school. The following have said they are going: Chris Buzzard, Jeremy Buschlen, Kris Green, Robby Cook, and Will Eichler with a maybe from Adam Nini and Mack Kerridge. Please let me know if you can attend.

Scott,

Dexter is primarily a living history event so as such there are no battles are skirmishes. So, you are free to drill, demonstrate, and interact with the public as much as you like. We do not ask or expect that you assume a 4th Michigan impression -- all regiments have their own story to tell.

If it helps sway any opinions, tell your boys that last year we received the remnants of the keg that was served at the \$125 per plate fundraiser dinner. It was no less than half full and was locally brewed Belgian ale of about 8% alcohol. I have no reason to expect it won't happen again, unless the whole thing gets consumed at the dinner. I think the artillery boys even got the caterers to give them some leftover chow.

Again, we're happy to have you on board and I look forward to hearing from you.

Cheers,

Russ

All,

I am pleased to announce that we will have a period sutler at our Dexter event! Jeremy Bevard of the Sally Port Mess will be doing his sutler impression and offering, for a reasonable fee, a wide variety of period items for the soldier. I believe the intent is to donate any proceeds (above his costs) to Gordon Hall (I will double-check that to be sure). Attached is a list of items he will have available. I urge you and your group (unit commanders/coordinators, please pass this on to the soldiers in your command.) to patronize Jeremy's establishment as he is providing a great period-correct service for us and the money raised will be for a great cause. Thank you!

Regards,

*Russ Paul, Captain
4th Michigan, Co. A*

July 6-8 Historic Fort Wayne Civil War Days - Annual Civil War Days event at the Fort.

There will be garrison, drill and battles. Union commanded by Marty Walker of the 3rd Michigan. This is another one I can't attend. I need to know who can attend this one. Robert May has said he can go and provide his cook impression. Not sure how much per man yet. However probably won't go if no one speaks up and commits to this one. So please sound off and let me know if you are attending this.

July 27-29 Historic Fort Wayne Sherlock Guard LH. - Progressive Living History event it is the 151st anniversary of the muster in and assembling at the fort of the Sherlock Guard which was company A of the 5th Michigan. These boys came from the Detroit area and it is a great opportunity to immerse ourselves in an event that is portraying our own regiment's boys. There is a \$25 registration fee or \$26.50 via PayPal (see link below). Rations will be provided and the event is a first person throughout the whole weekend event as like most progressive events while still interacting with the public. Although I have not yet sent my registration...I will be getting that in soon...you will see me there as a private; it has been a long time since I did a private's impression and I am very much looking forward to it. Will Eichler is coming as our civilian cook. For more information and registration info; the link to the event website;

<http://www.sallyportmess.itgo.com/sherlockguardshome.html>

There are uniform guidelines that pretty much match your kits that you have now. But if you need something to borrow, don't hesitate to ask. The impression guidelines are easy to meet and we made compromises to the history to make it so. A uniform look is what we are after at the least. No weapons or leathers are needed for this as the 5th was not issued these until they reached Washington. There has been and continues to be a lot of research going into this event. This will be a semi-immersion and living history style event since we will be open for the public to take tours. If you have any questions please let me know.

September 8-9 Mustering the 21st: - The 150th anniversary of the formation of the original 21st Michigan is this September. In celebration, there will be a weekend living history event in Ionia on Sep 8-9, where the 21st MI first mustered into Federal service. The local historical society is just tickled to have us there. The event is co-organized by the 21st Michigan and the 3rd Michigan Co F. The 3rd has been very gracious and given the 21st the spotlight. JR Schroeder is the event commander and is the current point of contact. Good on both of your

groups for working together so well – you set a good example for all of us! Robert May has also said he will be going to this with his cook’s impression.

September 14-17 Living History 150th Antietam MD - We will be camping on the actual battlefield as close to the 150th Anniversary as possible portraying the Iron Brigade; like we did in the fall of 2010. Everyone must have a Hardee hat. I will be commanding the progressive company this year. Robert May will be on site to serve as one of our cooks. We have been invited to stay on the site through Monday the 17th! We’ll need to know soon who can stay the extra day. It would be great to keep the entire company but it’s not required to attend. Registered from the 5th so far are: Chris Buzzard, Robby Cook, Scott Cummings, Will Eichler, Mike Golden, Kris Green, Mack Kerridge, John Legg, Edmund Lockhart, Justin McLaren, Adam Nini, Robert May, Zach Schatzer and Ernest Simmons!

October 5-7 Perryville KY 150th Anniversary - We will be portraying the 21st Michigan. Will is our Colonel. Held on the actual battlefield. Boys...this is the closest battlefield to us. Robert May is planning on being our cook.

October 19-21 Wolcott Mill MI - Will Eichler in command. Great time last year. Robert May is planning on being our cook. This year the event will commemorate the role of the 4th Michigan at Shepherdstown Ford a few days after Antietam. We will help tell more stories of Michigan men in 1862.

As you can see boys we have a couple events in the summer but a couple good ones stacked up in the fall.

CARTRIDGE PARTIES

I am looking at doing at least two cartridge parties this summer. I don’t have the dates right now as my focus has been on getting through this spring semester. Thank God I only took two classes. However these are accelerated and both online. One is done on June 25th and the other July 17th. As this latter class winds down I will get an email out and post it on Facebook as to when we can have these cartridge parties. I will let you boys know enough in advance.

ROAD TRIP

It would be nice this summer for us to meet up at the State Historical Museum for a day to check out the exhibits and maybe even get a look at some of the Flags from the Michigan regiments that have been saved. Is there any interest in doing something like this? Let me know. The other option is to just drive around for 18 hours pretending to go to a national event...lol

COMMUNICATION & REGISTRATION

Finally, as we grow as a group, it is very important that you communicate to me what events you are planning on attending. Please don’t get mad if I ask you a second time. It is better to be clear than to not know at all. Registering the approximate correct numbers is very important to event hosts as they plan accordingly for amenities. Wood, straw, water porta-johns all cost money and if we say we are coming with 16 people then let’s try to hit that number as close as possible within 10% either way. I know things happen at the last minute sometimes to through that all off...as with the case of GFV, I got clients that wanted to buy a house...I have to

take them when I get them. Then if I don't go that throws off who was going to ride with me. Anyway, let us endeavor to be more accurate when we sign up for these things.

The other factor too is that Robert May needs as close an accurate count as we can get so he can buy the right amount of stuff. He will be one pissed off cook if he buys for 16 and 6 show up. Let's not see him in that mood.

So if I email you and ask you to reply, please do that, even if you don't know what you are going to attend. Keep up the lines of communication. If you don't have an email...get one and check it often. How hard is it to hit the reply button and time a quick note???

The other place to see info is on www.Facebook.com under the Saginaw City Light Infantry page.

Lastly, Will Eichler has done a top notch job at keeping our website up-to-date and current. There's a lot of info on that site...great articles and photos of original soldiers and events. This is your site too so please share stuff with Will so he can put it on the site. www.unionreenactor.com

That is it from me right now. Let's have a great and safe summer, get some articles in for the next issue of the Light which we will probably want to get out in August. Take care and keep up the communication with me pard.

Your servant,
Scott Cummings
scottyhomeseller@charter.net
989-415-8592

Bill of Wares

For those of you going to Dexter, the sutler has posted his bill of wares (what's for sale) in advance. At the period sutler at the Dexter event, you can expect:

Available at Dexter from J. Bevard, Sutler

Available Wares

Button Products

Goodyear

Bone & Tin

Uniform

Button Boards

Personal Items

Candles

Medicated Paper

Bay Rum

Shaving Soap

Writing Goods

Eating Utensils

Foot Powder

Song Books

Cough & Stomach Medication

Tobacco Products

Clay Pipes

Matches

Smoking Leaf

Cigars

Eatables

Oysters, Sardines & Lobster

Peaches & Cherries

Tomatoes

Condensed Milk

Pickles

Pepper Sauce

Mustard

Fruit Pies

Honey

Chocolate

And more!

From Will - Greenfield Village

Despite having huge attrition for this event, we had a great time! The 5th was represented by Will Eichler, Bugler Robby Cook, Corporal Chris Buzzard and Privates Adam Nini, Kris Green and Dalton Litwiller.

Dalton attended drill for the first time here and did a great job! Welcome to the ranks – both of the 5th and the larger battalion! Robby did an excellent job both bugling and playing music on his coronet to keep up spirits in camp. The best part of the weekend for me was singing in camp on Friday night. We had coronet, banjo, bones and a tambourine at one point plus the great voices of us and the Sally Ports!

The weekend wasn't much to be excited about at the battalion level. All we did was one drill a day and the tactical demonstration. However, we had a lot of fun in the camp. Several great meals were made – Sean Collicott made an excellent stew, Jeremy Bevard did as well and the kind interpreters at the Susquehanna Plantation made us mid-day meals both Sunday and Monday. We had a lot of fun singing and playing games in camp. Friday night was a blast walking around the Village.

If we can get more men there next year, we'll up the interpretation by running a guard at Headquarters during open hours and we may be able to once again help the Cavalry by providing infantry skirmishers during their demonstration.

Website

New items to the website include some updated pictures both in the events section and a few new pictures of the original 5th MI members. I had a chat with a long time CDV collector named Dale Neisen at Greenfield Village. He used to re-enact with our pards in the 21st MI. I'm contacting him as he thinks he knows where there are some more pictures of the original 5th MI.

Also, I hope shortly to have an excellent article written by Jeremy Bevard on the forming of the 5th up on our website.

Dues

As members in the 5th, we have yearly dues of \$15.00 per man. I've acted as treasurer for the unit since we got the organization going. We don't yet have an account in the unit name. I have a separate savings account in my credit union that we use. Please pay your \$15.00 dues as soon as possible. You can bring the money to Dexter or send me a check. Make it out to Will Eichler and please but 5th MI in the memo.

If you need to mail it – send it to:

Will Eichler/ 57431 Junction Ct./ Washington, MI 48094