



*The Newsletter of the 12<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry and the 9<sup>th</sup> Ohio Independent Battery*

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*“The feeling that pervaded the ranks may be shown in the remark of a comrade who met the bearer of the message 30 years after. ‘Forget your face? Never. It rises before me whenever I think of Kenesaw, for it seemed to me you were carrying a death sentence to every man in the regiment.’”*

Milo Henry “Harry” Lewis to *The National Tribune*, August 1925 about giving the order to prepare to attack Confederate positions on Kenesaw Mountain. Lewis served as adjutant at the time.

## Events

**Friday & Saturday, March 27 & 28: A Night at Heritage Hall, Marion, 7PM-10PM.** This has, in the past couple of years, been a really fun and unique event. As stated in the last newsletter, our concentration for this event will be our own Company B. This will be the first time we’ve done a group portrayal but it looks like it’s going to be a lot of fun. We have a large number participating in this, so it’s become quite a turn-out. Let’s hope this is a start to a good trend for the year. Thanks to all who are helping with this.

There will be rehearsals on Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 6:30 and 6:30 to 7:30 in the evening respectively for those who want a better idea of what’s going on than what has already been sent out. Please let the captain know if you plan on attending any of these.

**Saturday, April 18: Company Spring Drill, New Bloomington Fire Department, New Bloomington, 10AM-2PM.** This is a little out of the way, but Dan has

secured for us a place with plenty of room and a place to fire. There’s a lot to cover, so we’ll start with infantry drill and then, for those that wish to learn or plan on serving on the gun, artillery. We need to go over, in addition to the usual, bayonet and skirmish drill. The captain wishes that all his NCO’s attend so that they can have a chance to maneuver the company themselves. Everyone needs a refresher for we are all a bit rusty, plus we have a new member to train, so let’s have a good turn out for this. A lunch will be organized. “I strongly encourage people to attend the drill, not only for the Resaca event but for all events,” reminds the First Sergeant. From Marion take SR 95W. From Delaware take 37W to 203N to 95W. The area is just east of town.

**Saturday & Sunday, April 25 & 26: Living History, Gallipolis City Park, Gallipolis.** Our friends in the 91<sup>st</sup> OVI are putting this one on and they’re more than happy to have us. They have a pretty relaxed and fun weekend planned. It’s mostly living history: camp setup, firing and drill demonstrations. They’re also

### Need Help for the Civil War Show.

On Saturday and Sunday, May 2 & 3, Mansfield is having its annual Civil War Show at the Richland County Fairgrounds. Once again, the Army of the Ohio will be establishing a recruiting booth for all member units. However, with much of the AotO fighting in Virginia that weekend, only the 41<sup>st</sup> OVI is putting up much representation. The 121<sup>st</sup> has not made this an event (especially with how busy May already is) but if you’re planning on going to the show anyway, go in uniform, get in for free, and help the 41<sup>st</sup> represent the battalion.

planning a Rounders tournament and possibly a “sham” battle, as they put it. And it wouldn’t be a 91<sup>st</sup> event without food. It looks like breakfast and lunch are provided. It appears that it will all be over by 1PM Sunday. We know that the 91<sup>st</sup> always provides a good time, and this will be a great opportunity to do some

camp scenarios. Looks like it'll be worth the trip.

**Friday, May 8: Fairbanks Middle School Program, Milford Center, 9AM-3PM.** We can use all the help we can get. We had a good group of kids last year, and this year promises the same. We need help for the Round Robin, infantry demonstrations, student drill, and artillery demonstration. Fairbanks is located just a few miles south of Marysville on SR 38.

**Tuesday, May 12: Highland Middle School Program, Sparta, 9AM-3PM.** Again, we can use all the help you can give us. This is Rob Terrill's school and he has always treated us well, so let's have some good support for Rob and his kids.

**Thursday, May 14: Big Walnut Middle School Program, Sunbury, 9AM-3PM.** This is the day before we leave for Resaca and with Highland we're cramming a lot into one week, but we have enough of our school volunteers that are not going to the event that we can pull this off. (Plus, the school would not pull it back to the previous week.) All those that can attend these programs, please notify the captain.

**Friday - Sunday, May 15 - 17: 145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Resaca, Resaca, GA.** Limber up the gun, it's time to head south! Yes, the James is headed to Georgia. We're falling in with the 1<sup>st</sup> Ohio Light Artillery (Statehouse Battery). This will be our first chance to work within a battery organization and at a major event. There are two major battles planned, a Friday evening battle tentatively planned, with a Sunday morning tactical. So, an exciting time is out there.

A convoy would be a good idea, to help get the James down there and make sure that all of our crew arrives. Details on this will be discussed with participants later. We need at least

about six members to crew the gun, and right now we have three: Sergeant Jeff Craig, Jared Haudenschild, and Pete Haudenschild. Please contact the captain if you plan to attend. Registration is \$6 before May 1. "If we're going to be going as artillery more often, we need to have the support of the group to make things work," states Sergeant Craig. The captain would like to have registration in before the end of March.

Directions to Resaca: From I-75, take exit #320 (Lafayette Georgia Hwy. 136), go east approx. 3/10 mile to U.S. Hwy. 41. Turn left and go approx. 3 miles, then turn right onto Chitwood Road. The area is well marked with event signs.

#### Memorial Day Up for Grabs.

We still have not been asked yet to attend a Memorial Day event. AMVETS of Galion will be meeting this month so we might hear from them, but as of now, Memorial Day is open to all takers. So, if you know a Memorial Day event in the area that might want us to march, please contact the captain, or have the promoters do so. Let's keep this to a marching unit only. We don't have the numbers for both infantry and artillery. The captain will likely contact the Galion veterans by the end of the month if nothing else is heard.

#### Teaching and Entertaining the Kiddies.

On Tuesday, February 17, the company, represented by Capt' H. and Pete Haudenschild put on a presentation to Cub Scout Troop #50



The star marks the location of the Resaca event.

at St. Mary's Church in Marion. Our new recruit, Rob McLernon, is the scout leader and he asked for a short talk on the Ohio soldier. Short nothing doin' and the nearly hour long discussion was well received. There were about half a dozen scouts, who got to carry around a fully loaded knapsack, as well as a few guests. Rob states that the kids really enjoyed it and were talking about it the next day. Though young, hopefully a few future recruits.

#### Burning Complaints, But Where's the Smoke?

In the last issue of *The Long Roll*, and it was brought up at the meeting, several member units of the Army of the Ohio, as well as the battalion staff, had problems with the First Federal Division under the current leadership of BG Steve Dunfee. Initially, a letter was to be drafted and sent to the division, but instead, it was decided at the confirmation meeting in January to present the grievances personally at the division meeting. Three members of the AotO, led by Col. Minton presented the problems that the battalion had. Nothing since has been heard. The colonel has not sent anything out as to the general response of the division

or a report. The division has put up the minutes of the meeting on their web site on the New & Updates Page at ([www.firstfederaldivision.com](http://www.firstfederaldivision.com)) and it makes no mention that the AotO has put forth any grievances. Maybe something more will be said in future correspondence with the battalion. *The Long Roll* will keep you updated as to the relationship with the battalion and the division.

**Tactical Tips:  
The Difference Between  
Guard and Charge Bayonets.**

There seems to be a misunderstanding among reenactors in the Bayonet Manual translated by Captain George McClellan. Often the position of *Guard* is perceived as the same as *Charge Bayonets*. This is not true.

*Charge Bayonets* has the tip of the bayonet as high as the soldier's eye, with the lock plate to the right, the barrel up and the trigger guard down. In the Bayonet Drill, the position of *Guard* is slightly different. The tip of the bayonet is as high as the soldier's chin. (Thus it is called the *Middle Guard*. There is also *Guard Against Cavalry* and *Guard Against Infantry*, which are above and below respectively.) Also, the musket is given a half turn (45° to the left) so that the lock plate is diagonally up. When the *Thrust* is made, the soldier give the musket a half turn to the right (so the barrel is up, the trigger guard down). Like a punch, this twist gives the *Thrust* added force.

**A Correction  
from JDH**

Those of you helping with the Night at Heritage Hall event have received information about Company B and the action it saw at Kenesaw Mountain, that will appear in the historical society's compendium book and which is told in the article below. They will recognize a difference in the casualty list for the company.

Accounts of the regiment's casualties at the battle is given at 164 officers and men, of which I found evidence listing over more than 140 of them. The rest I have been unable to find. Colonel Banning stated that all the NCO's were either killed or wounded. In an attempt to find the other 20 or so casualties, I searched Company B's muster roll for its corporals at the time and added them to the list, 5 of them.

However, in looking further into the research for this article, I discovered I made a mistake. I came across a quick break-down of casualties from Col. Banning that added up to 146, not 164. I then looked at the statement he made in regard to B's NCO's. Banning wrote: "In Company B all of them [the NCO's] were either killed or wounded." A careful look at the statement previous goes: "while most of the sergeants [in Company I] were either killed or wounded." The "them" is actually "sergeants" and not the broader term of "NCO's." Once those 5 added corporals were removed from the list, the casualty count I have comes to . . . tada: 146.

This numbers dyslexia has occurred before. Every record states that the 121<sup>st</sup> mustered in with 985 officers and men. When an actual count is done, the number is 958.

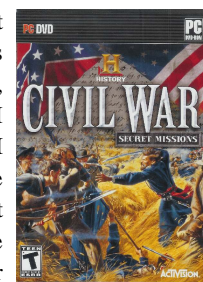
These are the problems of history, and is proof why there is a need to constantly look into it.

**This Is Your Voice**

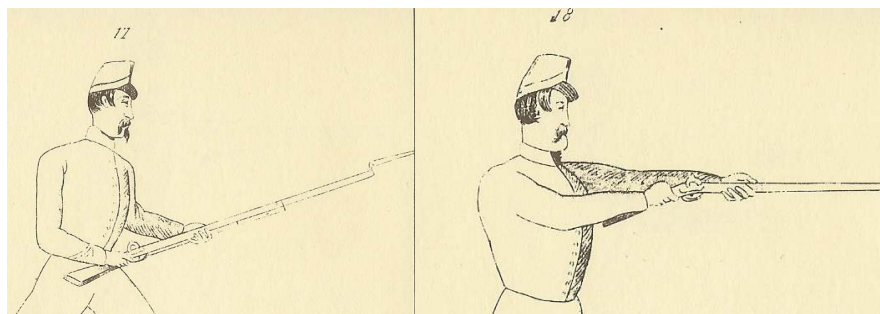
The Long Roll is not only the voice of the command and the captain exclusively. This is your voice as well. If you wish to comment, whether for good or ill, on an event, the command, or the unit in general, share your thoughts. If you enjoyed an event, tell everyone what you liked. Similarly, if you hated it, tell us what you hated. If you have ideas, this is the place to share them. If you've come across something interesting, share it with us. It doesn't have to be long; in fact, the shorter it is the better chance it has of making the page. If you have pictures, share them, please. While company business will always take precedence, don't let the captain monopolize it, or you'll get more things like *Tactical Tips*. And you don't want that, do you?

**Civil War: Secret Missions  
What New Lows the  
History Channel Has Come To.  
Review by JDH.**

Because I got this as a gag gift for Christmas ( t h a n k s , Stephen), I



I thought I would share this latest media of the Civil War from our friends at the History Channel. And what a piece of pathetic history this is. Like Krusty the Klown, it appears that the H will put its logo on anything, and with global warming, prophecies of doom, reality TV, and cheap



**At Guard, the lock plate should be up at a slant of 45 degrees. At Thrust, the bayonet is giving a slight twist as the lock plate is brought square to the right.**



Yes, the Hardee Hat is blue and that Reb is carrying a Spencer.

g i m m i c k s

they're playing to their strengths.

Pluses, fun game to waste an afternoon. You get to fire some weapons we normally don't get to. (I now want a Spencer.) Being able to fire using the actual sights is a nice touch. Well, I've run out of good. While WWII games have increased historical accuracy, this goes in the opposite direction. Uniforms are straight from the wardrobe of Polyester Playboy Ken doll. Everyone has a Spencer, Henry, or Colt Revolving Rifle. The only muzzle-loaders are a double-barrel

shotgun and a Whitworth Sniper Rifle, whose loading times rival that of an M1. The Whitworth requires no gunpowder and you shove the bullet 2in's down the barrel. Percussion caps are a myth. The Colt pistol fires deadly blanks.

The great crime continues with the amount of grenades you can carry. You literally can't throw them all away without being able to replenish them. Gatling guns appear about as often as MG42's in WWII games. It features prominently in a scenario in May 1861! Best of all, you never have to reload it. Cannons can be loaded by one man in 8 seconds. (New goal for the James! Get your rear movin' Jeff.)

Don't expect much from your comrades. Watch depressingly as they get into *Police Squad* style shootouts, blasting each other from 3 feet away and not do any harm. Good time to use those deadly blanks in your Colt Army. Or have more fun by lobbing a grenade. (I have to admit, though, the effects of enemy soldiers being hurled through the air

by those grenades are really cool!) And don't look for formations. Despite when 10 soldiers come out of the woods, there is no skirmish line. Watch the army maneuver from a distance, like an mob of confused



"Invented in 1863" has no meaning in this game. As well as "limited quantities."

morons.

Probably the worst part of the whole thing is that the History Channel has its logo all over it. It tries to give historical synopses at the beginning at each scenario, but it occasionally gives the wrong date or has the wrong picture for a general. (It's amazing how much John S. Mosby looks like J.E.B. Stuart.) It's a measure of just how poor the quality has become that is offered by the History Channel as of late.

## “A Death Sentence to Every Man in the Regiment.” Company B at the Battle of Kenesaw Mountain June 27, 1864.

The men milled about under the hot Georgia sun, seeking any shade or cover they could find to get out of the burning rays. The men of Company B were behind the lines; the First Brigade of their division manning the forward trenches. They had been pulled out of the lines further north two days earlier, and they feared now that a major attack was in the works. B had seen a lot of action since the commencement of the Atlanta Campaign. They had successfully assaulted Buzzard's Roost Gap, were under fire at Resaca, were the first troops to enter the entrenchments and city of Rome, and had been under almost constant skirmish fire since late May but had only taken their first casualty four days ago. Morale was high, but the looming shadow of Kenesaw Mountain made the 57 men quake at the thought of attacking those formidable works. Finally, a messenger approached Colonel Henry B. Banning, the regimental commander. If his dower expression did not say it, the orders that came from Adjutant M. Henry Lewis did, "Have your men fall in



Colonel Henry B. Banning (27) always led from the front. He was perhaps 10 yards away from the Rebels lines when they opened fire.

without knapsacks!" The death sentence had been passed.

Major General William T. Sherman had not wanted to attack Kenesaw. He preferred to go around such obstacles, but the Army of the Ohio had failed to accomplish that goal. Plus, newspapers from the North were calling for a decisive showdown with General Joseph E. Johnston's army. He felt he had little option but to break the Confederate lines.

Acting First Sergeant Lyman Weeks formed up the company as ordered. The 31 year old Shelby moulder

had been the *acting* first sergeant since March the previous year but had never been promoted to the position officially. Once he was done, Weeks turned over the company to its only officer, Captain Marshall Blair Clason. (The company's first lieutenant, Charles R. Van Houten, appeared to be assigned on another duty.) At 26, Clason had been commanding the company for about a year and a half. The Madison, Wisconsin native had become good friends with the regiment's former colonel while attending Delaware's Ohio Wesleyan University. That friendship got him selected as the regiment's adjutant and later Company B's commander, but he had definitely proved himself equal to the task.

Nearly a dozen men in the company were new recruits, enlisted over the past winter and trained over the months of March and April. Only about 15 to 20 were the battle-hardened veterans of Chickamauga and Chattanooga. The rest had missed much of the campaigns by being sick or captured (or both) and were not able to return to the company in time for the redemptive campaign. But their sergeants and corporals were among those battle-hardened veterans.

Colonel John G. Mitchell formed his Second Brigade into a column of battalions, the 121<sup>st</sup> Ohio just behind the lead regiment, the 113<sup>th</sup> Ohio. The units were formed in echelon to the right, so Company B, on the left flank of the regiment, was behind the eighth company of the lead unit. Mitchell's attack was to coincide with that of the Third Brigade, under Colonel Daniel McCook, Jr. Both were to strike a salient in the line of Major General Benjamin F. Cheatham's division. However, to attack the southern portion of the line, Mitchell's regiments had to wheel to the left to strike it.



**Corporal John H. Boyd (20) was killed in the opening blast. He was one of two corporals lost in the battle. Boyd was from Pleasant Twp. in Marion Co.**

morning long bombardment.

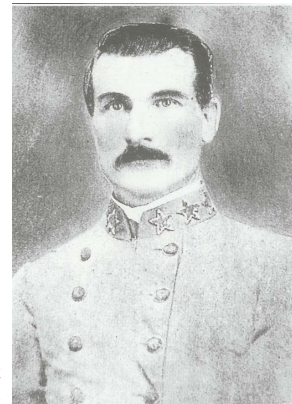
As they ascended the mountain, Banning prepared to deploy his regiment. "I was also instructed to deploy my regiment to the right [of the 113<sup>th</sup> Ohio] when

I struck the enemy; that my left would probably strike an angle in the enemy's works, and that I would have to wheel my regiment to the left, and that I would be supported by the regiments in my rear." As they neared the point, Banning gave the order to wheel, Company B, as the pivot, having to double-quick in place near the enemy line.

The 113<sup>th</sup> Ohio, covering the regiment, was blasted by rifle fire and masked batteries. General Cheatham had kept his cannon hidden from the Federal command and now he unleashed their fury. The 113<sup>th</sup> recoiled under the terrible onslaught, broke and retreated down the slope to reform. This action left the 121<sup>st</sup> alone to face the wrath of Brigadier General George E. Maney's Brigade, under the command of Colonel Francis M. Walker. (The 121<sup>st</sup> had faced Maney's Brigade before, first at Perryville then again at Chattanooga.) Banning continued, "the enemy still was reserving his fire, and continued to do so until my command got close up to his ditches on the right, when he opened upon my single line with grape and canister from both flanks and a full line of small-arms from my front."

B, on the left flank, took massive fire from both flank and front. Men dropped by the dozen. Private H. Newton Mounts, a 19 year old who had only gotten back with the company at Chattanooga after a year long absence due to an illness, had his left leg torn off by canister, his right leg shattered, and a shoulder mangled. He died the following day. Privates Joseph Sanford and John A. Robinson made it to the breastworks before both went down into the outside ditch. Both men were dragged into the enemy lines and sent to Andersonville Prison. Robinson was released and died at a hospital in Memphis in July 1865. Sanford was lost to history.

Captain Clason was struck in the arm as he advanced and so too fell Sergeant Weeks. Sergeants William B. Patton, Lewis M. Phillips, and Tunis H. Cornell all fell in the fury. Seeing the futility of the attack, Colonel Banning ordered a retreat. About forty paces away from the Rebel lines, Banning reformed the regiment and the men were ordered to lie down. Despite being wounded, Sergeants Weeks and Phillips remained with the men, and with Captain Clason down, Weeks took command. Banning quickly dressed his men to the right, moving away from the casualties of Company B. While



**Colonel Francis M. Walker of the 19<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry took command of General Maney's Brigade while the general was sick.**

the front rank provided covering fire, the rear rank moved back to the line of the trees and dug breastworks with whatever they had a hand: bayonets, plates, knives, forks, spoons, cups, and their bare hands.

Adjutant Lewis, seeing Captain Clason, Captain Linus A. Patrick of G, and Major John Yager lying out to the left wounded, wanted to lead a rescue party to retrieve those officers. Busy reorganizing the regiment and leading its defense, Banning gave Lewis permission. Gathering about half a dozen members from B, Lewis with his party crawled on the ground, getting close to the downed officers. He talked briefly with Major Yager, who was in too bad of shape to be moved, and discovered that Patrick was already dead. Clason was hiding behind a tree, clutching his wounded arm. Lewis called to him, "Captain, come away!" but Clason, fearing a return of the fierce volume of fire, simply replied, "Go away!" Just then, the Rebs, seeing the small force, sent a torrent of lead at the would-be rescuers. One of the B men was killed, and Lewis ordered a retreat, vowing to return.

The regiment kept up its fire and holding its position, while Colonel Mitchell tried to dress the rest of the brigade on them. As ammunition ran low, Banning called for every man to save his last round and sent Captain Stephen B. Morehouse, the acting quartermaster, and Ordinance Sergeant Edward P. Bliss down the mountain to get more. As night cloaked the men, Banning withdrew the entire force behind the breastworks. Here, B took its final casualty of the day. Private George W. Shultz had already fallen asleep exhausted behind the breastworks, when an artillery shell exploded nearby and

sent a shard into the 20 year old's right thigh.

At 9 o'clock that night, another rescue party was sent for the officers. One man cautiously approached the Rebel lines and received permission to gather their men. Major Yager was dead, struck several more times as he lay on the ground. Clason, too, was dead. He had received two more wounds and bled to death. He had laid out his personal affects, including a picture of his wife of less than two years, around him and his arms were folded.



**Private William C. Rapp (19), a German immigrant, fought his last at Kenesaw, too, when a bullet tore into his left arm. Rapp survived and so did his arm, but he spent the rest of the war in hospitals.**

Company B had suffered the second highest casualty rate of the regiment. (Company I, two companies to the right, took one more casualty.) They lost their only officer, so Sergeant Weeks remained in command, despite his own wound. It was several weeks before Lieutenant Van Houten took command, and then shortly thereafter, Captain Jefferson J. Irvine was assigned to the company in August. Sergeant Phillips, wounded, also remained. Six men were killed and eight others mortally wounded, dying within weeks. Two men were captured and died as a result, for a total of sixteen dead. Thirteen men, including all the sergeants, were wounded. Twenty-nine men in total out of the 58 were struck down.

They held their position from a brief counterattack the following evening until the enemy evacuated the line on July 3. The Army of the Ohio had finally flanked the position.