

GREYS in COLOR

Volume 2, Number 1

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DECEMBER 2011

MAJOR'S MANDATE

I am always interested in our reenactment in Vernon; that seems to be the only one I can find time to be a player. As county historian, I enjoy the opportunity to talk with anyone who comes to Vernon and wants to talk about Jennings County history.

This year it was rather exciting for me to be able to get the first volume of *LEGACY OF HONOR* out to the public. At this time, I almost have volume two nearing completion. This will take the military in Jennings County up to 1899 and the end of the Spanish/American War. It will also include some pension records up through 1917, for those who served in the military prior to 1900. There are also quite a few names and articles that I consider additions to volume one. Several bits of local military history were brought to my attention during Sassafras Days last April and many good contacts were established. I received copies of Civil War letters that were written by Captain James Goodnow, of Vernon. I have also found several documents pertaining to the militia in Jennings County from the 1830's and 1840's. A couple of these are election returns for the election of officers in various units. They also list those who voted, which gives me some new names of military men with ties to Jennings County.

I thought that it was great to take part in the Memorial Day activities at the Vernon cemetery, both as a salute to ALL veterans and to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the beginning and the first year of the Civil War.

I want to commend those who took part in other reenactments this year and thank you for your representation of the VERNON GREYS. I know we are a small group, but I am PROUD to be a member.

Thanks to each of you for all that you do and I wish you and your families a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

MAJOR TOM RICE



LEGACY OF HONOR By Tom Rice

MEMBERS 2011-2012

Apsley, Rick	Apsley, Nancy	Furgason, Terry*	Furgason, Wes	Furgason, Jan
Harding, Steve*	Jones, Ray	Jones, Sam	Mobley, Steve*	Monaghan, Tim
Morlin, Jerry	Narber, Christian	Narber, Tim	Ochs, Mike*	Ochs, Connie
Paul, Chuck	Rice, Tom*	Sweet, Marvin	Posey, Justin	Bell, Andy

* Founding members

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CAPTAIN'S COMMENTS

We had a good year, and I hope that next year will be even bigger and better for the Vernon Greys. It would nice to have everyone attend the meetings so that we would be better equipped to plan the events. It sure would be nice to have a big showing for Sassafrass Days, since we are the "Home Guard." This year will be the "tune-up" for 2013, which is the 150th anniversary of Confederate John Morgan's Raid in 1863. Only time will tell, and it will be up to the ones that want to make it happen. I appreciate the time and hard work that our 1st Sgt. Terry has put into planning our meetings. I would like to commend Major Tom Rice on his book and how much information is in it. To the rest of our "active unit": Thanks, Rick for all the time and research, and welcome, Justin to the ranks of the Vernon Greys.

For our group to stay a representation of Jennings County's best Civil War soldiers, more of us need to get involved. With only three or four in the field, our unit will soon dissolve, and the representation of Jennings County, Indiana in the Civil War will fade into oblivion.

Let's get out there and reenact!!

Capt. Mike Ochs



THIS JUST-IN

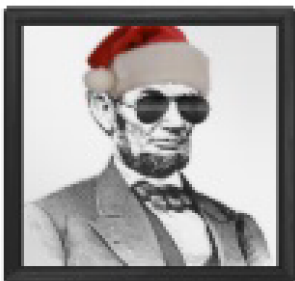
Priv. Justin Posey



This year was my first year as a private in the Greys, and I can say that this has been one of the best years I have had. Being a part of the Vernon Greys has done a lot for me with reenacting and learning more of our history. Before this year, I could not have told you much about what happened in our county during the Civil War, or what our militia did for Jennings County and the state of Indiana. Before this year, Morgan's Raid was simply an event in history that happened to come near our town.

Since then, I have learned much about Jennings County history. I learned about the duty of the Jennings militia during the war, about the praises and accolades we received from the state and generals alike. I learned about the bravery and duty of these men who stayed behind to work the factories, the fields, the railroads, and who did not shirk their duty when the war came to their front lawn. I now know more than before about the militia's role in the Civil War, and I want others to know about what our county did as well.

I hope to see the Greys do many things this next year and in years to come. I feel that it would be amazing if we could bring in all of us to Vernon this year to show the people who we are and what we really did during the war. I wish for us to be able to do more little activities, even if it is just a day guarding the courthouse, just so people can see and learn from us. We could possibly even show the students of our county just what it was like for the real men in the Civil War, then I know that the memories and service of the Vernon Greys, and the other men who served their country, blue and grey, will always be remembered and honored.



SERGEANT'S SALUTATIONS

1st Sgt. TERRY FURGASON

2011 kept me busy as a reenactor. In January, the Indiana Brigade welcomed us into their ranks as full members. April began the fifth year for the Vernon Greys. At Vernon, Rick and I joined in the battle with the 11th IN Zouaves on Saturday and Sunday. Mike used his Henry with the 4th IN Cavalry on Saturday but joined the 11th IN on Sunday. I still need to get a copy of Tom's book. We even picked up some new members. We enjoyed Saturday's battle at Rising Sun; unfortunately rain and thunder storms cancelled Sunday's battle. In May, Mike, Justin (one of our new recruits), and I attended Conner Prairie, though only Mike and Justin actually participated. For a fourth year, we went to the Lanier Days at Madison in June. I joined Mike, Rick, and Justin to battle against the Confederates with the 4th IN Cavalry and the 6th IN Infantry. Severe weather (including a tornado warning) cancelled the Sunday battle. In July, my family took an awesome Gettysburg vacation trip. For August, Mike and I attended a Kiwanian breakfast meeting at the Log Cabin to present information on the Vernon Greys and other Civil War soldiers. On Memorial Day, we joined veterans for a presentation at the Vernon Cemetery. We then saluted the grave of a member of the 9th IN Legion (Jennings). I think we should keep this addition to our schedule. Later September at Salem's Old Settlers' Days, Mike and I joined the 11th IN. We had no battle, just a living history (sitting around and talking with the 11th), but we did a short skit with some Confederates and Morgan, so we at least got to fire our weapons. (This may be one to drop next year.) I also did a demonstration for history classes, where I joined Jordan Stout, a student teacher from Hanover and a member of the 44th Tennessee. In October, Mike and I met Rick at Hartford City. Unfortunately, we only spent the night Friday and returned home Saturday night after the battle. Eleutherian College and the 4th IN Cav. invited us to participate in a living history from the Indiana Historical Society's Lincoln exhibit. Before the event started, however, the organizing committee cancelled it.



For 2012, I would like to attend most of the same events again. I would like to add Charlestown (which Rick attended) and perhaps Scottsburg and local events like in Commiskey Fall Festival or Hayden Pioneer Days. The Indiana Brigade may join forces with the Cumberland Guard in 2012. We will know more after the meeting in January. The Jennings County Library asked us to do a presentation in February.

Tom found the uniform of the Vernon Greys in their description to the governor in 1861: a short gray coat with black trim and pants with a black stripe. They did however wear the blue hat of the North. I see why some Northern militia groups were mistaken for Southerners. Some of us have purchased uniforms for representation of the Greys. We will still use our blues when we fall in with other groups but keep our "Greys" distinction for our hometown appearances.

It would be great if we could get numbers to show our new Greys at the 2012 Sassafrass and Tea Festival - our home turf. I love this stuff!!



PRIVATE'S PONDERINGS

Pvt. Rick Apsley



Another year has passed. I look across the room, and spy four reference books marked with dozens of sticky-notes signifying the areas of interest in each.

In another corner of the room lays a disc containing all eight volumes of the Adjutant General Reports, it's now discolored protective sleeve the victim of late night coffee spills and ink.

These scenes and the scattered papers and notes represent dozens of research hours.....a labor of love! We now know who the "Vernon Greys" were -via- the 1862 roster, where they operated -via- the Adjutant General reports, and what they wore -via- Tom Rice's discovery in Indianapolis....and (!BONUS!) there is so much more to discover!

In the next year, I plan on trying to get more weekend time to participate in the numerous ACW events in Indiana. This year, we made the Vernon Greys "live again"..... in a matter of speaking...at many events. The word is slowly getting out about the 9th Regiment/Jennings Indiana Legion Company A, and I am pleased that the Indiana Legion and the duties performed by these citizen soldiers are now being represented by this fine group of men and women.

Our soldier "kits" all seem to be improving. My compliments to the officers, non-coms, and enlisted men! I prefer the "flop" camp with the basic knapsack items....but I suuuuure won't ignore a nice cot and some ice-cold beverages now and again.

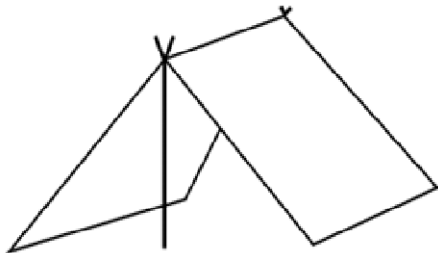
Believe it or not, considering the high volume of ACW vendors out there, outfitting oneself in proper ACW gear and clothing is not that pricy.....but it is still best to research EVERYTHING before ANY purchase to make sure the items are correct in construction and materials. There ARE still (to turn a proper 19th Century phrase) "shoddy" suppliers out there! Ask around a bit before the purchase. LOTS and lots of helpful and friendly folks in this hobby....sure an' certain I be!

Yep....we've come far in 2011.....and it looks like 2012 will be even better....Good Lord willin' and work doesn't interfere with the Regimental duties of this Private Citizen soldier.

Best to Ye all,

Pvt. Richard Apsley

9th Regiment/Jennings - Company A "Vernon Greys"



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

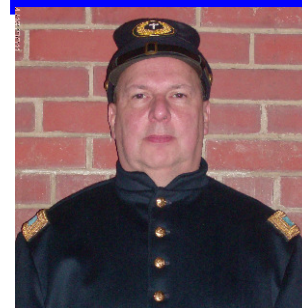
Last year the possibility was raised of hosting a worship service on the Sunday of Sassafras Days. All kinds of scenarios popped into my head and rattled around in the vast wasteland for awhile. What were the normal services like in church buildings? What were services like in the camps of soldiers? Was there a difference between worship in Northern camps than Southern camps? Was a service centered on fire and brimstone with shouting and finger-pointing by the preacher? Was it more subdued as many of the soldiers knew the next battle could be their last?

Abraham Lincoln knew the importance of the church when in a letter to the Methodist Episcopal Church he wrote, "Bless all churches! And blessed be God, who in this our great trial giveth us the churches."

Now that my curiosity has been roused I'm off to find answers to those questions. In doing so, I hope to find out more about the chaplain's role with those soldiers who were fighting for a cause much bigger than themselves and what role religion played amidst the camaraderie and bloodshed.

Chaplain Marvin Sweet

Rev. Marvin Sweet



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE 2012

Feb 9	Jennings County Library
April 28-29	Vernon (IN), Sassafras Tea Festival (IN Brigade)
May 5-6	Rising Sun (IN)
May 19-20	Conner Prairie (IN) (IN Brigade)
June 9-12	Billie Creek, Rockville (IN) (IN Brigade)
June 16-17	Madison (IN), Lanier Days
July 6-8	Corydon (IN), Battle of Corydon (IN Brigade)
Sept	Hope (IN), Heritage Days
Oct 12-14	Hartford City (IN) Civil War Days (IN Brigade)

INDIANA BRIGADE

Indiana Brigade Meeting

Sat. Jan. 14, 2012 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Location: Tabernacle Presbyterian Church

418 East 34th Street

Indianapolis, Indiana

Dress: UNIFORMS (Opportunity to recruit)

Discuss: Cumberland Guard with Brigade as

Army of the Wabash & 2012 schedule

Dues: \$15.00

