

# GREYS in COLOR

Volume 3, Number 3

[www.vernongreysmilitia.yolasite.com](http://www.vernongreysmilitia.yolasite.com)

DECEMBER 2012

## CAPTAIN MIKE OCHS



## CAPTAIN'S COMMENTS

The year has blown by like a cannon ball fired from the largest cannon. It has been a good year with a lot of activity. The Greys have experienced a lot of exciting engagements, and some that were more exciting than others.

We were very fortunate not to have lost any soldiers to wounds in battles. However, in The Vernon Campaign, it looked as though we were going to lose the First Sgt. I first thought it was the dreaded Black Plague, but it turned out not so. At Vernon we caught a Copper Head traitor. We had a warrant for his arrest and then arrested him on the streets of Vernon. Though he had several weapons on his person, he was taken into custody and held in the jail at the Courthouse. He later escaped - never to be found.

We have been in many battles with minie balls whizzing by and some finding their mark, but not so bad that we couldn't go on to the next battle.

I am very proud of our group. We may be small in number, but we are large in desire! We have the dedication to the history of our great country, and have been allowed to be a part in paying tribute to all of our country's honored veterans. To do this on the hottest day and to do this on the coldest day with snow flying is an honor.

We have had a opportunity to enjoy some of the world's best cooking due to our very beautiful and very talented wives.

To be a part of a civil war reenactment group can be fun and it can be a drag. It can be whatever we want it to be. My greatest interest is the Civil War, but since I've been reenacting I have had a chance to meet many interesting people and learn their take on the Civil War. At the events we get to see how the others camp and camping gear. All types of weapons and the correct drill are always present.

In our group I want us to first have fun and do what we want, to learn all we can, to help one another, and above all HAVE FUN!



## INSIDE

SGT'S SALUTATIONS \* PVT'S PONDERING \* CHAPLAIN'S CORNER  
JUST-IN \* MEMBERS 2012 \* SCHEDULE 2013 \* ARE YOU A CIVIL WAR BUFF?

[www.vernongreysmilitia.yolasite.com](http://www.vernongreysmilitia.yolasite.com)

2012 proved to be busiest year for me as a reenactor. In January, the Indiana Brigade began the discussion of joining the Army of the Cumberland to become the Army of the Wabash. After much debate, our enthusiasm is still in flux. 2012 began the sixth year of the Vernon Greys. We were invited to be guest speakers for Delta Kappa Gamma at the library in February. This was a good chance to show what we know and brag on ourselves. In April at Vernon Sassafras, we welcomed new member Robert Mitchell into the ranks as we joined in the battle on Saturday and Sunday. Tom showed off the new addition to his book line. (I still need to get copies of Tom's books.) In addition, we became hosts of the event with the 11th IN. We enjoyed Saturday and Sunday's battles at Rising Sun where we joined the 32nd IN and skirmished the rebs under the command of Mike. In May, Mike, Justin, and I attended Conner Prairie, though Mike participated with the dismounted cavalry. For a fifth year, we went to the Lanier Days at Madison in June. Wearing our grey uniforms, Mike, Rick, Justin, and I battled against the Confederates with the 4th IN Cavalry and the remnants of the 6th IN Infantry. Extreme temperatures caused the cancellation of the reenactment at Corydon, but I feel we should return in 2013 as this is a 150th event for the state of Indiana. Historic Hoosier Hills has agreed to take us on as one of their grant projects. After we presented to them our mission and the history of our group, we heard that the full amount of our request has been agreed upon. Mike and I made the three hour trip to Richmond, Kentucky for a 150th event. I think it was OK for once-in-a-lifetime thing, but I doubt I will ever go back. On Memorial Day, we again joined veterans for a presentation at the Vernon Cemetery. We then traveled to another cemetery to salute the graves of members of the 9th IN Legion (Jennings) and the 6th IN Infantry. We returned to the library for another presentation to another group (genealogy) and welcomed honorary member Sheila Kell into our numbers. Marvin gave a fantastic talk using captivating letters from Civil War clergy. I did another demonstration for history classes, where, over the course of two days, I talked to ten classes. Eleutherian College invited us to participate in a living history. This very small event allowed us to be a centerpiece for living history. In October, rather than going to Hartford City, we accepted an invitation to do a living history at the High Point Orchard in Greensburg. We have been invited back, but I hope it will not be the same weekend as Hartford City as we really want to go back. For 2013, I would still like to attend most of the same events again. The Indiana Brigade joining forces with the Cumberland Guard is yet a heavily debated topic amongst our group. I am unsure whether we will join or not. With our focus shifting to more family/living history events, I don't know how much we need the larger AOW. We will see what develops when we travel to Conner Prairie for the meeting in February. We will still keep our "Greys" distinction for our hometown (and local appearances) and maybe even some others! I love this stuff!!





# PRIVATE'S PONDERINGS

Pvt. Rick Apsley



2010 and 2011 were exciting years on the “research trail”. A lot was uncovered about the “Vernon Greys” and the entire 9th Regiment Indiana Legion, and 2012 proved to be even MORE fruitful with the material pulled and analyzed from Major Tom Rice’s volumes of “Legacy of Honor”, and of course the latest materials recently browsed and photographed within the now famous “magic box” in Indianapolis.

When Sgt. Furgason and Captain Och’s brought me the latest data from the “magic box”, I didn’t know what to expect. Within a few hours of review, the data proved to be a wealth of information.

The letters indicated a VERY large force of the 9th Regiment was mustered against Morgan in July 1863. The entire “Vernon Greys” roster for the service rendered from July 9th through the 18th is now available, and what I will call the “9th Regiment officer’s report of Company Accounts” for July 1863 was a REAL eye-opener. Some of the Captain’s names listed do not appear on ANY existing Company Roster’s, so it is highly probable that a few “Minute Men” companies were hastily formed in Jennings County for the defense of Vernon.

To solidify the force of 9th Regiment Indiana Legion and civilian volunteers (aka “the armed citizens of Jennings County”), Major Brown requested and received an additional 650 muskets and 20’000 rounds of ammunition on July 9th, 1863. If you remember, in December of 1862 Major Brown’s report to Morton indicated that “some six or seven companies are now fully armed”, which means there were between 350 and 450 muskets and rifled muskets in the 9th Regiment’s possession in late 1862 and early 1863, so with the additional arms received on July 9th 1863, the 9th Regiment could have easily armed over 1’000 men. The telegram exchange between Brown and the Quartermaster’s office is now available for review. What more will be uncovered this year? I can’t wait to find out!

Earlier Regimental information was also included in the data. For instance, a letter from the first Captain of the Vernon Greys to the Governor’s office can only be described as “juicy drama”. It appears the resignation of James H. Vawter as Captain of the “Vernon Greys” in late ‘61 was a result of tensions between Vawter and Colonel Mallick. Vawter was all for the 9th Regiment serving in Kentucky to suppress raids and enemy movements in late 1861 and early 1862, but Mallick would have none of it. This discouraged Vawter, who one can easily conclude was trying to further his political career –via- his leadership roles within the Indiana Legion, so this hot exchange and difference of opinion prompted his resignation from the Legion and sparked his future service to the Governor’s Office and the State of Indiana.

The events we attended this year were awesome. The smaller, more “intimate” events we are now choosing to participate in are providing much better and more controlled settings for focusing on the 9th Regiment history, and the history of the Indiana Legion in other counties. I have been pleasantly surprised that there are people actually EXCITED to receive the single-page historical “briefs” we started providing the public this year. We have had people in Jennings, Jefferson, and Decatur Counties express interest in joining our small band of citizen soldiers. I will continue to relish seeing people’s faces light up when they find out that their own communities and kin were involved with the defense of this State –via- the Indiana Legion. Priceless joy, indeed, and well worth the research time and effort!

I think the larger events are also a GRAND time, and for those of us interested in battle reenactments and regular infantry camp life, the experience is awesome and very educational.

There is truly something for everybody in the “Vernon Greys”. Whether looking for an avenue to educate, to research, to discuss, or to debate...we can go there. Whether you enjoy a day’s outing and then a soft bed, or a whole week of “seeing the elephant” in sweat-soaked heavy accoutrements and existing in a navy and sky blue and/or grey and black trim cloud of smelly acrid “B.O. WOOLY” euphoria...(ahhhh...the sweet, familiar, and welcome smell of blackpowder and man-sweaty wool cloth...!)...we know where to go and who to talk to.

I could write on and on with little and large details (and perhaps a bit of conjecture and supposition thrown in), so we will simply stop short this time and state emphatically that the research WILL continue, my Fellow Citizen Soldiers of the 9th Regiment Indiana Legion !

.....So I gently rise and softly call: “Goodnight, and God be with you All”.



# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

This past year I've spent time researching the role of chaplains in the Union Army during the Civil War. I have been surprised at the volume of material available over the Internet and have enjoyed spending time reading through all the information. Here are some of the things I discovered:

1. There were an estimated 3000 Chaplains appointed to the Union forces. The names of slightly over 2300 of these Chaplains are known to us.
2. Sixty-six Chaplains died in the service of their country.
3. The Civil War for the first time witnessed a large number of Roman Catholic Chaplains in the field (due to the number of Irish soldiers), was the advent of the first Jewish Chaplains, and the first Black and Native American Chaplains.
4. Three Chaplains won the Congressional Medal of Honor for their actions. Chaplain John M. Whitehead of the 15th Indiana Infantry won it for carrying wounded to the rear under very heavy fire at Stone River, Tennessee, in 1862.
5. Uniform for Chaplains of the army will be a plain black frock coat, with standing collar, and one row of nine brass buttons; plain black pantaloons, black felt hat or army forage cap, without ornament. (Guess I'm disobeying orders)
6. Chaplains' duties in the Civil War encompassed many areas. Most important were the worship services they conducted in tents, outdoors and around campfires. Catholic and Protestant Chaplains shared duties. The themes of their sermons were either patriotism to the cause, or admonitions against "evil" behavior (swearing, gambling, drunkenness and so forth). Additional duties included evening prayer meetings, prayers at dress parades and officiating at weddings, baptisms, funerals and burials. They performed pastoral functions by counseling, providing guidance and comforting the sick and wounded. They formed temperance societies and opened informal schools to teach illiterate soldiers to read and write. Among other chores assigned to Chaplains were those of postmaster, writer of letters for wounded and dying soldiers, writer of letters telling of a soldier's death, banker, ambulance driver, defense counselors and army recruiters.

Now I'm off to find out more about those chaplains – especially how many of them did or didn't wear the proper uniform!

Rev. Marvin Sweet



## POSSIBLE EVENTS 2013

Vernon (IN), Sassafras Tea Festival  
Rising Sun (IN)  
Conner Prairie (IN)  
Memorial Day -Vernon (IN) Cemetery  
Madison (IN), Lanier Days  
Battle of Corydon (IN)  
Hartford City (IN) Civil War Days  
Eleutherian College Living History (Lancaster, IN)  
Veterans' Day - North Vernon (IN) Cemetery

## ARMY OF THE WABASH

A date for the first meeting has been set!  
• More details will follow in the new Army of the  
• Wabash newsletter, including an agenda, etc. For  
• now, 'pencil in' the date of Saturday, February 9,  
• 2012 starting at 11:00 a.m. (EST). The meeting will  
• be at the 'Prairie House' at Conner Prairie in  
• Noblesville, IN. The FINAL version of the Charter  
• will be sent out soon. Some additional tweaks and  
• adjustments have been made. Stay tuned for details.



# THIS JUST-IN

Pvt . Justin Posey

Well, it's been another fun year here in the Greys. Much has happened this year that was new and exciting to me. Not only are we still the Vernon Greys, but we have become the 6th IN, Co. B! Our new Greys uniforms came in, even if the results were at times a bit...embarrassing. The reenactment at Vernon went off without the sergeant getting drowned in a puddle. I was able to go to Rising Sun, which is a new one for me. At Conner Prairie, I was able to participate in bayonet drill, which is incredibly fun if extremely hot. The Union won at Madison this year! We were given grant money for reenactment gear as well. Most important is that, although I was not directly involved with it, the Greys were able to get the word out about our involvement during the Civil War. All in all, I feel that this year has been a banner year in Civil War reenacting this year, and I hope that this upcoming year will be even better.



---

## MEMBERS 2012-2013

Apsley, Rick

Furgason, Terry\*

Mitchell, Robert

Posey, Justin

Apsley, Nancy

Jacobson, Bob

Ochs, Connie

Rice, Pat

Day, Janaye

Kell, Jay

Ochs, Mike\*

Rice, Tom\*

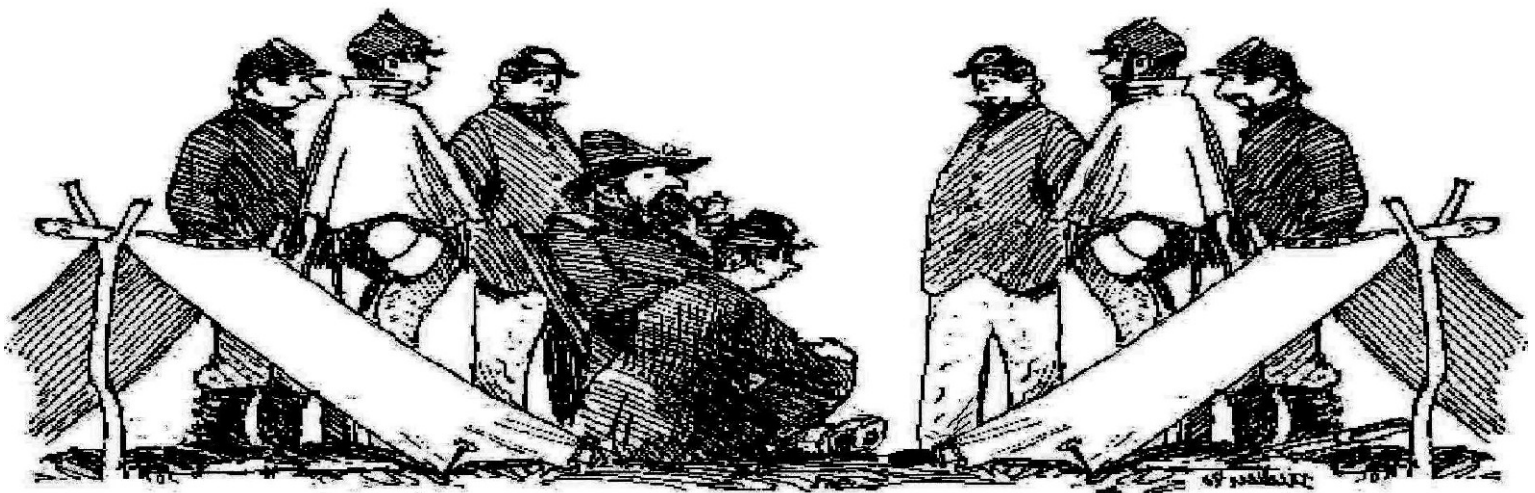
Furgason, Jan

Kell, Sheila

Paul, Chuck

Sweet, Marvin

\* Founding Members



# ARE YOU A CIVIL WAR BUFF?

1. The Civil War was fought...
  - a. It was in the 1600s, wasn't it?
  - b. From April 12, 1861 through April 9, 1865... give or take a few hours.
  - c. From 1861-1865
  - d. During the early 1860s
2. The sight of a 1000 page volume of Civil War documents...
  - a. Causes you to drool all over your plate of hardtack.
  - b. Interesting, maybe something to read on a rainy day.
  - c. Fills you with terror, forcing you to flee from the room.
  - d. Doesn't look all that appealing.
3. How do you like the idea of a weekend of reenacting in period clothes?
  - a. Maybe if my friends are going... those 1920s outfits look kinda warm though.
  - b. Where do I sign up?!
  - c. I think I'll pass on this one, there are other things I'd rather do with my time off.
  - d. I already reenact at every possible opportunity. Every reenactment is the new best weekend of my life.
4. There's a new Civil War museum opening, and it's only a few hours' drive from where you live!
  - a. Cool! I'll probably make the trip down there sometime if I can find someone to come who's up for the trip.
  - b. I know! Next day I have free, I'll be headed over to spend some quality time looking through all the exhibits.
  - c. I already have an annual membership, and have been camped outside the entrance in my canvas tent for three days.
  - d. Oh really? Huh. Would you look at that?
5. How many Civil War books do you have?
  - a. Quite a few. It's a respectable collection.
  - b. A few that I've picked up here and there. The ones with lots of pictures are the best!
  - c. I'm no mathematician, you tell me! I'd count myself, but that would take time away from this new biography...
  - d. One or two that were given to me by my uncle to try and catch my interest.
6. Your opinion on battlefield visits:
  - a. If I'm passing by one I'll usually stop. It's really neat to see where the actual battles took place.
  - b. Regular pilgrimages to Gettysburg along with visits to every major or minor field are undertaken whenever possible.
  - c. They're great! Fascinating and humbling, they rank high enough to plan a trip around here and there.
  - d. I went to a battlefield once. It was OK. The tour guide had a weird voice though, and reminded me of a Disney character.
7. You take a Civil War class at a local college, just for fun. The professor...
  - a. Respects your interest in the era, and you sometimes chat after class about the lectures.
  - b. Notices that you're familiar with the era, and comments on your last analysis paper.
  - c. Asks you why you're in the class since you already know all the material and wonders if you'd like to give a guest lecture.
  - d. WHY would I do that?!
8. A time machine appears, bound for the 1860s! You...
  - a. Hop in with a specific agenda of places to go and people to see. Time is a-wasting!
  - b. Would go, but really wanted to catch the game on TV, so you pass.
  - c. Are up for a trip, and sit back and enjoy the ride.
  - d. Run to change into period clothes & grab original currency for the only trip that will ever top last year's battlefield tour.
9. Would you admit to being a Civil War buff in front of someone you found extremely attractive?
  - a. I don't see why not, interest in history is a sophisticated trait.
  - b. Of course, it's my best quality and should be advertised accordingly!
  - c. Only if they were likely to find it impressive.
  - d. No, because it would be untrue and they might expect me to know something about it.
10. Do you have a favorite general/military commander?
  - a. Would you like to see my billboard? I have favorites and least favorites categorized and cataloged.
  - b. Yes, there are a few names that I am always happy to have come up.
  - c. Abraham Lincoln was pretty cool, I guess.
  - d. Um no.

