Thanks!!

To Steve Nitch for sharing the story, pictures and artifacts of his great grandfather Edmund Rice. It was an impressive collection and story and we wish him well on his efforts to write a book on Rice’s army career.

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 12, 1998 at the Yankee Diner. 6 PM Social Hour with dinner at 7 PM. Choice of either Barbecue Chicken or Teriyaki Beef. The main entree is served with Caesar Salad, Biscuits, fresh vegetables, potatoes or rice along with coffee or tea. Price is $17.00 a person. Please write your menu choice, name and the name of any guests on the enclosed card and mail it ASAP. If you choose not to mail the card in be sure to call Dio Richardson if you plan to attend. The staff at the Yankee Diner can accommodate our needs if we can provide them with an accurate count of the number of dinners that they can expect to serve.

Program

Captain Todd Creekman, USN, Head of the Naval Historical Division, will talk about the 106th New York Infantry regiment and its four regimental commanders. Captain Creekman has been researching the history of the regiment for years and his talk on "The Battles of the Leaders of the 106th New York should be a colorful one.

NEW BOOKS

Burd Street Press, a division of White Mane Publishing of Shippensburg, PA. continues to offer new perspectives on the Civil War. Two new personal narratives have been published recently. In Riding With Rosser: Edited by S.


FROM THE EDITOR’S DRAWER

I was in Grant’s army (writes a soldier), operating against Vicksburg. M’Pherson had already crossed the river near Grand Gulf, and in action with the enemy had taken quite a number of prisoners. As they were being sent to Old Camp, at Young’s Point, they passed our division. One of the prisoners was a great, rawboned, giant sort of a fellow and attracted the notice of all us “Yanks.” Many were the remarks made to him of both a pleasant and an insulting nature, but he seemed indifferent to all. When just opposite where I was standing the prisoners were halted, and feeling full of fun I thought I would have some sport with the fellow above-mentioned. Stepping up to him, followed by quite a number of my comrades, I said: “How are you, Johnny? Where you going?” “Up North, you old fool, where all Southern gentlemen go for their health and pleasure in the summer time!” The “lafl” was on me.

Harper’s New Monthly Magazine May 1866

Reenactments

As the weather turns better it is time for the reenactments staged by the Washington Civil War Association to start up once again. Here are three events open to the public that will be held this spring. On Saturday & Sunday April 25 & 26, a Battle Reenactment/Living History will be held at Mciver State Park in Oregon.
Another Living History Reenactment and Armed Forces Day will be held Saturday and Sunday May 16th & 17th at Fort Lewis, Tacoma. For additional information contact Ken Morgan at 360-456-0917. Over Memorial day weekend, May 23rd to 25th a Battle Reenactment/Living History event will be held at Fort Steilacoom Park, Tacoma - Lakewood, WA. For additional information contact Chuck Mauer at 360-491-7876.

LAW OF AN IMPRISONED UNION OFFICER

Ye may mock, ye may torture
With bar and with chain
But the soldier of Right,
Laughs at jarring and pain!
Boast on as ye please,
Of your tyrannous flag,
I will shout for the Banner
On Liberty's crag—-
For the beautiful Banner,
The sacred bright Banner,
The UNION'S old, Banner of Stars!

I have hope in the day,
I have hope in the night;
Honor's Angel flings o'er me
Broad visions of light!
Your tyranny sinks,
But my Government shines
With a grand glory gleamed
From Eternity's shrines
While I shout for the Banner,
The sacred bright banner,
The Union's old, Banner of Stars!

William Ross Wallace

Poetical Pen-Pictures of the War 1864

Preservation News

The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society, Inc is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving important sites relating to this important battle. Currently there are no battle sites preserved in Nashville. The society hopes to restore Fort Negley, an earthwork fortification and build an interpretive center at that site. More information can be had by writing The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society, Inc, P.O. Box 121796, Nashville, Tennessee 37212. Annual dues are $15.

Civil War Battlefield Tours

As we head towards summer, there are a number of groups who offer tours of Civil War battlefields. Smithsonian Associates will be offering a tour of Civil War in the Western Territories May 14-10, 1998 with Edwin C. Bearss, The Atlanta Campaign September 24-28, 1998 with Wilson Greene, or A Civil War Forum at Nashville June 3-7, 1998 at Nashville with both Bearss and Green. For additional information call (202) 357-4700. Civil War Tours, Inc., 2684 Canna Ridge Cir., Atlanta, GA, 30345-1410 offers daily tours of battlefields around Atlanta as well as other sites of the Atlanta Campaign. For additional information call 707-908-8410. Hardtack Tours is offering a number of 2 and 3 day tours of battlefields in Northern Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania this year. They can be contacted at Hardtack Tours, Inc., 30 Blue Ridge Ave, Front Royal, Virginia 22630 or by phone (540) 635-5078. Finally, History America Tours of Dallas, Texas is offering numerous tours this year on such subjects as the War of 1812 to the Battle of the Little Big Horn. They can be contacted by calling 1-800-628-8542 or writing History America Tours, P.O. Box 797687, Dallas, TX 75379.

On the Net

In the past ten years preservation of Civil War battlefield and related sites has become a major goal of the Civil War community. One of the major players in this effort is The Civil War Trust whose activities can be traced at www.CivilWar.org. Founded in 1991 the trust has helped to save over 5000 acres of land at 24 of the most important battlefields in 14 states. Their site traces the trust's efforts, allows you to join the Civil War Trust, buy items from their Civil War store, as well as providing a Calendar of upcoming travel and tourist events.

IN MEMORIUM

We regret to announce the death of member Doug Manning from complications of cancer February 25, 1998. Doug was a long time teacher and enjoyed attending the Round Table meetings. Doug was greatly interested in the Civil War and genealogy for he had numerous relatives who had served in that conflict. Our condolences to his family.

Notices to be placed into the bulletin should be sent to Jeff Rombauer, 22506 255th Ave SE, Maple Valley, WA 98038 or by E-mail at JeffRombauer@fotinternet.net
Civil War Book Notes

"An Empire at War"

During the Civil War, one of the largest contributors to Union victory was the state of New York. Almost 500,000 troops were provided from the state, with 10 per cent of them giving up their lives for the cause. New York also provided the largest volume of supplies and financial support to the North's military efforts during the war. Politically, however, while most New Yorkers supported the war, there was a large anti-war faction of the Democratic party, and in 1862 a Democrat, Horatio Seymour, was elected Governor. The most dramatic event to take place in New York during the war was the 1863 draft riots in New York City, where mobs "rampaged through the streets in a mad spree, looting, lynching some blacks, and burning abolitionists' houses." There is no adequate modern history for the state of New York during the Civil War, but some excellent volumes have been published on selected aspects. For members who wish to read more about this topic the following books are recommended.

- **Political History of New York State During the Period of the Civil War.** Sidney D. Brummer. New York: Columbia University, 1911.

A complete history of politics in New York during the Civil War from the election of 1860 to the end of the war. A modern study needs to be done.


- **Registers of New York regiments in the War of the Rebellion.** Serial No. 1-43.

- **New York Adjutant General, Albany, 1894-1906.** 43 volumes.

Unlike other states, New York did not issue a single set of regimental rosters. Instead rosters for New York's civil war regiments were added as supplemental volumes to the annual Adjutant-General reports.

- **New York State and the Civil War.** New York State Civil War Centennial Commission. 1961-63.

A series of monthly pamphlets issued during the first two years of the Civil War Centennial which features numerous articles on Civil War New York, written by such prominent historians as Bruce Catton and John Hope Franklin.


Phisterer's volumes concentrate on New York's military contribution to the war effort. Brief histories of each military unit from the state are given along with records of officers and staff. No enlisted men information is provided.

- **President Lincoln's Third Largest City: Brooklyn & the Civil War.** E. A. Livingston. 1994.


- **Rochester in the Civil War.** Blake McKelvey. New York: Published by the Society, 1944.

- **Yonkers in the Rebellion of 1861-1865.** Thomas Astley Atkins & John Wise Oliver. Published by the Yonkers Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Association, 1892.

Five examples of local histories on the effect of the Civil War on cities in New York. The Onondaga, Rochester & Yonkers volumes concentrate more on the soldiers in the field, while the McKay volume offers an excellent history on New York City during the War.


During the first two decades of this century, the New York Monument Commission issued a series of excellent volumes on various battles in which state troops participated in and on various New York generals. The report on Gettysburg gives a picture of all New York monuments dedicated on that battlefield, a history of the unit, and reprints the dedicatory speeches for each monument. Other volumes included Andersonville, Antietam, & Chattanooga. The generals honored included Alexander Stewart Webb, Francis C. Barlow, Abner Doubleday and Henry Warner Slocum.


An unusual collection of civil war letters in that David Smith was stationed at various forts in the New York City Harbor area during the war. His letters contain much on what was going on in the city.
LETTERS HOME: EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF
THE CIVIL WAR

For the civil war soldier, not all the danger
was on the battlefield. Troops traveling through New York
City might meet with misadventure as the letter describes
below.

Dec. 16, 1862
Camp N. P. Banks
Union Course, New York

Dear Ann:

I now take this opportunity to write a few lines to
you. I got in camp the day I left home that night at nine
in the evening safe and sound. I hope this will find you
the same. I have got over my cold and I feel first rate.
The reason that I haven't written home before is that I
wanted to get my picture taken. Wednesday I went up
eastern New York and could not get it and I found that
there were three Maine regiments here in camp, these the
21 and 24 and 28. I see one man in the twenty fourth by
the name of Josef Holt Spear. He said he was from
Gardner Maine. Asked him if he knew Franklin Bran.
He said he did, see him often and when he was well
invite him to their camp with him. The Maine boys
were feeling well. Was not there long before my pass
was most out. I asked Mr. Spear to come down and see
me. He said he would if he could get time. He said he
went to school with Ellen Laughton.

I went to Brooklyn on Thursday and got my
picture taken and when I got to camp I see that one
button on my dress coat was not buttoned, so yesterday
I went to Brooklyn and I stopped and got another one
taken. The case and the two pictures cost me $2.00. I
want you to take out one of the pictures out of the case
and you may take out which you care to and have yours
taken and put in. The reason that I bought it was that
you could put yours and mine into. I could not get any
small ones so he take them on paper cards, six for one
dollar. I think that I shall get some taken so to send
Ellen. I sent my picture home last night by Mr. Dewit
Beck. You'll probable get it before you get this letter.
He told me that he was coming back Thursday. If you
should get this letter in time, you might write and send
one back with him. Received your letter last night with
the present of the comb which I shall use very much
from you I should keep. . . . so it was a good one you
wrote that our regiment was running away that is not so
and we have good and comfortable quarters. We are
now in A. tents made of cloth. It is a good
deal better than the barracks on Franklin
Street. We have enough to eat and that
which is good. We have not suffered any
with the cold since I got back. A very fine
county today, it rains, the snow is all gone.
Yesterday I saw a man plowing. . . Had you
heard [the] awful story about the man being shot of our
regiment. He was shot before I got back today. They
said he [went] to Eastern New York. He went into [a]
grocery and called for a pint of liquor and paid for it.
The man gave him a half pint. He said he paid for a
pint and he wanted what he paid for. So the man of the
house called on for help so they put him out of the
house and left his cap in. He went back to the door
and it was fastened so that [he] pushed open the door.
Says the door opened he shot the man [i.e. the Maine
soldier] and he staggered back across the road
and fell dead. [His] coat, cape had 60 shot holes in it.
This place has been a very bad hole. They say that it
isn't the first man that has been killed there. One of the
21 Maine was shot at the same time in the . . . The
soldiers burn the tavern down to the ground. His
man was a gun man. The folk think that the soldiers
done right. The house was a two story house and a . .
one. They could not find the man that shot the soldier.
If they had got him he would have been taken care of.
So I must close for the time. You must excuse this bad
spelling, also this bad writing. You must give my love to
all my many friends, tell Orville to write of as often as
he can. Ask . . . what they the papers that he let me
have was worth a ream. . . .[illegible]

From your affectionate husband Steven W. Cosby
I have now had news to pack all things to be ready
to march in an hour and half

Direct to Camp Genea, Union Course, New York.

A similar incident is described in a poem called "The
Massachusetts Boys On their Way to Dixie" by J. Ward Childs, where
the shooting death of a member of the 49th Massachusetts led to the
burning down of a tavern in New York City.