

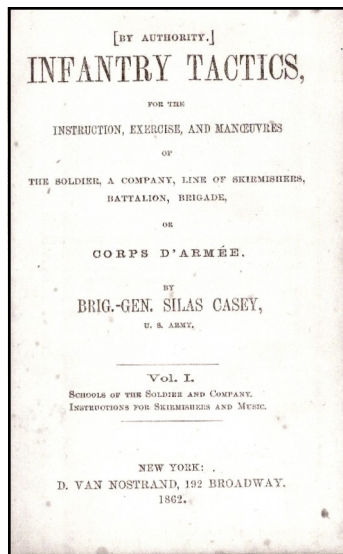
The Sentinel

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The School of the Soldier

Picture in your mind Lee's maneuvers at Chancellorsville, still ranked as one of the greatest tactical victories of all time. Or consider the afternoon of July 3rd, 1863, on the field at Gettysburg as



Longstreet arrayed his forces along Seminary Ridge in what has become known in legend as Pickett's Charge. Even in defeat, imagine Burnside's assault of over 8,800 in waves across the plain below Marye's Heights at Fredericksburg in December of 1862. What all of these great moments of battle had in common, no matter their outcome, was the efficient and rapid movement and deployment of well-trained multitudes of fighting men over unknown ground.

Most of these men were not professional soldiers before the war, coming instead from the farms and factories and stores of the nation. How then, did they gain the skills required to go orderly into the chaos of battle and make a meaningful stand against a well entrenched enemy?

Bob Willey, frequent contributor and fellow roundtable member, patiently explained in detail how this was made possible, by training. He shared both the hierarchy of a Civil War army and the training needed to take one of these armies into engagements with any hope of a meaningful outcome. Attend any re-enactment and watch as even a few men maneuver on the field. What they do is not done by instinct. It requires hours of meticulous instruction and drill, and the discipline to react to commands and battle situations almost without thinking.

The basic unit of an army during the war was the company, a force of 96 enlisted men plus eight officers, both commissioned and non-commissioned. At full strength, ten companies comprised a regiment (1040 men), three regiments a brigade (3120), three brigades a division (9360) and three divisions a corps (28,080). But the operative phrase here is "at full strength". This was virtually never the case, even with a command newly formed. Men would get injured getting on the trains for deployment. Sickness was always a numbers reducer. And, of course, as the war went on, both casualties from battle and from more serious camp maladies, such as typhus, diphtheria and dysentery, steadily eroded numbers until, as an example, our own 27th Indiana entered the field at Spangler's Spring at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, with only 384 men in the regiment...or what was left of it.

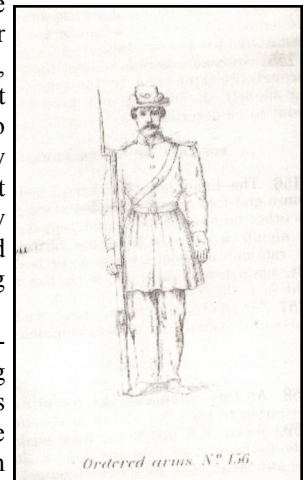
Once you had a command, and the men were well trained, it became clear that given names were great for tent-mates but would not work for identifying the soldier in the field. Names were difficult to pronounce, repetitive and wholly inadequate for unique recognition. The result was a system of soldier identification that relied on numbers and your place in the ranks. Thus, the first sergeant of Company F of the 27th Indiana would be noted as "1 27 F". This system allowed for an orderly method of accounting for your men.

Once you had them identified, you taught them the Manual of Arms. Drilling, day in and day out, would not only allow for orderly assemblies, marching, etc. but it also gave the men something to do for the 99% of the time they were encamped. Learning "present arms", "shoulder arms", "ground arms", and dozens of other commands also gave the men a degree of pride and camaraderie in their teamwork.

After the handling of the rifle was mastered, the soldier learned how to shoot it...by volley, by front (or rear) rank, by file or at will. Need to refocus a unit's fire to a weak spot to their right? Every soldier learned what "fire by right (or left) oblique" meant. And every soldier was taught how to fire and not hit one of his comrades standing near him.

The final part of his presentation had Bob giving marching movement displays with volunteers from the floor. How to form a line of battle, how to march in a column of fours, what to do in the event one of your comrades falls and leaves a gap in the line...all of these were critical things for a common soldier to learn.

In the end, it became clear that every soldier quickly learned that the way to even have a chance for survival in battle was critically dependent on your colleagues in arms, the men you ate, marched and slept with every day. The discipline you attained as a unit was the defusing factor in what otherwise may have become total chaos anytime men were challenged on the field of battle.



"History is not necessarily destined to repeat itself...but historians are!"

From a man who had read one too many biographies of Robert E. Lee

Texas Rewrites History

One of our members was in Austin, the beautiful state capital of Texas, this summer, attending a professional conference that had nothing to do with the Civil War. So what does a CW geek do when he travels? He seeks out CW sites, of course! And the pictures below show that history is certainly not an exact discipline. While walking up the capitol grounds to make a late afternoon tour of the building (beautiful, we are told, by the way), you can't help but notice the monument to Confederate dead as you ascend the sidewalk from 6th Street.



As you near the imposing honorific, the wording strikes you immediately:

DIED

FOR STATE RIGHTS

GUARANTEED UNDER THE CONSTITUTION

The people of the South, animated by the Spirit of 1776, to preserve their rights, withdrew from the Federal compact in 1861. The North resorted to coercion. The South, against overwhelming numbers and resources, fought until exhausted.

This is a curious, but perhaps understandable, interpretation...but walk around the monument...*all* the way around. The seceded states are listed on the four sides, in order of their withdrawal from the Union. Take a close look at the last two states to "secede".



And all this time you thought only eleven states seceded!

Can't Get Enough History?

If you are a history junkie (isn't that why you are reading this?) we encourage you to check out the programming on both C-Span 2 and C-Span 3 if you get these channels with your television service. Many of these programs are about Civil War topics, in one way or another, and, if not CW, they are on other eras of history, fascinating biographies, etc.

C-Span 2 has **Book TV** each weekend, with in-depth interviews and panel discussions by prominent authors of history. A recent show, for example, had an interview with James Swanson, author of *Manhunt*, the story of the chase for John Wilkes Booth after Lincoln's assassination and *Bloody Crimes: The Chase for Jefferson Davis and the Death Pageant for Lincoln's Corpse*.

C-Span 3 has **American History TV**, as they like to say, "every weekend, all weekend". Recent shows have covered topics such as *Children in the Civil War*, *The Jewish Experience in the Civil War*, a panel of experts discussing Civil War generals Lee, Grant, Jackson and Sherman, a tour of Appomattox, and on and on.

And the parent C-Span website has a huge video library that can easily be downloaded on your computer. Just go to <http://www.cspan.org/>.

Go ahead, check it all out!

Can You Help a Southern Friend?

We have had a call from a southern neighbor needing some help. Gerald D. Hodge, Jr., researches the 39th Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The 34th Indiana was directly opposite the 39th Georgia during the Vicksburg Siege (May 23-July 4, 1863). The two regiments were also in the same vicinity during the Battle of Champion Hill (May 16, 1863).

He is looking for letters, diaries, journals, newspaper articles, and reminiscences by soldiers and officers from the 34th Indiana Infantry Regiment for these time periods in order to relate the story of battle from the Federal perspective.

The officers and soldiers of the 34th Indiana Infantry Regiment were from Blackford, Grant, Hamilton, Howard, Huntington, Jay, Madison, Marion, Morgan, Porter, Wabash, Wells counties, and others. If you have any information please contact Mr. Hodge at rebel1863@hotmail.com. You can check out his website at:

<http://39thgavolinfgt.homestead.com/39thHomepage.html>

NOAA Releases Maps

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in 2011, the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration (NOAA) has released a collection of maps and documents prepared by the U.S. Coast Survey during the war. The almost 400-piece collection will be available free online.

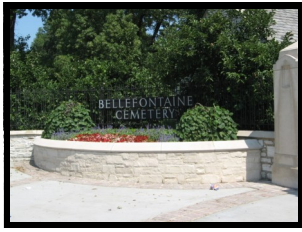
Details are in the full article online at:

<http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Livesciencecom/~3/khwY0a0IQ-Y/Civil-War-Map-101015.html>

The maps are available at:

<http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/history/CivilWar>

St. Louis Civil War History



Located on the near north side of downtown St. Louis is a fascinating old community burial ground, Bellefontaine Cemetery, which is a beautiful park like repository for the departed rich with the history of not only its hometown but also with Civil

War history. Nested along "Millionaires' Row" are the mausoleums of such notables as the beer barons Adolphus Busch and Eberhard Anheuser, as well as James McDonnell of McDonnell-Douglas Aircraft and Aerospace Industries.

But, travel the grounds and Civil War history is around every corner. William Clark, the great explorer of the Louisiana Purchase is there, but, alongside him is his son, CSA General Meriwether Lewis Clark. (right)



Weave your way around a bend and find the grand obelisk to CSA General Sterling Price, hero (to some, anyway) of Wilson's Creek and Pea Ridge. (left)



But perhaps the most curious spot to stumble on is that with not one, but two famous U.S. generals buried side-by-side. One is Richard Mason, commandant of Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis who died in the 1850's. The other is of Don Carlos

Buell, the Union general at the Battle of Perryville in 1862. The unusual thing is they were married to the same woman. When Mason died, his widow, Margaret, married Buell. And today, they all three rest in a row with Margaret in the middle!



Mason (l), Buell (r) and their monuments



Details of Mason's curious wrecked cannon monument

Lists? Let's Make Our Own!

The world seems full of lists today. The Ten Best This, The Three Oldest That...you've seen them. Well, let's jump in with our own list. Who isn't proud of their ancestor's (or ancestors' ?) Civil War service? A suggestion that came this way was for the members of the roundtable to send in the names, ranks, units and perhaps a short recap of their forebear's service record so that we can compile a permanent roster of "our" troops. The "unit" that results could be very interesting because, chances are, it will be both blue and gray! Perhaps this information could be displayed in the meeting room at the History Center. Send in your family names to our Secretary, Steve Rolfe, at srolfe@indiana.edu, or just bring the information with you to the next meeting. Also let us know any other ways we could make use of this data. This could be interesting!

4th Annual Holiday Dinner

The fourth annual occasion is tentatively set for Tuesday, December 14th, at State Room West of the Indiana Memorial Union. Details will be given at the next meeting and the November newsletter.

As has been our tradition, if you have an artifact, photo, or anything related to Civil War history and would like to share it, bring it along.

2010-2011 Programs

Nov. 9- Matt Hoagland: *The Curious History of the Indiana 63rd Volunteers.*

Dec. 14- Annual Holiday Dinner

Jan. 11- Rick Watson: *The Committee On the Conduct of the War*

Feb. 8- Steve Rolfe: *Montgomery*

Meigs: *The Man Who Won the Civil War*

March 8- John Crosby: *Brother vs. Brother* (Repeat Program)

April 12- Justin Smith *First Irish* [also annual election of officers]

May 10- Mark Acres- *Camp Followers*

June 14- Donna Schmink : *The 27th Indiana Battle Flag and the Flag*

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