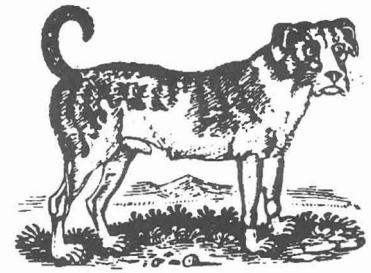


THE WATCHDOG.



A QUARTERLY REVIEW FOR CIVIL WAR REENACTORS

Volume 6, No. 3

Summer, 1998

Guarding your interests...

Publisher's note: Mike Murley is in command of the editorial page for this issue. This allows him use of the "f" and "h" words personally eschewed by the publisher. For those not on the Internet: discussion groups, bulletin boards or lists are virtual campfires. Citizens gather around these electronically and join in on discussions in the same manner as we do around real campfires at events.

A Personal Journey

The following began as a post that I placed on an Internet bulletin board in February 1998. It was deleted as offensive (?) in less than an hour. Our esteemed publisher asked me to expand upon it. He felt we should share it with our readers as it encapsulates the idea of the progressive movement.

Every few days a thread [a discussion topic] begins that bashes what are commonly called "hard-cores." Normally the authors of these posts use as their rationale: "It's a hobby; give us a break."

Then the bashing begins about how the "hard-cores" (I call myself a progressive), etc. are ruining the hobby, etc.

I have not seen any posts where the so-called "hard-cores" have said, "I have seen your impression and you are a wrist-watch and modern glasses wearing, Pepsi can-toting FARB!" Not one. I have seen people post about blatant anachronisms and farbisms only to be drowned in a chorus of "It is only a hobby! Give us a break!"

The Rowdy Pards [Mr. Murley's recently organized unit] are progressive campaigners, not "hard-cores." Though there are quite a few of us that most would categorize as "hard-core." Personally, I prefer the term progressive because of the connotation of forward movement. This is a journey where there is always something new to learn just around the next bend, or in the next book, or the next museum collection.

As a unit, we are trying dang hard to be as accurate as we can. We have guys who started out with other units that wear hideous kit...because they rushed out and bought the first cheap costume they could ("The vendor said it was right!"). They know what is wrong with their impression, though, and they are working hard to improve.

I proposed to my pards that we adopt the simple ethic espoused by *The Watchdog*., "Because It's Right, Darn-it" (a.k.a. B.I.R.D.) Most of the boys adopted it enthusiastically. We voted in a set of extremely tough authenticity standards.

We voted to do Gettysburg campaign -- to include issuing period rations (and these were pards that had been in common tents one short year ago). We have, as a unit, decided to move forward to a good, accurate impression of an infantry company on campaign and not look back.

Yes, we had problems, and we will have more. Some of these were inevitable as some of us pushed the others too hard. The guys that were in this "hobby" for different reasons at least tried it before they changed their mind. My progressive pards have adopted these standards and committed themselves. Anyone can do it. The research and sources are there. There are no secrets. No one will spurn you and no one will belittle you -- if you truly want to portray the "boys of '61" and the "citizens of '61."

I think many people who are in the median category between accurate and FARB are defensive. It's natural -- the very presence of progressive and accurate reenactors (military and civilian) is a living, breathing refutation of their rationalization. You do not have to be a "mean old hard-core." This group feels threatened just because you are there. I know. I was. I wrote posts on the old GENie reenactors' forum about "We do not have "x" disease so we will never be authentic!" or "You did not walk 200 miles to the event!" *Wahhhhh!* I grew up.

If all this hobby is to you is just camping in costume with your buddies, drinking and feasting around the fire and playing soldier for an hour, then I hope you enjoy yourself. Please post a guard and keep the public out of your camp. Do not tell people you are doing a true impression of a Civil War soldier. I have heard "Butternut Rangers" stand up and say, "This is how the soldiers lived!" (with railroad lanterns, one wedge tent per man with cot and carpet, huge piles of stainless, plastic, and whatever...). Just admit that you are just out for a good time and do not make it out to be anything else.

Leave the serious progressives, the hard-cores, and the living historians alone. If you saw the 5th Battalion (ANV) at Antietam 135th reacting to the Federal "shell fire" at the Cornfield...if you saw them living the moment and trying to actually capture the essence of that day in 1862...well, that is living history. That is reenacting. My "mainstream" pards? ...standing in the fog, with guys chattering about their new

computer or telling modern jokes...gee, what a cosmic waste of the moment.

I used to haul an entire full-size GMC pickup truck full of just "my" stuff. It took me two hours to pack it. Then I drove to the event and unpacked and set up (another 2-4 hours) and then parked -- and after the event repeated it all over again. Often I did not get home and into bed until early Monday morning.

I can be as comfortable (or more comfortable) at an event with just what I carry on my back. So I quit carrying all that junk (useless, needless stuff I never really used). Now? I throw my knapsack and musket (or sword if I am doing an officer) into the truck and drive off. I get to the event, park and walk in with my traps. While the heaviest infantry is still struggling with their wall tents and flies, I am on the way home. My pards saw this. They asked. They listened. Some still haul more junk than Meade's staff, but most are wising up that it makes "sense" and saves your back.

Many get all defensive over this and say, "But I have to go work on Monday!" The inference is that two nights of sleeping under the stars on the ground is going to cripple a man for life -- or that eating period rations will cause some deadly illness. I submit that any man in reasonable health and physical condition can campaign for a weekend (or longer) and survive without becoming a cripple.

As to clothing and equipment? The more I look at original uniforms and equipment, the more I want my stuff to be exacting reproductions. I bought all the costume trash. It's gone, replaced with "good" stuff. Gee, wish I'd bought that first, instead of the cheapest junk I could find (oh, yes -- I shopped for the *cheapest* when I started...the cheapest costume trash). I wasted every dime I spent on that junk and loudly defended its "value." Darn, I was stupid.

IN THE FIELD, THE DOGCATCHER AND THE FUTURE

The Gettysburg 135th proved "bigger is not better quality" to our staff. I heard other participants having more than two or three years enacting experience make similar comments. The event was great for *The Watchdog*. I had a chance to talk with many of you and some merchants. My traveling companions and I had fun. The subscriber list grew by over 100 (equals more for preservation too).

The Watchdog. will continue to literally be "in the field" at one major and one or two smaller events each season. A few folks have expressed concern that *The Watchdog*. mission might be changing based on **IN THE FIELD** articles. No, the significance of G98 warranted our coverage. I have been encouraged by others to expand our mission. To that end the Watchdog Quarterly publishing company is studying the addition of another vehicle embracing the same mission of "Guarding your interests..." but in regard to events. It will not affect *The Watchdog*. I will have details in the fall issue about a proposed quarterly companion for *The Watchdog*.

I have plans for specialized publications. The staff is now preparing a shelter tent booklet. The first five volumes of *The Watchdog*. will be condensed into a "best of" publication.

I have sworn I will never willingly let a fresh fish do that -- ever! Why do I want my stuff to be correct? Not for the "public." Not to lord it over some poor fellow in a Servant & Company costume. For me...because it's right, darn it. It gives me tremendous confidence in doing very serious living histories; like when a US Army major general tells you that your impression is an ambrotype come alive. You see, the "public" is not always uneducated and ignorant of the material culture of the period. This gentleman is a collector and enthusiast. He counted my stitches!

Just my experience.

A postscript

I recently saw Mr. Spielberg's intensely emotional tribute to my father's generation, *Saving Private Ryan*. As a reenactor, the film renewed my dedication to doing the most accurate impression I can. Anything less is unworthy of the sacrifices made by every American soldier.

Right after I saw *Saving Private Ryan*, one of my friends expressed the opinion that reenacting is nothing but a money-making spectacle put on for an uncaring public that only wants to see the show. The inference being quasi-modern camping was just as valid a way to reenact as any other.

I have to disagree. I would have disagreed before I saw *Saving Private Ryan*, but my disagreement is far stronger now.

The "boys of '61" endured tremendous sacrifice, hardship and deprivation. I cannot make a social activity out of that. I cannot make some sort of enjoyable public spectacle of it. The satisfaction I get from this "hobby" is the satisfaction of trying to be accurate.

MM

During this process the staff will update and revise as required. Back issues of the first two or three years will be phased out. We will maintain back issues of recent issues.

The autumn issue...look for an expansion to 12 or 14 pages. We ran out of room this issue (10 pages is the break point for a 32-cent stamp). We left out the reviews of *Army Blue*, the new Federal uniform reference book, and a new cartridge box reference book. They will be included in the next issue. We will have a follow-up section on recent articles including response to your letters. Our annual contribution to battlefield preservation will be announced. Content is increasing, but not frequency of publication. Any subscription cost increase will be phased in later.

As for the Dogcatcher...if you purchased, but did not receive, uniform items from W.W. Lunnsford of Valley, Nebraska, send me a complete description of the item(s) and a copy of all your paperwork. I may be able to resolve the problem provided the contractor to Lunnsford has the item.

Oh yes, the bounty on typos still exists—only 6 last issue.

BC

"Raised Upon Two Poles"

A Primer on Civil War Shelter Tent Poles

On St. Patrick's Day in 1863, Corporal Samuel Storrow, Forty-fourth Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, wrote home from his camp in Washington, North Carolina:

I wish you could see our camp of shelter tents. They are made in three pieces about 5 feet square, of stout drilling, one of which each man carries rolled up with [his] woolen blanket in his rubber one. Two of them are buttoned together and raised upon two poles 4 ft long for the main body of the tent; the third buttons behind like a sort of hood. The poles are secured by two cords which accompany the tents. Thus you have a tent which accommodates three brothers, who must literally be in-arms when they are all within. [1]

Here, Corporal Storrow provided a rudimentary description of tent poles used to raise the *tente d'Abris* or the shelter tent of the Civil War period. Storrow's description is somewhat vague; could he not be referring to the abundance of forked sticks seen in today's re-enacting "encampments?" Certainly, there are dozens of soldier accounts and period images that support the use of locally found forked sticks to erect one's tent.

However, the Storrow account does not mention the use of a ridgepole, or similar device, which normally is placed in the forks to provide shape and strength to the ridge of the tent. Storrow relied on the "two cords" to secure the poles. This suggests some sort of pole other than the ubiquitous forked stick. Is there authoritative evidence that REAL tent poles specifically designed and designated for the shelter tent were available?

According to a research lead provided by Mr. Stephen Osman, at least two Federal government purchases of shelter tent poles occurred during the Civil War. Both were from firms located at Cincinnati, Ohio [2]:

17 Oct. 1863: 20,000 poles purchased @ .95 from Frederick Grier & Sons, Cincinnati, for the Cincinnati Depot.

5 June 1864: 140,000 poles purchased @ .75 from J & P Grier, Cincinnati, for the St. Louis Depot.

During the fiscal period beginning July 1, 1864, the St. Louis Arsenal posted the June 15 purchase in its inventory as "Tent poles, Shelter, sets." at a total cost of \$10,500.00. The cost of \$0.95 and \$0.75 respectively, per set of shelter tent poles indicates that the poles were made of an inexpensive material like wood, and were quite likely unfinished. [3]

Of all the major and minor arsenals and depots, only the St. Louis Arsenal was recorded as procuring this piece of equipment in the *Official Records*! The records on Federal Arsenal availability of this item prior to this period are thus far confined to the Cincinnati Depot purchase in October 1863. The inventories of purchases for the fiscal year starting July 1,

1864, do not mention shelter tent poles for the Cincinnati Depot. This does not necessarily indicate that the poles had been issued. Rather, it is more likely that this depot did not make further purchases of the item in the fiscal period being considered. A second, larger purchase made by the St. Louis Arsenal suggests (but does not prove) that contracts were let and purchases made in response to some sort of demand for shelter tent poles.

Interestingly enough, there is evidence of the availability and use of shelter tent poles from state sources. A document found by Mr. Mike Thorson in the Wisconsin State Historical Society stated that the limited procurement of shelter tent poles by the State of Wisconsin was a reality. A letter dated October 24, 1861, from State Assistant Quartermaster General A. Van Slyke to Colonel John C. Starkweather, First Wisconsin Regiment (then encamped at Camp Scott, Milwaukee) stated in part:

I send... for your Regt. 6 new style of "*la petite*" picket tent, weighing only 9 lbs. all complete & packs so that 3 men going off on picket duty can each take 1/3 of it. [P]oles, pins, and cord all complete... the poles going together by [a] fish pole socket & the end pieces buttoning on when required. Let us know how you like it.

Also enclosed with the document is a sketch of the "*la petite* picket tent." It clearly shows the tent staked down at four corners; two stakes (or "pins" in period parlance [4]) used to secure the two cords. Each cord is tied to the tent at a hole near the insertion hole for the tent poles, one of which is seen. The cords, when staked down, allowed the tent to be set up without a ridgepole.

This early description of the tent pole: a two-piece item, which fitted together with the use of a "fish pole socket" (of presumably tinned iron), is both interesting and compelling. Here is a clear description of a state quartermaster official indicating that three pieces of the shelter tent, plus poles and pins, were issued together as a set -- the third piece buttoning on as an end piece "when required." Clearly, the tent was designed and constructed to be set up with a set of poles, which were provided. This description dovetails nicely with Corporal Storrow's recollection, and the writings of other veterans like David Thompson, Co. G, Ninth New York Volunteers, albeit without the mention of tent poles. [5]

One additional piece of evidence is worth examining. Many thousands of shelter halves were manufactured before the Quartermaster General's Department published General Orders No. 60 on December 12, 1864 (corrected February 1, 1865). These codified specifications for shelter tents, which included a specification for "pole and rope holes" which "must be placed so as to correspond when the half tents are put together." Clearly these features would not be mentioned if they were not expected to fulfill some function. The "pole and

rope holes" were, in fact an integral part of the shelter tent -- included as a feature in shelter halves long before the codifying regulations were enacted and specifically intended to accommodate a tent pole and cord. Mr. Patrick McDermott, in his "A Survey of Civil War Shelter Halves," studied several surviving war time shelter halves and verified these assertions. [6]

We know from the facts presented here that:

- 1) Civil War era shelter tents were specifically manufactured to accept tent poles.
- 2) Shelter tents were both available and issued with pins and poles from at least one state sources as early as late October, 1861. Shelter tent poles were possibly in use in the field in Spring, 1863.
- 3) The tent pole was made of wood, in two pieces, that fitted together with a "fish pole socket" probably of tinned iron, and was perhaps four feet in height when assembled.
- 4) The Cincinnati Depot purchase 20,000 sets of shelter tent poles in mid-October, 1863 and the St. Louis Arsenal purchased 140,000 sets of shelter tent poles in mid-June, 1864. The St. Louis Arsenal purchase was on-hand in the government fiscal period starting July 1, 1864.

Mr. McDermott indicated in his article that perhaps few quartermasters requisitioned the shelter tent poles, and fewer soldiers drew them. This makes sense, given the abundance of available wood to make one's own tent poles and the fact that shelter tents were only occasionally carried on active summer campaigns. Why carry something you won't use?

While we search for compelling records of issue and use of shelter tent poles in the field, we do have a growing body of evidence that suggests the availability and use of shelter tent poles from at least autumn of 1861, and certainly availability in the West from late-1863 through the end of the war.

Notes:

- [1] Bell I. Wiley and Hirst D. Milhollen, *They Who Fought Here*, p. 84.
- [2] Earl Coates and Fred Gaede, "US Army Quartermaster Contracts 1861-1865," (unpublished manuscript).
- [3] *Official Records*, Series III, Vol. 5, p. 273.
- [4] We are searching for tent pin specifications and an original sample. Secondary evidence indicates that they resemble IW and WW1 wooden pins.
- [5] *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, Vol. 2, p. 556.
- [6] Patrick McDermott, "A Survey of Civil War Shelter Halves," *The Company Wag*, (Thomas' Mudsills, Inc.), Vol. 1, No. 2, unpaginated. The dates of the codifying specifications are important. These specifications were issued too late in the war to have any meaningful effect on production of this item of equipage, except to specify weight of materials, buttons, etc.

RB

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PRODUCT REVIEW

A Replica Shelter Tent Pole

"Artifakes" (Mr. Don Rademacher) of Steven's Point, Wisconsin has produced a shelter tent pole that mirrors the information provided in the article entitled "Raised Upon Two Poles."

Made of white oak, the pole is turned to a diameter of one inch, with a post finial turned into one end of the pole to fit the shelter tent "pole hole." The pole is sawed into two roughly two-foot sections with a sharply angled cut. A socket of tinplate is fashioned and soldered to fit around the angled cut of the lower section, and is secured with two round headed nails. When the upper portion is inserted into the socket, the angled faces of the sections meet within the socket, making a solid non-articulating fit. The height of the pole when assembled is 39 1/2 inches, exclusive of the finial. The wood is left unfinished.

This tent pole favors its Indian Wars counterpart in most respects, particularly as seen in tent poles that accompanied the "Nutter's Accouterment" of the late Nineteenth century. It has been postulated that surplus Civil War tent poles saw service in the Indian Wars, along with other surplus uniforms and equipage. The tent pole varies from its World War One counterpart in that the socket sleeve is made of brass, and the wood is painted olive drab.

The poles easily assemble and disassemble (some light sanding may be required). One set, or two poles, is required to erect a shelter tent. When used with replica "Artifakes" shelter

halves, and other comparable shelter-halves that feature "pole and rope holes," the tent sets up very quickly and can be done by one individual. It does require the use of two additional tent pins to secure the cords tightly and thereby hold the poles erect. The availability of shelter tent poles removes the need to hunt through the local ecology looking for locally procured forked sticks, tent pins, etc.

Two disadvantages are noted. When carried between the bags of the standard Civil War replica double-bag knapsack, the poles stick out laterally and beyond the acceptable comfort margins of persons to the right and left of the carrier. Since the poles are unfinished, they readily absorb moisture on rainy days. This causes the wood to swell, and creates difficulty with pole assembly and disassembly, especially the latter. During one soggy trial, the swell of the wood in one pole was sufficient to crack the solder of the seam of the tin socket.

RB

NEED ROPE FOR YOUR TENT?

The Blue Heron Mercantile has hemp twine and rope (as well as hemp cloth). Contact Jim Jacobs at 4202 Hillside Dr., Lafayette, IN 47901 and (765) 474-8426 for list and samples. *The Watchdog* has reviewed samples of Blue Heron hemp products and finds them to be above average quality.

Hand in Hand: Ladies' Gloves and Reenacting

In recent years there has been a definite change in the wearing of gloves by living historians and 19th century civilian enactors. Previously the standard for a lady was the fingerless mitt, often made of a heavy yarn, knitted or crocheted. There were the lace gloves, available from many merchants, and guaranteed to be found in a color to match your dress! Today a well-dressed lady reenactor will be wearing short gloves, usually of leather, tight-fitting and cut straight across at the wrist.

The word glove comes from the Anglo-Saxon *glof* that means *palm of the hand*. During the Middle Ages gloves were expensive and only the wealthy wore them. Knights often fastened ladies' gloves to their helmets to show love or devotion. Gloves were also used as a sign of challenge. A challenger threw down his glove, and the person who accepted the invitation to fight picked it up. This action was called "throwing down the gauntlet." In Elizabethan England gloves were highly valued, and glove makers held a position of status.

Fashion magazines, etiquette manuals, and workbooks of the 19th century often had references to the care and wearing of gloves. As early as 1838, *The Workwoman's Guide* stated that gloves were being made of kid, doe-skin, Berlin, Woodstock, and Limerick [See Glossary]. French gloves were preferred as they were considered more elastic. Woven, net, or knit gloves were referred to as thread gloves and often silk, linen or cotton. The silk gloves often having various figures embroidered on them. *The Workwoman's Guide* also stated that the best pattern for gloves could be made by taking apart an old glove and cutting it to use as a pattern. Gloves were to be sewn with a special type of silk thread, made especially for glove-making, which was finer and with less twist than typical sewing silk thread. Other materials were Jean cloth (a strong glove), sateen and cambric (cheap). German worsted was considered a cheap glove compared to worsted lams or Shetland wool gloves. Two technical features appearing on some gloves in the 1860s gloves were elastic wrist bands and machine sewing.

The Workwoman's Guide included a receipt for washing kid gloves:

Kid gloves, if they are good ones, and have never been touched by Indian rubber, may be washed so as to look like new, in the following manner; and some will bear the operation more than once; it answers equally well both for white and coloured gloves.

Lay the gloves on a clean towel, and with a piece of flannel dipped in warm water with a good deal of white soap, rub them thoroughly till all the dirt is removed; take care to use as little water as possible. Hang them up to dry gradually, at a distance from the fire, and the next morning, they will appear shriveled and yellow, pull them out the cross way of leather, and they will soon resume their contour and shape.

Another method of cleaning gloves appeared in *The Housekeeper's Encyclopedia*, 1861:

To Cleanse Kid Gloves -- Put the gloves on a person's hand; have some really old skim milk perfectly sweet, and some fine white soap; dampen a soft white cloth, wrap it around the forefinger, rub it once on soap, and rub the spots from the gloves, change the place in the cloth when it looks soiled; go over the whole glove without wetting through; when it is quite clean, take it off, pull and stretch the leather so as to stretch every grain several ways; now shape the glove, and polish it with French chalk if light, or by friction of the hand if dark. White gloves may be cleansed several times in this manner; they may be cleansed without putting on the gloves, but not as perfectly; if allowed to dry damp, they will be ruined.

To Save Wet Gloves -- If gloves are wet through by rain or perspiration, wring them in a towel, and stretch the leather until quite dry; if dried before this can be done, wet them again, and stretch until dry.

Although mitts were out of fashion by the 1860s, *Costume in Detail, 1730-1930* mentions that gloves were being worn throughout the day. Various sketches of 19th century gloves are presented on p.185, some with a chain-stitch on the back, others fastening with a small silver button.

In *Who Wore What*, Juanita Leisch observes that lace mitts were rarely worn by younger women. She also points out that only a minority of older women in the photographs in her study were wearing mitts. Gloves were a fashion item and were available in a wide variety of colors, often with decorative stitching on the back of the hand.

Gloves in the nineteenth century were worn by both genders for social occasions [Hint: remember to remove them before dining]. White gloves were specified for formal evening events. In the daytime colored gloves were worn with ecru or gray for men. At parties, soirees, teas and social gatherings of all kinds, ladies wore gloves, even indoors without a bonnet or hat.

Etiquette books of the 1840s stated that gloves should always be worn out of doors and were always graceful for a lady indoors except at meals. By the 1850s and 1860s these same books were stating that the fashion of wearing gloves indoors had passed except for social activities. Some books suggested that young girls be required to do their lessons while wearing gloves.

Martine's Hand-Book of Etiquette, 1860 admonishes:

When dancing is expected to take place, no one should go without new kid gloves; nothing is so revolting as to see one person in an assembly un-gloved, especially where the heat of the room, and the exercise together, are sure to make the hands redder than usual. Always wear your gloves in church or in a theater.

Fashion magazines were sources of fashionable glove usage and recommendations as these seemed to change from season to season and year to year. For example, *Godey's*, in November 1863, proclaimed:

The fashionable style of glove, except for evening wear, is the *gant de Swede*, stitched with colors and made to cover the wrist.

Portraying a well-dressed matron of the 1860s, or a young lady of style, the civilian reenactor is encouraged to complete her ensemble with a pair of fitted, wrist-length, leather or kid gloves. Although they may be difficult to find, diligent searching of antique establishments and various merchants will often be rewarded with the discovery of just-the-right size glove, at a very nominal price. Watch for length (to the wrist), ornamentation (decorative stitching only) and color (although white and ivory were most common, 19th century gloves were often very colorful). Do not neglect the gentlemen either. White gloves for formal occasions and colored gloves for walking or driving. For a ball a gentleman should have several pairs so that he always has clean ones in the ballroom. Leather or kid gloves in larger sizes may be hard to find. Well-fitting white cotton gloves without any modern snaps are acceptable.

LK

Glossary:

beaver gloves -- a common glove made of cheap leather, difficult to wash.

Berlin gloves -- strong, white cotton gloves imported from Germany

doe-skin (leather as opposed to a compact twilled woolen cloth) *gloves* -- a thick, strong and soft leather glove.

kid gloves -- made from the hide of young goat; kidskin gloves are thin, soft and elastic; French kid gloves were considered the best made; available in white and also dyed many colors.

Limerick gloves -- manufactured in Limerick, Ireland, from the skin of unborn calves; by the 1860s the practice of slaughtering cows when in calf was almost discontinued.

Woodstock gloves -- lambskin gloves imported from Woodstock, England, one of the principal glove manufacturing towns in Great Britain.

Editor's note:

I washed five pairs of ivory colored gloves following the instructions in *The Workwoman's Guide*. They were snug-fitting after drying. By carefully pulling them on and gently stretching them, they soon returned to their former size. I used a gentle homemade soap, and rubbed the flannel cloth directly on the bar, instead of using soapy water. When dry, the gloves were not immaculate (they had been through 135th Gettysburg), but they were clean and presentable.

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FROM THE WORKWOMAN'S GUIDE

A Glove Case

Gloves easily become soiled if not covered carefully, and as white gloves, coloured, and black should be kept in separate cases, it is better to make bags for the express purpose of keeping them nicely. It is also advantageous to buy several pairs at once, as they are often cheaper when sold by the dozen or half dozen.

For ladies' gloves, take a strip of material, about four nails wide, and five nails and a quarter long, and pipe or bind it all around with coloured glazed calico, or ribbon; cut another strip, one nail and three quarters wide, and nine nails long, this also piped and bound; the ends may be finished according to fancy, either left square, rounded off, or turned down to form a triangle. Crease both strips in half their length, and lay the middle of the first strip cross-wise upon the middle of the other, so that the longest piece lies underneath, after pinning them very evenly together, stitch them firmly with small stitches in the piping, so as not to be seen. Strings, or a button and button-hole are fixed to the end of the longest strip.

White gloves may be put between the two strips and the coloured ones above, when they are laid in, fold the side of the smallest piece over first, then the long one, and button it together.

On the outside mark the name, and the colour of the gloves [The Editors wonder what would be the 1860 way to do this? Send us your ideas on this.]

Special offer: Our gifted lady-editress, Mrs. Kalil, has constructed a glove case based on the above directions. If you wish to obtain a pattern (with conversion of nails to inches) and instructions, send a self-addressed business envelope with a 32-cent stamp to *The Watchdog*, PO Box 1675, Warren, MI 48090-1675. Patterns will be available after September 1.

PRODUCT SOURCE

Shoulder Straps and Corps Badges

We recently reviewed samples of custom embroidered officer's straps and a fancy corps badge. B.J. Zirkle, does excellent custom work...not ready-made items as found on merchant's row. Preferably you should have an image of what you want first. Mr. Zirkle has access to original insignia and period catalogs of military goods. Prices vary on the higher side as expected on work of this quality.

B.J. Zirkle, IWP Fabrications, PO Box 700504, San Antonio, TX 78270 and GiltWire@aol.com.

An Artilleryman's Clothing

Jenkin Lloyd Jones, a private in the Sixth Wisconsin Battery provided an excellent day-by-day account of his life in the Federal Army in his journal, "An Artilleryman's Diary." [1] Jones was a meticulous record keeper and kept track of each piece of equipment that was issued and charged to him as part of his clothing allowance. He "rolls up" his expenditures during his service in one list at the end of his diary and indicates when he was issued each item and what he was charged for it. Private Jones's compulsive record keeping is a treasure for us, as it provides a hint as to what the average soldier may have expended in clothing during the course of his military career. Jones served for a total of 36 months and was involved in several active campaigns. His experience was not unlike hundreds of thousands of his compatriots. An Infantryman may have had a similar experience in clothing issue with the exception of the number of haversacks and knapsacks which he would have worn out during active campaigning.

Obviously, like most soldiers, Jones acquired clothing items from other sources (e.g., from home, trades with other soldiers, from the battlefield etc...) than Uncle Sam. This listing, however, reveals the frequency of government issue and possibly a clue to the durability of some items. The list is copied verbatim.

<u>1862</u>		
Aug 26	1 blanket	2.24
Aug 27	2 pr drawers	1.42
do [2]	1 cap	.57
do	1 Infantry blouse	
do	1 canteen	.32
do	1 knapsack	2.78
do	1 haversack	.39
Sept 28	1 shirt	.90
Oct 13	1 pr pants	3.87
do	1 jacket	5.17
do	1 hat	2.05
Oct 16	1 overcoat	7.62
Nov 10	1 blanket	2.24
Nov 14	1 shirt	.90
Nov 22	1 pr socks	.24
Nov 30	1 shirt (starched)	.90

<u>1863</u>		
Jan 14	1 pr pants	3.87
do	1 cap	.57
do	1 canteen	.30
Feb 4	1 pr socks	
Feb 24	1 pr boots (sewed)	
June 5	1 poncho	
Oct 22	1 haversack	.48
Oct 25	1 knit shirt	1.30
do	1 pr pants	4.60
Dec 16	2 pr drawers	1.80
do	1 hat	1.65

<u>1864</u>		
Feb 17	1 cap	.58
do	1 pr boots (pegged)	2.12
do	1 shirt	1.53
Apr 12	1 pr pants (Infantry)	2.40
do	1 blouse	3.12
Jun 9	1 shirt	1.53
Aug 9	1 hat	1.80
do	1 pr shoes	1.64
Sept 10	1 pr pants	4.15
do	2 shirts	3.12
do	1 blanket	3.60
Nov 12	1 pr boots	3.25
Dec 8	1 pair pants	3.15
do	2 pair drawers	2.00
do	1 great coat	10.55

<u>1865</u>		
Feb 6	1 blanket in hospital	3.60
Mar 11	1 Jacket	9.25
do	1 poncho	5.90
May 10	1 blouse	4.80
June 5	1 pr boots	4.00
do	1 shirt	2.32
do	1 pr pants	5.90

For some unknown reason, some entries do not have prices. The rampant inflation that the country suffered during the war years is also apparent in these price increases as the war progresses.

As the reader can see, the spring and summer of 1863 are the leanest times of clothing issue for Private Jones. This was also the period of the Sixth Wisconsin Battery's most active campaign, Vicksburg. It is assumed that the intensity and logistic constraints of the campaign result in the absence of clothing issue during this period. Much more research would have to be completed to draw a valid assumption in that regard.

Mark Hubbs

Mark Hubbs is a historic preservationist and environmental analyst for an engineering firm (a primary customer being the U.S. Army). He has been reenacting since 1972. He is a member of the 45th Alabama/18th Missouri (U.S.), and portrays a member of the U.S. Christian Commission.

[1] Jenkin Lloyd Jones, *An Artilleryman's Diary*, originally published circa 1905 and now a rare, out of print book, photocopy in author's possession
 [2] "do" is a common 19th century abbreviation for "ditto"

FOLLOW-UP ON SPRING 1998 CLERK'S DESK

A number of readers let us know those "batter heads" were the top head of the drum, as opposed to the bottom, snare head. Twice the numbers of batter heads were ordered as they were beat on or "battered."

Vintage Hats & Bonnets, 1770 -- 1970, Identification & Value

When I received this book from a treasured friend, I really was not sure what to expect. When I sat down to look at the contents I was pleasantly surprised. A vast amount of photographs of original bonnets and hats is contained in this book. These photographs show front and back views. Any student, or researcher will appreciate that detail. In each chapter the author has tried to accompany the photos with period fashion plates that are always fun to examine. The author includes a brief summary of the history of the bonnet or hat shown in the plates. I would heartily recommend this publication for ladies. Pricing (or replacement values) of originals is included for the collector's information.

For the same reasons, I would recommend that the gentlemen may enjoy this book to familiarize himself with the ladies' headwear of the period. This knowledge might come in handy when "shopping" for a present.

The author has done an exceptional job in organizing this publication for the two hundred year period. She has chosen beautiful bonnets and hats to photograph that potentially could inspire an explosion in well-made and accurate bonnets.

Vintage Hats & Bonnets, 1770 -- 1970, Identification & Value (ISBN 1-57432-028-9)

Susan Langle (photos by John Dowling)

Collector Books, PO Box 3009 Paducah, Ky. 42002-3009.

\$24.95 (add \$2.00 for shipping and handling)

Christine Ballard

Christine Ballard has been reenacting for 10 years. She is past president, and current treasurer of the Michigan Soldiers' Aid Society. An intense interest in bonnets has lead her to manufacture historically accurate bonnets at affordable prices for ladies re-living the mid-19th century. She has conducted bonnet workshops at the Ohio Historical Museum, private residences in Indiana and Michigan, and most recently at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas.

The Dog's view of the book...

It is a wonderful book; dramatic in its intermingling of color photographs, period sketches and descriptions of ladies' headwear. The use of CDV's and tintypes adds 19th century documentation. However, the period images are not always dated. This could lead to confusion when viewed by the inexperienced reenactor. There is an interesting introduction that includes a guide to antique photographs, where to search for old headwear, and a care and repair section. *The Watchdog*. gives a tip of the hat to the author for a stunning publication!

LK

NOTE: The book is \$24.95 from the publisher. Ed O'Dwyer of Shamrock Hill Books has a special deal. If you mention this review in your order, the price will be \$16.99 plus shipping. Shamrock Hill Books: 12725 Bethany Rd., Alpharetta GA 30004-1080 and by telegraph at Historybks@juno.com or Historybks@aol.com or Himself@bookguy.com and his website at <http://www.bookguy.com>

Just Like Mom and Apple PIE

AoP Press has just published the 4th Edition of *Parade Inspection and Basic Evolutions of the Infantry Battalion* and the 2nd edition of *Instructions for Guards and Pickets*. The first edition of *PIE* was reviewed by *The Watchdog*. in the autumn of 1994 and was a "pick of the litter." Subsequent refinements have made this an even more valuable reference tool that must accompany any study of Casey's or Hardee's tactics. It remains a "pick of the litter."

Dom Dal Bello has demonstrated his knowledge of the "dancing master's" art on the field and in print. He is the commander of the Army of the Pacific and commanded brigades of the First Federal Division. He portrays a fine officer and is a gentleman. The study of 19th century military tactics and is accurate application to Civil war enacting is Mr. Dal Bello's passion. The quality and extent of his work in *PIE* and *IGP* reflect this passion.

For those not familiar with *PIE*, it is a manual for company officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers based on the two most widely used tactics manuals (Casey's and Hardee's) of the Civil War. References to both

conveniently cross-indexed as a guide to the School of the Battalion. Figures and illustrations help the reader apply this to battalion drill and field use. *IGP* uses the same approach to provide instruction on the importance and proper conduct of guard duty. Readers will note that *The Watchdog*. borrows some of the philosophy emphasized by Mr. Dal Bello.

The changes to *IGP* in its 2nd edition are essentially cosmetic. The *IGP* will be reviewed in a future issue. The first edition has been studied and its lessons applied by members of our own Relief Guard.

The text of the 4th edition of *PIE* has been made more complete in its explanation of the various battalion movements. There are some important additions such as a discussion of assembling the battalion line and a table describing the correct positions of the company officers, 1st and 2nd Sergeants, Color Guard and General Guides. Another addition is an explanation of the correct (and safest) way to conduct a bayonet charge.

We give here an abridged lesson here to encourage you to study the ample notes. A regiment is moving forward in line

of battle. The commander orders: *Arms-PORT* (both ranks take this arms position). When the line reaches the enemy (at a safe distance for living history and probably 25-50 yards in 1860s reality), only the front rank comes to *Charge-BAYONET* at the command. The rear rank remains at *Arms-PORT*.

I guarantee you will find Mr. Dal Bello's explanation informative.

Other new notes discuss the Parade, maneuver, repeating commands, markers, wheels, casualties and route march. These things we (speaking as a former battalion commander) should do accurately are explained in a logical and reasonable fashion. Because of its interpretation of period drill and tactics

PRODUCT REVIEW

It's in the Cards

The Watchdog has received a sample of a deck of playing cards. Once we realized it was not for staff poker games (when we saw there were no numbers) we examined it as an object for the haversack or card table display and interpretive use.

The Union Deck is a reproduction of one produced by the American Card Company in New York City in 1862. An original deck was used as the model. An outstanding original deck of this type is in the Gettysburg NBP museum. The unique feature of the design is that the suits are patriotic stars, eagles, flags and shields rather than hearts, spades diamonds and clubs [clubs are trump!]. The face card images are patriotic designs as well. The United States Playing Card Company was consulted by the manufacture to ensure the accuracy of the reproduction. [1]

Several styles of decks were sold in the United States during the Civil War, including some foreign produced decks that had to make it through the blockade. The famous Confederate flag deck (made in England) was very rare. The Union Deck was purchased and used by soldiers of both armies. The cards were available at sutlers, sent from home, direct from the factory, from civilian merchants and as spoils of war. Advertisements for this deck can be seen in issues of Harper's Weekly.

The deck I examined from Promotion Solutions Inc. is an excellent copy. The cards are square-cornered and come in a reproduction of the original 2-piece box. Many other decks sold by merchants today have modern boxes. This deck is a dead ringer for the decks sold in 1862. Promotion Solutions owns an original of this deck design.

The cards are not plastic coated. The cards and box have a flat finish. Our suggestion here is that you buy two...one for display and one to toss in your haversack. The cards are by not flimsy. Much of our equipment sees a variety of conditions as part of our impressions like rain water and spilt coffee. The staff will be field testing our deck for the balance of the season, and will report on the results. The price ranges from \$10-\$15 depending on the merchant from whom you

manuals PIE is to drill as hand sewn button holes are to an accurate uniform coat ...B.I.R.D!

The Dog's view of the book... "3 Cheers and an ARF!" and "A dead whale, or a stove boat!"

Parade, Inspection and Basic Evolutions of the Infantry Battalion, 4th edition, \$15.00

Instruction for Guards and Pickets, 2nd edition, \$15.00

Dom Dal Bello, commanding the Army of the Pacific
AoP Press, Books for Living Historians, PO Box 1863,
Goleta, CA 93116 and (805) 683-9569

BC

purchase the Promotion Solutions deck. They wholesale it to the merchant community so you have to be a wise shopper. You should contact Promotion Solutions to find out their latest list of retail suppliers. This is the best reproduction deck I have seen so far.

The company makes reproduction revenue tax stamps required on decks at different times during the period.

The Union Deck

Julie Mayer, Promotion Solutions In.
549 Hamblin Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45255 and (513) 528-1906
and FAX at (513) 528-2265

BC

Note:

[1] The American Playing Card Company was later bought by the United States Playing Card Company (currently in business).

The Civil War Playing Cards Gazette

The Watchdog is awaiting its sample copy of a new magazine, "Civil War Playing Card Gazette." The publication date of the premier issue of this bi-monthly is 17 September 1998. According to promotional literature, the magazine is dedicated to the authenticity of playing card of the Civil War era. Topics will include innovations to the cards, color examples of original cards and game decks, information on where to purchase originals and advice on value and prices. The publishers have stated that a portion of subscription proceeds will be donated to battlefield preservation. We remind you that we have not seen a copy yet.

Civil War Playing Cards Gazette

\$61.95 for one year subscription (Florida residents add 7% sales tax so price is \$65.96)

Tony Fantilli, "Cards with My Pard," PO Box 6186,
Clearwater, FL 33758-6186 and (813) 443-1863

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There is a number on your address label that looks like X.Y (X=year, Y=quarter, example: the Winter 1998 issue is 6.1). The number on the label indicates your last issue...unless you renew your subscription to *The Watchdog*.

CONTACT BY TELEGRAPH

e-mail at: watchdog@rust.net

website URL: <http://www.rust.net/~watchdog/>

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