

## **49<sup>th</sup> Indiana Co F**

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*49th Indiana Co F Newsletter*

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### **Recent Events**

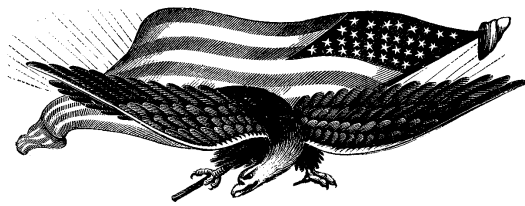
#### ***Bridgeton, Indiana***

Bridgeton defies expectations. Of all the events we attend each year, one wouldn't guess that an event in a very remote part of Parke County Indiana, in a town without a gas station or a stoplight would attract a relatively large number of spectators and would yield a steady crop of recruits and interest. Yet such is almost always the case. This year, the weather cooperated. Late August in Indiana is notorious for high heat and humidity, but we enjoyed highs in the seventies and cool, comfortable evenings.

We had three recruits join us on Saturday, one of which liked it enough to join officially by paying his dues for 2026. The other two recruits were young fellows that I am confident we will see again. I also passed out more business cards than I ever had at a single event. A Trail Life troop stopped by and asked some excellent questions; we invited them to visit us at Billie Creek. Likewise, a lot of the public that came through showed a high degree of interest.

On Saturday evening, Private Cuneo made venison shepherd's pie and it was absolutely delicious. I made him promise to make it again at Munfordville. We all had good times around the fire. As usual, the organizers bent over backwards to accommodate us. For next year, they asked if we could camp next to the general store vice the cabin since the public didn't always see us back there in our usual spot. The new place will give us more visibility, but perhaps more importantly will be shaded in the afternoon, not something to take lightly considering next August will no doubt return to sauna level.

Next year's event is August 29-30, which happily is NOT on Labor Day weekend.



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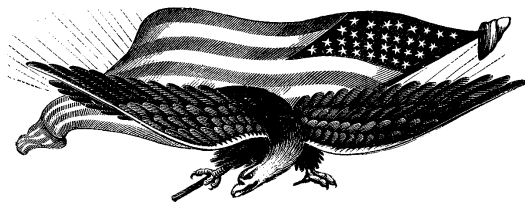
### *Munfordville, Kentucky*

At Munfordville we had a good turnout, an event we sometimes struggle with for attendance. As is usual at that time and place, it was hot and a bit dry, although we did have some brief showers early Sunday morning. Saturday featured drill followed by the usual town parade. As the morning drill went very well, I decided to forgo the second drill due to the heat.

The Saturday battle was the reenactment of the battle at Rowlett's Station. I had the unaccustomed luxury of numbers, which permitted me to have flanking companies and skirmishers, which slowed the Confederates considerably. As is usual in that scenario, we formed 'square' with our 1st company to simulate that of the 32nd Indiana's. An observer noted it was more a parallelogram, and in a stricter sense a rally on fours, but there are times where we must bow to existing conditions and improvise. We maintained the formation as we fell back, something I wasn't sure we could pull off. The rest of the battle went the usual way except for the very end, when we had a medical emergency in an artillery unit due to someone becoming ill from the heat. Shortly afterwards the Confederates also had some heat-related issues.

Sunday started off cool due to the overnight rain and remaining cloud cover. However, by late morning the clouds moved off and the temps spiked quickly. Luckily, we had our drill out of the way early and benefitted from an early start time for the afternoon battle. The Sunday battle featured an assault on the stockade and entrenchments from the south. We retreated by company in echelon back to our defenses, and held off a final assault from the Confederates. This was tricky as we had to fall back on our guns, but the artillery commander did an excellent job of shutting down the pieces exactly as planned.

Special thanks go to Ed Cuneo for cooking for on Friday and Saturday evening, the non-coms for providing excellent leadership and guidance and the artillery for their flawless execution of their roles in the scenarios. The AoW had a veteran infantry crew for the most part, but it was a combined company with the 49th Indiana, the 11th Indiana, and some galvanized pards from the 44th Tennessee, and those can go sideways at times. But everyone worked well together and it was truly a pleasure to command it. Lastly, I'd like to thank the other infantry companies that joined us to form a small battalion, something I rarely have there, commanded by Sergeants Wentworth and Bradley. They each did an tremendous job.



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### **Other Events**

#### ***Martin County***

Javy and I attended the ceremony at Shoals, Indiana to honor the members of the 19th Illinois who tragically lost their lives in a train accident in 1861 nearby. A new marker was unveiled at the Martin County Historical Museum. Afterwards, we stopped at the Burns City Cemetery to pay our respects to three members of the 49th buried there.

#### ***Lebanon, Indiana***

Anthony Gregg, Javy and myself went to Lebanon on September 28-29 to boost the federal numbers for the battle to help out the 44th Tennessee. There may be some changes for the event coming for 2026, and if so, it'll be shared at the winter meeting.

### **Next Event**

#### ***Billie Creek, Indiana***

Our second visit to Billie Creek this year (October 11-12) will be a living history. That means no battles, although we may have a 'blue-on-blue' skirmish for benefit of spectators. We will be camping at the farmhouse at the south end of the property. As this is during the Covered Bridge Festival, I am expecting a decent amount of public and therefore expect a considerable opportunity for recruitment. On Saturday afternoon, we are also going to finish up our officer nominations for 2026. This is the last event of our season, so let's have good turnout and end the season on a high note.

Tentative military schedule for Billie Creek:

Saturday

9am company drill

11am company drill

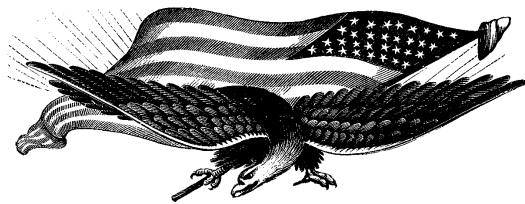
1am bayonet drill or skirmish

3am company meeting at farmhouse

Sunday

11am company drill

1pm break camp



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### Looking Ahead to the Offseason

The offseason doesn't necessarily mean you toss your stuff into a closet and forget about it until the start of next season. There are many things you can do over the winter:

1. Give your rifle a good, thorough cleaning and oiling. **Do this first.**
2. Clean and repair your gear, especially your footwear. Treat your leather gear with oil.
3. Upgrade your kit. Find which part of your kit most in need of improvement, then look at gear suppliers to find one that best suits your needs and budget. Don't be afraid to ask a veteran to advise you in the process.
4. Improve your knowledge. There are plenty of resources online to learn about virtually anything related to the Civil War. Drill manuals can be easily found in PDF form. YouTube is a rich source of information, especially the Civil War Digital Digest. You can learn about period fieldcraft, sewing or cooking.
5. Roll rounds. If you're gonna sit around and watch a lot of TV anyway, knock out some rounds.
6. Keep active. Go for daily walks, runs or hit the gym. You'll thank me in July.

### Winter Spring Mill

This event was in danger due to the state drastically cutting the park's budget. However, the park's officials secured a grant to allow the event to continue at least for 2026. Besides the budget, the event was almost cancelled anyway due to damage to grassy areas caused by vehicles. It's quite likely we will no longer be able to drive our vehicles past the mill, or even be limited to the circular drive.

### Email Addresses

If you haven't already, please send me your current email address for the company database.

See you at Billie Creek!

