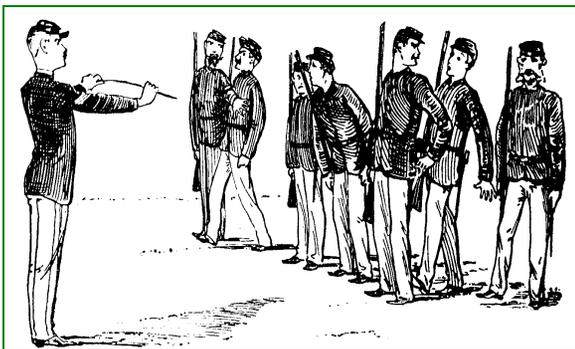


**N**obody takes up a hobby without an expectation of enjoying it! Why does this hobby attract nearly 40,000 participants in the United States (and many in Europe)?

The simple answer: The American Civil War was the single defining event that shaped the United States we live in today, and was a significant landmark in the history of Democracies worldwide. Our Civil War haunts us even after nearly a century and a half, and as a people we are still struggling to understand what it meant to us. Re-enacting is one way to increase that understanding, and through living histories and other contacts to help others touch the lives, motives, and experiences of those who lived it first-hand.



### Who joins the re-enactment hobby?

*Just about anybody who is interested in the Civil War.* Our unit includes people from many jobs and professions: government employees, active and retired service members, amateur historians, technical workers, college and high school students and others. The minimum age for membership as an infantryman is 16, but younger members, just as in the 1860's serve as field musicians. There are also civilian members who attend events in period dress. Company B's active membership rolls include members from ages 17-60s.

# 28th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Company B

**Web page:**

[www.28thMassCoB.org](http://www.28thMassCoB.org)

**Recruiting Contacts:**

**Email:**

[Signals28thMVI@yahoo.com](mailto:Signals28thMVI@yahoo.com)

**Or write to:**

Recruit Information  
28<sup>th</sup> Mass, Co B  
4045 North 17<sup>th</sup> St,  
Arlington, Virginia 22207

**The 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Company B is a registered non-profit organization in the State of Virginia and has 501 (c) (3) status under the Internal Revenue Code.**



# 28th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Company B



## History of the 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts

The 28<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, was recruited in the city of Boston and surrounding communities during the fall of 1861 as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Massachusetts Irish Volunteers and was mustered into Federal service on December 13, 1861. Although 70 percent of its members were drawn from the Irish community, its ranks included representatives of every ethnic group and religious creed found in the city of Boston. The 28<sup>th</sup> became by the end of 1862 a part of the famed Irish Brigade, and fought in every major battle in the east from Antietam until Appomattox.

At the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862, under the new green flag of the 28<sup>th</sup> Mass, the Irish Brigade charged the impregnable stone wall on Marye's Heights, suffering heavy casualties and displaying such steadiness under the withering Confederate fire that the defenders cheered their courage. At Gettysburg, the 28<sup>th</sup> Mass fought with the Irish Brigade in the Wheat Field, suffering 107 casualties and helping the battered Federal line to withdraw to Cemetery Ridge and the Round Tops.

The 28<sup>th</sup> Mass was heavily committed again in the Wilderness in 1864, and was part of the desperate charge with bayonets fixed and muskets uncapped that briefly carried the Confederate defenses at Spotsylvania. With the remnants of the Irish Brigade — including the 63<sup>d</sup>, 69<sup>th</sup>, and 88<sup>th</sup> New York and 116<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania regiments — the 28<sup>th</sup> Mass fought through Cold Harbor, the siege at Petersburg, and the last campaign in 1865.

Monuments to the 28<sup>th</sup> Mass are found at Antietam, at Gettysburg, and at the Fredericksburg city dock, and an original drum from the regiment is kept in the Fredericksburg Military Park Museum. The distinctive green regimental flags of the Irish Brigade were recognized on every battlefield, and those that remain are cherished by their home states. Of the 1,703 men who reportedly joined the regiment during the war, 1,133 were killed, wounded, or recorded as missing in action.

By its battle record and in its legacy of valor, the 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry is one of the most distinguished regiments in the American Civil War.

## The modern 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts

The reenactment Company B, 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry was formed in 1985 with members principally from the Northern Virginia (to include Richmond), Maryland, and the Washington, D.C. area. With our sister units in the 3d US Volunteers, the 28<sup>th</sup> Mass is dedicated to an accurate portrayal of the Civil War soldier, with an emphasis on battle drill and soldiering. The unit participates in 3-4 major reenactments annually, as well as many special living history and commemorative events. Company B is happy to include civilian portrayals, male and female, especially those that reflect the Irish immigrant experience.

### I want to participate — which unit is right for me?

Each re-enactment unit has its own “personality.” Company B emphasizes battle drill, but also works to maintain authenticity in encampments without strict “first person” living history, misery, and dysentery. *Re-enacting is a hobby.* If you want to smoke filtered cigarettes in camp, wear modern eyeglasses, or do no work around the camp or the cook fire, the 28<sup>th</sup> Mass is *not* for you.

**Shop around for a unit that fits your needs.** We can help you to do that, and we can let you work with us on a trial basis until you decide whether Company B is for you.

Most Company B members enjoy the full experience of re-enacting,

which includes sleeping under canvas (or even without) and taking meals with the company mess. However, other members for medical or other reasons concentrate on living history events and join us for the drill, battle, and public contact. *It's your call!*

**How much does re-enacting cost?** The basic “kit,” uniforms and other gear necessary to participate in all aspects of the hobby, will cost about \$2,000. Most members acquire their supplies gradually — and if you are serious about joining, we can loan you gear to help you get started. *Don't start buying gear right away — Quality varies, and you can easily be disappointed.* We can help get you started.

### I'm convinced! How do I join?

Visit our web page, or write us and one of our members will contact you. If you are interested in learning more about the unit, its activities, and how you can enter the re-enacting hobby, we will provide you more specific details.

Web page: <http://www.28thmasscob.org>

Email: [Signals28thMVI@yahoo.com](mailto:Signals28thMVI@yahoo.com)

