



28th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Company B

TO: Membership

FROM: Joseph Pankey, Captain

DATE: February 1, 2023

RE: Captain's Report for 2022

I am honored to present my report for the 2022 Campaign Season.

In last year's report on 2021 activities, I noted that a desire for events was growing in the later part of the year as COVID restrictions were easing, and that I had hope that sponsors would have the confidence to begin scheduling events. This proved to be the case, and a full schedule developed for us. There were cancellations, but in the longstanding tradition of reenacting they were caused by bad weather!

There was also a resurgence of interest in reenacting, and in joining Company B. During 2022, I answered inquiries from fifteen individuals who were considering joining the unit. Several of these have now joined us.

The number of prospective members taking advantage of our loaner gear caused some concern about our ability to equip them all at any one event, but hard work from Quartermaster Hal Lapham prevented any failure in our program. Hal and I are working to creating a clearer written policy to ease the workload, and to make sure that the equipment is fairly loaned out and collected.

Development of guidelines on loaner gear may also be needed due to the increased delivery time for quality gear these recruits will be seeking to purchase. A presentation from a well known sutler at the United States Volunteers (USV) annual meeting noted his difficulty in obtaining the quantity of items he orders as well as a long delivery time. He also noted prices: bayonets with scabbards now cost more than \$100, and new rifles more than \$1600. With this in mind, I encourage anyone who is downsizing to advertize their gear within Company B. We cannot let any good deal on good equipment get by us.

First Sergeant Rolf Madole's annual report for 2022 describes the past year's events in detail, but I must mention some highlights:

- At the Monocacy Battlefield living history event, several of us were interviewed by Khushboo Rathore Krathore, a reporter for the Frederick News-Post Newspaper. She produced a nice article that appeared in the paper on July 9, 2022, with many photos and quotes of us.
- Also due to the Monocacy event, NPS Ranger Matt Borders recommended Company B to several other parks. For example he emailed "I wanted to introduce you my colleague Bert down in Richmond National Battlefield Park. He is looking for good Federal units that might be able to make the trip to Richmond. I can't speak for your guys ability to travel, but I can say you all are a great unit."
- We fielded a large Company at Cedar Creek, serving with the 1ST Regiment of the USV.
- We began experimenting with a new system of providing cartridges and caps to prospective members, including instructing them in the construction of the cartridges.

Our success would not be possible without every member's efforts. The following were mentioned in event reports, and are rightfully recognized here:

- First Sergeant Madole and Sergeant Bill Voelkner managed the Company well. As always, they provided assistance to all, maintaining a safe and authentic environment.
- Private Joe Abernathy enthusiastically promoted meaningful events, and did much to bring good music into the field. He has been instrumental in encouraging our new members and is a very positive influence on all of us.
- New members have made great contributions to Company B, through their active participation, their interest in authenticity, and their willingness to help with everything from cooking to drill. There is a lot of talent in these soldiers, and I think of them as the future of Company B and the hobby in general. I look forward to recognizing them at our annual meeting.
- Private Aaron Harvey, a very creative person, made period items such as candles and bags for ration, and shared them with the Company.
- Private Austin Harvey exudes teamwork, and spent much extra time helping with drill and all manner of chores around camp.
- Rea-Ann Voelkner continued her great work in coordinating our food and cooking, and helped institute some new ways to make our food service and cleanup more orderly and efficient.
- Private John Tuohy facilitated a bulk black powder purchase for members and friends of the Company
- Private Steve Klitsch organized the living history event at the Monocacy Battlefield. It was a great event that brought us recommendations from the NPS staff.
- Corporal Hal Lapham did outstanding work with the numerous requests for loner gear, and in the care of our Colors and equipment. He even took a turn as Second Sergeant at Cedar Creek!
- Corporal Jerry Lynes handled all things communications, keeping up the Company Facebook, website, and email systems and working to improve them.
- Although it was not a military operational event, I also want to recognize Mindy and Jerry Lynes for volunteering to host the Company party, and Dennis O'Connell for his work in assuring we had a celebratory event on our Fredericksburg anniversary weekend. It was a wonderful event!

The 160TH anniversary of the pivotal year of 1863 should prove to be meaningful. Looking at the list of prospective events, I am impressed by the number and variety of our choices. Regardless of which we choose, I know that we will continue to strive for authenticity and to honor the memory of the Irish Volunteers. God save the Union!

As always, please let me know your thoughts, and any questions you may have.

Please be careful and stay healthy!



Joseph Pankey
Captain, Company B
28TH Mass. Vol. Infantry