



28th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Company B

TO: Members of the 28th Mass Co. B

FROM: Brian Mtchell, PM

DATE: 24 January 2026

Musicians Report

Members, I am honored to submit this report concerning the musicians branch of Co B 28th Mass. This year was very big for us. Our ranks are growing and we are improving as a group. Our reputation in this aspect of the hobby is growing in a positive direction. We have been sought after to fall in with more established fife and drum corps, as well as people wanting to fall in with us. We started small this year but have recruited quite a few musicians of various talent levels for the 2026 season. I'm really looking forward to next year!

As musicians, we hold high standards for those who wish to join us. While we welcome all skill levels, we hold fast to our expectations of being functional. For parades, musters, etc...musicians are expected to know the music as it is correctly played. We want to move away from those who show up just to show up. We take pride in our sound, and one bad drummer can make five good drummers sound muddy. That being said, new members are welcome to join, and we will do all that we can to get them where they need to be, but we also expect individual practice, lessons if possible, and dedication. Attention to detail and authenticity are a must, and unit uniform/equipment requirements are to be met. Understandably, this might take time for new guys. We strive for improvement, not perfection.

We have a few people who have expressed interest in joining us who have not officially enlisted yet, but we are encouraging them to make their mark. We have set the standard that a parent must accompany their child to events if they are under 16. We will make sure they are looked after and told where they need to be, just like everyone else in the unit, however, we are not babysitters. A parent on site allows us to focus on the job at hand. We are looking forward to fresh fish and hope they take to the hobby as we did. Our overall goal is to field a full sized functioning group within the next couple of years.

Our group has also added members from the ranks, notably David Moore, Scott Swift, and Aubrey Hodges who have taken up the fife, and Steve Klitsch has expressed interest in playing the bass drum with us as well. We welcome anyone who wants to join us, even if you want to be a "fifleman" or "Drumleman". Training and shenanigans provided! A drum major might be in our future as well, but mum is the word on that for now.

Currently, the unit gear is:

- 1 Cooperman Standard Eagle Snare drum #751
- 1 Loyal Drum Recreated 28th Mass Fredericksburg Drum #69
- 2 Pairs Cooperman Sticks with Leather holders
- 1 Pair unmarked sticks
- 2 Tuxedo Cases
- 1 original bass drum w sling and mallets

All music gear belonging to the company will strictly be used by enrolled members only and at the discretion of myself or Joe Abernathy. All musical equipment will be used at 28th events only, and will be returned to myself, Rob Calhela, or Joe Abernathy. Our gear will not be split, if a drummer has a private drum and no sling, he will get the whole set. All gear is in working order and well maintained by myself and Joe Abernathy.

However....

The slings we purchased for the snare drums two years ago were not of the best quality and did not last. I would like to ask the unit to purchase two new slings from Rudiments and Ropes, each costing \$90 shipped. These are well made and meet the authenticity level we wish to achieve.

Id like to recognize Joe Abernathy, along with Ron Glidden (a fifer joining us with his drummer wife Sue) for joining the board at the Field Music School Association. This is a big deal because it will open doors for possible new members and event opportunities. Well done lads!

Joe has baby number three on the way! Congrats! His time for events will be limited for a bit, which is a bummer because he is a HUGE part of who we are and where we are going. But a new baby is a forgivable excuse.

In closing, we have a lot going on this coming season. I'm really excited for it, and I'm pleased with what we have become and look forward to fielding a functioning fife and drum corps that will make the 28th proud.

Looking forward to next year and spending time with the Faugh a Ballagh Boys!