

# THE DISPATCH

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 1      JANUARY 5TH, 2012

## RE-ENACTING THE CURRICULUM      BY PVT. NICK HARTMAN

When the past comes alive, those who are re-living history take on an increased appreciation, heightened awareness, and develop a clearer understanding of the subject. There is no need to argue these points with any re-enactor, but many a middle school Social Studies teacher can attest to the challenge of sharing their passion for history with students.

When attempting to encourage enthusiasm for the past, educators must overcome the average student body's fixation on modern culture, technology, and peer relationships before fostering interest

and appreciation. Fortunately, the modern professional educator can have one foot firmly planted in the past while embracing the advantages of technology.

Digital re-enactment throughout the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies Curriculum program draws students in to the study of history, people, and events through computer assisted role play. This role play is made possible, not through the use of physical costumes and other accoutrements, but rather with the aid of technology. With a simple green screen, video recording device, and the Boinx TV soft-

ware, students will be able to act in a simulated environment of the operator's choosing and be attired as any character from history. This recently conceived and funded program at Western Valley Middle School in Phoenix, Arizona will align with the Arizona Social Studies curriculum and enable students to "act" out their knowledge throughout the year.

Digital re-enactment enables professional educators a greater chance to incorporate experiential education which expands background knowledge. This software and accompanying equipment will more effectively engage the students, pique their interest... *cont'd pg. 3*

## FROM THE COMMANDER'S TENT

To the Member's of the 148th NYVI/SVR:

I want to take an opportunity to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve the regiment as Commander for another year.

This is the first edition of The Dispatch to be sent

electronically. There will be a limited run of paper copies for those who do not use the internet/e-mail and for inclusion in our unit's records.

The reason for this switch is to reduce the costs incurred by the unit. A typical run of the Dispatch costs the

unit approximately \$40 in it's current format; a total of about \$120 a year.

I truly appreciate your feedback so please let me know your thoughts!

Your Obedient Servant,  
1st Sgt John A. Goloski  
Commander, 148th NYVI

## NEXT MEETING OF THE 148TH NYVI

- *The next meeting of the 148th NYVI is scheduled for 2:00 pm, January 15th 2012 at the Gridley Inn in Waterloo.*
- *This meeting is to be a potluck meeting so bring a dish to pass and an appetite.*
- *At the January meeting we will be discussing potential events.*

At Left: Pvt. Lonsbery helps a wounded comrade from the field at Manassas Junction.

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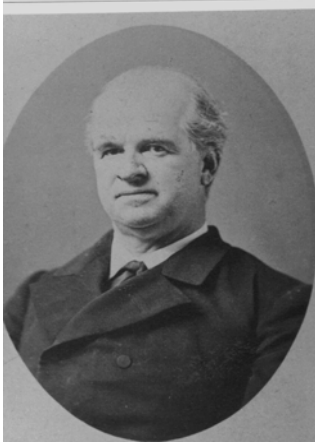
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## COL WILLIAM J. JOHNSON

BY GEORGE SHADMAN



Colonel William J. Johnson was the first commander of the 148th NYVI. He was in command of the regiment from its creation in 1862 and up until he was forced to resign his commission due to health problems a year and a half later.

“HE USED HIS POLITICAL INFLUENCE TO KEEP THE UNIT IN GARRISON DUTY ON THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA, WITH THE INTENT OF TRAINING, TRAINING, AND TRAINING.”

In July, 1862, New York State Assemblyman William Johnson was appointed as Seneca County's representative to the War Committee for the 26<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District. Governor Edwin D Morgan personally asked Johnson to find a proper camp to muster recruits in answer to President Lincoln's call for 300,000 more. He moved quickly to establish Camp Swift in Geneva and with the same speed, the 126<sup>th</sup> NY Volunteers was recruited and left for the seat of war. As the 126<sup>th</sup> was assembling, the Governor again turned to Johnson to raise a second regiment and take command. Thus the 148<sup>th</sup> was born.

William J. Johnson was born on December 8, 1821 in Williamstown, Massachusetts. While an infant, his family moved to Herkimer County, New York. His father David died when William was but three years old, leaving his mother, Olive Stodard, alone with a small family. At the age of 14, young William quit school and began an apprenticeship as a mechanic. When he found the trades were not his strong point he began a series of job hopping finding an interest in public works engineering. Working on the New York Canal System brought him to Seneca Falls in 1856. The year before, he married Angelina Chamberlain and through the years they

had five children, the last surviving was Charles Chamberlain Johnson.

In 1859, Johnson invested in the manufacturing of wool knit goods, a logical move since the Seneca River between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes served many woolen mills. The next year, Johnson's quick success in business earned him some influential friends and he was elected to the New York State Assembly as a Democrat, where he served on two important committees, Canals, and the Commerce and Navigation Committee.

As commander of the 148<sup>th</sup>, he used his political influence to keep the unit in garrison duty on the Virginia peninsula, with the intent of training, training, and training before they were sent into battle. He saw what inexperience did to the 126<sup>th</sup> which was captured at Harper's Ferry within weeks of leaving Camp Swift. While Johnson had no military training, he was smart enough to “recruit” two very experienced men to fill the second and third positions of the regiment, George Guion from the 33<sup>rd</sup> NY Infantry, and John B Murray from the 50<sup>th</sup> NY Engineers.

Johnson resigned his commission after a year and a half due to serious health concerns, returning to Seneca Falls where he continued to support the Union cause.

After the war, Johnson dabbled in the railroad industry but eventually returned to politics, serving in the state senate for two terms. He served as committee chairman of the Boss Tweed embezzlement scandal. This eventually led to the conviction of Tweed in 1873.

On October 10, 1875, at his home in Seneca Falls, he suddenly became ill at about 4:00 PM in the afternoon. The end was quick, as he died at 3:00 AM October 11. He was buried in the Restvale Cemetery in Seneca Falls. It was written that he “... was remembered as being

kind, personable and frank. As a State Senator he was regarded as being well versed in many subjects as well as a deft conversationalist. He was known as a jovial man, with a sharp wit and strong sense of irony.”



*George Shadman is the leading expert on the history of the 148th NYVI. His book, *They Marched on Richmond*, is considered one of the best sources for information on the original 148th NYVI.*

## REENACTOR COOKING 101 BY CAREN CLEAVELAND

### DAINTIES WITHOUT SUGAR

*Because it was a product of the slave trade*

This is a recipe for Dainties used at tea parties for the Hunt House and M'Clintock House (Women's Rights National Historical Park).

During the Civil War many women of the Finger Lakes would not purchase sugar if it was produced by slaves. In protest, the women would

substitute maple syrup, molasses and honey. The following is one of those recipes. Feel free to use it for one of our living history days.

### MAPLE SYRUP TEA LOAF

2 ½ c. flour  
 ½ tsp. soda  
 2 tsp. baking powder  
 1 tsp. salt  
 2 Tbsp. butter, melted  
 1 egg, beaten

¾ c. maple syrup  
 1 c. milk  
 ¼ tsp. vanilla  
 ½ c. walnuts, chopped

Sift together flour, soda, baking powder and salt. Set aside. In separate bowl combine remaining ingredients, except nuts. Stir liquid ingredients into dry. Fold in nuts. Spread batter in a 9 X 5 inch loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 50-55 minutes.



Caren Cleaveland is our unit's Civilian Coordinator and proprietor of the Gridley Inn, our meeting place.

## CURRICULUM CONT'D BY PVT. NICK HARTMAN

*Cont'd from pg. 1* ...curriculum, and ensure a more memorable learning experience that students are able to draw on for the year. In addition to the aforementioned, students will present their creations in front of parents at the Curriculum Night, demonstrating their command and mastery of Social Sciences and perhaps even encourage a broader population to take interest in a subject that many regard as a collection of boring dates, places, and faces.

*-Nicholas A. Hartman M.S.Ed.  
 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Teacher at  
 Western Valley Middle School  
 Fowler Elementary School District,  
 Phoenix, AZ*

*Pvt. Hartman is shown at left at the  
 GCM Mumford Museum Civil War  
 Weekend in 2010.*



## THE PURSUIT OF FLOYD BY JEAN GOLOSKI

The Pursuit of Floyd, from a civilian's perspective, was unlike any event I have ever done. Before arriving, all of the civilians created a persona that they were to maintain throughout the weekend. Rarely was first person broken! We were housed in three different buildings at the museum, and carried on as if we lived there, or were trav-

elling through the town. We had no idea what the military was up to, which made it rather exciting to spot a soldier. As the civilians of the time wouldn't have known, we had no idea of their movements. We, the civilians, spent much time together; writing letters and putting together care packages for soldiers. Saturday night was

one filled with entertainment as we gathered and shared talents!

This event was quite intense, but I would do it again in a heartbeat. One really gets a sense for the life of the civilian during the war. I found myself not even thinking of anything modern. What an enlightening experience!



This is the log cabin boarding house that Jean Goloski stayed in during the Pursuit of Floyd immersion weekend.



## The Dispatch

### THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 148TH NYVI

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Any feedback? Let us know!

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[148NYVI.COM](http://148NYVI.COM)

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GOD BLESS THE GALLANT 148TH!

### WHO WE ARE

Since 1962, the re-created 148th has been educating the public and paying homage to the original group of men who set off from the Finger Lakes Region of western New York for the seat of war in the fall of 1862. Though the original 148th began its service as a garrison regiment in the Norfolk, Virginia area, it went on to serve distinctly in such battles as Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Drewry's Bluff, Chaffin's Farm, Fair Oaks and the numerous battles and skirmishes that finished out the war in the Appomattox Campaign in 1865. It saw five of its members earn the distinguished Congressional Medal of Honor. After the war, one of its original commanders was a key figure in establishing a national day of remembrance for all the men who gave their lives during the war. This day eventually became Memorial Day, a national holiday set aside now to honor ALL veterans from ALL wars America has participated in.

The re-created 148th New York of today participates in many living histories, dedication ceremonies, battle reenactments, school education presentations, and parades, educating the public on a war that claimed over 600,000 American lives in the span of 4 long and bloody years. If you have an interest in reenacting, or the Civil War in general, we would love to hear from you.

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## CLASSIFIEDS & POTENTIAL EVENTS

### Classified

1 Officers Wall tent. Includes all poles and stakes necessary to set up. \$320.

If interested contact:

Caren Cleaveland  
36 West Main Street  
Waterloo, NY 13165-1329  
(315) 539-5192

### Events

#### April 20th - 22th, 2012

"Spring School for Re-enactors"

A weekend of fun and learning to Camp Allegany in Al-

legany State Park to get ready for the 2012 season. We have a very interesting line-up of speakers and some well-rounded topics.

The cost per person:  
14 and older \$40.00  
10 - 13 \$10.00  
9 and under free.  
Family Plan: \$80.00

This includes food and housing (you will need to bring your own bedding, towels,

cleansing and personal necessities.)

If interested contact Tim Bucknam at 585-507-6847.

#### August 25th-26th 2012

"Ithaca Living History"

A weekend long living history in historic Ithaca. This event is being developed by the Tompkins County Historical Society and is being spear-headed by our own Danny Wheeler.

**Stay Tuned, More Events to Come!!!**



Don't Forget to check your calendar's for upcoming events!  
Hope to see all of you soon!