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# The Maine Bugle

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The Maine Cavalry Newsletter

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Volume 1 Issue 2

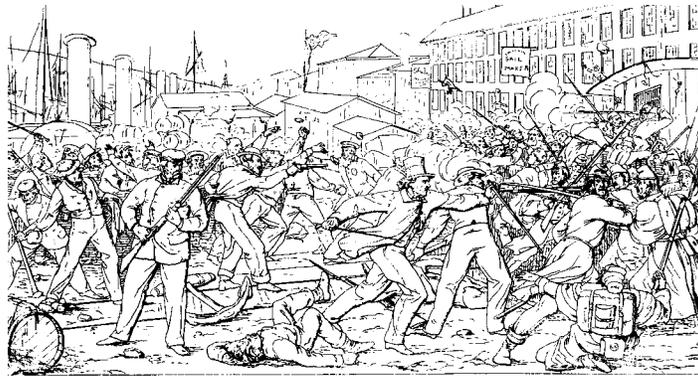
March-April 1997

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## President Street Station

On the morning of April 19th, 1861, a 35 car train from Philadelphia rolled into President Street Station in Baltimore; on board was the 6th Massachusetts Infantry regiment en route to Washington. Aware that there might be trouble in Baltimore, the regiment was under orders to march as a unit with loaded muskets across town, some two miles, to Camden Street station to continue their trip to Washington. Despite these orders, the railroad workers broke down the train, hitching 4 horse teams to each car, in order to tow them to Camden Street as was the usual practise.



As the first nine cars quickly set off, Baltimore citizens noticed the troops and a groups of them began to gather. A group at Gay street pelted the ninth car with paving stones shattering it's windows and injuring several men of the 6th. As the mob grew, they piled stones on the track, and dumped a cart-load of sand on the road. The tenth car was unable to pass these obstructions and the driver rehitched the team to the car's other end and headed back to President Street station.

The remaining 4 companies, about 250 men, now formed up and began marching up President Street. They were met head on by a mob lead by a Confederate flag. The 6th forged on with the help of the city's policemen, marching behind the flag for a short time until a group of Union men came out to take it away. The stones came flying again, and several of the 6th were injured.

As the mob grew in size, it grew in temper and volume. Abuse and shouts were hurled along with stones. At Pratt Street the unit was ordered to double-quick. Crossing the Jones Falls they had to make their way over obstructions and while doing so a shot was fired. It's unknown who fired the shot, but the harassed troops were ordered to turn and fire a volley, dropping several of the crowd. The 6th resumed it's march but the crowd was hot and pistol shots joined the shouting and flying stones killing one of the troops. The city's mayor arrived on the scene and on his advice the 6th resumed it's march at the normal pace. Things quieted down for a short spell, but soon the crowd closed in again, hurling stones, firing at the troops, snatch at flags, and weapons. This was too much for the inexperienced men of the 6th Massachusetts and they began firing at will. Several more on both sides were shot. At Light Street Police Marshal Kane and 30-40 men formed a line between the mob and the troops and with this protection the 6th finally made it to Camden Street Station and their train.

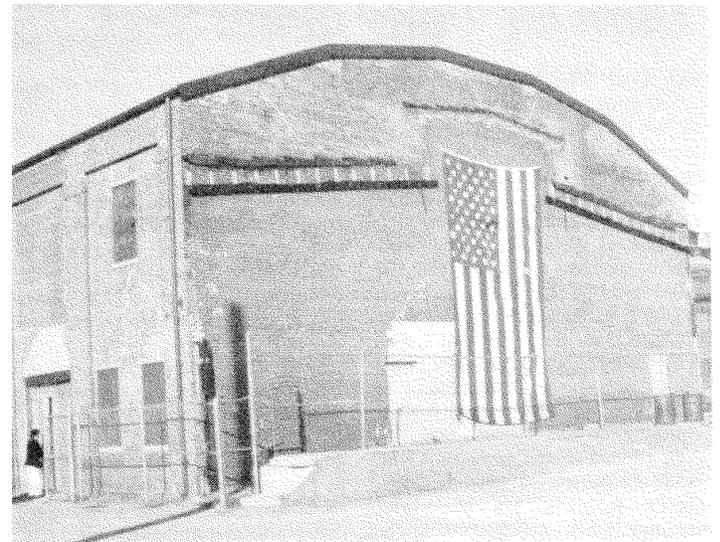
On May 13th, General Benjamin Butler with a force that included the 6th Massachusetts occupied Federal Hill and the garrison at Fort McHenry was ordered to fire on Monument Square if he were attacked. Baltimore was ever after known as "Mobtown."

In the late 1970's, Steve Bunker placed a wreath on President Street Station in honor of the 6th Massachusetts and those that died in the Baltimore riot of 1861. From then on 2nd Maine has placed a wreath on the building on or near the anniversary. Attention was drawn to the building, now abandoned, and in danger of being razed. An organization called Friends of President Street Station was formed to lead the effort to save the building as an historic site.

This year a renovated and restored President Street Station opens as the Civil War Museum of Baltimore. A parade of troops will march through Fells Point to the station where the opening ceremonies will be held. We are the host unit for this event, and will serve as escort for the dignitaries that will take part in the ceremonies. All troopers should be at the square at the foot of Broadway in Fells Point by **0800** the morning of **April 12th**. More details will be available at training camp.

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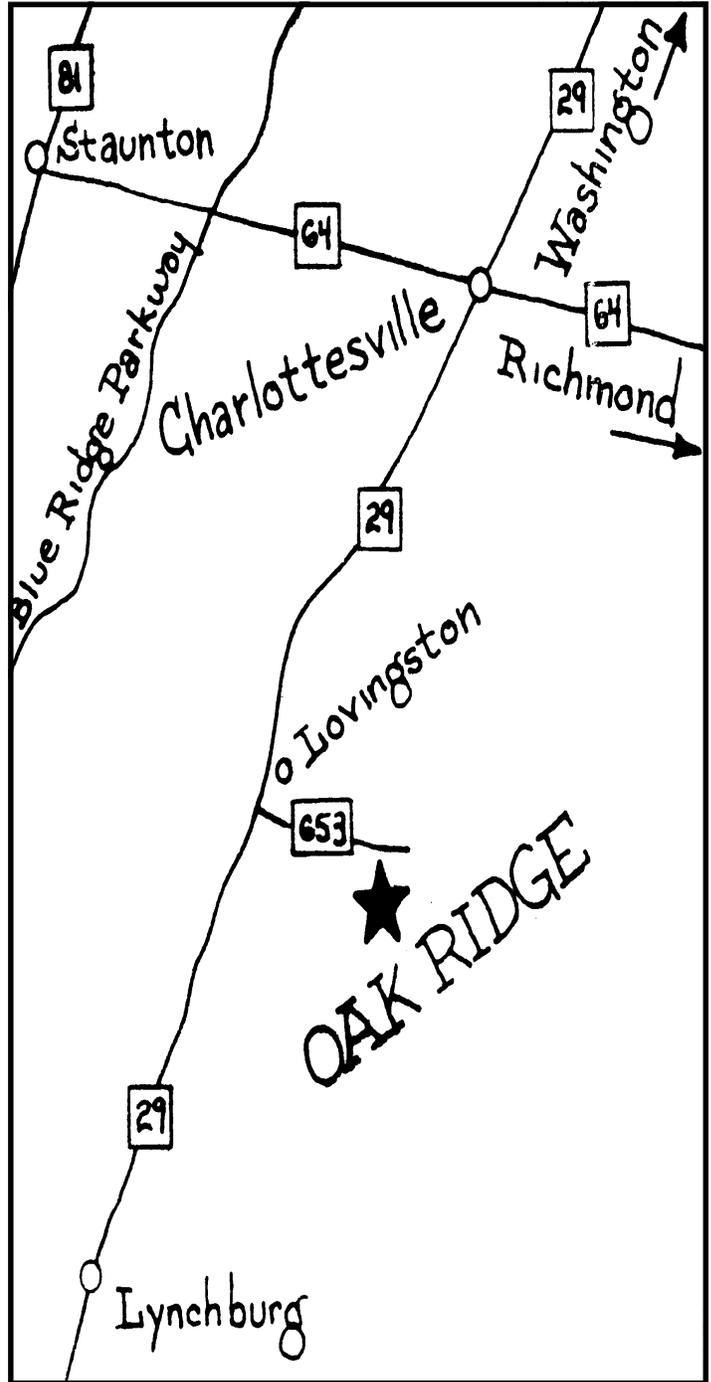
# Stanardsville

The 13th annual reenactment and the 133rd anniversary of the battle of Stanardsville will take place **April 19th** at the Oakridge Estate near Arrington, Virginia. Originally held in the town of Stanardsville, the event outgrew the towns ability to sponsor it and was moved down route 29 to the 4800 acre Oakridge Estate. For years the event always seemed to conflict with some other event that drew badly needed Union forces away. This seems to have been fixed, and the event has been making a comeback. This year it is held on the same weekend as Sailor's Creek. Though this would seem to forbode doom for this event, the sentiments of the Union forces at last year's Sailor's Creek event leads me to believe that this year, Sailor's Creek may actually serve to skim off some of the usually excessive Confederate numbers.

While Judson Kilpatrick and Ulrich Dahlgren were riding a raid against Richmond, George Armstrong Custer and 1500 cavalry were sent into Albemarle County to draw attention the other way. Custer crossed the Rappahannock on February 28th, 1864 headed toward Charlottesville. He passed through Madison Court House, Stanardsville, and Earlsyville skirmishing with Stuart's cavalry. They burned the bridge over the Rivanna River and three large grist mills filled with flour and grain. On March 1st Custer destroyed a supply depot at Stanardsville and ran into more of Stuart's cavalry resulting in a short fight near South River. Custer fell back over Bank's ford that day having covered over a hundred miles, burned severel bridges, three mills, a supply depot, captured some 50 Confederates and 500 horses, and led out a long train of refugee negros, all without losing a man and only a few wounded.

The Oak Ridge Estate has existed since colonial times. The oldest part of the existing house was buildt in 1802 by Robert Rives. It was purchased by Thomas Ryan around 1902. Isabella Coleman lived at Oakridge after her husband was killed at 2nd Manassass. South Carolinian, William Miles lived in the house for a time after the war. The estate is now owned by the Holland family who are restoring the house and outbuildings, the greenhouse, and a private railroad station.

Registration opens Friday, April 18th. Anyone not registered, and if you didn't tell me you were going you were not registered, will have to pay the walk-on fee. The map to the right shows how to get there...



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM MIKE PETERS



## School of the Trooper

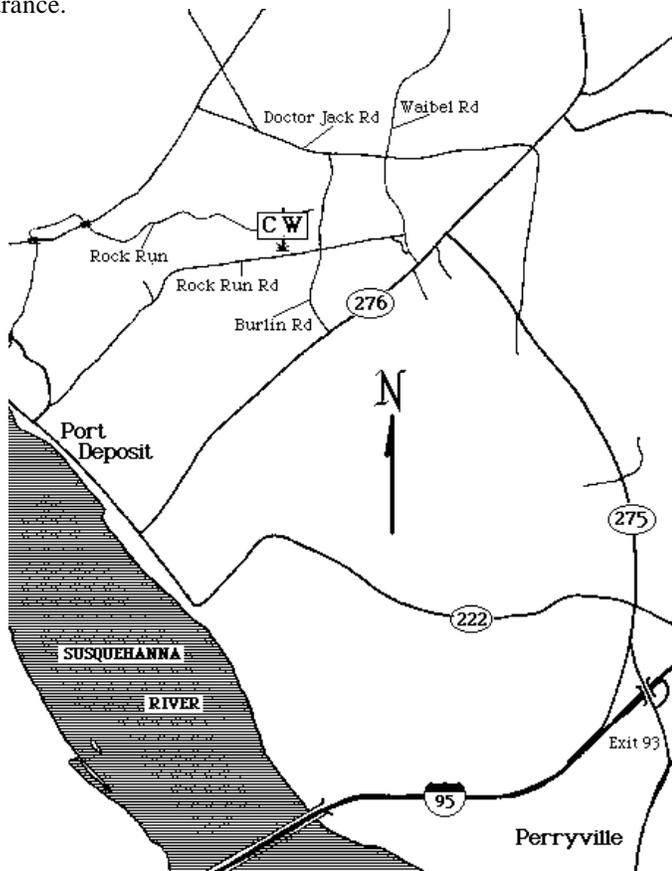
This year's school of the trooper will be near Port Deposit, Maryland. The date was moved up to **MARCH 21st** because of Easter being on the originally planned weekend.

Richard and Diane Ray connected us with Donna Krowl whose father, U. S. Grant McCoy owns a 250+ acre farm. Mr McCoy is a retired farmer that is trying to keep his farm from becoming tracts of yuppie housing by boarding and renting horses, hay rides, and some group camping. The property is divided by Rock Run creek which is flanked by woods. Except for some 8 acres devoted to growing hay, the rest of the farm is almost all grassy fields. There is water available from the creek, and from the barn nearby. There are no toilet facilities, so expect to make like a bear does, and bring T.P.!

Meals will be provided Saturday & Sunday with the cost split among those attending, somewhere between \$5 & \$10 each for the weekend. Because of this I need to know **NOW** if you are coming. There will also be a \$3.00 per person "registration fee" to help out Mr. McCoy.

If all works out, this will be our regular site for School of the Trooper at least until a better one comes along. If we choose to expand and invite other units; this site can support it. Mr. McCoy plans to build a "bath house" with showers and toilets eventually which would solve the only prolem the site seems to present.

I will be on site Friday, look for the CW sign on the North side of Rock Run Road, just West of Burlin Road, that's the entrance.



## Fort McHenry

The fort is best known for it's role in the defense of Baltimore against the British in 1813. Francis Scott Key, after witnessing the bombardment of the fort, was moved to write a poem called "The Star Spangled Banner" telling about what he saw and felt. That poem, put to music, is now our national anthem.

During the Civil War Fort McHenry also served as a hospital and a prison as well as supporting Butler's occupation of Baltimore in 1861 with orders to fire on the town should he be attacked on Federal Hill. Troops were often bivouacked there while heading south, or coming back up. Wounded were brought up the bay to be treated and recuperate there. Political prisoners were kept at the fort, among them the grandson of Francis Scott Key.

**April 26 & 27** the National Park Service is hosting a Civil War encampment on the fort's grounds and we're invited. By the time this went to press I was still unable to contact Scott Sheads to determine the exact details, so if you plan to attend, contact me ASAP so I can have a head count when I do get him cornered. The NPS is typically very picky about such things so don't dawdle.

This is a good event for us. It's in our back yard, it doesn't conflict with something else, it's good for our reputation, and it's a great chance to recruit. If you make an event this season - make it this one!

To get to the fort, take Interstate 95 to Baltimore and get off at exit 55. Follow the signs to Fort McHenry, which is at the east end of Fort Avenue. Try to get there early Saturday, around 7-8 am. If there are any changes or I get new information, I'll contact all those that have let me know they're going.

## OOPS!

Last issue in the run-down of last season's events a couple were inadvertently left out.

In June, Lester, Bunker, Jason, and Rich took part in a ride to help save Brandy Station from becoming a race track. 2nd Maine raised over \$1200.00 to help preserve the battlefield.

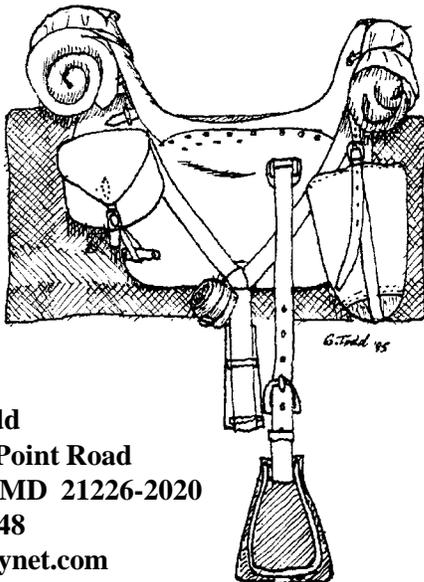
In August Bunker, Dave, Lester, Mark, and I were at Carroll Park in Baltimore for an encampment hosted by the B&O Railroad Museum. This was a very interesting weekend ranging from riding on an 1836 steam engine to rail bending.



## Upcoming Events!

- March 21-23, School of the Trooper, Port Deposit, MD**  
\$3.00 Let me know NOW!
- April 12, President Street Station, Baltimore, MD**  
\$0 Let me know at, or by School of the Trooper
- April 18-20, Oakridge (Stanardsville), Arrington, VA**  
Walk on fee: \$10.00
- April 26-27, Fort McHenry, Baltimore, MD**  
Let me know NOW if you want to attend.
- May 16-18, Tactical, Somewhere**  
Still trying to tie this one down, otherwise we'll do...
- May 16-18, Bowling Green, VA**  
Free Cutoff: 4/25
- May 23-25, Brandywine, Wilmington, DE**  
\$5.00 Cutoff: 5/2
- June 13-15, Trevilion Station, Green Springs, VA**  
\$5.00 Cutoff: 3/28
- July 4-6, Gettysburg, PA**  
\$6.00? Cutoff: ? will advise
- August 1-3, 2nd Manassass, Leeburg, VA**  
\$5.00 Cutoff: 6/27
- September 12-14, Antietam, Sharpsburg, MD**  
\$5.00 Cutoff: 4/11
- September 26-28?, Monmouth, Freehold, NJ**  
\$5.00 Cutoff: 8/29
- October 17-19, Cedar Creek, Middletown, VA**  
\$6.00 Cutoff: 9/11
- November 22, Remembrance Day, Gettysburg, PA**  
Ball: \$7.00 order tickets early!

Take note of the cutoff dates! This is the last day you can be added or deleted from the registration before it's sent in. If you miss it then you don't get registered, or your money's gone, whichever the case may be. For some events that may not require registration, per-se, I may still need a head count ahead of time to deal with transport, camping, food, etc..



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## CW TRIVIA

Dave Geslois

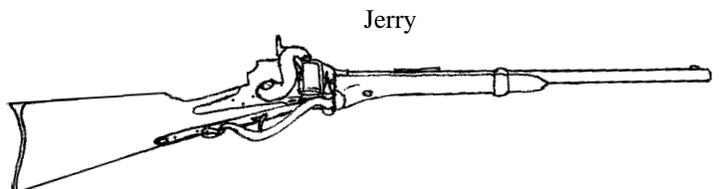
1. Who was Abrham Lincoln's first vice-president?
2. Who boasted, "I'm going to take the cavalry away from the bobtailed generals...I intend to make the cavalry an arm of the service?"
3. In the official exchange of prisoners, how many enlisted men were to be traded for a general?
4. Who was the last surviving Union general, and when did he die?
5. What were "The Ironclad," "Fort Sumter," "Headquarters USA," and "The Blue Goose?"

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5. All were Washington DC bordellos operating during the war.
  4. General Adelbert Ames of Maine, who died in Ormond, Florida, on April 13th, 1933, at age 98.
  3. According to official arrangements devised by Union and Confederate authorities, one general was worth 60 enlisted men, but a lieutenant was only worth four.
  2. General Phillip H. Sheridan made this vow soon after Grant brought him to Virginia in 1864 to command the Army of the Potomac's three divisions of cavalry.
  1. Senator Hannibal Hamlin of Maine was Lincoln's first vice-president. He was dropped in 1864 in favor of longtime Democrat Andrew Johnson of Tennessee.
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## My twobits

There just never seems to be time to do what needs to get done, and getting this issue out was no exception. I really wanted to include some drill and manual of arms information in preparation for Port Deposit, but it was not to be. Moving Port Deposit up a week put the pressure on, but moving it back would have crowded April to overflowing!

Next issue will deal with Bowling Green or the tactical event; Brandywine, and Trevilion Station. If you have pictures, maps, drawings, anything that would be good to put in the Bugle, get it, or a good copy of it to me at training or one of the April events.



Jerry