

ZOUAVE!

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Newspaper of the 62nd New York State Veteran Volunteers Company F
(Re-enactment and Research Group)

COMPANY DINNER A ROARING SUCCESS



May 26th saw the 3rd Annual Co. F Dinner, held this year at “Sergeant Major’s Row” at Old Sydney Town. Twenty guests sat to table and enjoyed a few sherries over dinner.



The Company raises a glass

The run up to the dinner saw the Company and our guests, digging out doors using planks and various pieces of ironwork. Tables and benches set up in under the bower, fires roaring, cooks and assistants chopping and stirring, the children scowering the area for tinder and wood... and Private Sanders disappearing up to his knees in the floor of a rather waterlogged hall! “Well, we can’t have the dinner in here”, he was heard to sigh.

Private Potts now faces Company punishment for forgetting the tip kat! Cheers to the superb cooking effort of Pvts Potts and Lincoln! Everyone had a go in the kitchen, but we can’t go past thanking Vivandierre

Reeck for her lovely green salad and Miss Erin for all her work in the kitchen too.

Dinner was prompt at 6pm and the Company welcomed a rather prestigious volunteer officer, Brigadier General Daley. This young gentleman proposed a delightful toast to the Regiment and Uncle Abe and we sat to Dinner.

Visiting Sergeant, Brother Austin officiated over the Mess from this point, leading the toasts and calling for sea songs. Brother Austin sported a wide Top Hat and actually at times managed to silence the Mess for his addresses and the company commented upon his eloquence and bon repartee.

The bill of fare ran as follows;

Starters

Root Vegetable Soup
Artificial Oysters

Main Course

Beef and Potato Stew
Vegetable Stew
Fricassee Wild Rabbit in Sherry
Billy’s Famous Fennel Chicken

Desert

Pears and Apples
Goober Peas
Soft Army Bread
Jam

Taken with

Sherry
Cold Beer

The artificial oysters were very well received, as was the rest of the fare, except for the controversial “Fennel Chicken”. Pvt Lincoln was so worried

about the dish, that he threw Corporal Tierney's serving away whilst Brother Tierney was indisposed! The good Corporal was astonished to discover the cook's behaviour and called out, "Hoi, I was eating that". A vote was taken and the company could not reach a decision as to whether said chicken dish was "delicious" or "abominable".

Brother Sanders' rabbit dish was set upon by the children and almost completely devoured by them within minutes of the General's final toast! The children had watched fascinated as Pvt. Sanders chopped up the poor little bunny in the cookhouse. Its disappearance was only discovered soon into the dinner when a guest called for rabbit. All the children had left was half eaten morsels!

Songs were sung and glasses raised to absent friends and as the children and infirm went to their huts, the gentlemen and daughters of the regiment, repaired to the fireplace of Brother Tierney and Brother Sanders' billet for games, sherry and segars. For the General's amusement the Mess arranged a faux Courts Marshal.

The famous cases of Cpl. Dominic Doyle (the Federal Mules incident) and Lt. Stephen Gapps (the Lost Sword incident) were revisited. General Daley officiated, Sgt Austin prosecuted, Vivandierre Reeck spoke for the defence. Cpl. Tierney sat in as the accused. The General in role as Judge exonerated both soldiers. Sgt. Austin was flabbergasted.

The night progressed with dice and card games, in which a number of the Zouaves seemed to do very well indeed! Later, Cpl. Tierney's sleights of hand were discovered, but the party feigned mock surprise and demanded their money returned. Also, Confederate money was passed in as bets, this has to stop! We shall not comment on Pvt Sanders "accidentally" use a 10 cent and 25 cent note as \$10 and \$25!

The banjo twanged, the tin whistle whistled, Pvt Sanders went outside for a purge. The company sang and roared and then towards dawn, dispersed.

Thank you to all involved, guests and members. Lastly, thanks to Neil Chippendale for his behind the scenes work to secure us the site, which is a nice place for a dinner.

LES ZOUAVES WEBSITE



After a long absence from the internet, we applaud the relaunching of the "Les Zouaves" website. Based predominantly in Germany, the group re-enacts the French 3eme Zouaves and the Union 62nd New York State Volunteers, Co. I.

You can find the website at:

www.les-zouaves.de

Do check it out, Brother Fabian Sausmikat has done a lot of work in a very short time and we at ZOUAVE! welcome its addition to the world wide web's information about the good old 62nd!



FRIENDS REMEMBER GALLANT RIKER



Sweeney's Hotel in the City saw this year's meeting of the "Friends of Colonel Riker" to commemorate Riker's tragic death on the field of battle, 31st May, 1862. The "Friends" gather on this date to raise a glass to Colonel John L. Riker.

A small gathering saw Brother John Tierney, Brother Jase Bell and Brother Davey Sanders gathered on the

roof of the Hotel, sharing a cigar and drinking a few cold beers for J.L. Riker.

Later repairing to the warmth of the downstairs salon, the late Colonel's portrait was set up at the head of the table on a chair. The "Friends" wore black armbands and Brother Bell embraced the portrait throughout the night, expressing his affection for the much beloved officer.

SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY DEAD



In the besieged city of Atlanta in the July of 1864, Confederate soldiers needed to pass the time and distract themselves from the shells of Sherman's Yankees. One of these distractions was cock-fighting!

For off duty hours there were cockfights at the south end of the city, out of reach of Sherman's Parrot guns. Pits had been shaped with benches for the audience. Some of the soldiers had their own rambunctious roosters...which they trained and trimmed themselves; while country people from points south brought their fowl to pit against the reigning champion.

It was a memorable day when Private Thomas Tuck's rooster named "Southern Confederacy" – "Fed" for short – met a challenger brought from the hinterland by "a green looking country hunk." Bets were placed in the proper hands. The gaffs were fitted to the gamecocks. The birds were placed in the pit and let loose. In an instant the challenger "popped both gaffs through the head of his opponent," and the champion was dead.

To do full honor to Southern Confederacy, and satisfy his backers that he had not (died) in vain, the soldiers plucked, cooked, and ate him, dipping their home-friend biscuits in his gravy. from "Siege of Atlanta, 1864" by Samuel Carter (New York, 1973) pp.243-244.

INSURANCE UPDATE



To date the insurance application has been accepted by the RAHS. This now goes to the insurer and we are informed to expect a final confirmation by mid-June.

Watch this space or if you have queries regarding this matter contact the group at:

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CONTACT INFORMATION



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1862 sketch of Mt Zion Church, Tenallytown DC...converted to the "New York Eating House" by the Anderson Zouaves!