

# THE CHEROKEE RANGER

American Civil War Reenactors  
And  
Historic Interpreters

*19th Alabama Infantry, Co. I*  
And  
*42nd Indiana Vol. Infantry,  
Co. I*

Proud Members of the  
First Confederate Brigade  
And First Confederate Division

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ALABAMA.

## Attention Company!

*By Capt. Jim Rhodes*

Christmas and New Year's greetings to each of you, my friends!

I wanted to take a few minutes to let all of you know that our Annual Meeting and Christmas party was a huge success! Unit attendance was the best we have seen in years, with some 50 members in attendance. Some notable members present were: **Al Stone, Allan & Betty King, the Lander's family and Mark Williams.** My personal thanks to each of you who took the time during this busy holiday season to spend your valuable time with the unit. Special thanks to the Veterans Memorial Museum staff for kindly letting us use their facilities. Also, a very special thank you to **Sam and Diane Campbell, Danny and Lynn Eldridge, Don Davis** and everyone who brought their special dish for our meal!

Before I relate the issues discussed and matters of business that were conducted at our meeting I want to thank our current Board members for their service this past year. With Danny, Bob, Denice, Pam, Jerry, Don and Raeph, believe me you were excellently represented this year. On behalf of the unit I thank each of you for your service to this unit. You are the best of the best!



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## From the Right Flank

*By 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Don Davis*

I'd like to thank the command for having faith in me and the company for voting for me to be their 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. I am honored by this action. I have large shoes to fill and want to exceed the expectations of everyone. It's certainly a privilege to be the 19<sup>th</sup> AL/42<sup>nd</sup> IN 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt!

The command has also chosen an outstanding Cadre to serve the company and I also look forward to serving with them. I would like to say one thing to the command, soldiers, and civilians of our group: Y'all are the best, good hearted, well humored, fun loving, people I have ever met, and I am proud to be allowed to be part of your group and call you friends. If people only knew what they were missing we would have to limit membership.

I know that everybody is eager to be in the field and next year is shaping up to be an exciting and eventful year.

So, get your gear out now and oil the leather, roll the rounds, over-stitch the hems and don't clean those uniforms because spring will be here before we know it.

The good news is that we are out of the early war era and can wear all

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## Attention Company (cont. from page 1)

The results of the proceedings at our annual meeting were as follows:

### Board of Directors for 2003:

Jim Rhodes - President/Captain  
 Danny Eldridge - 1<sup>st</sup> VP/1<sup>st</sup> LT.  
 Don Davis - 2<sup>nd</sup> VP/1<sup>st</sup> Sgt  
 Ann LaFramboise - Civilian Coordinator  
 Jerry Rogers - Treasurer  
 Pam Rogers – Secretary  
 Tommy Bassham – Director at Large  
 Karl Ryan – Director at Large

### NCO Cadre for 2003:

1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Don Davis  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sgt. Jimmy Rhodes  
 Cpl. Karl Ryan  
 Cpl. Russ Spry  
 Cpl. Dennis Marshall  
 Brevet Cpl. Jerry West (in the field)

Please join me in thanking these folks for their willingness to serve the unit and its members as our Board of Directors and NCO Cadre.

### Awards Given:

Conspicuous Service Medal – Karl Ryan  
 Civilian of the Year – The Hoover Family  
 Soldier of the Year – Jerry West  
 High Private – Joe Stegmaier  
 Leadership – Raeph Hargrove  
 Leadership – Jimmy Rhodes  
 Ten Years of Service - Mark Williams, Raeph Hargrove and Jim Rhodes  
 The Joel Barnett Period Compass went to Robert Nichols

Each of these members exemplifies the best tradition of the 19<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry Regiment. Congratulation to each of you and thank you for your service to our band of brothers and sisters.

### Division Affiliation:

As I expressed in my article in the last Ranger, there has been a significant issue this past year within the Alabama Division. At the foundation of this issue has been a difference of perspective and opinion regarding safety, uniform authenticity, and camping styles. With these differing perspectives what resulted was unit fragmentation within the Alabama Division over the year. There were units who wanted to expand safety standards and continue to improve their impressions while there were other units who wanted to do otherwise. Consequently, the effect on the Southern Cross Battalion in the field was a consistent inability of the Battalion to field enough men to have a functioning organization at events. With only a couple of exceptions we spent the year at events under the command of people we did not know, who in many cases knew little of Hardee's, and did not approach safety as a critical issue. Out of all of this confusion came the formation of a new organization—the First Confederate Brigade. This organization shares our perspective on safety, authenticity and being well drilled. Our brother infantry units the 33<sup>rd</sup> Alabama, 16<sup>th</sup> Louisiana, 21<sup>st</sup> Alabama and others have joined this organization, which in essence has left the 19<sup>th</sup> Alabama standing alone in the Alabama Division, and Southern Cross Battalion.

In order for us to continue to enjoy events in a safe, organized manner and to be aligned with units and commanders we know and trust, we were faced with a decision. Stay with the Alabama Division, with little or no hope of any change from this past year, or move our membership to the First Confederate Brigade with the knowledge that we will be with units we have a long history with and commanders we can trust.

This proposal was advanced by the Board with a motion being made to join the First Confederate Brigade and seconded, with

### GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

-Membership Dues and Applications are due in by  
Jan 31, 2003

Be sure to update your mail **and** e-mail address  
 So we can correct our lists for the Ranger!

-The 2003 Schedule will be published by  
 the end of January

-CONGRATULATIONS to Pvt Chris Gore who will  
 enter the US Army as a 19 K– Armor Crewman  
 On March 5, 2003!  
 WE'LL MISS YOU!  
 “Gunner—Sabot—Tank!”

### Clare Ryan's Corn Casserole

5 cans of shoe peg corn (drained)  
 3/4 pt of heavy whipping cream  
 3/4 to 1 stick of butter or margerine  
 4-5 tablespoons of flour  
 Salt and pepper to taste

Bake at 350° until slightly brown

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**Attention Company** (cont. from page 2)

discussion. The resulting unanimous vote was to move our membership to the First Confederate Brigade. A meeting of this organization will be held in January, which the unit leadership will attend. At that time a schedule for next year will be adopted. After this meeting information will be sent out regarding our schedule for next year.

**140<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg Event:**

The decision was made by our Division, Brigade and Battalion leadership, with input from unit commanders, not to attend this event due to many unresolved problems with the event host (an unacceptable field on which to camp and recreate the battle, and an unwillingness of the eastern reenactor command to insure that our division, brigade and battalion command structure would be honored, etc). However, General Somers, General Rambo and the other leaders of the North/South Alliance are working on a couple of very good alternatives—Battle of Murfreesboro at the Spring Hill, Tennessee site and the 140<sup>th</sup> Chickamauga on the NPS property as we did Shiloh last year. More on these events will be sent out as soon as information becomes available.

Additionally, it was discussed that a great benefit of these long trips to events like Gettysburg is the trip itself, as a group. With that in mind Lynn Eldridge is working on the possibility of a historical bus trip to the east without doing an event. This sounds like a great opportunity for all of us to travel together to visit those historic sites we love with the people we love to be with! This idea has some very possibilities! I am sure we will hear more of this idea in the near future.

**Historic Preservation:**

Jerry Rogers found several original pay records of members of the 19<sup>th</sup> Alabama, many from our own Company I. It was voted that \$750.00 be used to acquire as many of these original documents as possible.

**42<sup>nd</sup> Indiana Regimental Colors:**

As you may know, our unit member Nick Nichols donated a wonderful correct reproduction of the National Colors carried by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Indiana. Thanks to Karl Ryan for his great research done on the 42<sup>nd</sup> Indiana Flags this past year. Since we now have the National Colors we want to finish our Federal Impression and acquire the regimental colors. The decision was made that this would be done with unit member's donations, as was the case when we acquired the Hollingsworth items. A vote was taken to have Karl proceed with having our regimental colors made. Members at the meeting committed to over \$600.00 to this cause already. This is a great start on getting the necessary funds to pay for the flag, which will cost approximately \$1,700.00. Please consider a donation to this worthy project. Contact Karl for any information on this issue.

**Burritt Museum**

I presented a letter I received in October from the Director of the Burritt that explained that they have decided not to continue their programs relating to the Civil War. The letter thanked us for our past support and told us that we would be welcome to use their facilities in the future—but we would be charged for the use of the facilities. Because they have changed their focus and interests I sent them a letter, with Pam Roger's help, thanking them for the relationship we have had over the years and that if their interest should return to our period of history in the future we would certainly entertain supporting those programs.

In light of this development Don Davis has been working with Huntsville area schools to have a school program next year using the Veteran Memorial Museum property.

**Veteran Memorial Museum:**

Ants Beresford has kindly agreed to head up the planning for getting our corner of the Museum finished. Please consider helping with this project. Just a few work party weekends and we will be done. And don't forget our continued monthly support of the museum with demonstrators for our period of history. Please continue to support Karl in this endeavor.

Well my friends I believe that covers the major issues addressed at our meeting. I want to close by telling you that I am both humbled and honored to have been selected by you to continue as your President and Captain for next year. Please be assured that I will do all I can to continue to build on the great history that is the 19<sup>th</sup> Alabama. With your active participation and support I know that 2003 can be a banner year for our unit and this wonderful hobby of ours.

My friends, I look forward to seeing each of you in the field soon!

## From the Right Flank (cont. from page 1)

our old junk with out worrying about what **commutation** means. This doesn't mean we should look like we walked out of Sears like the cowboy we saw at Bridgeport. It means we can get out our old jeans-wool again. Think 1863!

We also voted to join the First Confederate Brigade. The First Confederate Brigade annual meeting will be held on January 11<sup>th</sup> in Montgomery and the Cadre plans on attending. There we will find out more details for the year. We already have an idea that we will be at Bibb Furnace, Selma, and probably the 140<sup>th</sup> Chickamauga as a living history like Shiloh. They are also talking about a Camp of Instruction at Confederate Park (Rambo's place.)

My tent flap is always open so do not hesitate to talk to me about you needs, wants or concerns. Also, should anyone want any information about soldiering or the civil war, I have an electronic version of about every School of the Soldier. I would be happy to help.

"Bringing our past into our future" is the motto of the 19<sup>th</sup> Alabama. I believe that it means the past traditions and memories of those of the modern 19<sup>th</sup> Alabama as well as those of our forefather's 19<sup>th</sup>. Let's make this a safe and fun year that we can talk about around the campfire for years to come.

## The Battle of Tallassee

*By Cpl. Dennis Marshall*

A few dedicated members of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Indiana (19<sup>th</sup> AL) made the short trip down Montgomery to join our parads in the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana (33<sup>rd</sup> AL) for the great Battle of Tallassee. Cpl. Ryan, and Pvts. Moore and West joined me for the trip down, and we met Pvt. Bowden, who had made the trip earlier in the day.

### Barry Bowden's Pistachio Pudding

1 pkg Pistachio instant pudding  
1 tub Cool Whip  
1 can crushed pineapple (drained)  
1 bag mini-marshmallows  
1 bag pecans

Thaw Cool Whip. Mix all and chill until ready to serve.

We arrived on Friday evening, got a good night's rest and were up bright and early the following day. After a hearty breakfast, we had drill. We were rather put out when we realized that we and the 6<sup>th</sup> IN made up the vast majority of the Federal army. It was then decided that we would fight in a loose, almost skirmish formation due to the paucity of our numbers. After drill, we were able to find some good BBQ ripe for foraging and then settled down for the afternoon engagement.

We formed along a split rail fence & stacked arms, because we were to be surprised by the rebels on this day. While we were waiting, we were treated to the slaughter of a rebel family, including women & kids by Union versions of Josey Wales. Little did we know those would be the only dead rebs we'd see all weekend. As the battle opened, a light drizzle started that would continue for the duration of the day's action. Our lines were assailed by a somewhat larger Rebel force & pushed back. I took a hit along the rail fence early in the battle & was drug/carried over to the field hospital that had been set up near the spectators. My compatriots fired volley after volley into the reb forces, but their sights must have been way off, as I saw nary a one take a hit.

That evening we were treated to another round of the 6<sup>th</sup> IN's beef stew & 15-minute cornbread (that was actually done on time this go-around) as well as another installment of the entertainment that is the 6<sup>th</sup> IN minstrel group.

Sunday morning broke early after another good night's rest, but the clouds were most threatening. After another round of BBQ forage for lunch, we were ready to go at 'em again. This day we formed on the ridge above the field at charged down on the rebs. As we moved down, my end of the line got to deal with that most terrifying of beasts, dismounted "kevlar-equipped" cavalry. As we came down on them, they did not realize that it was time to fall back, so we actually fixed bayonets before continuing the charge. All that really did was send the dismounted wonders into 'Josey Wales syndrome', whereby carbines were dropped, and we were assailed by 6-7 pistols per man being emptied in our general direction. What followed, while not a "magic moment," was nonetheless most memorable & made the trip worthwhile.

As we continued the advance (after the Kevlar boys ran out of pistols), several of us on the right flank of our line saw 3 or 4 mounted cavalry reloading pistols, seemingly oblivious to the rest of the battle. After some begging with the 6th's Captain, we were allowed to acquaint these rebs to Yankee Infantry at close range. I'll tell you, the looks on their faces when they looked away from their cylinders and saw 10 muskets pointed their way was absolutely priceless. After they ran off, we brave 10 seized a cohern mortar as well as getting the drop on the left flank of our now re-formed Kevlar wonders (who apparently still had yet to take a casualty). I decided to take a hit there and watched as the Federals were pushed back up the hill. About a fourth of the way up, we decided to instruct the rebel forces on how to take a hit, as on

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## Tallassee (cont. from page 4)

one volley, the entire Federal infantry force ceased to exist, ending the battle.

After the battle, Gen. Somers gave a rousing speech to the crowd commemorating Veteran's Day, followed by a salute fired by the entire group in honor of those of who had served the real military. All-in-all it was an enjoyable, if small, event. It was a good one for Private Moore to see the elephant, and I was pleased with his performance, and he appeared to have a grand time.

## The 42nd Indiana Flag Project

*By Cpl. Karl Ryan*

The 42<sup>nd</sup> IN carried two colors during the war. One was the National Colors of the United States and the other was the unit's Regimental Colors. The Regimental flag was detailed in my previous Ranger article (Summer/Fall 2002). Currently, our organization has representations of the flags carried by the 19<sup>th</sup> AL at various stages of the War and with Nick Nichols' generous gift we now have a period correct U S National for the 42<sup>nd</sup> IN. All that remains is the acquisition of the 42<sup>nd</sup> IN Regimental Colors.

I became interested in the 42<sup>nd</sup> flags after hearing several of the older members talk about it. But it was not until this May that I was able to visit Indianapolis and go to their War Memorial. There I was able to get a copy of a photograph of the colors. I began to do research and looked into the cost of reproducing the flag with the Captain's support as well as the Board's. I have found a person who can reproduce the flag for the unit. Mr. Steven Hill is a staff member at the Indiana War Memorial. He also is a nationally known historian on flags and their preservation and he is the man for the job. He has direct access to the original flag there at the Memorial. As of December 16, 2002, I have placed an order for this flag after the unit voted to have it constructed during the annual meeting. The cost of the flag is \$1650.00. The great news is that \$500+ was pledged to the project by members present at the meeting.

For that fee the unit will receive a silk, hand painted flag with a gold hand knotted fringe. The flag is two sided and will show the three battle honors that were paid for by the men of the 42<sup>nd</sup>. The flag will measure 72 inches by 78 inches. This is the chance of a lifetime for reenactors. We have the opportunity to leave to those who follow in our footsteps a true symbol of the era we portray. The unit clearly needs your support in this project. This year there will be an additional check box on the membership renewal form. If you chose, you may make a contribution to this project. We need to get a check to Mr. Hill to cover his materials as soon as possible. After that we will settle the account.

Mr. Hill has invited the Unit to come to Indianapolis to receive the flag. We will be able to view the Original Flags of the 42<sup>nd</sup> and have our flag display alongside the originals. I do hope that you chose to participate in this project. Please remember this: the 42<sup>nd</sup> Indiana occupied Huntsville. They carried their colors through our town during that occupation. Wouldn't next year's Veteran's Day be that much more meaningful carrying a full set of colors in the parade?



*Photo Courtesy of the Indiana War Memorial*

To donate to the purchase of the 42nd Indiana Regimental Colors, simply check the block on your Membership Form and enclose a **SEPARATE** check for your donation.

## Museum Support

By Cpl. Karl Ryan

The 19<sup>th</sup> Alabama has been providing living history demonstrations to the museum since February 2002. Jimmy Rhodes, Al Stone, and Jerold Landers were the first to take up the effort. Since that time, we have added the Soldier's Tour for new soldiers from Redstone Arsenal.

The museum support effort has been really great. Also members of the 19<sup>th</sup> have branched out to perform numerous other duties at the museum. Don Davis and Ants Beresford have been involved in numerous vehicle projects and are continuing their efforts to restore the M114, the PBR, and other vehicles throughout the museum. Ants has personally cleaned out the flame thrower Sherman and Chris Gore has cleaned the other indoor Sherman.

Don asked me to take over as support coordinator several months ago so he can concentrate on vehicle restoration projects. I am please to report that our efforts have really been good. We have provided living history demonstrations nearly twice a month since about June. Additionally, numerous members of the 19<sup>th</sup> have volunteered their time outside of scheduled tour dates to come and make presentations at very short notice. I would like to thank all of you who have made these efforts possible.



**Members of the 19th participate in Museum Support.** Photo courtesy of Karl Ryan

Folks like Jerry West, Jerold Landers, Joe Stegmaier, Dennis Marshall, Jimmy Rhodes, Jim Rhodes, and many others have put in a lot of time giving living history demonstrations and weapon demonstrations to the soldiers touring the museum. Their efforts have made us great friends with the museum.

Next year there will be more Soldiers touring the museum. There will be a squad one weekend and then a platoon two weeks later. That was the pattern this year and I do not anticipate a change. If you want to help out then give me a call.

### **For Sale—**

**Contact Cpl. Nick Nichols at [robertgnichols@charter.com](mailto:robertgnichols@charter.com)**

- Federal Kepi (new) size L C&D Jarnagin \$20
- Federal sky blue trousers (new) Size; 36 C&D Jarnagin \$25
- Shirts used & good shape: sizes L (3ea) XL (3ea) \$5-\$7 ea
- Federal Sack Coat- great shape size: 46-48 \$30
- Jean Wool jacket and pants- Fr blue trim, sizes: 46-48 & 36 w (new) C&D Jar \$90
- Jean Wool Kepi (new) size: L C&D Jar \$20
- Haversacks good shape (4ea) \$5-\$8
- Poncho good shape \$10
- Painted canvas ground cloth \$8
- Enfield scabbard \$8
- Fork & Knife set- 15 different original sets \$9-\$25 wood to bone
- Silver spoons- 2ea coin silver and 9 period originals \$3-\$20
- Period Hand Ax- needs some TLC \$10
- Nibs for your pen set (35 ea) all kinds 3 for \$1
- Gray Shell J. w/blue trim size; 46-48 good shape \$25
- Gray Kepi great shape size: L \$25
- Federal Forge cap great shape size: L \$30
- Canteens- 2ea ss great shape- one with leather sling, both w/ Jean Wool covers \$25 ea, an extra d/ blue cover \$2 ea
- Canteen- tin, blue cover \$20
- Good seasoned dippers (cups) handles leather wrapped- 1L & 1S \$6
- Slouch hat color brown, size: L \$8
- Skillet small great shape \$7
- NCO sash \$5

## The Lorenz

By Joe Bilby (re-printed by permission)

This is the first in a two-part series on the Austrian Lorenz Rifle.

After the Enfield, the Austrian Lorenz, in its original .54, and re-bored or manufactured to various approximations of .58 caliber for the American market, was the second most common imported firearm used by both Union and Confederate forces. The Lorenz, designed by Lieutenant Joseph Lorenz of the Austrian army and introduced into Hapsburg service in 1854, was a sound weapon well regarded in Europe. Yankee and Rebel buyers eagerly snapped up Lorenz-style rifle-muskets; the Union recorded purchases of 226, 924 and the Confederacy bought as many as 100,000.

Lorenz guns were acquired from several sources; the Hapsburg armories in Vienna and private arms makers in Vienna and Ferlach. The Lorenz rifle-musket had a 37 ½ inch barrel secured to the gun's stock with three barrel bands. The gun was made with two styles of rear sights; a non-adjustable "block," calibrated to hit a man somewhere on the body up to 300 schritt (paces), issued to line infantry (Type I), and a leaf sight adjustable up to 900 schritt issued to noncommissioned officers and skirmishers (Type II). Both types were imported. Captain Silas Crispin, reported a batch of newly imported .54 caliber as "12,384 of them having the simple block rear sight, and the remainder - 3,144 - being furnished with elevating screws, ranging up to about 800 yards." It seems reasonable to assume that most bulk purchases of surplus Lorenzes, Union and Confederate, probably reflected the same ratio of sight types, as they seem to correlate with Austrian army issue patterns.

Lorenzes were marked on their lock plates with the last three digits of the year of production. For example "860" designates a rifle made in 1860. The Austrians adopted a new version of the Lorenz in 1862, with a steel rather than iron barrel. These were not imported, and guns with "863" and "864" with provenance to the Civil War are contractor guns made specifically for export. These contract pieces are usually threaded for standard US nipples.

Although walnut stocked examples exist, most Lorenzes were stocked in beech, stained dark brown. The Lorenz quadrangular socket bayonet featured a diagonal mounting slot. Both of these characteristics make it immediately identifiable on a dealer's table at an antique gun or Civil War relic show.

The Austrians also issued a *Jaeger* (a.k.a. *Jaegerstutzen*) rifle designed for rifle battalions (sighted to 1,000 schritt) and sharpshooters, (1,200 schritt). The *Jaeger* featured a 28 inch, octagon to round, wedge secured barrel, a leaf rear sight sliding in a track not unlike those used on the US M-1 Garand of World War II fame and was fitted for a saber bayonet. Sharpshooter *Jaegers* differed from rifle battalion *Jaegers* in that they were fitted with a tige breech, which featured a spike extending from the face of the breechplug into the chamber. Originally designed in France to ram an undersized ball against for expansion, the *Jaeger's* tige was used to assure that the powder charge would not be crushed, providing more consistent shooting. *Jaegers* were not originally issued with ramrod channels under the barrels, as Austrian riflemen carried their ramrods separately. Those imported were provided with ramrod channels by the importers.

A fourth Lorenz variant was the *Extra Korps*, with 26-inch barrel, designed for use by military police, transportation and other rear echelon duties. *Extra Korps* guns were also issued in limited numbers to artillery batteries where they were carried in limber chests for use in guard duty. A fair number of *Jaegers* and perhaps a few *Extra Korps* rifles were imported during the Civil War, but the majority of imports were rifle-muskets.

Although Captain Crispin, who inspected Lorenz rifle-muskets imported for the Union by the Boker company, described them as "fair in workmanship and finish, and in weight and caliber according more nearly with our established model than any other arms of Continental manufacture," Lorenz quality apparently varied. Crispin was impressed by one lot of Austrian rifle-muskets, "finished in some respects, in imitation of the Enfield rifle..." as "somewhat superior, in every respect" to other lots of Lorenzes.

Rebel Lorenz shipments apparently varied as well. Confederate arms buyer Caleb Huse, who claimed he purchased excellent rifle muskets straight from the Vienna arsenal, apparently stretched the truth in this as well as other matters. The arms Huse purchased were, in fact, surplus Austrian army guns, as the Austrians were rearming with a newer model of the Lorenz. In 1863, Major Smith Standbury, a Confederate inspector based in Bermuda, classified a shipment of Lorenzes as "a lot of trash, in horrible condition." After a thorough inspection and cleaning, however, most of these apparently well-used guns were found to be satisfactory. The bulk of them seem to have ended up serving in the Army of Tennessee and forces farther west.

Some Austrian gun dealers no doubt took advantage of the warring Americans' need for firearms and deep pockets to fob off guns of inferior quality. Among these may have been weapons rejected by the Austrian government or culled from some Balkan battlefield or the recent war in northern Italy, as well as hastily made copies of the Lorenz using

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## The Lorenz (cont. from page 7)

parts scavenged from older muskets.

Exterior finish on the Lorenz rifle-muskets varied, with some guns blued, others browned and still others, perhaps the majority, polished bright. The bore diameters on Lorenz guns rebored in Europe or America, or manufactured specifically for the American market, varied, with samples noted in .577, .57, .58 and .59 calibers. Lorenz rifle-muskets were widely issued, and there is archeological evidence of their use as far to the west as Glorietta Pass, New Mexico, site of an 1862 battle between Union and Confederate forces.

The Lorenz was well regarded by some troops to whom it was issued, including those of the 5th New Jersey and 104th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiments. Private Alfred Bellard of the 5th praised his .54 caliber Lorenz for being "short, light and very easily cleaned, "while Quartermaster James D. Hendrie of the 104th believed his outfit's Austrian guns to be "very superior weapons, although not so well finished as the American arms." His colonel remembered the regiment's guns as "rough but good and reliable." The men of the 23rd Pennsylvania were delighted to trade in their .69 caliber rifled muskets for Austrian arms, which they found to be "most efficient firearms." An Illinois officer regarded the Lorenz as "although a little heavy, a fine piece for service." Leander Stillwell of the 61st Illinois considered his .54 Lorenz "a wicked shooter." Stillwell and his comrades "were glad to get the Austrians, and were quite proud of them." The Suckers of the 61st carried their Lorenzes until June of 1863, when they exchanged them for Enfields.

Other Yanks were not as enthusiastic. In 1863, a Union inspecting officer condemned the Austrian weapons of the 47th Massachusetts Infantry. Lorenz rifle-muskets issued to western troops in the second year of the war seem to have been decidedly inferior to those issued the previous year. William E. McMillan of the 94th Illinois' Company E wrote that his unit's Lorenzes were "not worth much," while the 100th Illinois reported that its .58 caliber Lorenz guns "are roughly and improperly made and cannot be called an effective weapon. The men of the 106th Illinois complained that the Lorenz was "miserably poor," and the 120th Illinois classified its .54 Lorenz guns as "worthless."

The 125th Illinois was issued Austrian rifle-muskets in .58 caliber of "which not over one-half were perfect...many will not explode a cap." The 125th's regimental historian complained that some of the Austrian guns' nipples "were not entirely drilled out," and some could not mount a bayonet without hammering it on. The 130th Illinois reported that "one-third or three-eighths of these arms [Austrian] are defective."

Like Colonel Penrose of the 15th New Jersey Infantry, who exchanged his men's Enfields for Springfields on the battlefield, Major Robert L. Bodine of the 26th Pennsylvania rearmed his regiment on the field at Gettysburg. Bodine's men came to Gettysburg armed "with the Austrian rifle of an inferior quality, and I desired to exchange them for Springfield rifles; which was done without the red tape processes. Quite a number of them were taken from the Rebels. Like the Jerseymen of the 15th, the Pennsylvanians picked up several Confederate-made rifle-muskets along with the Springfields. Apparently unaware of the production facilities at Richmond, Bodine reported that these guns "had gone through the renovating process, and bore the Richmond C.S. stamp."

Lorenz guns may well have gained a bad reputation from their association with older .71 caliber Austrian "Consol" or tube-lock muskets, which were conversions from flintlock. These guns, some of which were rifled, others not, were converted by a method devised by Giuseppe Consol of Milan. The Consol/Augustin system replaced the flintlock pan and frizzen with a two-piece priming chamber and installed a new hammer.

After muzzle loading the main charge in the usual manner, the Consol/Augustin was primed by bringing the hammer to half cock, lifting the top section of the priming chamber, which replaced the frizzen, inserting a small priming tube filled with percussion powder into a groove in the bottom section, which replaced the pan, then closing the chamber. The gun could then be brought to full cock and fired. The hammer hit a firing pin device in the chamber which, in turn, exploded the percussion tube and ignited the main charge. A number of these guns were converted to the standard percussion system before or after importation, but others, especially in the earliest days of the war, were placed directly in the hands of troops with their peculiar priming system intact.

Continental European arms were more commonly issued and remained in service longer in the Western armies. Major General John C. Fremont purchased 25,000 tube-lock muskets in his desperate search for weapons in 1861 and at least 3,000 Delvigne chambered Austrian "Garibaldi" rifles were issued to Minnesota troops. The men of the 26th Illinois embarked on their military careers in September, 1861 armed with "hickory clubs," and were then issued "old English Tower" muskets, which they later exchanged for "old Austrian fuse primer [guns] altered and rifled. By the end of the year an inspector

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## The Lorenz (cont. from page 8)

classified the tubelock Consol/Augustin weapons as “nearly all...unfit for use.”

The 33rd Illinois began its career with smoothbore Austrian tubelocks, and company C of the 33rd reported 3,155 “Austrian primers” on hand. One soldier accurately described the “Austrian primers” as “a little copper-covered stick of percussion, with a small twisted wire at the end of it.” The men of the 33rd carried their tubelocks until early 1862.

Although the 90th Illinois was armed with .54 caliber Lorenz rifles during the fourth quarter of 1862 and the first quarter of 1863, the recollection of veteran George P. Woodcraft that the 90th’s initial armament, “the Austrian rifled musket...a very inferior arm” subject to premature discharge with stocks and bayonets “easily broken,” does not seem to jibe of what we know of the Lorenz. The 90th apparently got an extremely bad lot of Lorenz contract guns.

The Lorenz was issued in large numbers to Rebel soldiers as well. In contrast to the Federal experience, the number of Lorenz rifle-muskets in Confederate service actually increased in the final year of the war. In April of 1863, the Army of Tennessee reported 663 Austrian small arms in service; by the following spring, 32% of that army’s men shouldered Austrian guns. The Lorenz was among the weapons tested by the Army of Northern Virginia’s sharpshooters in the spring of 1864, and was found to be fully equal in accuracy to the Springfield and Enfield up to 500 yards. That summer, VMI Cadets used Lorenzes to good effect at the battle of New Market.

The early years of target shooting with Civil War weapons in the North-South Skirmish Association in the 1950s saw a few .54 Lorenz rifle-muskets among the original Springfields and Enfields on the firing line. They were never very popular, however, and had a reputation for inaccuracy. The reputation was undeserved, and largely due to the use of Minie balls designed for the US Model 1841 “Mississippi” rifle, which used a .535 slug. The Lorenz bore is .556, which provides a lot of “windage” in the bore for a .535 bullet to rattle around in.

The original Lorenz round was not a Minie ball at all, but the British designed Wilkinson solid base bullet. There were two variants of the Wilkinson, the later version having a slightly convex base. Unlike the Minie design, which relied on gas from the powder explosion to expand the bullet’s hollow base out into the rifling, the Wilkinson featured two deep grooves, which, on preliminary inspection, appear to be lubrication grooves. They are not, as the Wilkinson was patched with lubricated paper. The grooves allowed the bullet to expand by collapsing in upon itself from the shock of firing. The .54 Austrian bullet was nominally .537 in diameter weighed 450 grains and was loaded in front of a charge of 62 grains of musket powder. Wilkinson slugs in .537, .540 and .568 diameter, for .54 and .58 caliber guns, have been found on Civil War battlefields. Whether they were imported with Lorenz rifle-muskets or manufactured in this country is, at present, unknown.

-Bilby, Joe. *The Lorenz*. 2001. <http://www.washingtonbluerifles.com/bilbylorenz.htm>. 30 Dec 2002.

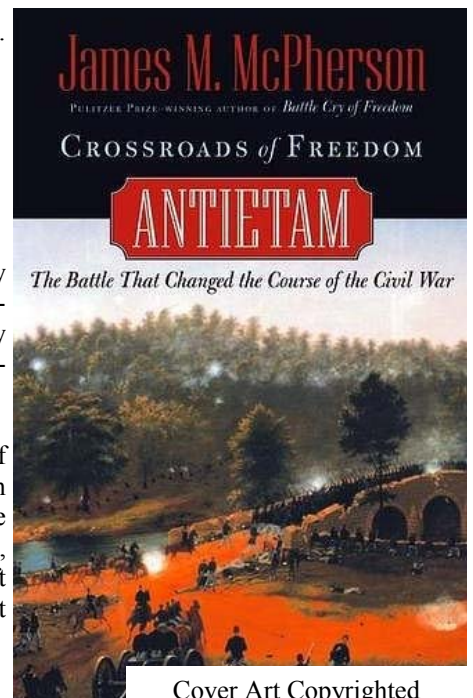
## Book Review: Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam by James M. McPherson

*Reviewed by Dennis Marshall*

I purchased this book last month to expand my knowledge of this very bloody one-day battle. However, I was not treated to the blow-by-blow account of the battle I was expecting, but rather a more generic look at the battle itself. However, I was intrigued by the book’s format of placing this slugfest of a draw into its proper strategic perspective.

Primarily the book focuses initially on the geo-political & strategic states of affairs of the United States & the Confederacy after the opening salvos of this great American War. The author spends a lot of time on the diplomatic fronts of both nations with the major European powers ( i.e. France & Britain) after the first major battles in the East, The Peninsula Campaign (along with the Seven Days) and Second Bull Run had left the North in a squalid state of affairs. The South had made significant progress in that Emperor Napoleon III of France was on the verge of recognizing the South, and was really waiting on the UK to go

*Continued on page 10...*



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## Veteran's Day Parade

*By Cpl. Karl Ryan*

The morning after Tallassee I picked up Dennis Marshall for the Veteran's Day Parade. We drove like crazy to Tom Brown's house to get the gear for the parade. Dennis portrayed the Mexican War and I portrayed the Korean War soldier. Jimmy Rhodes looked great as the Vietnam Era soldier. He had an M-60 and was fully loaded out for the fight. Russ Spry was did a great impression of WWI Corporal York. He really looked the part. We marched in front of the Museum's vehicles. Tom had arranged for six or seven soldier from Redstone Arsenal to be with us this year so the M-5 Stuart had a tank crew.

The parade started in a new spot this year. We kicked off by Gold's Gym behind the Von Braun Center instead of the Hilton. We got everything sorted out and got ready to go and the parade went off without a hitch. Everyone had a great time and we looked great. As we passed by the crowd, kids would cheer and mommies would point at the Confederate cavalryman with us. That horse got lots of attention! It was great to have the Captain of the 6<sup>th</sup> AL Cav with us.

After the parade was over, we drove to the museum and had lunch. There was fried chicken and pecan pie with chocolate chips. We fired several volleys as the flag was lowered and gave an impromptu living history to those present. It was a great day.

But the story doesn't end there. As I drove Dennis home that evening, we happened onto a green Jeep Cherokee that was weaving back and forth and nearly leaving the road. We tailed the car from County Line Road to Athens with the police on the phone the whole way. At the Wal-Mart in Athens, the local police made the intercept and stopped the weaving car. I do not know the outcome of the stop, but one driver who clearly needed to be off the road was put out of commission.

## Book Review: Antietam (cont. from page 9)

further.

When McClellan faced off with Lee at Sharpsburg, truly the eyes of the world were staring hard upon the outcome. A victory for Lee, the author's research suggested, no matter how slight may very well have been enough to get the South recognized by both England & France. The author goes into the mistakes made by Union commanders, especially McClellan, in only a very broad way, apparently leaving the details to other works.

## Small World?

It seems that two members of the 19<sup>th</sup> Alabama had ancestors fighting in the same unit during the late unpleasantness. Lynn Eldridge and Russell Spry both have discovered that they had relatives in the 28<sup>th</sup> North Carolina, although in separate companies. Lynn apparently made this discovery during a recent trip to a cemetery in which her ancestor was buried. The two probably never met as Russ' ancestor was captured before Lynn's relative joined.

Oddly enough, the 28<sup>th</sup> NC fought alongside the 26<sup>th</sup> Mississippi late in the war. The 26<sup>th</sup> Mississippi had two members that were related to Russ' wife Tenise! It's a small world!



**Battle Flag of the 28th NC captured at Gettysburg.**

**2003 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
NINETEENTH ALABAMA INFANTRY REGIMENT, C.S.A., INC.**

I (We) voluntarily enlist in the 19th Alabama, Company I for the period Jan-Dec 2003. (Please Print)

**Dues Paying Members:** (Type Membership: S - Soldier, C - Civilian, R - Regular) List all family members who want a separate vote here.

NAME	AGE (if minor)	TYPE MEMBERSHIP (circle one)			Co. I Dues*
_____	_____	S	C	R	\$25.00
_____	_____	S	C	R	\$12.50
_____	_____	S	C	R	\$12.50

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
(street/city/state/ZIP)

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

If you were recruited by a current member of the 19th Ala, please give his/her name:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Non-Dues Paying Members:** List family members who don't want a separate vote here.

NAME(s) and Ages : \_\_\_\_\_

I (We) have read and fully understand the extract of the By-laws of the 19th Alabama Infantry Regiment, Inc., provided to me (us) and do hereby submit my (our) application for the above type of membership. (Refer to Articles VII and VIII of the By-laws for an explanation of member status and rights). You must be at least 14 years of age to be a soldier in the ranks. Children under the age of 16 must have a parent or legal guardian present at each event.

Upon acceptance of my (our) application, I (we) do agree to abide by all articles of the By-laws applicable to the membership classification indicated above. I (we) further agree that membership in the 19th Alabama Infantry Regiment, Inc., is to be considered a privilege, and no contract rights shall accrue as a result of my (our) membership in this organization. I (we) further agree that my (our) membership in this organization may be terminated at any time by the Board of Directors acting in accordance with the By-laws of this non-profit corporation. I (we) agree to hold the officers, members, and dependents of the 19th Ala Inf Regt, Inc., free from liability for any injury or property loss I (we) may sustain as a result of participating in unit functions.

**Signatures of Dues-paying members:** \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS FOR APPLICATION AND FEES:

19th Alabama Infantry  
ATTN: Capt. Rhodes  
518 Farmington Rd.  
Huntsville AL 35803

COMPANY I DUES: \$25/YEAR for first dues-paying member and \$12.50/YEAR for each additional dues-paying member, CHECKS PAYABLE TO: 19TH ALABAMA INFANTRY

\* In addition to the annual dues given above, there is a one-time \$5.00 new application fee for the first year of membership. Annual dues are payable no later than January 31st each year. New members joining after January will pay only for the months remaining in the calendar year, at the rate of \$2.00 per month for the first dues-paying member and \$1.00 per month for each additional dues-paying member (plus the \$5 new application fee).

**42nd Indiana Regimental Flag Fund**

\_\_\_\_\_ Also included is my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the 42<sup>nd</sup> IN Regimental Flag fund.