

FAQ as of August 20, 2010



*Campaigner Adjunct*

for the

**Return to Manassas Event (RTM)**

**Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania**

**As of Friday, August 20, 2010 @ 9:00 PM**

The purpose of the FAQ is to inform all Return to Manassas participants as much as possible before arriving on Friday, August 27. The FAQ will be revised regularly SO BE SURE TO CHECK IT REGULARLY. If you have any questions, please direct them to my attention – [pbarvis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pbarvis@sbcglobal.net) In most cases your question will be answered well within 24 hours time. We are looking forward to a quality, safe, and historically substantive experience. Everyone's cooperation will contribute toward that end. Thank you for your investment of time and resources to "do this event right."

**Communications:**

All are posted on the Fifth New Hampshire Web site – [www.fifthnhvol.org](http://www.fifthnhvol.org) Link on home page.  
Check frequently for weekly updates

## FAQ as of August 20, 2010

### Arrival Time:

Friday, August 27

- **Good idea to arrive on site no later than 3:00 p.m.**
- **Eat well before falling in.**
- Rank-and-File - Ready to fall in heavy marching order for roll call and inspection by 4:45 p.m.
- **BRING NO KNAPSACKS TO EVENT!**
- Fill your canteen from water supply you bring from home
- Officers call – 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 28

Rank-and-File – Ready to fall in heavy marching order for roll call and inspection by 7:00 a.m.

Cars will be inaccessible therefore what you bring in on your back is what you have access to during the weekend.

### Schedule

Please allow the event to take shape the way we have it planned. Sometimes the element of surprise is neglected for the men and leaders at events. All leaders are working with the Federal Chain-of-Command on receiving orders in accordance with the historical timeline as well as being sensitive to the need for rest, food, and down time for everyone. Check [www.fifthnhvol.org](http://www.fifthnhvol.org) for the schedule – check regularly for updates

Please note: if you need to visit the sutlers, do so before the event or afterwards; we *may* not have the opportunity to visit the sutler area during the event. Bring cash in case a sutler visits our camp.

### Registration:

**It is imperative that you register now.** We need to know this for ration preparation and command structure  
The registration forms and other useful information may be found on the Fifth New Hampshire Web Site: [www.fifthnhvol.org](http://www.fifthnhvol.org)

**Walk-ons are welcome as long as ration fee is paid to Captain Todd, which is \$10.00 cash, and impression guidelines followed – note: no knapsacks and bring flat haversacks**

**FAQ as of August 20, 2010**  
**Third Army Corp**  
Major General Irvin McDowell

**Second Division**  
Brigadier General James B. Ricketts

**Second Brigade**

26<sup>th</sup> New York      94<sup>th</sup> New York      88<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania      90<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania

**Battalion Command Structure:**

Lt. Col. Skip Owens	Staff	Southern Guard/LHA	<u>Primary contact with RTM Federal Command</u>
Maj. Paul Parvis	Staff	5 <sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Vols.	Potomac Legion President
Adj. Johnny Lloyd	Staff	Columbia Rifles	
Captain Jerry Todd	Staff/Courier	1 <sup>st</sup> Maine Cavalry,	Treasurer of the Potomac Legion
Captain Neil Hobbins	Co. K	Stockton Guards/13 <sup>th</sup> NJV	
Captain Chris Piering	Co. F	122 New York	Secretary of the Potomac Legion
Captain Tom Craig	Co. A	1 <sup>st</sup> Maine Cavalry	Board Member of the Potomac Legion
Captain Tom Steele	Co. H	Sally Port Mess	
Cpl. William Birney	Commissary/Logistics	Columbia Rifles	
Cpl. Joe Caridi	Commissary/Logistics	Columbia Rifles	
Sgt. Major	TBD		

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### **Preparing for the Event:**

We really do not know the experience levels of all participants so forgive us if this sounds a little too motherly or patronizing.

You need to be in shape for this event. Marching won't be too strenuous, but even a few maneuvers in the sun can challenge the most experienced veteran – even marathon runners! Loosing a few pounds will keep your skin away from the wool; drink lots of water weeks before the event to build up hydration; exercise; and try yard work or take a short hike wearing a hat, flannel shirt, jeans, heavy socks, work boots to acclimate. If you are so inclined, and you want you uniform to have that “worn” look, wear your reproduction trousers, shirt, and forage while taking care of the lawn or other yard work.

Also, know your limits and recognize the signs of heat exhaustion – cold sweat, face turns pale, etc. and what to do – seek shade; lie down; elevate head, douse head and body with cool water; drink water once better. Let someone know, preferably a file closer, that you and a comrade are falling out and seeking medical personnel.

Might be a good idea if you work with a comrade – the old buddy system – whereby you can look after each other or share the hauling of shelter halves, cooking gear and the like.

Make sure your footwear is in excellent order. Oil your shoes and stuff with “something” before the event to reshape the shoe upper. Dried out leather and flattened uppers are murder on your feet. Bring moleskin to address any blisters or hotspots. Your feet and shoes are important tools and need first-rate care.

Make sure all your gear is in good order – check and address your trouser buttons before the event. How many of you had unpleasant thoughts when a button popped just before falling in?

Muskets not working properly will be absolutely prohibited on the field. This includes half-cock problems; any missing parts; heavily rusted locks. Weapons need to be cleaned, all vents cleared and checked, and oiled before the event. All weapons should have musket slings – something to hang on to when the barrel gets hot from firing. Make sure musket bands on correctly, i.e. the “U” faces toward the muzzle. Also, revisit field cleaning a musket. **Zero tolerance for unsafe weapons.**

All Junior NCOs should take the time to inspect their sections weapons before assembly.

Make sure your musket cone is sized for caps so they won't “stick” after firing

Make sure your bayonet properly snugly fits your musket and that the locking ring works.

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Caps – only 4-wing caps are allowed – 5-wing can hurt people standing next to you.

Rounds – 60 rounds @ 60 grains max or standard service charge

### More What to Know

We are using Casey's *Infantry Tactics*, 1862, Vols. 1 and 2 - for all drill –

Much of the following may also be found on the web. [Check out the Fifth New Hampshire web site links page for starters.](#)

One thing I/we enforce is that members in the ranks know the movements and the intent behind the movements. Example – change fronts to the rear by battalion. Ensure that the battalion *knows* the reason for doing this maneuver.

Well before the event, please know the following -

- Manual of Arms – we expect crisp movements
- Inspection arms – and in this case unfix bayonet after inspection unless otherwise directed
- Firing positions – understand the intent of all company and battalion-level firing
- Stack Arms – NCOs and officers need to ensure that all members of the companies are educated in the proper stack and reason behind stacking arms
- Loading and Firing – (*not using ramrods*) – rear rank positions and safety
- Facings – again crisp efficient movements
- By Company, Platoon, Division wheelings and facings

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- Passage of rear and forward units into line
- Column into line movements – “Forward into line.”
- Flank movements – as in marching by
- Picket Duty – Officers and NCOs need to be familiar with Mahon’s *Out-Post*, 1847 (1861) manual – a treatise pertaining to sentinels, outposts, reserve and the function of all posts. Alternative: Daniel Butterfield, *Camp and Outpost Duty for Infantry*, 1862.
- Skirmish Drill – as found in Casey’s – right and left flank deploying; bugle calls; advance; rallies
- Dress Parade – forming the battalion – the adjutant will run this!

## Impression

We are portraying the 26<sup>th</sup> New York. You may check out the 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Volunteer authenticity page for historical information and current vendors. Regarding the later – if you need something, order it now and pray it arrives in time. Vendors usually operate on a 3 to 6 month turnaround time. A history of the 26<sup>th</sup> New York is available on the 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Web Site – or you can Google information from the web. Not much out there and what you find will be somewhat depressing – a hard luck unit to say the least.

**Rank-and-File and NCOs** – remember that the army and the Regiment were in a bad state of supply. Please choose your ragged trousers over the new ones. Please take the time to “season” your kit prior to the event. Grease, dirt, charcoal are all good ways to achieve the “look.” Period accounts mention 26<sup>th</sup> New York men marching barefoot, which is an indicator as to how destitute the Regiment appeared during this campaign. Please do not arrive with a new sack coat or anything else taking the price tag off en route to formation.

- **NO KNAPSACKS – BEDROLL ONLY – gum blanket and shelter half combo recommended**
- Musket – 1861 Springfield or contract musket preferred
- Forage Cap – early war preferred as in McDowell and so called Type I styles – no slouch hats - sorry
- Sky-blue Trousers
- Suspenders
- Sack Coat or New York State Issue Jacket

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- Domat issue or other issue shirt
- Canteen with leather straps, jean covers, stopper attached with twine
  - **Fill canteen from water supply brought from home**
- Early-war cap boxes with cone pick
- Early-war cartridge boxes with tins – *Carry emergency information in tool pouch*
- Early-war belts with standing-loop leather keepers
- Haversack – pack tin cup inside haversack
  - “Flat haversack,” i.e. bring no food as it will be distributed Saturday, early afternoon
- Tin Cup, utensils, housewife, cotton clothes, and other period stuff – there will be inspection
  - so if caught with contraband look out!
- Couple of period wooden tent pins in your haversack
- 10 yards of hemp twine (not bailing twine!)
- Keep prescription drugs etc in period container – exempt from inspection
- Gum blanket and shelter half with bone buttons or combination thereof – could share load with a pard
- Leather sewn or two-rivet bayonet scabbard
- Brogans – no private purchase civilian shoes
- Wool socks – two pairs
- Period eyewear if required
- Under drawers – an absolute must to guard against chafing
- Camp hatchet – another sharable item
- Small period frying pan or canteen half – former consists of sheet metal with riveted handle

***Rations in general – please know that we will have a Commissary for the weekend. We suggest that you eat well prior to the event on Friday. Haversacks should be “FLAT!”***

### NCOs

Pencils  
Notebook  
Spring vice  
Drill bit to clear bolster vent to breech  
Cliff notes regarding drill and picket duty  
Period Watch  
Rosters organized at home before arriving – work with captains

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### Officers

Remember that the men were hard up for uniforms at this time – some even barefoot. Other than field grade officers, the junior officers would have been pretty seasoned looking too! Keep that in mind when you assemble your “kit” for the event.

- Junior Officer Coats or Commercial Blouses<sup>1</sup>
- Light blue officer, mounted, enlisted foot trousers – officers at this point were allowed to purchase clothing
- Federal bootees, riding boots predicated on appropriate materials and constructions
- Civilian shirts – white pleated or woven check shirt in period pattern
- Haversack – essentials include

Notebook

Caseys’ Volumes 1 and 2

Butterfield or Mahon’s *Outpost* – know well

Parade, Inspection, and Evolution

Pen

Ink

Extra paper

Pencils

Copies of company forms and passes distributed by adjutant

Watch

Compass

- Canteen
- Sword belt *sans* pistol equipage
- Bedding – remember the men will not carry knapsacks. Also, as an officer you should not be loaded down as most of your personal belongings would be carted by wagon. Please just “mess” up with your subaltern and share a ground cloth or tentage and blanket, though the August heat may dissuade you from the later.

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<sup>1</sup> Lt. Bacon the Adjutant wore a commercial blouse with shoulder straps based on photographic evidence.

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- Rations - will have some items procured for the officers on Saturday night

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*Lt. Col. Skip Owens*