

## Why Be A Reenactor?

Living history reenacting is a rich, diverse hobby, offering all sorts of activities, and people become reenactors for many reasons. All experience and enjoy re-living aspects of the Civil War, while in the company of many new friends.

Civil War reenacting helps to perpetuate the memory of the people who did so much to shape our nation during the 1860s. Reenactors learn more about the period through firsthand experience, while working to achieve this goal.



## Who Becomes A Reenactor?

People of all ages and walks of life become reenactors. The 155th includes men, women, children, and families. Active members range in age from 8 to 65 years. This includes soldiers, musicians (drummers, fifers, etc.), medical corps, "civilian" ladies and gentlemen of the Victorian era, and other impressions. The hobby of reenacting has a role for just about anyone.

In general, reenactors are people with a special interest in the Civil War, although there are no requirements on interest or knowledge level. As reenactors, the culmination of this interest is an accurate representation of a Civil War soldier or civilian, to the public, your fellow living historians, and yourself.

## Where Do Reenactments Take Place?

Most of the 155th NY's events are held within a 1.5 hour drive of Buffalo. Once or twice per year members of the unit may attend an event in Pennsylvania, Ohio, or Virginia. Attendance at reenactments is not compulsory and there is no requirement to camp at reenactments.



## Your Civil War Portrayal

Most reenactors assume a role, or "first person impression," as a 19th century individual. What portrayal is best for you?

Roles for most members of the military portion of the 155th NY are varied. Most male members over the age of 16 portray soldiers of Co. "I" of the 155th and fight on the battle line at events. They are led by officers, and NCOs who are elected annually by the membership. The military portion of the regiment also includes a medical/hospital impression and a corps of musicians.

Non-military members include ladies and gentlemen who choose to portray civilians of the period, with an infinite number of impressions, including Soldiers' Aid Society, laundresses, farmers, businessmen and politicians, 1860s craftsmen, etc. Civilian reenactors are limited only by their imagination and those occupations which are accurate to the Civil War era.



## How Do I Get Started?

The 155th NY reenactment regiment has programs in place to assist new recruits with drill and training, while new civilian members can attend seminars on aspects of civilian life hosted by the civilian portion of the regiment. New members are shown the ropes by more experienced reenactors who teach practical aspects of reenacting, equipment procurement, and the organization's authenticity standards. Monthly regimental meetings also help new members become familiar with the hobby. Both the military and the civilian portion of the 155th NY have comprehensive handbooks, authored by 155th NY members, available to assist recruits in getting started.

If you want to wear the proud uniform of a Union soldier or the beautiful hooped dress of a mid-19th century lady...

If you want to learn more about our nation's heritage...

If you want to experience the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of the 1860s...

Or

if you simply wish to learn more about this captivating hobby...



Call Or Write

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### **About The 155th New York Reenactment Regiment**

The 155th NYVI is a Civil War reenactment organization based in the Buffalo, New York region. It is a not-for-profit, tax exempt, educational corporation of New York State. The unit was formed in 1989 and portrays Company "I" of the original 155th NY which was recruited in Buffalo in 1862. The present-day reenactment organization is one of the largest Civil War units in New York State, numbering approximately 120 members.

The 155th NY is a sponsor of the annual reenactments held in Alexander, NY and Arcade, N.Y. In the past, the unit sponsored the Springville and Clarence, N.Y. reenactments and the 1991 Fenian Raid reenactment in Ridgeway, Ontario, among others.

### **What Reenactors Do**

Civil War living historians, or "reenactors," engage in a variety of activities. Examples include:

- ▶ Participation in full scale battle reenactments, with up to 10,000 or more participants. Many battle reenactments are held on actual Civil War battlefields.
- ▶ Enjoy the camaraderie of friends around the evening campfire, on the battle line, and at the various events.
- ▶ Provide educational presentations in elementary schools, high schools, and adult education classes
- ▶ Participate in parades, memorial services, dedications and commemorative programs.
- ▶ Participate in "living history" demonstrations to the public.
- ▶ Attend period "balls" or socials throughout the year.
- ▶ Work to preserve Civil War battlefields and other historic sites.

### **155th New York Volunteer Infantry, 1862-1865**

The original 155th NY was recruited in Buffalo in late Summer, 1862. Irish immigrants made up over two-thirds of the regiment and the unit marched under the flags of both the United States and Ireland. When mustered in to the service to defend the Union in November, 1862, the regiment numbered 820 men; in July, 1865, barely 130 men remained in its ranks.

The 155th NY was one of four Irish regiments from New York State in the brigade, or "legion,": commanded by the famous Brigadier General Michael Corcoran. The legion was one of only two all-Irish brigades in the Union Army.

These Irishmen in blue were a part of the vaunted Second Corps of the Union Army of the Potomac, and served under such famous generals as U.S. Grant, George Meade, and Winfield Scott Hancock. The second Corps was the hardest-fighting corps of the Union Army and was consistently in the thickest of the action against General Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia.

In nearly three years of service, the 155th NY participated in the following campaigns and battles:

- ▶ Battle of Deserted House, Va. (January, 1863)
- ▶ Siege of Suffolk, Va. (April, 1863)
- ▶ Orange & Alexandria Railroad (1863-1864)
- ▶ Skirmish at Sangster's Station, Va. (December, 1863)
- ▶ Battle of Spotsylvania, Va. (May, 1864)
- ▶ Battle of the North Anna, Va. (May, 1864)
- ▶ Battle of Cold Harbor, Va. (June, 1864)
- ▶ Battle of Petersburg, Va. (June, 1864)
- ▶ Battle of Jerusalem Plank Road, Va. (June, 1864)
- ▶ Battles of First and Second Deep Bottom (July-Aug., 1864)
- ▶ Battle of Ream's Station, Va. (August, 1864)
- ▶ Battle of Boydton Plank Road, Va. (October, 1864)
- ▶ Siege of Petersburg, Va. (1864-1865)
- ▶ Battle of Hatcher's Run, Va. (February, 1864)
- ▶ Fall of Petersburg (April, 1865)
- ▶ Appomattox Campaign (April, 1865)

In July, 1865, the survivors of the 155th NY were discharged from Federal service. Many of the men were members of the Fenian Brotherhood (the forerunner of today's Irish Republican Army) and participated in the Fenian invasion of Ontario, Canada and the ensuing Battle of Ridgeway (June 2, 1866).

# American Civil War



## 155th New York

### Volunteer Infantry Reenactment Regiment Company "I"

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*and the wonderful world of  
Living History Reenacting*

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