

41st Virginia, Co. E Official 2002 Schedule

Oct. 12-13 Coon Valley, WI
Oct. 18-19 Scout Jam

Alternative Events

Oct. 4-6 Perryville, KY
Oct. 12-13 Waukesha, WI

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SCOUT JAM Grayslake, IL October 18-19

Scout Jam is October 18-19 at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Grayslake, Illinois. The scout council would like us to be there Friday night, but the actual event will be Saturday, the 19th. If you decide to come just for the day Saturday, please be at the fairgrounds no later than 7 am. Unlike most events, scouts start things early. And, since this is a scouting event, alcohol is not allowed.

The fairgrounds are located at the intersection of Hwys 45 and 120. I will let you figure out how to get to Grayslake; no matter where you are coming from it is not complicated.

I need a minimum of 8 men, 4 blue and 4 gray. **PLEASE** let me know ahead of time if you will be there. My number is 847-223-4772; if you leave a message, please also leave your phone number.



The council is willing to buy us rations and a pound of powder per man. I need to know who will be there so I can plan for these things. Let me know **soon** if you are planning on attending and whether you will be blue or gray. You can find out more about the event in general at www.neic.org. Thanks, guys.

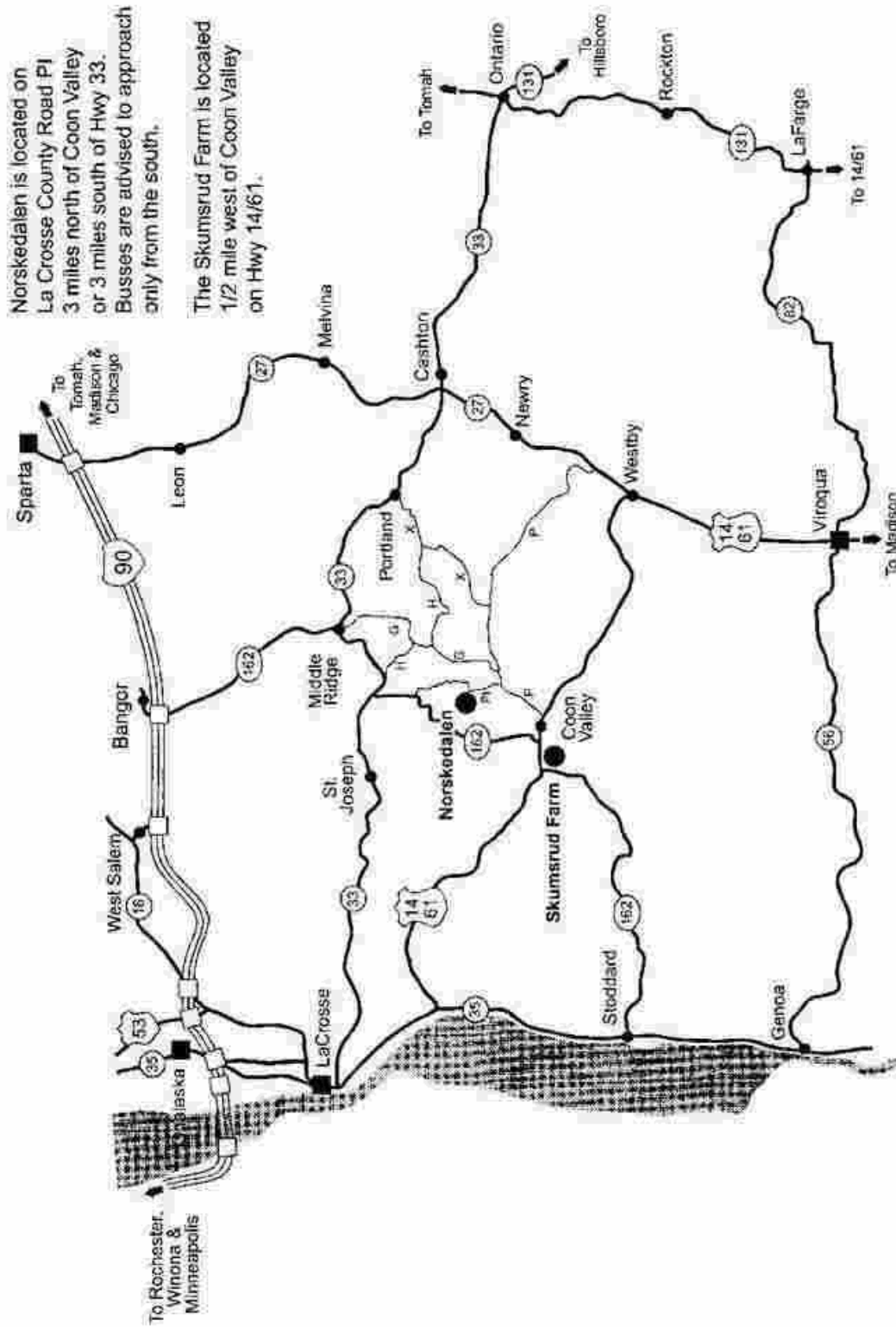
Later,
Brad Bodoh



Hope you enjoy this newsletter. Please send submissions to Sheri Bodoh at 41stbabe@joltmail.com or 330 Neville Dr. # 1 Grayslake, IL 60030 by the 15th of each month.
Thank you!
My regards,
The Letter Lady

Norskedalen is located on La Crosse County Road P1 3 miles north of Coon Valley or 3 miles south of Hwy 33. Busses are advised to approach only from the south.

The Skumrud Farm is located 1/2 mile west of Coon Valley on Hwy 14/61.



**Norskedalen Civil War Heritage Weekend
October 12-13, 2002
Coon Valley, Wisconsin**

Event Contact

Pete Seielstad
1745 S. Highland Dr.
Sparta, WI 54656
Phone # 608-269-8429
Captlacey@hotmail.com

Or Norskedalen at 608-452-3424, www.norskedalen.org (website provides directions)

Location

Coon Valley, WI, fifteen miles southeast of La Crosse (Take County Road P north from Hwy 14 in Coon Valley to County Road PI three miles to the entrance.)

**EMERGENCY PHONE ONLY
608-452-3300****Area Accommodations**

Old Town Motel
Hwy 14, Westby, WI
608-634-2111

Westby Bed & Breakfast
Hwy 14, Westby, WI
608-634-4112
Rock'n "K" Farms
Spring Coulee Rd.
Coon Valley, WI
608-452-3678

Coulee Cabins
Spring Coulee Rd.
Coon Valley, WI
608-452-3007

Area Restaurants

Rustic Inn
Hwy 14
Coon Valley, WI

Stockman's Inn
Hwy 14
Coon Valley, WI
Disciasio's
Coon Valley, WI

Objective

The objective for the weekend is to offer participants the experience working as a company as they seek out the enemy. Using tactics of the period, the commanders will engage in skirmish throughout the morning hours and in the afternoon engage in a battle around the farmstead. Following the battle the surgeon will establish a field hospital near the barn and tend to the wounded. The focus will be on the surgeon and on the farm family, who are experiencing the effects and aftermath of a battle.

Time and Place

The time period is in the fall of 1863 in Virginia near a small creek known to the locals as Poplar Creek.

Military Impression

Union

- Generic Federal/Army of the Potomac circa October 1863. Federal military dress should be sack coats or frock coats with sky-blue trousers. Headgear may be Hardee hats, forage caps or slouch hats. In order to be uniform remove any corp. badges, company letters and regimental numbers.
- Casey's Tactics will be used.

Confederate

- Generic Confederate/Army of Northern Virginia circa 1863.
- Hardies Tactics will be used.

An inspection will be conducted on Saturday at 0845 before the event begins to check uniforms and weapons.

Campaign and Tactical

All the troops that are not participating in the stations will take part in a tactical in the morning hours around the area of the Norskedalen farmstead. The Union troops will be under the command of Bill Wojahn and the Confederate forces will be under the command of Terry Sorchy. All of the participating units will fall under the command of these officers. The command structure will be of company size and will be divided into four platoons. Lieutenants and/or sergeants will take charge of the platoons. The infantry command will be worked out as the participants arrive. It is understood that officers of other companies will need to drop rank and participate as lieutenants. Sergeants and corporals will be assigned as the company forms. Platoons and sections will carry out most of the work details.

The officers will direct the movements of their companies to search and locate their opponent and engage only in small skirmishes. At 1400 on Saturday and at 1300 on Sunday the opposing forces will converge on the farmstead and engage in battle for the viewing public.

Artillery will be placed south of the pavilion. During the morning hours the artillery officer will conduct firings in support of the engaged troops, which are in the field. During these hours the artillery will also be able to give presentations to the spectators as they tour the grounds. As the hour for the battle draws near, the artillery will direct their attention to the battle scenario.

Stations:

To help the educational experience for the public, stations have been established. Tour groups will pass through lines and will be encouraged to interact with the soldiers and civilians about their surroundings, duties, chores, or feelings about the war, etc.

In order to facilitate the enterprise of having stations at this year's event, I am including an objective scenario for each station. Of course this is only a sketch and I will leave most interpretations to the people who will be participating.

Station #1

Hospital: Doug Helgeson will be the chief surgeon for this station, which will be located at the southwest corner of the pavilion. Injured and wounded soldiers need to be available throughout the hours of 1000 and 1300.

Station #2

Picket Post: Three to four soldiers at a time are stationed at this post between the hours of 1000 and 1300. These soldiers will maintain an active position. They are to challenge those who approach and demonstrate the life of a soldier while on picket duty. This can include: guard mount, cooking rations, card playing, etc. Soldiers are encouraged to engage in a dialogue and interpret the life of a soldier to the public as they pass through.

Station #3

Farmhouse: The family that occupies this house will be portraying the day-to-day life of a farm family caught in the midst of war. As the battle passes through the farmland they will need to evacuate to the Holte cabin to the south of the farmhouse. After the battle has passed through, the farm family will return to the farm and help return order by helping with the wounded and mending the damage that was done.

Station #4

Holte Cabin: There will be demonstrations of children's games and the lady of the house will tend to her daily needs. As the battle begins, they will be taking in refugees from the farmstead.

Station #5

Artillery Post: As it will be difficult to move the cannon into the hills and woods during the tactical, the artillery will act as a station and give firing demonstrations from 1000 to 1300 and give presentations while acting as if on campaign. The battle is scheduled at 1400 on Saturday and 1300 on Sunday. At these times the artillery will act out their scenario and engage the enemy.

Registration

As participants arrive, please register with one of the coordinators at the pavilion. Here you will be directed to the camps and given needed information.

On site camping

The Confederates will be camped above the Holte cabin in the pines. The Union camp will be behind the farmhouse at the newly constructed tobacco shed. The camps are not to be occupied during the hours of 0900 and 1600. It is suggested that you come prepared to move out at 0830 bringing a day's rations with you. After 1630 you may return to your camp and prepare for the evening. On Sunday we will break camp at 1100 and prepare for the day's spectator battle at 1300. Civilians and those soldiers who do not wish to camp with their company will be directed to the "Heavy Canvas Camp" directly north of the pavilion.

Other...

- There is still a need for guides and participants at the stations. Or, if anyone has a desire to take part in a special scenario that will add flavor to the event, please give me a call.
- Wandering during open hours will not be permitted. Each soldier/participant is asked to function within the format set for the weekend.
- Sorry, no pets.
- As in the past, the staff at Norskedalen will provide an evening meal for reenactors in the pavilion at about 1800.
- If you have not already sent your registration, please do so. This will enable the Norskedalen staff to prepare for Saturday's meal.

SCHEDULE
THURSDAY OCT. 10

Noon-8:00 --Registration, camp setup for school presentation

FRIDAY OCT. 11 (School Education Day)

7:30-9:00 --Setup

9:00-11:00 --Living history stations

1. "Saw-Bones"—Civil War Surgeon
2. "Death of a Soldier" Silas Coster—present
3. "Jine the Army"—Union Recruiting Station
4. "Pickets Across Poplar Creek"—Trading with the Enemy
5. "Life Back Home"—Bekkum farmhouse

11:00-11:45 --Lunch for reenactors (POTLUCK—PLEASE BRING A DISH)

Noon-2:00 --Living history stations continue

4:00-10:00 --Registration/camp setup

SATURDAY OCT. 12

7:00 am --Reveille

8:00-8:45 --Officers meeting (Company commanders, NCOs)

9:00 --Post colors (Camp opens to public)

9:15 --Company inspections (march to staging area)

10:00-2:00 --Action at Poplar Creek Ford

Stations: --Army Field Surgeon
--Active picket lines
--Home life on the front
--Artillery

2:00-2:45 --BATTLE REENACTMENT—Skirmish at Bekkum farm

--Post-battle—Army Field Surgeon
--Field Commander
--Homestead Aftermath

4:30 --Camps close to the public

5:00 --Dinner for reenactors (provided by Norskedalen)

8:30 --Company campfires, period music, refreshments (provided by Co. B)

10:30 --Tattoo

11:00 --Lights out

SUNDAY OCT. 13

8:00-8:30 --Officers meeting (Company commanders, NCOs)

9:00 --Camps open to public

10:00 --Religious services (pavilion)

11:30-1:00 --Action at Poplar Creek Ford

--Army Field Surgeon
--Active picket lines
--Home life on the front

1:00-3:00 --BATTLE REENACTMENT Skirmish at Bekkum farm

--Army Field Surgeon
--Bekkum Farm Aftermath

4:00 --Camp closes to the public

CIGAR HISTORY 101

By Terrence J. Lemke

It is hard to know when the use of tobacco first began. However, it is well accepted that the native peoples of the Americas were the first to grow and smoke the plant. The Maya are known to have used tobacco and it is perhaps from them that the practice spread both north and south. The word “cigar” may have come from the Mayan word for smoking, “sikal.”

The knowledge of tobacco in the “civilized” world coincided with the rediscovery of the continent by none other than Christopher Columbus in 1492. While exploring the Gulf waters, Columbus and his crew found that Cubans smoked a crude cigar during religious ceremonies. Taking a cornhusk, filling it with tobacco leaves, and rolling it up formed this cigar. The crew picked up this habit and samples were brought back to Spain. From this discovery and subsequent intrusions by later explorers and conquistadors, the great Spanish cigar industry was born. By the 1790s the use of cigars had spread to Portugal, France, and Germany. “Segar” smoking was practiced in Britain by the 1820s.

The first tobacco plantations began operating in Virginia in as early as 1612. For the next 150 years the continental consumption of tobacco was virtually limited to use in pipes, snuff, or chew. In 1762, a former British officer, Israel Putnam, returned from his station in Cuba to his home in Connecticut. With him he brought Cuban cigars and tobacco. Soon the importation of Cuban tobacco and cigars and the manufacture of cigars began in the Union. However, cigar smoking in North America did not really

become popular until the War of Northern Aggression. (O.K., Civil War for you Yankees.)

Cigars were, and still are, made in varying colors, shapes and sizes. During the 1860s cigars would have typically been four to four and a half inches long. The color of the wrapper would commonly have been dark brown to black in color. (Sorry, you candela smokers!) The most common shape would have been “cigar” shape—that is, thicker in the middle and tapered at each end. (In recent times the only things that I can remember as being described as “cigar” shape were not cigars but UFOs!) Less wealthy smokers would have smoked cheroots rather than cigars. Cheroots would be thin and tapered and from four to six inches long. A “rat tail” was a cheroot with a very tapered end.

At the time of the War for States’ Rights, cigars were rolled by hand in factories much as they are done now. A wooden model was given to the roller as a guide as to the size and shape he was to make. It is hard to tell what ring size these cigars would have been without one of these models for each brand. A study of early cigar box art (the label on the top of the box) does not show any indication of cigar width; only the box’s length is informative. In the 1870s the use of molds began to become popular and sizing much more uniform. The standard used for sizing is based upon one-sixty-fourth of an inch. For example, a 42 ring sized cigar should be 42/64ths of an inch in diameter.

Small, thin cigars known as cigarettes were manufactured at the time of the Civil War. The best came from Cuba. Boxes indicate that they were very small, some only an inch and a half long. These cigarettes were paper covered! They were originally hand rolled, and machine rolled when a roller was invented in the 1860s. Of course, these cigarettes did not have filters and were often packed in small wooden boxes of 100 or wrapped in a paper bundle of twenty or more.

While chewing and pipe smoking no doubt were the most common methods of tobacco use during the war, cigar smoking was certainly gaining in popularity. The following is a somber example of cigar use by Confederate Colonel Bate during battle:

“Col. Bate had a younger brother, Capt. Humphrey Bate to whom he was very much attached. During a lull in the fighting at Shiloh the two brothers met and while they were conversing the Colonel asked for a light for his cigar from the cigar which his brother was smoking, and as he was in the act of lighting the cigar, Capt. Humphrey Bate received a mortal wound from the enemy and died in a few hours. Col. Bate was often seen with cigars in his mouth afterwards, but never lighted one as long as he lived.”

Major Sources:

- *Montecristo Cigar Company
- *Tony Hyman of the National Cigar Museum
- *Sumer County, Tennessee in the Civil War by Edwin L. Ferguson.

A Haversack O' Trivia

1. At Appomattox, what did Lee request that his cavalry and artillerymen be allowed to keep?
2. How many square miles did Confederate territory comprise in 1861?
3. What were "Pook turtles"?
4. Where did P. G. T. Beauregard spend the night after the first day of the Battle of Shiloh?

Answers at bottom of page

Book of the Month

The Library of Congress Civil War Desk Reference
by Margaret E. Wagner, Gary W. Gallagher, Paul Finkelman, Eds.
Simon & Schuster, 2002

An excellent new comprehensive overview containing articles by experts and documents from the Library of Congress's Civil War collection, including letters, diary excerpts, speeches, pieces of legislation, maps, and photos, arranged in twelve thematic sections, including "Antebellum America," "Weaponry," and "Research and Preservation."

Available for \$31.50 on www.amazon.com (list price \$45)

Other Books of Interest

Narrative of the Life of Henry Box Brown
by Henry Box Brown

Suffering from the bitter loss of his wife and children after they were sold away, Henry Brown resolved to flee to the North, hiding for nearly thirty hours in a crate delivered from Richmond to Boston. In this manuscript, first published in 1849, Brown describes his life as a slave in Virginia and relates his escape. Includes an informative introduction by Richard Newman.

Shadows of Blue and Gray: The Civil War Writings of Ambrose Bierce
by Ambrose Bierce; Brian M. Thomsen, Ed.

Presents memoirs, reportage, and twenty-seven stories by author, journalist, and Union soldier Ambrose Bierce, including works based on his war experiences—including imprisonment—in west Virginia and Alabama.

Trivia Answers

1. Their horses
2. 750,000
3. U.S. Navy gunboats whose turtle-shell-ish casemates were designed by naval constructor Samuel Pook
4. General William Tecumseh Sherman's bed in a captured Union camp

