

WHAT IS REENACTING?

Reenacting's most basic description is the attempt to recreate the people, events and lifestyles of the military and civilians during the period of the American Civil War. Civil War Reenacting is not only popular in the U.S. but can be found in Canada, England, France and Germany as well.

Our particular organization is currently comprised of 15-20 men and women who portray the soldiers and families of the First Regiment of United States Sharpshooters Company C. The regiment, in conjunction with the Second Regiment were also known as Berdan's Sharpshooters.

All the members of the unit are veterans of the hobby with several years of experience to add to the unit's wealth of training and skills.

BACKGROUND ON OUR IMPRESSION

The impression that we portray is Company C First Regiment, United States Sharpshooters. The unit was comprised entirely of marksmen from the state of Michigan. Company C was mustered in on August 21, 1861 at Lansing, Michigan. Company C was the first to be mustered in and was one of the first companies to see action.

The sharpshooters carried a variety of weapons that included target rifles, Colt revolving rifles, and the Sharps rifles respectively.

The uniforms are just as unique as the weaponry. The uniform consists of a dark green frock coat and pants, dark green cap as well as the standard federal blue uniforms.

The regiment was assigned to the Army of the Potomac and served with the army throughout the war.

The original intent was to have a regiment of elite skirmishers to advance far ahead of the main bodies of troops to conduct skirmishing and sniper activity against important targets. It is our intent to portray this unit as best we can both on and off the field. We are always looking for information about the 1st U.S.S.S. and welcome any and all information.

ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Throughout the year, the members of the unit are involved in many different activities. The majority of our time is spent attending several battle reenactments and living histories across the United States. The rest of our time, however, is spent doing what the hobby was originally started for – education of the public about the period in American History known as the American Civil War. The members take part in school presentations (both in and out of the classroom), private and public lectures, living history encampments, ceremonial events, parades, festivals and movies. The main goal of the hobby is to educate and to have fun doing it.

The members of our unit have uniforms for several different impressions such as the US Navy, 79th New York (Highlanders), Veteran's Reserve Corp, US & CS Marines, Iron Brigade, Confederate & Union standard infantry among others. One reason for this is to give us the ability to take part in battles that the Sharpshooters did not actually participate in during the war. Another reason is that it makes us versatile and able to fulfill many different roles.

Throughout the summer months we keep very busy and it is nice when the winter months come and our schedules are a little less hectic. The unit maintains contact through the annual meeting and email correspondence which review upcoming events, current issues in the hobby, exchange of information and to just enjoy each other's company. The unit charges annual dues for membership.

UNIT HIGHLIGHTS

Within our unit we have many talented people who are able to help make some of the items that we use. These talents help us to offset the cost of the hobby and use the money that was saved for items that we cannot produce ourselves.

The unit has on hand several pieces of spare equipment that can be loaned out upon request. We realize that very few people can start out fully equipped and so we only ask that you try to obtain the equipment you need as your time and budget will allow.

We are a family oriented unit that still remembers that this is a hobby.

So, if you like camping and enjoy the history of the American Civil War, then Civil War Reenacting may be just the thing for you. If you are interested in joining this unit or if you just want to know more about the hobby, please do not hesitate to talk to us in person or see the reverse side of this page for unit contacts in your area.

Even if you would prefer an impression that we do not portray, please feel free to ask us if we know any units that would be more your style. Chances are, we can help.

Hope to see you on the field!

Sincerely, 1st USSS Co. C

UNIT CONTACTS

Illinois

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