



*"The Union forever,
Hurrah, boys, Hurrah..."
-Battle Cry of Freedom*

Company A Third Maine Volunteer Infantry

Welcome to the fascinating and educational avocation of "Living History" ! This information is offered to those of you who are interested in the reenactment of a cataclysmic period of American history; to join with others of like mind and spirit as we discover and memorialize the events and the people who made them happen over 140 years...**the AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.**

In 1981, Company A was "re-activated" by a group of Maine historians and reenactors, incorporating as a non-profit, non-partisan corporation dedicated to educating and entertaining the public in the life, times and events which shaped American history. As the "new" Third Maine, we constantly strive to portray a proud, cohesive unit, true to the spirit and tradition of those Maine citizens who rose to the defense of their beloved union during that dark and turbulent time.

We are proud to be able to offer this wonderful learning experience to our members young and old, male and female. The Third Maine is unique in that it has a "crack" infantry unit, renowned for its skill and military discipline; an exemplary Fife & Drum Corps which gives us the distinction of being the only Maine reenactment regiment which has its own unit of field music; and a growing population of "civilian" members (women & children). This wide range of interests allows not only male and female individuals an opportunity to participate in different aspects of this fascinating hobby, but also entire families can "join in the fun" of Civil War reenacting.

Regimental History

On June 4, 1861, the Bath City Grays, one of the few remaining active Maine militia units, was mustered in at Augusta as Company "A" of the Third Regiment, Maine Volunteer Infantry. The majority of them were tradesmen, shipwrights, shopkeepers and artisans, while the rest of the regiment was largely composed of Kennebec lumbermen.

The Third Maine first "saw the elephant" at the first battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861, and during the next three years was engaged in 25 major battles, including the Peninsular Campaigns, second Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania. There were many smaller skirmishes as well, and by June of 1864 the badly mauled and battle-weary

unit's enlistment was up, except for 64 who re-enlisted to "see it through". These were transferred along with replacement recruits with time remaining to the Seventeenth Maine at Cold Harbor just before the awful slaughter there and at the subsequent battle of Petersburg.

Of the 1,586 men who enrolled, only about 175 returned to Maine under the colors of the old Third Regiment. When the Seventeenth finally mustered out of service on June 10, 1865 in Portland, Maine, several veterans of the original Third Maine had served four years and one week-a total of 1,468 days of this county's most horrible and devastating war to date.

MEMBERSHIP

First year membership is as a non-voting probationary member. Probationary dues are \$20.00 to cover costs of the Unit's monthly newsletter. This probationary period is to allow everyone the opportunity to get acquainted before assuming the responsibility and commitment of full membership, and to give you time to acquire sufficient equipment to participate with the unit in at least six events or unit meetings.



All those intending to reenact with the Infantry must be willing and able to portray, with reasonable authenticity, an active male *military* member of the 3rd Maine Regiment as his primary impression. You should be aware of the initial investment usually required to get "set up" in this hobby-you can plan to invest up to \$1500 depending on your impression, size, and how fancy you want to get. Once outfitted, it levels off to include travel to events and occasional replacement of worn out items. Of course, you may find it hard to resist those "goodies" in the sutler's tent...

Our organization tries to provide the opportunity for maximum family involvement within the context of a reasonable credible "living history" impression. While we strive to maintain high standards of historical authenticity, we are a "family" unit, encouraging and celebrating full family participation as much as possible.

We hope this information will help you make an informed decision as to your potential involvement with the Third Maine. If you need additional information, have any questions or would like to further discuss/investigate Civil War Reenacting, please contact or mail the slip below to our Third Maine Recruiting Staff:

Sgt. Matt Bray
1305 West Road
Litchfield, Maine 04350
(207) 319-6033
mbraycatch@hotmail.com

or visit our web site at <http://www.thirdmaine.org>

Yes, I am interested in joining Company 'A' of the Third Maine Volunteer Infantry as an infantry private. I would like some more information so that I can join as an (please check one):
_____ individual member or _____ family membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Age: _____ (If you are under the age of 16 years, you must have a parent sign below)

Parent's Signature: _____

Comments: _____