

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE UNION SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS ENCAMPMENT OLD BEDFORD VILLAGE, BEDFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

On June 19, 1863, the advance elements of General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia crossed the Mason-Dixon line into Pennsylvania. A few days later, a mounted Rebel brigade under General John Imboden was sent west from Chambersburg to destroy railroads and iron mines. These movements caused a state of emergency to be declared by then Pennsylvania Governor Andrew Curtin. The governor ordered State authorities to begin raising numbered "Emergency Regiments" as well as, "Independent Battalions of Militia."

Company "G" one of the three companies from Bedford County raised for the Independent Battalion, was under the command of Captain John C. Hawman. Company "G" was mustered into state service on July 3 to serve for 30 days and was officially discharged on August 8, 1863. Their job was to fortify and defend passes east of Bedford. above "Bloody Run" in what is today, Everett. Except for a small skirmish away from the Bedford area, the Battalion saw no other actions during its service.

"Defending the Home Front" will depict the raising of the Bedford Company "G" and its departure for service. Participants will portray residents of the town as well as nearby citizens who have arrived to enlist and catch up on the latest war news.

Activities during the event will include patriotic speeches, mustering into service and drilling. Near the close of the weekend there will be a farewell ceremony as the militia marches off to prepare defenses against the invading Rebel army.

The event will run from 9:00 AM Saturday to 4:30 PM Sunday.

PARTICIPANTS ARE URGED TO STAY IN PERIOD DRESS DURING THE ENTIRE EVENT

Clothing and Equipment

To participate in this program as a militiaman, you will need the following items:

- Civilian Clothing, at a minimum: hat, shirt, vest, trousers.
- Period correct footwear
- Three Band Rifle-Musket with bayonet
- US Issue Accouterments
- US Issue Haversack and Canteen

Men and women portraying citizens of the village will need a complete set of civilian clothing appropriate to your period occupation and economic status.

Within the confines of actual Bedford historical accounts, specialty impressions of political and military leaders are allowed at this event. It is advised that participants read the articles appearing in the "Bedford Gazette" for the month of June, 1863, as well as, books and published accounts about Bedford County's roll during June-July 1863.

Military Rank

Military officers for this event are appointed by the organizers. Unless, otherwise arranged, all participants will serve as privates.

Lodging

Village buildings during the event, are available for rent to juried civilian portrayals only.

For militiamen , “ A”-tents will be the only canvas allowed. If you do not have an A-Tent, the organizers have several available. Be prepared to share your tent with at least one other person. **Only period bedding and equipage is to be kept in tents.**

Meals

For the participants registered as militiamen, **your registration fee will cover your food.** All meals will be served in the Village tavern. You will need to provide your own cups, plates and eating utensils. **There is no individual cooking of meals for militia participants.** Civilian participants are responsible for their own meals.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REFER TO THE RULES SECTION ON THE WEBSITE
ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE RULES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO OUR STAFF