



*"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 anyone interested in becoming a living historian and bringing to life for others a crucial and cataclysmic period of American history. We welcome you to join with us and help us discover and memorialize the events and the people who made them happen 150 years ago...**the AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.**

Our organization - Company A of the Third Maine Regiment Volunteer Infantry was "re-activated" in 1981 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. We constantly strive to authentically 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. To accomplish our goals, we work with communities and historical societies to provide living history encampments and presentations, provide educational outreach programs for teachers at all levels, and participate in battle reenactments, both in Maine and out of state. Our unit is a member company of the United States Volunteers, the largest Civil War Union living history and reenactment organization in the county.

Brief Regimental History - On June 4, 1861, the Bath City Grays, one of the few remaining active Maine militia units, was mustered into federal service, in Augusta, as Company "A" of the Third Maine Regiment Volunteer Infantry. The majority of the men 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 Campaign, 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 men were transferred along with replacement recruits with enlistment time remaining to the Seventeenth Maine at Cold Harbor just before the awful slaughter there. Of the



1,586 men who served in the regiment, only about 175 returned to Maine under the colors of the old Third Maine. 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.

Our Portrayals - We offer three principle types of impressions, and as a member you may participate in one or more of these. Our **Infantry** learn and drill using the original training manuals from the Civil War era. They put this training to good use for demonstrations and on the battlefield. Our **Field Music**, with its fifers and drummers, learns and practices period pieces. They present inspiring concerts and serve with the Infantry in camp and on the battlefield. Our **Civilian Ladies** research and illuminate the roles of women in the early 1860s . They do this through presentations, workshops, and portrayals of Maine women who served in the Maine Camp and Hospital Association and the United States Sanitary Commission.



"The great event in all our lives has at last come to pass. A war of gigantic proportions, infinite consequences, and indefinite duration is on us, and will affect every man, woman, or child, lofty or humble, in this country."

*William M. Daniel, Editor
Richmond, Virginia*

Join Us!

More information about our organization and what we do is available on our website. Please visit our site for contact information and instructions for how to become a member. We welcome individuals and families!

www.thirdmaine.org

For Lincoln and Liberty, Join the 3rd Maine Regiment Volunteer Infantry!

