

ANDERSON ZOUAVE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ANDERSON BATTALION, AUSTRALIA.

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WHAT IS THE ANDERSON BATTALION?

The Anderson Battalion is a loose confederation of individuals interested in the history of the American Civil War generally and in the Sixty-second New-York State Volunteers, Anderson Zouaves, primarily. Some of these people are likely to have an interest in reenacting in the several organisations in Australia which have focused their activities on the Anderson Zouaves, while others may have an interest in the history of the regiment and its brigade and of course there will be those with an interest in both. This paper will be a means by which those individuals and various organisations, which share this common interest, may communicate and keep in touch.

However, the name 'Anderson Battalion' was not chosen just because of its convenient similarity to the name of the regiment which is the focus of our interest. The inspiration for the name is taken from the pages of history, as the original Anderson Battalion was an historical entity.

After the Civil War the various organisations which had been raised under the auspices of the "Hero of Fort Sumter", Major Robert Anderson, organised themselves into a group known in New-York as the 'Anderson Battalion'. The Anderson Battalion took it upon itself to commemorate important patriotic anniversaries in New York. These commemorations inevitably involved the ceremonial raising of the Stars and Stripes. These public ceremonies were self conscious reenactments of the re-raising of the Federal flag at Fort Sumter by Major Robert Anderson on April 14, 1866. Consequently the Anderson Battalion probably qualifies as the first American Civil War Reenactment organisation. The difference being that while the members of this organisation had taken part in the Civil War, they chose to reenact events from that conflict and others that they did not take part in rather than events that they did.

One such ceremony was known as Evacuation Day. James Riker, the brother of Colonel John Lafayette Riker, was the local authority on the subject and the Anderson Zouaves Association, along with the rest of the Battalion, would commemorate the occasion by assisting Christopher R. Forbes (himself a close relative of the Riker family) to hoist the flag at the Battery on the southern tip of Manhattan Island. Another patriotic occasion (and an excuse for a 'get-together') may have actually been inaugurated by the veterans of the Anderson Zouaves themselves and was known as 'Sumter Day'. An account of the 1896 ceremony appeared in the New-York Times:

SUMTER DAY CELEBRATED

The thirtieth anniversary of the re-raising on Fort Sumter of the National flag was celebrated last night by a camp fire reception and ball of Anderson Battalion, at Wendell's Assembly Rooms, at 334 West Forty-fourth Street. The Anderson Battalion consists of the Anderson Zouaves, Anderson-William Post, No 394, G. A. R., Anderson Battery, A. S. O. V., and Anderson Cadet Corps. A feature of the evening was an exhibition drill, dress parade, and review of the battalion. The flag was hoisted at the Battery at sunrise by Christopher R. Forbes, who was accompanied by the Anderson Zouaves, Sixty-second Regiment New-York Volunteers, under command of Capt. Charles E. Morse, and Anderson-Williams Post, 394, G. A. R., Adj. Hendrickson in command.

In this same tradition the Anderson Battalion has been organised to bring together the various organisations interested in this fascinating regiment. This paper, *Anderson Zouave*, is the official paper of the Anderson Battalion, and will be published monthly with news about American Civil War history, research and reenactment in Australia and abroad. The paper is published by an editorial committee elected from amongst the membership of the Anderson Battalion. Members of the Anderson Battalion pay no membership fees and receive this paper in PDF format for free. To join the Anderson Battalion send an email with your details to andersonbattalion@mac.com.

THREE GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD MONUMENTS VANDALIZED

The Associated Press

GETTYSBURG -- Monuments honoring Civil War soldiers from Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts were damaged late Wednesday or early Thursday morning, (*February 15-16, 2006 -Ed.*) Gettysburg National Military Park officials said.

The head of a sculpture was stolen on Devil's Den, a rocky part of the battlefield, and a sword was taken from a second memorial. A third marker's sculpture landed on a decorative iron fence, which also was damaged.

"It's terribly sad, and the monuments were put there by the veterans and survivors of this battle. So what's happened is, it's their memory that is vandalized," said park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon.

The bronze sculpture of an artilleryman from the monument to Smith's Battery, also known as the 4th New York Battery, was dragged from its place and its head was removed and is missing, Lawhon said.

The top stone and sculpture from the 11th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Monument were toppled, and a sword was stolen from it.

Also, the vandals pulled down a bronze sculpture of a zouave infantryman from the 114th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Monument, and a fence was damaged when it fell.

Thieves have damaged park monuments three times in the last year-and-a-half. They also stole a bronze sword from a Pennsylvania cavalry marker in January 2005 and a sword from the monument to Alexander Hays in September 2004. Those crimes have not been solved.

Bronze markers, including state seals, also are occasionally stolen from the park.

Motorists also have taken a toll on the park's historical objects in recent years. Drivers crashed into the 4th Ohio Volunteer Infantry right flank marker in 2004, and destroyed a cast-iron cannon carriage and damaged the 74th Pennsylvania Infantry Monument in separate 2003 incidents.

The 6,000-acre park houses some 1,300 monuments to the tide-changing July 1863 battle between the Union and Confederate armies.



A sad looking 114th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry monument at Gettysburg.



NOW ORGANIZING
THE ADVANCE GUARD, COMPANY "I"
OF MAJOR ROBERT ANDERSON'S
REGIMENT OF ZOUAVES

Contact the recruiting officer at Hibernian Hall,
No. 42 Prince-street, New-York or send an expres-
sion of interest to coiaz@mac.com.

**The Sixty-second
New York State Veteran Volunteers,
Company 'F'
Historical Re-enactment and Research Group.**

We are an Australian based American Civil War re-enactment group, primarily interested in the soldiers' life of the New York volunteer. Our focus is on the history of the 62nd NYSVV (Anderson's Zouaves) and specifically on Company 'F', from their formation as the 62nd NYSV Infantry in mid 1861 to their mustering out at Fort Schuyler NY in 1865.

Our motivation is an abiding interest in civil war history and a desire to have fun whilst participating in living history events.

Besides Yankee Volunteers, our members re-enact 1860s civilians as well as Rebel soldiers. We have members from other Australian states as well as from Germany, most of our membership though resides in Sydney.

You can reach us at our postal address:
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**"A REUNION, A COLLATION AND
ONE OR TWO SPEECHES"**

The inaugural meeting of the Friends of Colonel Riker takes place this Sumter Day, Friday April 14, 2006. Come and celebrate the 140th anniversary of the re-hoisting of old glory over Fort Sumter by General Robert Anderson, with the first of six nights of drinking and discussion about all things Riker, Anderson Zouaves and Civil War.

For more information regarding venue details and meeting times please contact the organiser, John Tierney at andersonzouaves@strangeplanet.com.au.

The F. O. C. R. drinking and discussion season will continue over four months with further meetings on the following dates :

- Friday, May 5, 2006. Anniversary of the Battle of Williamsburg
- Wednesday, May 31, 2006. The Anniversary of the Battle of Fair Oaks and the death of Colonel John L. Riker.
- Wednesday, June 7, 2006. Anniversary of the first meeting of the Friends of Colonel Riker at Everett House, New York in 1862.
- Friday, June 9th, 2006. Anniversary of the funeral of Colonel Riker.
- Tuesday July 4, 2006, Fourth of July Celebration.
- Sunday August 20, 2006. Anniversary of the departure of the Anderson Zouaves from Riker's Island for the seat of war.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC RECORDS PROJECT.

The Grand Army of the Republic, better known as the GAR, had membership which was limited to those men (and a few women) who served in the Union Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Revenue Cutter Service during the Civil War. This being the case, the GAR was destined to eventually go out of business and in 1956, with the death of its last member, Albert Woolson, the charter was vacated.

The GAR had no continuing national or state organisations – they existed for only a few days each year at the annual Encampment – and the great majority of records were maintained by local Posts. When the last member of each Post died, the records were treated as personal property and most were thrown out or burned by disinterested executors. Those records which did survive were often given to local, state and national archives, historical societies or colleges, or inherited through default by later veterans organisations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. Some exist in private collections and still others remain stored – unknown – in attics.

More than 8,600 community-level Posts of the GAR have been documented by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW).

The SUVCW is making an effort to locate the records of those Posts and to make those repositories available through a listing on its website. Should you know of the location of any GAR records, please send an email to BrewerHunt@aol.com with the name, number and location of the Post along with the detail of where the records of that Post reside.

For more information go to <http://suvcw.org/garposts/index.htm>.

EXTENDING THE LINE FOR COLONEL RIKER.

A Sixty-second New-York Infantry Regiment researcher, John Tierney, has undertaken a project to extend the publicly available genealogical information on Colonel John Lafayette Riker of the Anderson Zouaves.

Until recently all the information on J. L. Riker's immediate family, available on the most popular public electronic sources, ended with John Lafayette and his siblings. James Riker, who acquired some fame as one of the New York's first modern genealogists and city historians, is really the only one of John L's five brothers and sisters who is fleshed out in any way in the records available from Ancestry.com.

"It is ironic" said John Tierney "that the members of a family which has made such a significant contribution to the history of New York, should have been so ignored by family researchers".

Mr Tierney continued "The majority of current genealogical research is driven by living relatives and, unfortunately, with James Riker's (John L's father) branch of the Riker family, a series of tragic and unfortunate events appears to have all but felled the family tree. If you have few living descendents you are unlikely to have much genealogical research done on your family."

John Tierney originally started researching the family of John L. Riker in the hope that a living relative and some information could be found on the unjustly ignored Civil War regiment of which Riker was the Colonel.

"So far I have added information to the Ancestry.com site listing John Lafayette's wife's surname (her first name has alluded me) the names of her parents, Riker's daughter, her husband and the names and approximate birth-dates of ten of her 14 children. I have also added information about James Riker's second wife and his children to his first wife. Besides updating basic information on Ancestry.com I'll be writing an article with detailed information about the Riker's family connections for a forthcoming issue of *Riker's Island*." Mr Tierney said.

Until recently it was not generally known that Riker had a wife let alone a child. When an American Riker family researcher, Edgar Alan Nutt, was first approached about the subject he was surprised to find out about the marriage and child, but has since been invaluable in assisting Mr Tierney in his research into the Riker family. Edgar Alan Nutt is the author of a book about the Rikers and Riker's Island, part of which is available on the New York Correction History Society's Website <www.correctionhistory.org>.

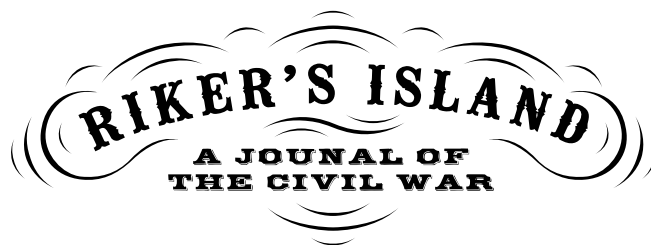
"Things don't look very hopeful for finding a living relative for John Lafayette Riker. His wife died in 1853 of hysteria leaving him with only one child, Anna Elizabeth, and while this daughter did go on to have 14 children of her own, by 1890, eight of these were dead. Another of Anna's children, Samuel J. Crump who served in the U.S. Army as a Lieutenant, died during the First World War. In the end, when Anna died in 1927, she was survived by only five children at most, but my research is still not completed so even some of these five may not have survived.

"So far I haven't been able to work out what was responsible for the death of so many of Anna (Riker) Crump's children but the fact that her father John Lafayette had married his first cousin probably didn't help matters much." John Tierney said.

John Lafayette Riker was buried in the Greenwood cemetery in Brooklyn in June 1862. He shares his plot with his daughter Anna and his grandson Samuel J. Crump.

GETTYSBURG OPINION

Since the vandalising of the Gettysburg monuments there has been outcry among Civil War enthusiasts. Chat lists have been baying for the blood of the culprits, with suggestions they should be hung, drawn and quartered and imprisoned in a modern day Andersonville. While the editors of *Anderson Zouave* of course do not in any way condone the damage done by the vandals, they do recognise the unique opportunity for those enthusiasts in the States to rededicate these monuments and to demonstrate their fidelity to the men who died for the Union cause at Gettysburg and in the Civil War.



Riker's Island, which it was hoped would have seen its first number published at the end of 2005, has been delayed. The prospective date for the first issue will now be May 2006.

The proposed table of contents is as follows:

- Major Oscar Veniah Dayton of the Anderson Zouaves: A profile.
- The Anderson Zouaves in the post war period.
- That's Sterling! Brady photographs Peck's staff at Tennallytown.
- In love and friendship: The letters of Abraham T. Perinne.
- Towards a complete roster of the 62nd N.Y.S.V. Anderson Zouaves.
- The Potomac Fleet of McLellan's Peninsula invasion.
- Missing officers of Riker's Staff.
- Consolidated Morning Reports from Tennallytown.
- 'Any other but the 62nd New York' – Brig.-Gen. Peck writes a letter to Governor Morgan.
- The Genealogy of John Lafayette Riker – A Patriotic Dynasty.
- The letters of William P. Allcot of Company 'G'.
- The movements of Peck's Brigade – A comparison of different sources.
- Is Hayward's picture of an Anderson Zouave?

JUDITH HALLER – SIXTY-SECOND RESEARCHER.

If you have ever googled "Anderson Zouaves" or "62nd New York", you have probably come across the website of Judith Haller. Judith has a close affinity with the 62nd and a while ago she profiled this connection for the editors of *Anderson Zouave*.

I'm related to two soldiers in the 62nd, Pvt. Lawrence McDonald and his brother, Terrence. They were among the first to answer Lincoln's call for troops in 1861. Their younger brother was my great-grandfather, so they are my great-great uncles. It is unusual to be so closely related to Civil War vets, but my great-grandfather had his second family and last child when he was nearly 50 years old, in 1901.

The brothers were members of company D. In April of 1863, Terrence became ill with bronchitis and was eventually discharged and went home to NYC. He missed out on the battle of Gettysburg, but probably witnessed the draft riots. He re-enlisted with a newly-formed veterans' regiment, the 178th NYVI, and went to serve under Sherman's Army. He nearly made it through the war unscathed, but the day that Lee was surrendering to Grant, a battle raged at Fort Blakeley, Alabama. Terrence took a bullet in the hand, another in the butt. The wounds troubled him all his life. His pension file is an inch thick with medical and surgical papers.

His life was colorful. After his marriage, he moved to New Jersey,

owned a saloon, was elected to the School Board, and after several successful terms was elected to the New Jersey State Assembly. Veterans benefits and Soldiers homes were causes he fought for successfully. After, he was active in the GAR. Tuberculosis killed him in 1913. I visit his grave in Jersey City whenever I get up that way.

Lawrence had a very different outcome. He stayed with the 62nd, and in 1864 he was captured near the Jerusalem Plank Road near Petersburg. The prisoners were marched to Richmond, where orders were given to send them to the Danville station, for forwarding to Andersonville Prison in Georgia. The prison in Georgia was suffering administration breakdown when the Sixth corps prisoners started arriving. There is no record of Lawrence being there. However, Lawrence escaped from a train outside of Savannah just before Sherman took that city.

This event leads me to believe he had been moved from Andersonville to Camp Lawton in Millen, Georgia, an overflow facility erected late in summer of 1864. The prison was evacuated when Sherman was on the march. In fact, the Cavalry arrived at Camp Lawton in time to see the last train steaming away toward Savannah.

By late January of 1865, Lawrence was back with his unit before Petersburg. In February, he reenlisted. In March, Lee's troops tried to break out of the siege through Fort Stedman. Later that day, at the other end of the lines at Fort Fisher, Lawrence was killed by an artillery shell. The U.S. Christian Commission recorded his burial near Patrick's Station. The bodies were later moved to a national cemetery at Poplar Grove. There is no marker for Lawrence, but I visit there anyway, when I can.

I find the story very poignant. When I first learned about these men, some ten years ago, I followed their footsteps through the war. It left me with a swelled head, a broken heart, and an enduring interest in the war. My great-grandfather named one of his sons Lawrence, who in turned named a son Lawrence. I met the second son last summer for the first time. He never knew who he and his father had been named for.

ANDERSON ZOUAVE DATABASE AND LIBRARY

It seems to be a familiar refrain that there is not a lot of information on the 62nd New York State Volunteers, however, the other side of this coin is that what information there is should be easier to gather together.

In pursuit of this noble endeavour John Tierney has constructed a library and database on all things 62nd. The library includes: many books which make reference to the Anderson Zouaves; a newspaper clippings morgue of more than 180 articles; original newspapers from the period; original photographs of members of the regiment; original letters; documents and artifacts from the regiment; and, the brigade and personalities associated with the Anderson Zouaves.

The database includes a roster with detailed information on each soldier in the 62nd including promotions, battles participated in, information about wounds received, residence before and after the war, place and date of death, place of internment, alternate names, etc. There is also a list of soldiers not appearing on the official roster (e.g. Captain George Harrison). A list of errata in newspapers and other documents relating to the 62nd. A detailed list of the brigade's killed and wounded. A bibliography including all works making reference to the 62nd. A digital newspaper clippings morgue. A list of the battles the 62nd took part with a list of killed and wounded in each of these battles. A list of individuals associated with the regiment (e.g. Isaac Isaacson who donated the first field piece to the Anderson Zouaves which was used by the regiment for its Fourth of July celebrations in 1861). A collection of letters written by members of the regiment, and diary entries and letters which mention the regiment. It also includes a number of digital photographs of members of the regiment.

The database is growing daily and anyone interested is encouraged to email John Tierney <john@strangeplanet.com.au> with contributions or with requests for lookups about specific individuals or dates.

LATEST FROM THE UNITED STATES

A researcher in the United States has located and copied the Civil War Diary of Captain Samuel M. Duvall, of Company 'E', 102nd Pennsylvania Volunteers. The diary was located in the John Heinz Pittsburgh regional History Centre, by an Australian researcher who informed an

American counterpart who was able to visit the centre and have the diary copied. Apparently the diary is only a few pages in length, but will hopefully add something to our knowledge of the Anderson Zouaves and its brigade. The full title of the diary is *1st Brig, 2nd Div., 6th Corps: the Civil War diary of Captain Samuel Duvall, Co. E, 102nd Pennsylvania Infantry, July-October 1864*. A copy of the diary will be deposited in the collection of materials held by John Tierney and, depending on its length, may appear in an upcoming issue of *Anderson Zouave*.

ANDERSON ZOUAVES DIGITAL CLIPPING MORGUE

The Anderson Zouaves Clipping 'Morgue' is a collection of newspaper clippings which contain information about the Anderson Zouaves. This morgue file does not include entire issues or even intact pages. Articles from various newspapers are gathered together to provide an excellent resource for research. Since the morgue only contains articles about the Anderson Zouaves gathered in one place (not scattered throughout microfilmed, chronological reels of entire publications), research can be done quickly. The documents are filed in an A3 binder and are added to as new sources are found.

The articles in the morgue have also been transcribed into a database which allows the researcher to search by event date, publication date, publication name, headline, personality, etc. The text in the database is not formatted but it references the hard copies which can then be retrieved from the binder where they are stored chronologically.

At the present time the morgue contains in excess of 180 newspaper articles. As the articles have been retrieved from various sources some clippings are without publication name or date, however, an estimated date and publication name has been allocated based on the contents of the article.

SEVEN PINES NATIONAL SKIRMISH EVENT 2006

On the weekend of January 21 & 22, 2006 the 62nd NY 'Anderson Zouaves', organised and hosted a National skirmish event 'Seven Pines', outside of Braidwood NSW.

Around 50 Union and Confederate reenactors from Queensland, Victoria, Canberra and New South Wales, gathered at the Danelaw property just outside of Braidwood, to reenact the Battle of Seven Pines (or Fair Oaks). It was at Fair Oaks on May 31, 1862, that Col. John Lafayette Riker, was shot dead. A contemporary account records the event.

He was shot in the right side, while turning around to cheer on his men, the ball coming out in front. Riker rode upon a white horse, and was a prominent figure for the enemy's marksmen... When the fatal shot was fired, he had just turned around to the zouaves, who were hemmed in, and cried out, "Boys, we are surrounded – give them cold steel now." Suddenly dropping from his horse, the gallant spirit had fled forever.



The company street at the recent National Skirmish.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 62nd N.Y.S.V.V. Co. 'F' (Historical Re-enactment and Research Group) – June Company Dinner. For further details contact Dave Sanders at blakstara@yahoo.com.au.
- Friends of Colonel Riker meeting Friday May 5, and Wednesday May 31, 2006. For further details contact John Tierney at john@strangeplanet.com.au.

Unless otherwise stated all content written and created by John Tierney.

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