



# The Patriot News

The Newsletter of the Maine Military Historical Society



Volume 1, Issue 4

[www.mainemilmuseum.org](http://www.mainemilmuseum.org)

April - June 2011

## Maine Military Historical Society

33 State House Station – Camp Keyes  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0033

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## A Word From The President

Dear MMHS Members:

Many good things have happened since the last edition of the newsletter.

If you notice up above in the row with the date, there is a web address listed. This is the new website for our organization! One of the best features is that now we can accept donations and memberships with credit cards through PayPal. The newsletter is available here as well. We will use this site to post updates on a regular basis about things that are going on within the MMHS. Please check it out.

Another item of note is that The Maine Military Historical Society now has coffee mugs available for sale. Visit [www.mainemilmuseum.org](http://www.mainemilmuseum.org) for more information.

The 103<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment recognition day has been finalized and is scheduled for 18 June from 1:00pm – 3:00 pm at the Augusta Armory. If you know of anyone from the 103<sup>rd</sup> who served in WW II or if you know of a 103<sup>rd</sup> family please let them know and invite them. They can RSVP NLT 15 June 2011 to [dave.googins@mainemilmuseum.org](mailto:dave.googins@mainemilmuseum.org). If you would like to help with this event, please let us know.

The 2011 Heritage Tour has also been finalized. This year we will be conducting a tour of the Portland Harbor Defenses. The tour guide is Professor Joel Eastman. Be sure and mark your calendar for August 20<sup>th</sup>.

If you are receiving this newsletter thru the US Mail please let us know if you would prefer to receive it thru the web or via email. This would help us save costs.

Remember, if you have a few hours that you could give, we would be glad to hear from you.



Dave



## 2011 Heritage Tour

By David Googins

On August 20th the Maine Military Historical Society will be conducting its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Heritage Tour.

This year we will be in and around the Portland area, to learn what a vital role this area played in the defense of the state and the nation, from as long ago as the Indian wars to just after World War II.

Joel Eastman, Emeritus Professor of history at the University of Southern Maine and the leading expert on Maine's forts, will be our guide as we set out to trace the path of our military forefathers.

So pack a picnic lunch and join the tour! We will be departing by bus from the Stevens Avenue Armory in Portland. Cost of the tour is \$45 per person. A sign up sheet and brochure will be posted on our website where we will also accept credit card payments. You may also mail in the form along with a check if you desire.

For those that wish to spend the night in Portland, hotel arrangements can be made on your own.

Visit [www.mainemilmuseum.org](http://www.mainemilmuseum.org) for updates.



Battery Blair at Ft Williams, Cape Elizabeth, Maine

## The Fort Williams Foundation

The Ft Williams Foundation is trying to raise funds to do an engineering and feasibility study to determine if the remainder of Battery Blair should be uncovered. This could lead to restoring public access to the whole battery and creating historical displays.

For more information go to [www.fortwilliams.org](http://www.fortwilliams.org)

## 103<sup>rd</sup> Recognition Day

By David Googins

The 103<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment from World War II will be honored at the Augusta Armory on 18 June 2011 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

The Regiment, which was made up from many companies located throughout Maine, fought as part of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Division in the Pacific Theatre during World War II.

There will be presentations made to attending 103<sup>rd</sup> members and surviving family members of deceased veterans. Gold Star Families will also be invited to attend this event.

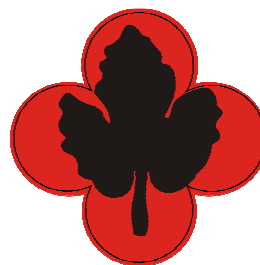
Displays will be set up consisting of company rosters, campaign maps, photos and other historical items. Light refreshments will also be served.



103<sup>rd</sup> Regimental Crest

Their oral histories about their war experience will be recorded for inclusion in a history of the 103<sup>rd</sup> that the MMHS is putting together.

Please help us honor these men from the "Greatest Generation" by attending. It is a unique chance to get their story first hand. **If you know of a 103<sup>rd</sup> member or a 103<sup>rd</sup> family, please let them know about this event.**



43<sup>rd</sup> Division Patch

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

THE MMHS WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME:

PAMELA MARTIN  
GEOFF LACHANCE  
IRVING CARTER

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2011 BOARD MEETINGS

PLACE: MMHS MUSEUM

TIME: 4:00 PM , 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY OF APR , MAY, JUN, SEP, OCT, NOV

### 103<sup>RD</sup> RECOGNITION DAY

PLACE: AUGUSTA ARMORY

TIME: 18 JUNE 2011, 1:00 PM

### ARMY BIRTHDAY

PLACE: MMHS MUSEUM

TIME: 14 JUNE 2011, TBD

### 2011 HERITAGE TOUR

PLACE: PORTLAND, MAINE

TIME: 20 AUGUST 2011, 8:00 AM

**Know of a special event? Please let us know so that we can inform our membership.**

## Dates in Military History

### APRIL

1775 – British Troops Skirmish with American Minutemen at Lexington and Concord.

1836 – General Sam Houston and his Texan forces defeated Mexican General Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto.

1846 – U.S .troops entered Mexican territory in what is now New Mexico, one of the first steps in the Mexican War.

1861 – Bombardment of Ft Sumter, Charleston, S.C. began. Start of the Civil War.

1917 – Creation of the Army Balloon School at St Louis, MO. First class graduated 15 May 1917.

1969 – The U.S. launched intensive B-52 air raids on targets near the Cambodian border, northwest of Saigon.

### MAY

1775 – American troops under COL Ethan Allen captured Ft Ticonderoga, NY from the British.

1898 – Admiral George Dewey defeated the Spanish Fleet at Manila in the Philippines (Spanish American War)

1915 – American tanker "Nantucket Chief" was sunk by a German submarine off the Scilly Isles west of England. This was the first American vessel lost in WW I.

1942 – LTG Jonathan Wainwright was obliged to surrender 15,000 American and Filipino troops on the island of Corregidor to the Japanese.

1972 – Mines were dropped around important North Vietnamese seaports by U.S. planes.

### JUNE

1639 – First gunpowder mill in America opened at Pecoit, MA by Edward Rawson.

1775 – Colonel George Washington was named Commander in Chief of the American Army by the Continental Congress.

1846 – Mexican War Began with a series of actions near Brownsville, TX.

1877 – Henry Ossian Flipper, the first African-American graduate of West Point, was commissioned a second lieutenant.

1944 – Invasion of Normandy by Allied Troops. Operation Overlord was the largest air and sea operation in military history. Marines land on Saipan.

1951 – The U.S. Eighth Army launched attacks against Chinese forces all along the frontlines in Korea, slowly driving the enemy back.

## Saving the Union

Contributed by Al White

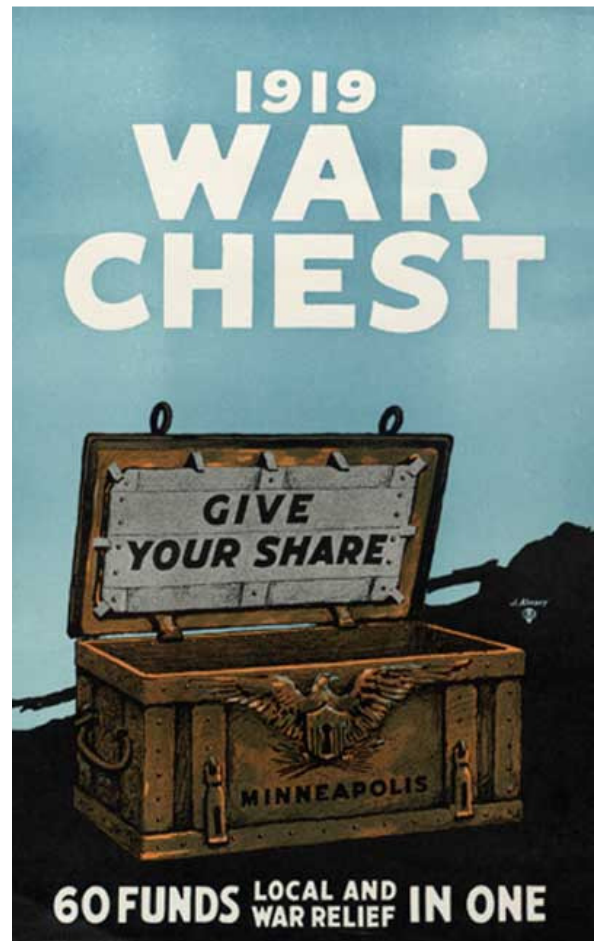
On Friday, April 15th the Maine State Archives will present "Saving the Union: The Call for Volunteers," at the Augusta Civic Center to commemorate Maine's entry into the Civil War. The event begins at 1:00 PM and is free and open to the public.

"It was April 15, 1861 that President Abraham Lincoln asked states such as Maine to raise 75,000 volunteer soldiers to defend the Union against southern states that were seceding, primarily over the issue of slavery," said State Archivist David Cheever. "Maine Answered Lincoln's call with vigor and this event is representative of Maine's key role in the Civil War."

Maine's Secretary of State, Charles E. Summers, Jr., Maine's Adjutant General John "Bill" Libby, and Maine Governor Paul LePage will speak about how Maine rose to President Lincoln's challenge to defend the country and the Constitution. Members of the Maine Legislature will also participate in the ceremony.

"Saving the Union" will include readings of Civil War-era letters from Maine citizens; music by the 195<sup>th</sup> Maine National Guard Band and Civil War re-enactors; choral music by the Bowdoin and Colby College chorus'; and color guards from the Maine National Guard and Civil War re-enactment groups.

For more information about this event, contact State Archivist David Cheever, or visit the Maine State Archives website at [www.maine.gov/sos/arc](http://www.maine.gov/sos/arc).



### Admin Note

Please be sure to keep us up to date. Send in any changes to your address or email address. It's important that we keep our records as current as possible.

Please drop an email to Soraya Umphrey at [soraya.thomas@us.army.mil](mailto:soraya.thomas@us.army.mil), or contact us at [www.manemilmuseum.org](http://www.manemilmuseum.org).

Soraya Umphrey

## Whatever Happened To.....

By Dan Masessa

Among the artifacts in our museum is a bronze plaque dedicated to the soldiers of the 136<sup>th</sup> Army Band.

According to the inscription on the plaque, the band was active from May 1951 to July 1959. There were three Warrant Officers and fifty eight enlisted soldiers.

Such an obscure unit as the 136<sup>th</sup> Band leads me to ponder a few questions such as:

Where were they located?

Is there any lineage connection from the 136<sup>th</sup> Band and Maine's current 195<sup>th</sup> Army Band?

Where are the members of the band today?

Does anyone know any of these former Maine Soldiers?

If you do, ask them to visit our museum and say hello. We would enjoy having them as members of the MMHS. If you do know the answers to these questions, please send them in for the next edition of the Patriot News.



136<sup>th</sup> Bronze Plaque

## 136<sup>th</sup> Band Roster

WOJG Newcomb Charles J	WOJG Catland Roscoe W
CWO Bedard Romeo L	MSGT Lane Maurice E
SP4 Howe William L.	SFC Arvanigian George H
SP4 Hyler Earl S Jr	SFC Bennett Gordon E
SP4 Jutras Normand J	SFC Lamarre Emilien G
SP4 Lemay Roger E	SFC Watson Stanley W
SP4 Libby James H Jr	SGT Cabral Edward
SP4 Nadeau Lester J	SGT Dixon Maynard L
SP4 Palmer Alton W	SGT Doane Donald A
SP4 Pelletier Ronald L	SGT Engerowski Anthony J
SP4 Petersen Elof	SGT Grove Robert H
SP4 Poulin Dominique O	SGT Heinonen Edwin E
SP4 Shevenell Philip T	SGT ODonnell John E
SP4 Smith Delmont R	SGT Quincy Donald A
SP4 St Pierre Ronald E	CPL Marston Brenton E
SP4 Strout Wayne N	CPL McCarthy Robert J
SP4 Vaillancourt Normand G	CPL Patch Everett E
SP4 Willis Richard B	SP4 Albano Robert C
PFC Davis Charles K	SP4 Belrose Albert J
PFC Doane Alfred R	SP4 Boucher Henry J M
PFC Dubois Donald J	SP4 Bureau Marcel E
PFC Hunter Russell E	SP4 Chouinard Francis E
PFC Jordan Maurice R	SP4 Carpenter Bernard C
PFC Lepage Normand G	SP4 Carrier Maurice E
PFC Loignon Philip G	SP4 Daigneault Donald F
PFC Morin Richard E	SP4 Deneill William R
PFC Perreault Gerard R	SP4 Descoteaux Norman M
PFC Polini Andrew L	SP4 Drapeau Marcel G
PFC Shaw Ronald W	SP4 Gagnon William L Jr
PVT Buzzell Hugh L	SP4 Harrison John J
PVT Carpenter Peter E	





## PLEASE VISIT OUR PREFERRED VENDORS

As we get corporate sponsors, we will list these as preferred places to shop.

## Letter From the Editor

*We need Your Input!*

We would like to ask all members for their personal stories, histories, pictures or events that they would like to have published within these pages. Maybe you have a funny story about Annual Training or a story about deployment or you would like to tell someone else's story.

Articles should be no more than 300 words. Any photos submitted should be JPG or BMP.

Please submit any articles or comments to:

[Dave.Googins@mainemilmuseum.org](mailto:Dave.Googins@mainemilmuseum.org)



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