

## 28th Massachusetts Returns To Chantilly

By Charles V. Mauro  
and Ed Faudree

FAIRFAX COUNTY, Va. — On Sept. 6 the 28th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Co. B, hosted a living history day at Ox Hill Battlefield Park to commemorate the Battle of Chantilly (or Ox Hill, if you prefer the Confederate name of the battle), which took place on Sept. 1, 1862.

Two Union Generals, Philip Kearny and Isaac Stevens, were killed in the two-and-one-half-hour battle. A total of 1,500 men were killed, wounded or captured, including members of the 28th Massachusetts. The battle was fought as the Union Army of Virginia, under Maj. Gen. John Pope, was retreating into Washington, D.C., after their defeat at Second Manassas.

The Confederate Army of Northern Virginia under Gen. Robert E. Lee sent Maj. Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's

wing in a flanking movement to cut the Union soldiers off before they could safely retreat across the Potomac River into Washington. The battle, fought across today's West Ox Road just south of Lee-Jackson Highway (Route 50), allowed the Union troops to successfully complete their retreat the following morning. The Confederate army turned north and fought the battles of South Mountain and Antietam two weeks later.

Capt. Vic Bonardi commanded the 28th Massachusetts throughout the day. Infantry, medical and civilian demonstrations were presented at the five-acre park that is all that remains of farmland where the battle took place.

Co. B, rounded out by guest members of Kearny's Guard, presented drill maneuvers and musket firing demonstrations. Soldier tents and packs were open to the public, to display and explain

the average soldier's life in the field. The infantry also demonstrated their cooking skills, preparing a hot meal that was later enjoyed by the reenactors.

A field hospital demonstrated the surgical and medicinal skills needed by the United States Army during the war. Scalpels, saws, and suture needles were displayed as well as more unusual medical supply devices of the day, including a pill rolling block used to produce pills. The medical tent also displayed a field desk, showing off the multitudes of paperwork the Army expected its units to produce.

The civilian ladies demonstrated churning butter, quilting, needlework of various sorts, and different types of food preparation while children showed toys and games of the period, including a short game of "rounders" (baseball).

The day concluded with a short memorial service that paid tribute to Generals Kearny and Stevens and



Co. B, 28th Massachusetts military and civilians took part in a living history day to commemorate the Battle of Chantilly/Ox Hill. Among them were drummer Joel Faudree and Marta Hansen.

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Benjamin Faudree cools off.

the 27 men of the 28th Massachusetts who were killed or mortally wounded at Chantilly.

*Charles V. Mauro is the author of "The Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill), A Monumental Storm" published by the Fairfax County History Commission. Ed Faudree is a private and pastor in the 28th Massachusetts.*



Tim Faudree plays Jacob's ladder in camp.