



## **MACHE 2009 Annual Conference Saturday Workshops**

**Workshop:** The Way It Was: Part One

**Speaker:** 2<sup>nd</sup> MN Battery of Light Artillery

**Session:** GenJ - Special Session      **Time:** 10:30 a.m.

### **The Way It Was: Part One Uniforms, Equipment, & Weapons of the Civil War**

#### **Food and Camp Life**

- Food Distribution
  - Commissary Department
  
- Daily Camp Rations
  - Meat
  - Bread
  - Other
  
- Additional Food Sources
  - Forage
  - Family
  - Sutlers
  
- Daily Marching Ration
  - Meat
  - Bread
  
- Life of the Artillerist On the March
  - Daily Routine
  - Hardships
  
- Civil War Accommodations
  - Wall Tents with Fly
  - Sibley Tent
  - "A" Frame or Wedge Tent
  - M1864 Shelter Half
  - Gum Blanket

## Bugle Calls

### Women Who Served and the Roles They Held

- **Nurses:**  
The Army began to realize the value of women when they worked in the hospitals as nurses. Until the time of the Civil War, the vast majority of nurses in formal settings such as hospitals were men.
- **Laundresses:**  
Unknown numbers of women traveled with their husbands as authorized parts of the Army and worked as laundresses, cooks, and unofficial “mothers” to the soldiers in the ranks.
- **Spies:**  
Providing military information to help their cause was something some women were very good at doing and several assisted in securing military victories for their sides.
- **Disguised Soldier:**  
Documented history points to at least 400 women who hid their identity and served in the ranks as common soldiers.
- **Keeping the Home Front:**  
Women were left behind to run shops, farms, teach school, and keep the support industries of the nation functioning while huge numbers of men went off to the war. They also provided the “what we’re fighting for” ideas men carried with them – home and family.
- **Home Support Network – Sanitary Commission, etc.:**  
Just as today, soldiers at the front need letters from home, supplies not provided by the Army, extra comforts, and morale boosting efforts. This need was fulfilled by women sewing, cooking, organizing shipping, distributing, and taking charge in ways never done by women before.