

## 2019 Hastings, MI AAR

A very brief note on Hastings. Thanks to everyone who braved the forecast (which would have had you believe you would melt). It was much more terrifying than reality, even though it scared away some folks. It was so hot the swim competition was cancelled for this year. We had a bit of everything, hot, cool, wind, and rain. (Just another Hastings). The weather also impacted the Parade (I DO love a parade...). We were only able to perform one drill, but it was very solid and well executed, thank you.

We utilized a new location for Union camp, there was no difference in mosquito count, but I am always a fan of switching camp sites around at events. Thanks to [Troy-Deb Bongard](#) for his artillery expertise, and [Kevin Yeager](#) for the Cav help. Unfortunately, the weather altered our schedule in two ways, the battle normally at the High Meadows was moved to the Town, and then the rain cancelled the tactical. (However, a small tactical spontaneously occurred to replace that on Sunday, which hopefully helped burn off some energy). I know both the Cav and the Arty look forward to the battle in the High Meadows so we tried to utilize them as much as possible in the town battles.

I had the pleasure this year of working with [Ben Cwayna](#) commanding the Rebs, and on Saturday they pushed us back out of town, despite our superior numbers. On Sunday the Union was able to prevail and pay back the defeat they handed us on Saturday. Due to a variety of reasons we were light on staff being in camp, but we managed through it. Our battalion was augmented by [Chad Johnson](#) and the 5th Michigan / Tiger Light Guards who picketed part of Saturday night. Your Colonel went on a personal re-supply mission for the pickets with 12 gallons of water through the tactical field, but was unable to locate them in the dark. (I did scare the hell out of the Union Cav though...)

With the cancellation of Jackson, many folks are going to Hale Farm and falling in under 49th Indiana Captain [Ian Fulford](#), so if you are attending, I will see you there.

Last, at the conclusion of Sunday's battle, I made the announcement that I will be stepping down from command positions (including the [Cumberland Guard](#)) at the end of the year. This marks my 35th year I have re-enacted (Stoney Creek Farms, 1984...). I am going to continue to re-enact, but I feel like the time is right, and the bench strength exists, to take what we have accomplished and go the next step. It has been a great honor to work with all of you, we've mended a few fences, and built a few bridges. Thank you for the journey.