

## **Living History by Ruben Hamelink Captions**

### **001**

Union Civil War reenactors stand in formation before a battle reenactment at the 155th Gettysburg Civil War Reenactment in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA. Photo taken on the 5th of July 2018.

On the 155th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, thousands of Civil War reenactors come together to perform four days of battle reenactments. The Battle of Gettysburg is the largest reenactment in the country, with nearly 5000 reenactors partaking in the reenactments throughout the event this year.

### **002**

Confederate Civil War reenactors charge at the Union line during the Pickets Charge battle at the 155th Gettysburg Civil War Reenactment in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA. Photo taken on the 8th of July 2018.

### **003**

Union Civil War reenactors play dead during a battle at the 155th Gettysburg Civil War Reenactment in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA. Photo taken on the 5th of July 2018.

### **004**

Darlene Stokes plays a confederate soldier's mother that mourns his death after the the Battle of Aiken reenactment in Aiken, South Carolina, USA. Photo taken on 24th of February 2019.

### **005**

A group of young men pose at the Battle of Aiken reenactment in Aiken, South Carolina, USA. Photo taken on 24th of February 2019.

### **006**

A Union soldier reenactor poses at the 155th Gettysburg Civil War Reenactment in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA. Photo taken on the 5th of July 2018.

### **007**

Civil War reenactors perform a salute shot at the end of a battle reenactment at the Battle of Aiken reenactment in Aiken, South Carolina, USA. Photo taken on 24th of February 2019.

Most battle reenactments are concluded with a salute shot from all the reenactors for the fallen soldiers. At the larger events, every battle is concluded with the singing of the national anthem. The speaker says before the anthem starts "it is important to remember that all soldiers that died here, be it Union or Confederate, were Americans and should be honored"

**008**

Young Civil War reenactors sit on top of a picket fence and watch the sunset after a day of reenactment during the 155th Gettysburg Civil War Reenactment in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA. Photo taken on the 7th of July 2018.

**009**

Civil War reenactors dance at the concluding Period Ball at the 155th Gettysburg Civil War Reenactment in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA. Photo taken on the 8th of July 2018.

**010**

Union Civil War reenactors fire their weapons towards the Confederate army troops during the first battle of the 155th Gettysburg Civil War Reenactment in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA. Photo taken on the 5th of July 2018.

**011**

A Confederate Civil War Cavalry reenactor answers questions from the audience after a battle reenactment at the 155th Gettysburg Civil War Reenactment in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA. Photo taken on the 6th of July 2018.

The reenactors often call themselves 'living historians' and claim to 'Keep the history true'. Educating the audience is often cited as one of the most important reasons to reenact at public events. Many of these conversations revolve around military weaponry and tactics, but easily turn into political conversations. Reenactors use language associated with particular historic narratives like the 'Lost Cause Narrative' etc. Often current political situations become entangled with historic political situations.

**012**

A father and son, both descendants of Union Civil War Soldiers, pose for a portrait after a battle reenactment at the 156th Gettysburg Civil War Reenactment in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA. Photo taken on the 6th of July 2019.

Most reenactors find their way to the hobby through researching their family history and finding ancestors that fought in the Civil War. Although many reenactors have both Union and Confederate uniforms and can switch side at an event if necessary, there are also those who strongly refuse playing the other side. Saying "My ancestors would roll over in their graves if I would wear the Union blue!"

**013**

Confederate General Robert E. Lee, played by David Chaltas, poses for a portrait at the Battle of Aiken reenactment in Aiken, South Carolina, USA. Photo taken on the 23th of February 2019.

Robert E. Lee was a Confederate soldier, best known as a commander of the Confederate States Army. General Lee has become one of the most revered Confederate figures, being immortalized in many monuments across the country.

**014**

Earl Washington, a descendant of enslaved people, poses in his role as a rebelling enslaved person during the Slave Rebellion Reenactment, in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. Photo taken on the 9th of November 2019.

The Slave Rebellion Reenactment is an art performance piece by American artist Dread Scott. In which he organized the reenactment of the German Coast uprising of 1811, the largest slave Rebellion in American history. The reenactment sought to reclaim the historic narrative around slavery and in particular the uprising. It also created a transformative experience for the participants, walking the same path as their ancestors marched to their deaths in hope for freedom in 1811.

**015**

“On to New Orleans! Freedom or death! We’re going to end slavery! Join us!”

Artist Dread Scott and other reenactors march on the street towards New Orleans, following the path of the German Coast Uprising Slave Rebellion of 1811, during the Slave Rebellion Reenactment in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. Photo taken on the 9th of November

**016**

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**017**

Larry Elliott poses for a portrait during the Association of Lincoln Presenters Convention in Leavenworth, Kansas on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2022.

**018**

Robert Broski poses for a portrait during the Association of Lincoln Presenters Convention in Leavenworth, Kansas on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2022.

**019**

A collection of exhibitions that the project has been featured in.

**020**

A selection of the print publications the project has been featured in.