

Egremont 1865 Basket Picnic

July 19, 2015

Spend a summer Sunday afternoon in 1865 Egremont! Celebrate the end of the Civil War with Egremont's returning soldiers.

Meet Egremonters of 1865.

Enter a Pie Contest and an Autograph Contest.

See the Reenactors of the 15th Massachusetts Volunteers Infantry.

Bring your picnic lunch (and blankets or lawn chairs) to enjoy the company of friends, both new and old.

No time to build a picnic? Get help from North Egremont's Olde Egremont Country Store or South Egremont's Country Market, both open Sunday and ready to fill your order.

Place: South Egremont Village Green Triangle

Date: Sunday, July 19th, 1865

Time: Noon to 3:00

11:45 Come a little early to watch Egremont soldiers practicing, marching, and drilling with the 15th Massachusetts at Mt. Everett House. Take your pies to the Pie Table and pick up an autograph book. Village Triangle households come to life.

Stroke of Noon Bells ring. Soldiers march from Mt. Everett House, welcomed by households, tradesmen, scholars, visitors.

12:15 **1865 Basket Picnic Opening Ceremony**

Selectman Seymour B. Dewey, Master of Ceremonies, welcomes our soldiers back home, calling each man by name and rank. He announces that the Official Egremont Celebration of the end of the Civil War will begin at the stroke of 2:00.

Meanwhile, soldiers, residents, tradesmen, and scholars prepare for the Celebration. Picnicking visitors, autograph book in hand, should take this opportunity to visit with residents and scholars at their front yards (Sheffield Road, Village Green, and Buttonball Lane), as well as with soldiers and visiting dignitaries who are circulating in the Village Green Triangle. Walk through the historic Mount Everett Cemetery, where five Egremont Civil War Soldiers' graves are marked with flowers.

1:30 Pie Contest, judged by Alice Maggio and Josh Webb.

1:40 Autograph Contest results announced.

1:45 15th Massachusetts drills on the Green.

2:00 sharp Celebration begins at the Village Green! (Bells ring.)

Welcome speech by Master of Ceremonies Seymour B. Dewey

Opening song (sung by all): "Battle Hymn of the Republic"

Mt. Everett Academy Schoolmistress Mary Benjamin introduces Scholars Elena Woodruff and Sarah Dalzell, who recite from the poem "The Ship of State," by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Music Teacher Mrs. Wilbur F. Curtiss leads us in singing "Amazing Grace."

Keynote Address by Joseph Augustus Benjamin.

Rev. Scanlan, of the 15th Massachusetts, leads us in our closing prayer.

3:00 Taps is played. The 15th Massachusetts and our soldiers re-form. (Bells ring.) Ashokan Farewell is played as Soldiers, pausing to face the side of the banner that reads, "In Memoriam - The Fallen Brave," raise their caps and then march back across the bridge to Mount Everett House.

Cast and crew line the exits, waving goodbye as picnickers and visitors leave the Egremont of 1865.