



*“The Colorado boys have fought no Gettysburgs nor Vicksburgs, but they have conducted themselves as well as the best, both in action and other service less glorious, but not less laborious.*

*For our extent and population, we have done as much to stem the tide of rebellion as any state or territory in the Union, and that, too, of our own free will.”*

The Denver Weekly Commonwealth  
September 3, 1863

**Second Colorado  
Volunteer Infantry  
Living History Association  
1112 South Fern  
Stillwater, OK 74074**



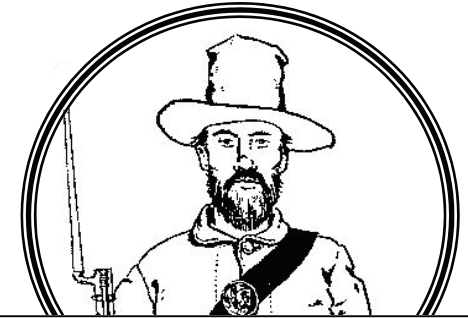
**The Ellen Williams Society**

The Ellen Williams Society is a special facet of our unit providing organizational support for 19th century civilian Reenactors. While many of our civilians are the wives and family members of our soldiers we welcome all interested civilian Reenactors to join us. We offer a wide variety of activities for our civilian Reenactors in fact they tend to out pace the infantrymen of the Second on activity!

The name sake of the society is Mrs. Ellen Williams a who followed her husband and the Second Colorado all the way from Colorado to Fort Scott Kansas along with many other wives and family members of the Second. After the war Mrs. Williams wrote “Three Years and a Half in the Army; or, History of the Second Colorados” the definitive work for studying this regiment.

Many of the events we attend feature large civilian encampments or Civilian Life Living History Programs and are always in need of good impressions of period life. In addition several large Regional and National Events have activities that need participants but are located far from where the Second is encamped. Our Civilian Society can attend these functions and Programs on behalf of the organization while our infantrymen are in the field.

The Ellen Williams Society has an active Living History Program and speakers are available for your classroom or community group.



**Second Colorado  
Volunteer Infantry  
Company A**

*Experience the rewards of Civil  
War Living History with us!*



The Second Colorado Living History organization provides the opportunity to reenact the life of a soldier or civilian living in the Trans-Mississippi and Western Theatres of the American Civil War.

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.secondcolorado.info](http://www.secondcolorado.info)

### Who we are

The Second Colorado Volunteer Infantry is a reenactment organization dedicated to using the Living History experience to educate both the public and our members about the American Civil War and the little focused on Western Theatre. Our primary focus is on the Second Colorado Volunteer Infantry Regiment but our activities often allow us to experience other regiment's histories as well as civilian life during the period. In addition to our educational goals we are an association of friends who enjoy our activities and each other's company.

### What we do

Our organization works to provide a consistent authentic impression of the Western Federal Infantryman. Many American Civil War reenacting organizations today tend to focus on eastern based regiments and there is a decided lack of Federal reenactors. Our organization seeks to alleviate those problems by mustering Federal reenactors for local, regional, and national Civil War Living History events.

In addition to reenactment in the field the Second Colorado has a very active education program and offers speakers and educational programs for classrooms and groups of all types and age levels. Our unit often participates in community history fairs and public exhibitions.

Finally our organization performs ceremonial service in period uniform and drill. These services are great for patriotic functions, memorials, and parades.

Our unit also offers a program of authenticity improvement based on period documentation and research designed to help new reenactors develop their Living History skills and the quality of their overall impression.

### History of the Original Second Colorado Volunteer Infantry

The first elements of the Second Colorado Volunteer Infantry were mustered in 1861 in Canon City and Denver, Colorado. One of only three Infantry regiments raised from the young territory the Second fought to repel the Confederate invasion of New Mexico in the early war.

After the New Mexico campaign the majority of the Second Colorado was relocated to Fort Scott, Kansas. In the summer of 1863 the Second Colorado participated in General James G. Blunt's invasion of Indian Territory (present day Oklahoma). The Second was pivotal in Federal victories at Cabin Creek and Honey Springs. After helping drive Confederate forces from Indian Territory the Second Colorado was marched east to help garrison the newly captured Fort Smith, Arkansas.

While garrisoned in Fort Smith the Second Colorado Infantry received orders to March to St. Louis, Missouri to be reorganized as the Second Colorado Cavalry and sent back to Colorado to defend against hostile natives but the 1864 invasion of Missouri by Confederate General Sterling Price resulted in the Second Colorado being added to the Federal force sent to repel it. The new Second Colorado Cavalry fought at the battles of Westport and Newtonia helping expel the invasion from Missouri. Afterwards the regiment was sent home to defend against native attack until mustered out in 1865.



### Safety

Safety is a primary concern of our organization and as such is the responsibility of every man who decides to join the Company. All new members and guests of the company will receive instruction in the School of the Soldier as per *Casey's Tactics 1861*. Our officers will walk all new recruits or "fresh fish" as they are sometimes called through each step of the drill until they are familiar and comfortable with the weapons drill and have demonstrated a respect for safety protocol. Only once the company officers have been assured of the new recruit's understanding of proper drill and handling of the equipment will a new recruit be allowed to handle gunpowder.

Of course the entire period drill is not safe for reenactment purposes and some adjustments must be made. The Second Colorado does not allow the use of bayonets or rammers in battle scenarios.

### Membership Requirements

Men and boys participating in the Second Colorado must be physically fit enough to camp outdoors and march moderate distances. Bugs, Heat, Dust, Rain, and even Snow can and will happen. We work hard to keep all of our men safe and healthy but comfort is relative. Just remember the elements are part of the fun and keep a positive attitude.

Members under the age of 18 must be under the supervision of a parent or guardian (Interested Parents may inquire about introducing their son to Living History by working with a designated mentor/sponsor from within the company).