



# Bringing The Great War Alive

Leveraging WWI Re-enactments and  
Living History Events for Public  
Education

# Battles Get All the Glory



# Springfield Trench Battle



# Springfield Trench Battle



# Rockford Field Battle Gas Attack



# Midway Village Town Battle 2015



# But Re-enacting is Also to Tell a Story



# Experiencing What They Endured



Keeping dry in the rain,  
mud and trenches



Keeping warm in 15 Deg. weather

# Learn First-hand Using the Equipment



# What we do on our weekends off

- We have day jobs



# We Have Families



# Love show and tell



# Serious historians/collectors



# Serious Collector are Concerned With Details







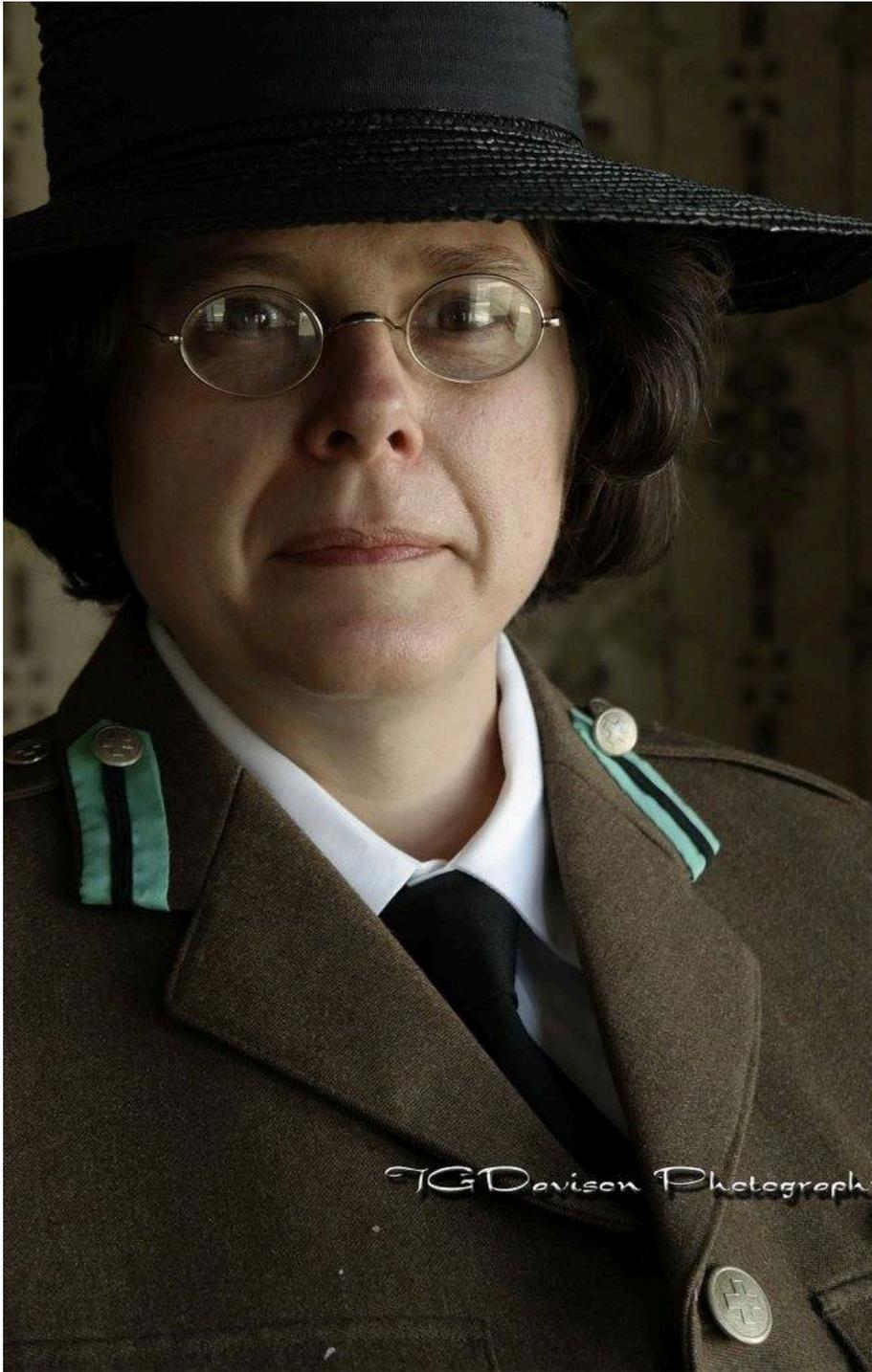
# Expensive Sticks



# Diversity in WWI

- WWI was a massive agent for social change





# Recruiting Re-enactors to WWI

- Pulling re-enactors from other time periods
- Amenities draw people (dances, café, billets)
- Offer food
- Trenches draw WWI re-enactors and public
- Don't overlap with other regional events
- Large crowds, good venue and media coverage
- Good partnerships between hosts/re-enactors

# Trenches

- Re-enactors have helped build WWI trench systems for 5 museums in Illinois and Indiana for public WWI events



# Trenches



# Indiana Military Museum







TGDavison Photography

Volunteers building bunks in Rockford bunker.



Same bunker in use as a display at event 3 weeks later.

# Considerations for Trenches



- Blow grade vs. at grade trenches (flooding)
- Tripping hazards
- height consideration (how far will kids fall)
- Splinters, sharp metal, nails, slick duckboards

# Alternative to Digging



# First Place Display at Convention



# Safety Considerations

- DO NOT use real gas masks
- Inspect all weapons (chambers, bores)
- Have clear rules of engagement (trench, guns)
- Waivers need to be signed by everyone
- Who has the liability for insurance claims
- What does the insurance cover exactly
- Assign accountability for battle coordination and briefings, pyro, buildings, trench safety



Hold a  
morning  
briefing and  
inspection so  
everyone is on  
the same page

# Projects to Attract Visitors





# First Place Display at Convention



# Questions



# Gen. Pershing Inspects Troops





# German and U.S. Cavalry







Harte  
Harte

### Gas Warfare in WWI

The use of chemical weapons in World War I marked a significant and horrific turning point in the history of warfare. The first large-scale use of gas was by the Germans at Ypres in April 1915, where they released chlorine gas against the British lines. This event shocked the world and led to the development of gas masks and other protective measures. The use of gas continued throughout the war, with both sides employing various types of chemical agents, including chlorine, phosgene, and mustard gas. The suffering caused by gas warfare was immense, as it could be used in a variety of ways, from trench warfare to long-range bombardments. The Geneva Convention of 1925, which prohibited the use of chemical and biological weapons, was a direct result of the horrors of WWI gas warfare.

**U.S. Gas Mask**  
This gas mask is a standard issue for American soldiers during World War I. It features a large, cylindrical canister that filters out toxic gases. The mask is made of a heavy, dark material and has a long, flexible breathing tube. It is designed to be worn over the mouth and nose, providing protection against a wide range of chemical agents.

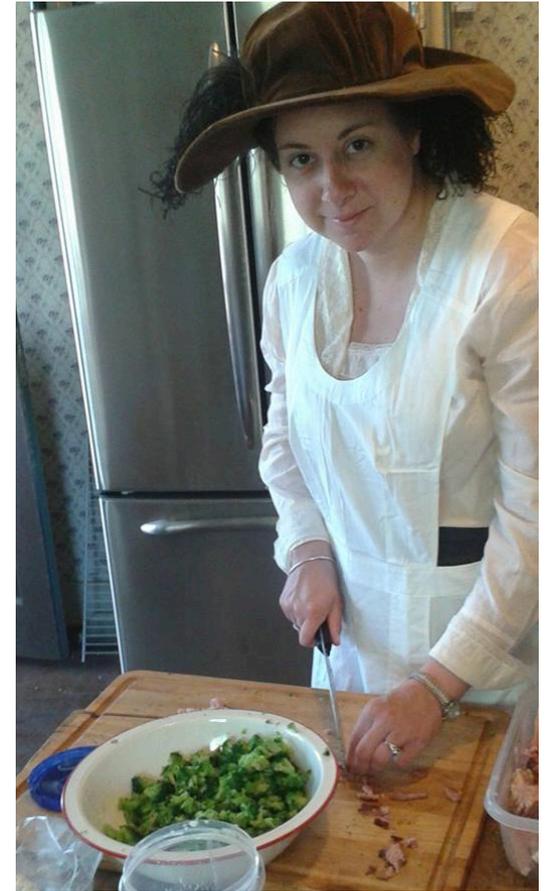
**Gas Mask with Red Band**  
This gas mask is a specialized model used by American soldiers. The red band is a distinctive feature that identifies it as a specific type of mask. It has a large, cylindrical canister and a long, flexible breathing tube. The mask is designed to provide protection against chemical warfare agents.

**Gas Mask with Leather Filter**  
This gas mask is a specialized model used by American soldiers. It features a large, cylindrical canister and a long, flexible breathing tube. The mask is designed to provide protection against chemical warfare agents.





# Behind the Scenes



# Thank You for Your Attention

