

THE MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Fifth Missouri Infantry (CSA), Inc.

Vol. 5, No.9

October 1994

BATTLE REPORT : WASHINGTON, MISSOURI

After driving through an almost constant downpour, your correspondent arrived at the sight shortly after dark, delighted to find it high and dry. Others had arrived early, begun the street, gathered firewood and dug the fire pit. The site was well laid out, with ample amenities and most modern intrusions screened by trees. (Although the brilliant piercing lights from the nearby gold driving range could no doubt be seen from Mars.) Rumor was, there were as many Yanks as Rebs! Finally an event where galvanizing would not be required.

Generally it was a good start to the weekend. Then the rains came. And stayed. Until dusk Saturday.

The constant rain was a boon to the sutlers who stocked rubber ponchos. I believed every member of the 5th Missouri on site who didn't come with one, purchased one.

Saturday's action took place in a steady drizzle. It was a basic, straight-forward action, with the Confederates pushing the Federals across the field, past some buildings constructed for the event and into the woods beyond. Your correspondent, 1SGT "I don't need no stinking poncho" Faught, took a hit relatively early, and saw little of the action as he lay on the wet ground, soaking up rain with his expensive new Columbus Depot jean shell.

"Un-safe" is the best way to describe the action I did see. We were ordered forward to within fete of the Federals — at one time advancing straight into the mouth of a loaded artillery piece. One spark and the spectators would have seen REAL CASUALTIES. Several front rank men also complained of poor positioning of the rear rank and being placed at risk by caps and muzzle blasts. Keep your intervals boys.

Sunday dawned crisp, cool and clear. Unfortunately several chose to depart for various reasons — safety, cold, mud — and missed a nicely executed battle. Still, command had us closing too close to opposing fire. Perhaps this needs to be brought to Battalion staff attention.

The action ended in a truce, and a march in review before the appreciative crowd.

1SGT Dennis Faught, Co. H



A TRUE ACCOUNT OF AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF THE FIFTH

(The Diary of William A. Ruyle, continued from the
September issue)

We again took up our March and went in a fast gallop, from Cassville to Keetsville (sic), that is most of the Cavalry, with Old Pap at our head. We heard that the enemy was about to come in before us and thereby capture our baggage and cut off our retreat. We found they did not succeed in doing this, so we went into camp about three miles south of Keetsville at Major Harbins about 1 o'clock in the night. On the morning of February 16th we marched again until we came near Sugar Creek, when the enemy attacked our rearguard near Keetsville and we again countermarched, and went back a few miles, Infantry and all.

Hearing that the enemy had fallen back again we pursued our retreat. But again they attacked us and we countermarched three times that day and did not get into camp until late in the night. The camp was on Sugar Creek. Just before we arrived at camp we met the forces under Gen. 's McCulloch and McIntosh, who told us as we passed them that they would stand picket for us while we got a good night's rest. I must say I don't think I was ever more pleased to see any men than I was to see those forces. And I think all of the other boys were equally so, as I, for I believe I stood the hardships of the retreat much better than many others, we were all completely worn out, all of Gen. Price's Infantry and Cavalry. We remained in camp all night. The next morning, Feb. 17th, we again took up a line of march. About 2 p.m. the enemy's advance guard Overcame our rear guard and a heavy fight occurred, both with artillery and small arms, which lasted for an hour. At

(Continued on page 2)

MEMOIR OF WILLIAM A. RUYLE

(continued from page 1)

last the enemy was forced to fall back. Fortunately for us we were not ordered back, being in advance. We arrived at camp in Crop Hollow on the night of the 17th and remained until the morning of the 19th which was one of the coldest I ever saw, sleet and snowing. We marched and camped on Brush Creek a few miles north of Fayetteville, Ark.

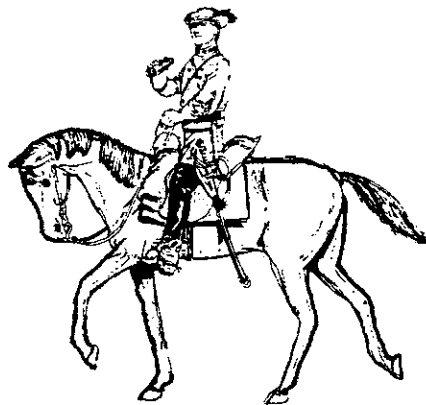
Cousin L. B. Williams came to us on the 20th and joined our company. We camped at Prairie Grove Church 6 or 8 miles south of Fayetteville on the 21st of February, my birthday. On February 28th we went into the Infantry service by consent of General Price. The majority of the company were convinced they could serve their Country in that capacity more effectively and believing that the Infantry were the ones that did the fighting and therefore would be the ones to receive the honor and we were determined to have our share of that, even at the very peril of our lives. So we sold our horses and went into Col. Rossers Battalion, General Slacks Brigade. We left about twenty of the boys in the cavalry, who were not disposed to foot it.

On March 4th we took up a line of march northward with three days rations in our pockets, having no knapsacks and without any baggage, though it followed the next day. General Vandorn had arrived and took command of the whole force. The day was very cold with the wind and snow blowing directly in our faces. We camped near Fayetteville the night of March 4th. On March 5th we camped at Elm Springs. The next morning we learned there was a large force of the enemy at Bentonville, therefore we left camp at early dawn. About 10 o'clock our advance attacked them. It was a force of about 10,000, under General Segel (sic). We were ordered to double quick until they had burned a large portion of the town and were driven away by our brave boys through several of them lost their lives in doing so.

We marched on fighting occasionally until we came to Camp Stevens, a camp where Gen. McCullock's Cavalry had been camped shortly before. Here we halted and rested awhile for we were very tired indeed and our feet very sore from walking over the frozen ground. Here we ate the last of our three days of rations. About dark we were ordered to march again, which we did until nearly morning. Then we made a halt about three or four miles west of Elkhorn, where the Federals were camped in force, commanded by General Curtis. Next morning, we marched around the enemy and came in on the north side of them near Tanyard. General Vandorn with the forces of Gen.'s McCullock and McIntosh coming up on their front on the Fayetteville road. We commenced the attack about 10 o'clock a.m. March 7th, it soon became general. General Slack was mortally wounded in the first fire, while gallantly leading his brigade, leaving the command to Col. Rosser. Our battalion made a charge and took a fine piece of artillery, the enemy fleeing before us about as fast as their legs would carry them. The battle kept on constantly and fiercely until dark.

(The Memoirs of William A. Ruyle will continue in the November issue of The Messenger)

POSSIBLE EVENTS FOR 1995



- Feb. 8: The MCWRA Annual Ball- Springfield, MO
- April 8-9: Ft. Blakely, Alabama
- April 22-23: Marble Hill, Cape Girardeau, MO (MCWRA Sanctioned)
- May 5-7: Pea Ridge, Arkansas, 3 day event - national scale- anticipated 10,000 attendance
- May 27-28: Maysville, MO (MCWRA Sanctioned)
- June 23-24: Fulton, MO - Battle of Moore's Mill (MCWRA Sanctioned)
- August 4-6: Glasgow, MO - (Maximum Effort)
- August 12-13: Lone Jack, MO - (Maximum Effort)
- Sept. 23-24: Pilot Knob, MO
- Oct. 7-8: Centralia, MO - guerrillas (Maximum Effort)
- Oct. 14: Humboldt, Kansas
- Mahaffie House, Olathe, Kansas (date to be set)

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



Britain sees Lee on June 4, 1864,
when this engraved portrait
appeared there

5th MISSOURI JOURNAL

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A Message to the 5th Missouri

Sorry I haven't stayed in touch much lately. I've missed not being able to fall in with the 5th this year. Its been a little tough for me to be able to attend any re-enactments unless they've been close by. Just to let you know what's been going on I decided to make the time to do a newsletter.

My father's doctor told me in January that my Dad's health was failing fast. Since that time he has been under Hospice care. I have been told that my Dad won't make it to the end of the year. Because of this I felt it best if I did not take any long trips away from home for re-enactments. I've been able to make some of the events up here, but even then I have only stayed from Friday night to Sunday morning.



This picture has nothing at all to do with this Newsletter, I just thought it was a neat graphic.

Colonel Beck refuses to promote Private Gooden (so he promotes himself)

Due to the fact that the Colonel has failed to recognize just how important Private Gooden is, he has taken it upon himself to promote himself to Captain of the 5th Missouri. He has assigned himself to Company "C". This will take effect immediately, and since there are no other members in the newly formed Company "C", he expects no opposition from the other members in Company "C". He expects to lead himself bravely into battle against his abolitionist foes.

When asked by this reporter why he had taken such a drastic step, he replied "Everyone in the 5th knows how big my ego

is, besides there was no way in hell I would let Lt. Lee outrank me, I'm much better looking".

This Journal has yet to receive a reply from the infamous Colonel Beck, but Lt. Lee has been rumored to have replied "Better looking my butt, I've seen mules better looking than him".



CONFESSIONS OF A CROSS-DRESSER

Rebel Soldier is forced to wear Blue Uniform!

This has been a very strange year for me. After many years of wearing the "Gray", I have been forced this year to don the Blue Uniform of the Federal Army. This change came about as a result of my Confederate uniforms being put on display at the Rochester Hills Museum. Now many of you may wonder why a museum would put reproduction uniforms on display instead of original ones, well as it turns out the museum wasn't able to obtain "original" Confederate uniforms for their display, so they asked to borrow mine. They also borrowed all the leathers, my haversack, and my beloved "Battle Flag".

Since I was forced to wear the "Blue" this year, I thought it best to find ways to show where my real loyalties are. I placed a secession cockade on my sack coat, and purchased a more appropriate uniform to wear while being forced to be a "Yankee". I have now been wearing an "Invalid Corps" jacket to the re-enactments around here. Mmmm, no drilling, I wish the South had them.

Rebels and Yanks skirmish at little known Battlefield

Battlefield Remains little known

During the weekend of June 4-5 a skirmish was hosted by the 17th Michigan, and the 5th Texas at Wolcott Mill located in Romeo, MI. The Mill is located among a twenty six acre wooden area, and has a small stream running through the middle of the park. We used the stream to put on a display of a "picket" scene between the Union and Rebel soldiers where they could exchange coffee, tobacco, and other items amongst themselves. The public seemed to really enjoy this.

There were small skirmishes held on Saturday and Sunday. The Southern forces were composed of the 5th Texas, 5th Kentucky, and 9th Kentucky. Their opponents from the North were composed of the 3rd Michigan, 16th Michigan, 17th Michigan, and the 24th Michigan.

The skirmish on Saturday began with the 3rd and 16th Michigan receiving the brunt of an attack from the 5th Texas, and 5th Kentucky. The men of the 17th Michigan meanwhile had used a little known path to circle around the Rebel positions and attacked the flank. This resulted in the capture of 5 Rebel soldiers as well as a 6lb smoothbore.

The day ended with the Union forces driving the Southern forces back to their original positions.

On Sunday things were completely reversed. As the Union forces were attempting to ford the stream they were met with a ferocious volley of musket fire from the Southern troops in front on them. It also seems that the commander of the 17th Michigan led his men directly in front of the famous "Bredsoe's" artillery battery. Many a Yankee met his maker at this time (including yours truly). In the mist of all this the Captain of the 3rd Michigan called his troops to a halt in the middle of the stream and had them perform the manual of arms. (Seems I read where someone else did that once before). It was during this foolish maneuver that many of the 3rd Michigan also met their maker. The day closed with the Yankees being pushed back, and as far as this reporter can tell, the ones who survived are still running.

The commander of the 17th Michigan seems to enjoy water, as he made us ford the stream four times in an attempt to dislodge the 5th Texas from their position.

Inquiring Minds want to know?

Why is it that Company commanders insist on leading their men directly in front of enemy artillery?

Remember Murfreesboro?

Laurel Hill Battlefield moved to Michigan

The Battle of Laurel Hill was fought on the weekend of July 15-17 at Charlton Park in Hastings, Michigan. Over 1,000 Re-enactors from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Canada showed up to recreate the Battle of Laurel Hill. The Union and Confederate lines were kept separate from each other by a large ravine.

The battle itself was a see saw affair, with the Union forces driving the Rebel forces back, and then finding themselves pushed back. This lasted until the Union forces were forced to evacuate the field.

Marching up and down the ravine for an hour can really give you a feel for what the soldiers went through during the War.

The evening was very entertaining with a Ball being held in the Town Square. Yours truly spent most of the evening in the company of a very beautiful young girl named Mandy. We danced the night away doing the "Virginia Wheel" and a number of Waltzes. I guess I should also mention that Mandy is eight years old, a bit young to have for a girlfriend, but a lovely dancing partner.

The night ended with a night firing, and an artillery duel. Since I had died earlier I saw no reason to partake in the night firing. Anyway, I was taken away by some Union Soldiers who forced me to drink beer and eat sausage fried with vegetables.

MANASSAS moved to Michigan to protect it from "Disney"

It wasn't easy, but on the weekend of Aug 26-28 the whole Manassas Battlefield was moved to Cascades Park in Jackson, Michigan. The reason for this move was the re-enactment of the Battle of Second Manassas. The result of this battle can be summed up in three words "The Union Lost". That being said I can get down to the important stuff. You'll be happy to know that I wore my Yankee bullet proof vest at this battle, and although the 17th Michigan suffered many casualties I was one of two survivors. The two of us formed a square around the Captain and Lt. to protect them from the Rebel assault.

The dance at night left much to be desired as the band would play for 15 minutes, and then take a break for what seemed like 30 minutes. Luckily for me I was taken prisoner by two men of the 5th Kentucky and taken back to their camp where I was punished by being forced to drink beer and smoke southern tobacco. General Sherman was right, War is Hell.



4th BATTALION TO SWITCH UNIFORMS!

And we don't mean "galvanizing" boys!!!

Since there is ample documented evidence as to what Missouri soldiers wore during the Late Unpleasantness, Battalion staff has encouraged all companies to abandon the previous impression of the "generic" confederate, and begin acquiring uniforms more accurate to the men we portray.

The mixed gray all wool "common shell" is now out of favor — to be replaced by the light gray jean wool Columbus Depot shell as our standard Confederate impression.

There are several sources for this jacket, depending upon the level of authenticity to which you aspire. The most readily available appears to be offered by R&K Sutlery. There is some debate as to the correctness of R&K's Sky Blue trim, versus the documented French Blue for this style of jacket. R&K's product runs about \$75 for the jacket and \$65 for the matching trousers.

For those of you who are interested in investing in a higher level of authenticity, here are several suppliers of jean wool Columbus Depot shells: (prices are estimates)

- Confederate Yankee, Box 192, Guilford, CT 06437 - \$120 (If you order here, ask for French Blue Kersey Wool trim, instead of the blue jean material he normally uses).
- Mark Hubbs, 105 Madison Point, Madison, AL 35758 - \$110
- Bob Parker, 738 Currey Rd., Nashville, TN 37217 - \$140
- Quartermaster Shop, 5565 Griswold Rd., Kimball, MI 48074 - \$130
- Sucker State Clothing, 825 11th Charleston, IL 61920 - \$150
- County Cloth, Inc., 13797-C Georgetown St. N.E., Paris, OH 44669 (The cream of the crop, according to the experts — and priced like it.)

This information comes from an article in The Watchdog, a quarterly review aimed at the "hardcore" authentic. I would highly recommend you subscribe, even if you're interested in improving your impression. It's only \$7.00, with all of the proceeds going towards preservation.

The Watchdog
P.O. Box 4582
Frankfort, KY 40604-4582

Information is also available if you would like to have one of the Missouri Brigade's un-dyed/un-bleached white (baaaah) uniforms made. Contact Lt. Lee or 1SGT Faught.

Your Obedient Servant

1SGT Dennis Faught, Co. H

FROM THE EDITOR

From time to time many of you have included a story for the Messenger. Well, our brother-in-arms from the far north, Dave Gooden, has really done his self proud. I hope you all enjoyed the 5th Missouri Journal insert. I found his promotion from private to Captain quite interesting. Hey Jerry what about Generals Lee and Davis? Hey I heard that. Ok, Jerry perhaps we should wait for a more auspicious time.

As always this is your Newsletter I hope you enjoy it.

I remain your Obedient servant

1Lt. John Nicholas Davis, Co. H

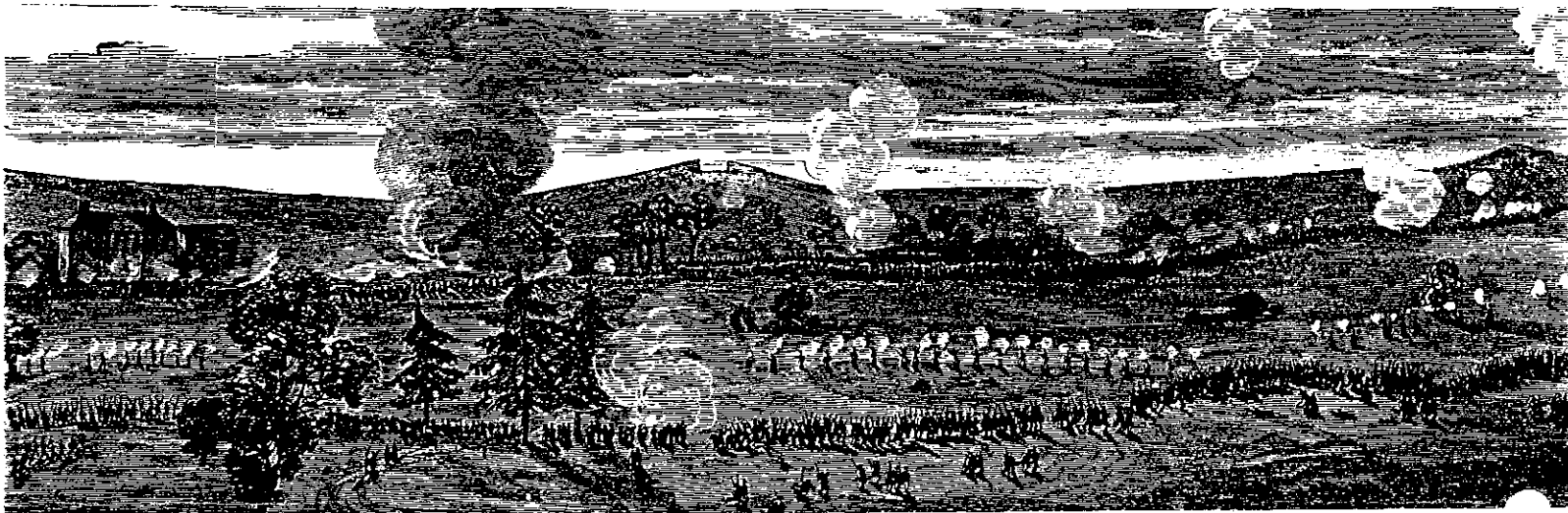


Calling All Extras!

Turner Network Television is filming another TV movie set during the War Between the States this fall. The movie, "Andersonville" will be a historical drama (ala the "Killer Angels") set at the infamous prison camp.

The company is recruiting extras to play federal prisoners. There will be pay, but the amount is as yet undetermined. Filming runs from until December 7th in Georgia.

If you are thin enough to pass as a Yankee POW and have some vacation time stored up, here's the number to call: (404) 599-4079 or to leave messages (404) 599-4076.



A REPORT TO THE REGIMENT From the First Sergeant - Dennis Faught

As most of you have heard by now, Company A 1SGT Mel Kisner has resigned to join the 6th Missouri, citing — among other things — their family approach and proximity to his home.

On the corporate level, Charlie Riggs has also resigned as President. Board members and the field commander present at Washington decided to leave his position vacant until January elections.

I am unaware of what Company A plans to do about its Sergeant and Corporal vacancies — but with so little of the season left, I'd be happy to serve as overall 1SGT until elections if you so desire.

Our participation in the Western Tactical in Louisville has been canceled. First the Battalion pulled out in favor of going to Ava.... then, one-by-one those in the 5th who had committed to it backed out. When numbers dwindled to two, I decided myself not to go. If you'd like to take part in this unique experience on your own, contact me and I'll send you registration materials.

While we had a strong presence on the battlefield at Lexington, only a select few remained to break camp after Sunday's battle. Remember, company policy, (approved by a vote of the member-

ship) is that no one leaves an event until all company gear is tended to. Since the only gear at Lexington was company gear, it was curious to see so many abandon the site before it was struck. The situation improved markedly at Washington, however.

Speaking of Washington: Saturday's rain-soaked action was one of the most unsafe ever witnessed. Some of the problems can be blamed on Battalion Command (closing too close to the enemy — including a loaded artillery piece) and others on poor positioning of our rear rank. Regarding the latter, we'll be working more diligently on this during drill.

And speaking of drill and safety: Company H has a member approved policy of not allowing recruits to participate in combat before completing at least one extensive drill session with the company. We violated this at Washington. An exception was made because of the rain, but should not have been, and I take full responsibility for allowing it.

Not much positive here. Sorry about that. I'll strive for a more upbeat report next month.

New Recruits Continue to Rally to the Cause!

Recruit	Platoon	CO	Sponsor
Larry Dietzel	Block's	H	Clint Crane
Dave Pickering	Block's	H	Steve Yoakum
Keith Reed	Block's	H	Neil Block
John Cramer	Hafley's	H	Dennis Faught
James Herring	?	H	Nick Davis
Mike White	Hafley's	H	Sam Hafley
John Gilger	?	A	Not assigned
Cherise Moulton	Non-combatant	A	Not assigned

Full Address and Phone Numbers

Allen Perry and family
138 NE 1291
Knob Noster, MO 65336
(816) 563-2983
family members: Teresa (spouse), Christina (11) and David (8)

John Gilger and family
Box 422AB
Warsaw, MO 65355
(816) 438-3398
family members: Jean (spouse), Julie (18) and Alex (16)

James Herring
1701 State Rd. T
Glasgow, MO
(816) 481-2221

John Cramer
2128-B Clara Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65101
(314) 751-5401

Keith Reed and family
424 Oak St.
Huntsville, MO 65259
(816) 277-3376 or 4320 (?)

Carl "Mike" White and family
5113 Shady Lane
Jefferson City, MO 65109
(314) 893-4134
family members: Debbie (spouse)

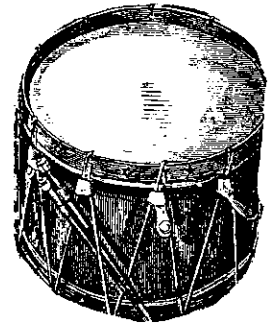
Ms. Cherice D. Moulton Non-combatant
207 W. State
Malta Bend, MO 65339

Larry D. Dietzel and family
920 W. Broadway
Columbia, MO 65201
(314) 449-6443
family members: Nora (spouse), Charles, (?) and Evan (?)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

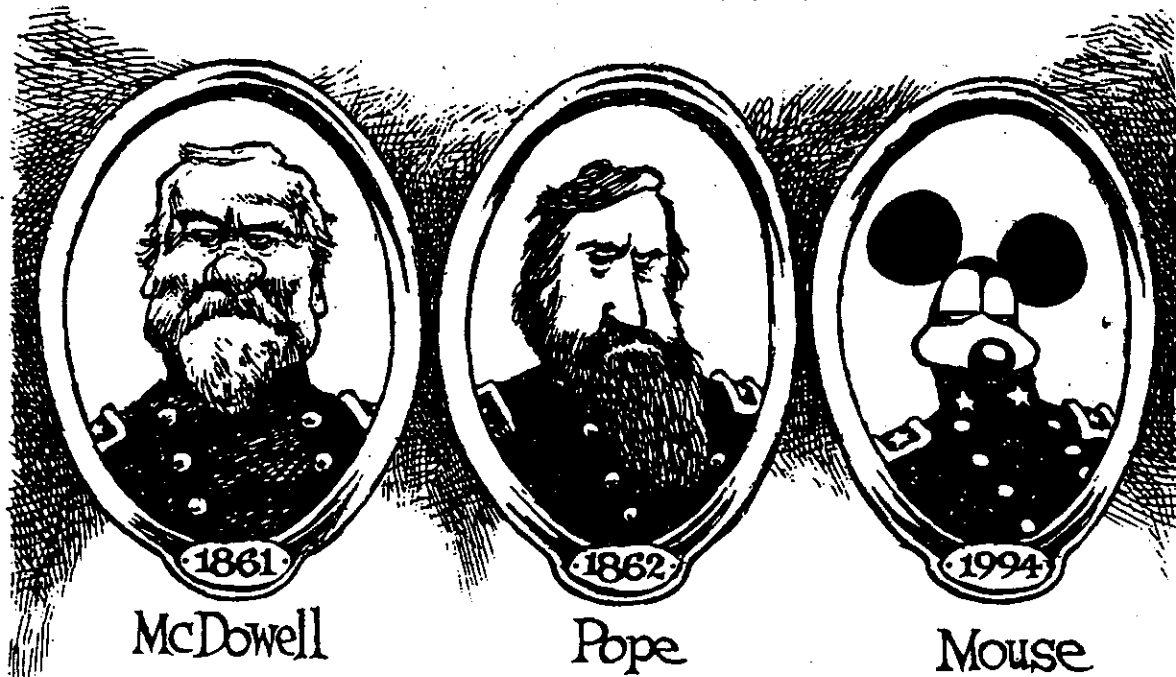
Lt. Col. John Kinsey
106 Julian Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96818

Everett Biggs and family
P.O. Box 2082
Sedalia, MO 65302-2082
(816) 826-4912



McDowell

Defeated at Manassas:



(From the *Columbia Daily Tribune*, October 9, 1994)

BATTLE REPORT OF LEXINGTON

Sir, it is my honor to report our involvement in the successful siege of Lexington by forces of the Missouri State Guard on 17-18 September. We advanced into the town and were met by Federal troops exhibiting a much more spirited defense than they are normally noted for.

Holding the second position in the line of march, and being 22 muskets strong, we were dispatched to drive away two pieces of artillery placed at an intersection two blocks off our left flank. Having done this, we faced about to counter an attack by federal infantry, which resulted in a dangerous hand-to-hand struggle. As the battle raged from street to street, Lt. Lee led us through the courthouse lawn to strike a lone federal company in the flank. They subsequently surrendered.

As the fighting subsided, the Colonel led the remnants of the battalion through Lexington towards the federal works on the outskirts of town. We had to wonder if the Colonel hadn't studied at the knee of Lt. "Wrong way" Lee. Indeed, it appeared as though the battalion was being led by a young lady in short pants, rather than our intrepid Colonel.

Saturday evening, after considerable prompting, the Federals responded when we pressed their lines. The action had to be halted, however, when local townsmen could not be removed from the field of battle.

The following day we were ordered to assault the federal works. After repulsed in a frontal assault, we employed an ingenious tactic of using water soaked hemp bales as moving breastworks. This allowed us to inch ever more closely to the federal works.

Our company 24 muskets strong this day (through reinforcements), was then doubled quicked from the right end of line to the left, where we fought — inexplicably — without the benefit of the hemp bale breastworks! As a result we suffered horribly under canister fire. Given the order to charge, we were led to and over the works by Major Koffman, where we captured the artillery that had played so murderously upon us. The Dutch and Irish hirelings immediately surrendered and the day was one.

I remain your Obedient servant

1SGT Dennis Faught, Co. H

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 29-30, 1994 Mine Creek, KS

November 12-13, 1994 Ava MO "Battle of Clark's Mill"

December 3-4, 1994 Prairie Grove, AR