

THE MESSENGER

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

Vol. 5, No.10

November 1994

COMPANY A MEETING NOTES

October 23, 1994

Since so many Co. A members participated in Heritage Days at Warsaw, it was decided to have a meeting. Many items were discussed and the following is a run down for those who missed it.

Old Business

1. The trailer was discussed. It isn't quite ready for use, but since there aren't any more events this year, that didn't seem to matter.

2. It had been discussed at our meeting in Windsor that the treasurer of the regiment needed to send the Windsor Chamber of Commerce a bill for \$200, which needs to be paid to the MCWRA for insurance that was provided for the re-enactment. According to the Campaigner, the 5th owes \$200 for each (Windsor and Columbia) event. We need to get this taken care of, if it hasn't been. It was a unanimous vote to pay MCWRA as soon as possible.

Note: This is the first the regimental treasurer has heard about this need to bill the cities of Windsor and Columbia for their events. In order to keep in the good graces of the MCWRA a check will be sent to cover these events.

New Business

1. We had several new members present, so introductions were done. Welcome to all of our new people.

2. There were two members that were nominated for Veteran status: John Gilger & Mike Hamilton. Congratulations to both of these men.

3. Having T-shirts and Sweatshirts printed. It was a unanimous decision to bring this to the next regimental meeting.

4. Members would like to purchase MCWRA bumper stickers. It was voted to purchase these in quantity from the MCWRA and have them available for the same cost they are purchased.

5. Consolidation of Co. A & H was discussed in length. Co. A voted and it was a unanimous decision to consolidate at our next election meeting.

6. Participation with the Military Camp duties by all soldiers was talked about. Since the 5th Missouri Infantry is a military group, it is necessary for men that sleep in the civilian camp to be at the

military camp for roll call drill and any other duties their platoon is assigned to do.

7. The date and place for the election meeting was discussed. This will be decided by the board and published in the Messenger.

The meeting was adjourned.

Cindy Lee

Secretary

UPDATE ON THE BOOK ABOUT THE FIFTH

It was reported a few months back that a book about the Fifth Missouri was soon to be published. Westerners in Gray. The Men and Missions of the Elite Fifth Missouri Infantry Regiment by Phillip T. Tucker was to be published in October 1994. The date for publication has been moved to mid January 1995.

After talking with the sales manager for McFarland & Company, Inc. The Fifth Missouri will receive the book distributors discount if we purchase this book in quantities. The book is scheduled to retail for \$36, but the following is the price breakdown for members of the Fifth:

2 to 9 copies a 20% discount off the retail price
10 to 49 copies a 30% discount off the retail price
50 or more copies a 40% discount off the retail price

The books will be non-refundable with approximately \$1.50 S & H each. Please notify the editor if you would like a copy. I would like to strike our discount deal before the publication date



THE TRUE ACCOUNT OF AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF THE FIFTH

(The Diary of William Ruyle, continued from the October Messenger)

In the meantime we had made a general charge and drove the enemy from every position. We thought we had gained the day and the victory was ours, but to our dismay we learned that the forces of Gen. Van Dorn had met with defeat on the south and Generals McCulloch and MacIntosh were both killed. Their forces were moved around to us about night. The next morning the battle was renewed only from the north, until about 10 o'clock, when we were ordered to fall back and commenced our retreat in a south eastern direction. The most of our artillery went by the way of Keetsville, then by Huntsville. We marched until night and camped, or rather laid out at Vanwinklesville. We were very tired, hungry and down spirited, having waded the White River and it was cold I assure you. We had neither blankets, tents or anything to eat and no way of getting any. We lost our blankets on the battlefield. We parched corn and ate it for supper, made large fires and laid down and slept the best we could all night, got up and ate parched corn the next morning for breakfast. In the Battle of Elkhorn, our company lost one man, mortally wounded. He was Henderson Russel, a gentleman and a brave soldier, one man wounded, Matthew Taylor, two taken prisoner, Sgt. J. P. Redmon and W. H. Harvey, they were taken to Alton, Illinois and there J. P. Redmon died, W. H. Harvey was exchanged.

Notwithstanding the Battle of Elkhorn, the Missourians were not whipped and had no idea of the retreat until we were 4 miles from the field of battle. We continued to retreat and on Sunday, March 9th it commenced to rain very hard and was very cold and muddy, indeed. We had to wade the White and War Eagle Rivers many times that day. Considering our hunger and everything, I believe we suffered as much that day as any soldier ever did since the war commenced. Some were in their shirt sleeves, some bare footed, this is true, I saw and experienced it. We camped on War Eagle, March 9th, but we did not get any rations except plenty of water, which poured down from the heavens in abundance. Here our company did their first Jay-Hawking by killing a calf which

happened to pass along. We had to eat it without bread or salt. We had a good joke on Uncle Cook who laid the pattern by shooting the calf. I was so hungry I even picked up turnip peelings out of the mud and ate them, and I saw many others do the same.

Here Arthur Mitchell, my brother-in-law, was taken very sick with Pneumonia and Typhoid fever. I left him with Doctors until the 12th when his brother, James E. Mitchell, came back to wait upon him and I went on to the Army. They never did get back to us, although Arthur recovered after a long illness. I arrived at the camp about midnight on March 12th, on the west fork of the White River. As yet we had not received any rations. The next morning we again renewed our march to camp on the headwaters of Frog Byou (sic). It commenced raining again in the evening and came down in torrents nearly all night. Here we were furnished a small ration of meal, which we made up with cold water, no salt, shortening, in a tin bucket we found. We baked this on rocks and boards. I heard many say they thought it was the best bread they had ever eaten and I thought so myself. Several of the boys met with bad luck in baking their bread. Some of the rocks were somewhat flinty and quite often you would hear a report like a derringer pistol and on looking around you could see some poor comrades ration flying in the air, a very unlucky thing for him as rations were not plentiful just then and he had to look at his fellow soldier for a share of his meager ration. The next day we marched as usual. The Creek, Frog Byou was very high still raining, consequently we had to wade many times and go around over rocks, hills and bluffs were it seemed to me that no other person had ever been before or will be again.

This we traveled on until night and came into Frog Byou again. It rained continuously all night. We built shelters of rails and covered them with straw that was close by, but unfortunately during the night that wind blew very hard and several of the shelters blew down on the boys and they had to get out and do the best they could all night. We received a ration of bacon and flour. The flour we made up with cold water and baked it around sticks, we broiled the bacon and fared real well.

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



FIFTH MISSOURI HONORED

by Cindy Lee

October 22 and 23rd were the dates that many of the 5th members participated in "Heritage Days" in Warsaw, MO.

With the exception of being tormented by Yankee Sharpshooters, it was a beautiful weekend. After dodging minie balls for awhile, we decided to go after the devils. There was one Yankee (Keith Daleen) that thought he was smart by shooting from the top of a cedar tree. Lt. Lee was forced to put a 44 cal. Ball right between his eyes. It was like shooting squirrels.

Another shifty Yankee was Dave Plowman. After capturing him, he would run. Needless to say, he could not escape the men of the 5th. Luckily for Plowman, private Dietzel's request to sit on him was denied. It's not good to leave a squashed Yankee around camp.

The drill and firing demonstrations seemed to be enjoyed by all of the spectators.

Sunday morning we had a surprise visit by the Heritage Days Committee. Our group was awarded a "Best Display" plaque. Our participation in next years event was also requested. Thanks to everyone that participated. It was the best year yet.

On November 10th the Fifth was sent a check for \$150 from the Heritage Days Committee. They informed us that this was the first year they have acknowledged the authenticity of the exhibitors. The Chairman, Larry L. Beach, invited us to Warsaw on October 21 and 22, 1995.

DUES NOTICE



Please complete the appropriate information & return to:

5th Missouri Infantry
2300 Hollyhock Ct.
Columbia, MO 65202

Make checks out to 5th Missouri Infantry

Individual: \$18 (\$10 plus \$8 MCWRA) _____
Family: \$28 (\$16 plus \$12 MCWRA) _____
Associate: \$8 (non-voting) _____

If you have paid your MCWRA dues through another unit, please indicate the unit.

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE

The Riggs Sutlery is going out of business. Everything must go. The following merchandise is for sale: Hoops, long johns, shirts - various sizes of each at wholesale prices. Ball gown size 12 for \$70. Ladies brown leather high top shoes, size 7, \$40. Haulmark trailer 10 and a half long and 6 feet high and 6 feet wide in excellent condition, \$1,200. Any interested parties contact: Judy Riggs, 518 SE 601, Warrensburg, MO 64093.

NEW MEMBER

Company H

Mr. Mark Springer
204 Pershing
Columbia, MO 65203



FROM THE EDITOR

As you are well aware we have entered the dark days of late Fall and Winter. Another sure sign of the season is the shrinking size of the Messenger. It's also time again to renew your membership. Please clip the renewal form and mail it with your check today. To those of you who joined in October or later your membership will roll over for the 1995 campaign season. Coming in the December Messenger will be the day, time and place of our regimental meeting.

I remain your Obedient servant

John Nicholas Davis, 1st Lt. Co. H



- 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)

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 3-4, 1994 Prairie Grove, AR

January Regimental Meeting - Place, Day & Time in the December issue



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5TH Missouri Infantry C.S.A.
2300 Hollyhock Ct.
Columbia, MO 65202



Everett Dietzel & Family
920 W. Broadway
Columbia, MO 65203