

THE MESSENGER

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

Vol. 5, No.11

December 1994

I am repeating the following infomercial from the November Messenger. A few have shown interest, but not many. If you want a copy let me know by the regimental meeting. Remember the more who order the cheaper the book costs each of us. For our friends in the SCV, if you know of any SCV members who might want a copy let me know and I'll order their copies at the same time.

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 finalize the number ordered by the date of our regimental meeting.

Event Report: Battle of Vera Cruz at Ava, Missouri by 1Sgt Dennis Faught

To say this event took place in Ava is somewhat of a miscarriage of the truth. Upon arriving in said community without seeing a single sign directing me to the site, I inquired at a convenience store. One clerk sent me on a wild goose chase down a country road several miles outside of town — again, with nary a sign to be seen. Upon back-tracking to Ava, another clerk directed me to the proper road — farther still out of town — which in turn became a narrow dirt road upon which only a mountain goat might feel at home.

In saying the site was "secluded" or "rustic" would be an understatement. Reenactor parking was on the other side of a swift-

moving stream which had to be forded. The location was, nonetheless, beautiful — being situated in a valley flanked by steep, rocky bluffs and heights.

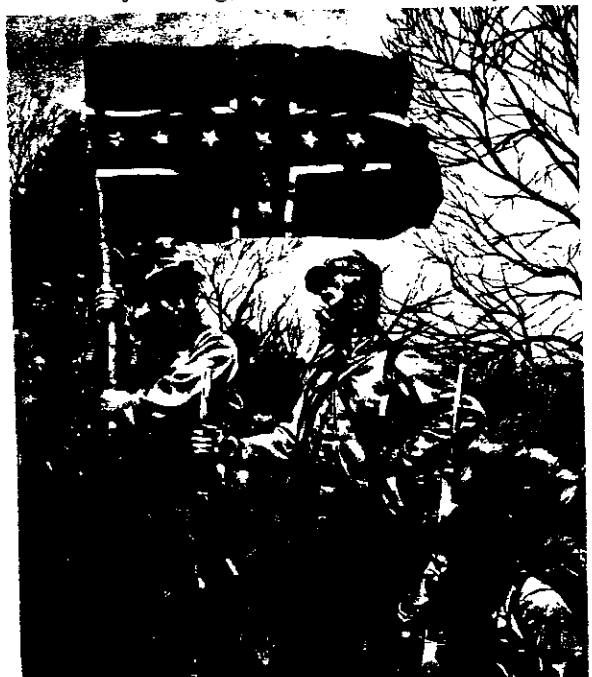
One of the most entertaining aspects of the weekend was demonstration of live artillery fire, using as targets three small buildings constructed for the purpose.

Saturday's action was a generic affair, played out on the flat, grassy meadow that formed the base of the valley. Chuck Thomas of Company A, and Clint Crane, Larry Dietzler, John Crammer, Mike Meoli and myself of Company H fell in with members of the 6th Missouri and some fresh fish from a Texas unit. We thus formed a company of 18 with Captain Bears in command and myself as 1st Sergeant.

The usual want of Yankees compelled one company to galvanize under the command of Major Koffman. The remainder of the Battalion — now 4 companies — advanced across the field, and pressed the Federals until they ran out of ammunition and surrendered. Our company, composing the left flank of the battalion, took heavy casualties from canister. Only Pvts Crane, Dietzler, Cramer and myself were left at the close of hostilities.

An extensive battalion drill followed the action. For an hour the staff put us through various means of changing the front of the battalion.

Due to the threat of rain (which I understand never materialized) and the rugged nature of the terrain, all of Company H chose to exit the site Saturday evening, and thus missed Sunday's action.



THE WESTERN TACTICAL

Correspondent in the field 1Sgt. Faught

"This is how it must have been." Well almost. Those words were heard frequently during this campaign-style event, in the rugged hill country south of Louisville, KY.

Maybe it was standing picket in the rain. Maybe it was advancing through tangled briars with packs, blanket rolls, and everything we owned on our backs. Maybe it was the screaming bayonet charge. Or maybe it was the idea that our success or failure this weekend hinged on our own ability and skill of our officers. Whatever the reason, this event provided mw with one of the most memorable experiences available in reenacting. You missed something special by not being there.

I had the pleasure of serving in the 1st Company of Col. Rambo's Battalion for the weekend. These 30 men, from far flung places like Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Illinois, New Mexico, Missouri and Canada, were under the command of Capt. Waley of the 33rd Alabama. Their campaign impressions were exceptional. Jean cloth uniforms were in abundance. I found them to be excellent reenactors, and they made me feel welcome.

Turnout was just about right for this type of event. Rambo's battalion fielded approximately 90 men the first day. Weaver's was similar. I never heard a count on the federal side, but there seemed to be slightly fewer. Then there was the "Home Guard" commanded by Col. Medich, rumored to be nearly 200 strong.

The only complaints about the weekend came in reference to Medich's Battalion. While we were told to consider any troops we encountered to be the enemy, regardless of their uniforms. Many thought the Home Guard was unfairly wearing grey. I had no problem with this (after all it was a common problem historically), but I did have a problem with them claiming to be friendly.....even FIRING ON YANKS.....and then turning their muskets on us. (A complete event report appears elsewhere in this newsletter).

This was my first campaign style event, and I enjoyed it immensely in spite of the Saturday evening rains and Sunday morning chills. We should all consider camping campaign style more frequently. It's a much more authentic impression than those "A" tents, camp boxes and coolers we tote around. It's also a heck of a lot simpler to set up and break camp. The soldiers we're portraying knew what they were doing when they traveled light. Maybe we should learn a lesson from them.



Co. H Minutes

August 21, 1994

{These were never given to the editor till now, a Yankee must have taken the mail pouch after the Columbia event!}

The meeting was called to order under the Captain's fly following Sunday's action at the Columbia Event - listed as a max. effort for Company H.

Present were Veterans Ken Ford, Steve Yoakum, Sam Hafley, Jim Robertson, and Recruits Doug Frank, Clinton Crane and David Pickering. Vice President Dennis Faught presided.

Doug Frank was nominated for Veteran Status by sponsor Sam Hafley. Approved unanimously.

A question arose as to whether Clinton Crane was qualified for veteran status, having enlisted as an Associate member. By majority vote it was decided to consider him for Veteran Status, in light of his previous experience with the 50th Tennessee. Nominated by Captain Yoakum (he had not been assigned a sponsor). Approved unanimously.

With no other business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.

VP Dennis Faught

Company A To Hold January Meeting

Company A will have a meeting on Saturday, Jan. 7, 1995 [1:00 p.m.] at Embree Electric, Sedalia, MO. We need everyone to attend if at all possible. To find Embree Electric from 50 Hwy. Turn north on State Fair. At the stop sign, go left and follow until the next stop sign. Go left and immediately right. Embree Electric is the second building on the left. Hope to see you there.

THE TRUE ACCOUNT OF AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF THE FIFTH

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

The 15th of March was again a day of travel, about the same as we did the day before. Some wading the creek, some going over the hills, and over and under the bluffs and we camped for the day without any rations. The next day it cleared off and was very pleasant so we marched on with renewed vigor, though we were very tired and hungry, until we came to our wagons and baggage which was in camp 5 miles east of Van Buren on Big Frog Byou. WE arrived about 8 p. m. Here we found plenty of rations, such as flour, pork, beans, rice, sugar, coffee, beef and sweet potatoes. You should not be surprised if some of us nearly foundered. Several taken with the diarrhea and had it for three months, I was among them. By this you see we were out thirteen days, fighting three days and only started with a short three days rations, we stole about one ration of flour and sugar from the Feds on the night we lay on the battlefield, and got at other times about a full ration, such as it was. Traveled over a rough, rocky mountainous country, being almost destitute of anything in the way of provisions. We only had plenty of one thing and that was water, and I assure you we had that in abundance. Taking all this put together we suffered almost (to) death. Many we doubtless brought down to their graves soon, by the hardships they endured on this retreat. In the whole retreat and battle we only lost about seven hundred out of our whole army, killed, wounded and taken prisoners, out of less than 14,000.

The Federal forces was 20,000. We got several pieces of artillery and lost none. Neither did we lose any of our baggage. We remained in camp until the 24th of March when we were ordered to take up the line of march in the direction of Desarc on the White

River. This was one of the most pleasant marches I was ever in, but before marching a part of our Battalion, Capt. Bradford's, Wardell's, Lemmons', Coles' and Gutheries Companies joined Brevier's Battalion of four companies. They elected Jas McCown, then a private in Wardell's Co. From Warrensburg, Lt. Colonel and R. S. Bevier of Macon County, Mo. Major; and joined the 1st Mo Brigade of Missouri Infantry under Brig. Gen. Little.

We camped on the Big Mulberry the night of the 24th. Camped near Ozark, March 25th. Camped on Horse Head, March 26th. Camped five miles east of Clarksville the 27th. Camped on the Illinois Bayou on the 28th. Camped on Devil's Creek the 29th. At this place L. Smith and I was left sick with one of his Uncles by the name of Holder, who treated us with great kindness. We were up again in a few days and got to the Brigade again at Desarc on April 7th. On April 8th we embarked on the boat Hartford City and started for Memphis, Tenn., leaving all our wagons behind. We arrived there on April 12th after 4 days sail. The old boat was very light and the wind blew very hard, which caused the river to be very rough. Many of the boys had never seen a boat before, much less ride on one, therefore they were very uneasy. In fact it was a very perilous trip. Many times when a boat would pass, the boys would all run to one side and the old boat would dip low into the water. I had seen and rode on many before, there fore I was not so frightened.

When we arrived at Memphis, we left and looked over the city an hour or so. We were then ordered to get on the cars and go to Corinth, Miss., Gen Beauregard had just fought the Battle of Shiloe (sic). We were to reinforce him. We arrived there about noon on April 13th, got off and ate our dinner, after which we were ordered back on cars and went to Rienza, arriving there in the night. We got off the Iron Horse as the boys called it and went into camp. We had brought all our baggage with us.

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





Co. H., 5th Missouri Regiment, Infantry, CSA

Minutes December 15, 1994

The meeting was convened at 7 p.m. at the home of President Steve Yoakum in Columbia. In attendance were: David Pickering, Doug Frank, Sam Hafley, Mark Moeller, Steve Yoakum (presiding), Clinton and Connie Crane, Larry D. Dietzel, Vice President Dennis Faught, Bill Wayne, John R. Cramer, Kent Ford and Nick Davis.

Minutes of the August 21, 1994 meeting were read and approved.

A brief discussion was held on the procedure for voting on the veteran status for Clinton Crane. Clinton was given credit for his experience with another unit prior to joining the 5h. A motion was made amending the vote on his veteran status to make him a veteran on the day he paid his 1994 dues (A member must have 120 days in before becoming eligible for veteran status.)

Veteran status was voted unanimously for Mark Jordan and Larry Dietzel.

A lengthy discussion was held on our unit's uniform impression. It was decided that our primary impression will be a Columbus depot style jacket made of gray jean material. Collar and cuffs will have blue trim. Preferred trim on the cuffs will be straight around rather than pointed on the outside of the sleeves. Six infantry ("I") buttons are preferred. A gray jean kepi with blue trim is preferred, as are blue pants.

Beyond the primary impression, members are encouraged to accumulate a Yankee impression and a civilian impression. Nearly all events our unit will participate in will involve one of these impressions. Other units are adopting the white jean uniforms. No vote was taken on this impression, because the unit seldom needs it for an event (It was suggested that members wishing to get a white uniform do so after completing their other impressions.)

Yoakum issued a strong statement that raiding members from another reenacting unit is unethical. Promises of rank or special treatment should not be used to entice members from other units. Yoakum urged members of a unit who are unhappy with the outfit to discuss the problem with his comrades. If the problem can't be remedied, then the member will be welcome to join another unit. If a member is asked to transfer by someone from another unit, the member should ask why he is being recruited, Yoakum said. Yoakum also suggested that members who do join other units should asked why they left.

Clinton Crane said he is concerned that members who camp in the civilian camp with their families sometimes get too much military camp duty. Those present agreed that civilian campers should be given limited military camp duties, but they should be present for all military impressions and activities, drill, picket duty, etc. All agreed that lack of detailed scheduling of activities and frequent, last-minute changes in the schedules lead to problems. Combatants in the civilian camp often don't get word of changes soon enough. We'll work on this situation and try to make things go more smoothly for all members.

Bill Wayne recommended that members be more cordial to one another, particularly when someone hasn't been at an event for several months. We're supposed to be friends and comrades. When a member arrives in camp, don't ignore him. Shake his hand and make him feel welcome.

Dennis Faught offered three options regarding consolidating with Co. A. Some discussion focused on the problems that may have been aggravated by the splitting of Co. A year ago into Co. A and Co. H. Faught reported that Co. A members desire that the two companies reconsolidate so a better impression with more troops can be made on the field. A motion was passed to rejoin Co. A. Officers will be elected soon, if the action proves acceptable to all involved.

Events for 1995 were discussed.

Spring Drill is tentatively schedule for March. A suggestion is on the floor to have company drill on Saturday and Battalion on Sunday. Davis suggested we may be able to use a parade ground at Kemper Military School and College in Boonville for the Spring Drill. He will check into that possibility. Other units will be contacted for their ideas about time and place.

Other events discussed:

April 7-9: Fort Blakely-3rd Missouri is leasing a bus. Contact Tom Dyer if you are interested in riding down with the 3rd. Some members of the 5th are registered. Contact Dennis Faught if you want to find out about ride sharing. (If you are not preregistered for this event, you won't be allowed to participate. Numbers are limited. Call Faught if you are in doubt.)

April 22-23: Marble Hill (Cape Girardeau).

May 5-7: Pea Ridge, Ark. (National event); suggested that unit offer maximum support because it is nearby for a national event and because our unit participated in the battle.

May 27-28: Maysville (possible tactical); Faught suggested the unit try to support this event, even though it is on Memorial Day weekend.

June 3-4: Russellville Festival (living history, small local event)

June 10-11: Columbia (small local event)

June 23-25: Watie's Retreat (hardcore event in Oklahoma); two-day running battle with army afoot and on rail, six mile/day (you should be in good shape); \$25 registration fee; (Faught is frothing at the mouth over this one!)

July 15-16: Fulton (listed as max. effort, sponsored by 6th Mo.) Somehow, the 5th got mentioned as a co-sponsor, but we have nothing to do with it. Could be good local event.

Aug. 5-6: Lone Jack (max. effort; 5th is nominal sponsor).

Aug. 12-13: Glasgow (max.).

Sept. 23-24: Pilot Knob



Sept. 30-Oct. 1: Cabin Creek (max.?)

Sept. 30-Oct. 1: Brunswick Pecan Festival (parade, LH, fun local event)

Oct. 7-8: Centralia (listed as a max. effort, but a cavalry guerrilla scenario so numbers should be limited).

Oct. 14-15: Humbolt, Kan.

Oct. 27-29: Tennessee Campaign: Mark this one as a national max. effort. Three fights-Spring Hill on Friday, Franklin on Saturday and Nashville on Sunday; another nearby national that involved Missourians (the 5th got shot to pieces at Franklin); this could be the one for 1995.

Members are reminded that early registration for events is necessary. Call Faught to sign up as soon as you can.

Yoakum suggested that the increasing number of events be discussed at the coming regimental meeting. With so many events, and particularly max. efforts, our numbers are being stretched too thinly to make good impressions.

Bill Wayne suggested that procedures on the battlefield, relative to authenticity and to reenactors' safety, be discussed at the regimental meeting. Some of the battlefield movements at Washington last fall placed the troops in real danger, he said.

A tentative date for the regimental meeting is 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, at Kemper Military School and College in Boonville. Unit officers (field and corporate) are urged to attend. (Due to conflicts, this meeting has been changed to January 28.) Any other member is welcome to attend and to participate in the discussions.

Other business:

Faught suggested that member be given one vote for every maximum effort event they attend in a year. Those who participate in many events should have more say about who the officers are than those who attend few or no events. Others agreed. The issue will be brought up at the regimental meeting.

Yoakum suggested that the issue of incorporation be discussed at the regimental meeting. The paperwork, hassle and government intrusion that could result from being incorporated are not worth the effort, he said. Although he did not make a motion to unincorporate, that issue should be discussed seriously, he said. Reenacting was more fun when it was just a club without the structure and formality of incorporation, Yoakum said.

Clinton Crane and Mark Moeller volunteered to act as chaplains when one is called for during events.

Nick Davis has stated that he would be happy to not be the regimental treasurer for the 1995 year. He asks that any of you who would like the honor to step right up at the regimental meeting and take the job!

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

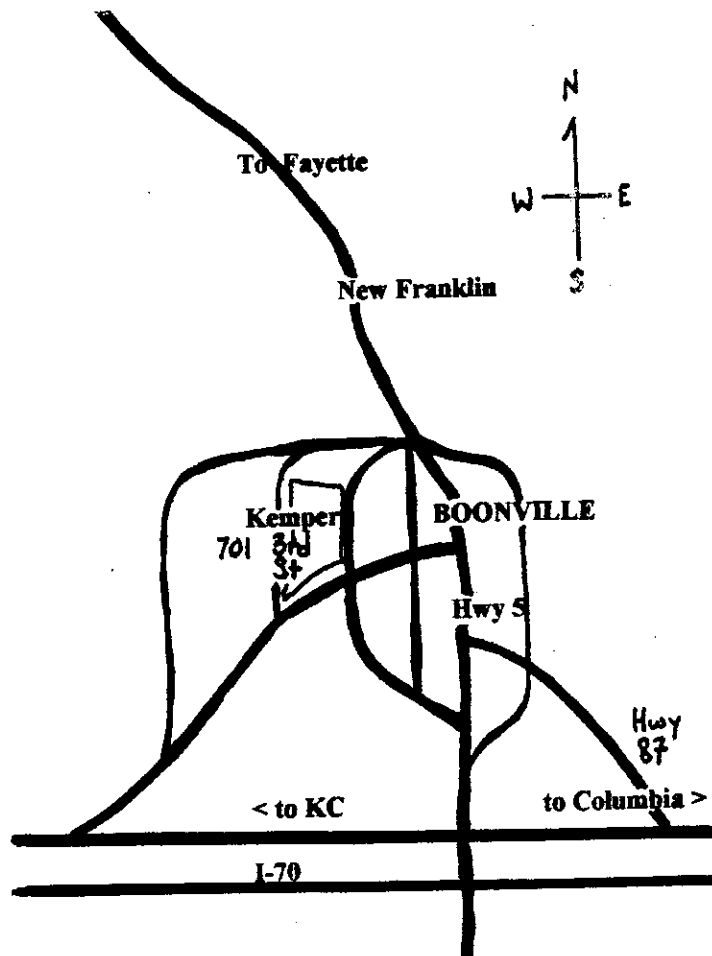
Respectfully submitted,
Pvt. Kent Ford,
Secretary, 5th Mo., Co. H

REGIMENTAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY JANUARY 28th AT KEMPER MILITARY SCHOOL AND COLLEGE IN BOONVILLE.

The meeting will begin at 1pm. It will be a business meeting, therefore come in your civilians as there will be no drill. For those of you who have been in Boonville before Kemper is located at 701 Third St. Third Street is two blocks west of Main street. Main street is easy to locate, the bridge is at one end and the interstate is at the other.

Our meeting will be in the main Administration Building. This building faces third street and has four black poles with gold banners proclaiming Kemper's Sesquicentennial on them. The Board Room is on the northern most side of the building at the front. Parking will have to be on the street as the campus is closed to non registered vehicles.

For those who are still lost here is a brief map. Don't sweat it if you get lost. Just ask at any business, everybody knows where Kemper is located.



RENEWING MEMBERS

As of the 15th of December the following individuals had sent in their membership fees for the 1995 Campaign season. As I suggested in November (no one has complained yet), it seems fair to let those individuals who joined in October and November count their dues for 1995 as well as the last few months of 1994.

Company H

Mr. Mark Springer (individual)
204 Pershing
Columbia, MO 65203

Gene Dressel (individual)
Rt. 1, Box 48 R
Jonesburg, MO 63351

Kent Ford (individual)
3205 Bray Ave.
Columbia, MO 65203

Bill Wayne (individual)
431 SE Y Hwy.
Warrensburg, MO 64093

Nick Davis (individual)
2300 Hollyhock Court
Columbia, MO 65202

Jim Keown (individual)
2000 Robin Terr.
Columbia, MO 65203

Sam Hafley (family)
HCR 2, Box 150
Belle, MO 65013

Mark Moller (individual)
Rt. 1, Box 104
Bland, MO 65014

Douglas Frank (individual)
RR 2, Box 114B
Linn, MO 65051

Mike Meoli (family)
Rt.4, Box 26A
Salisbury, MO 65281

John R. Cramer (individual)
2128-B Clara Dr.
Jefferson City, MO 65101

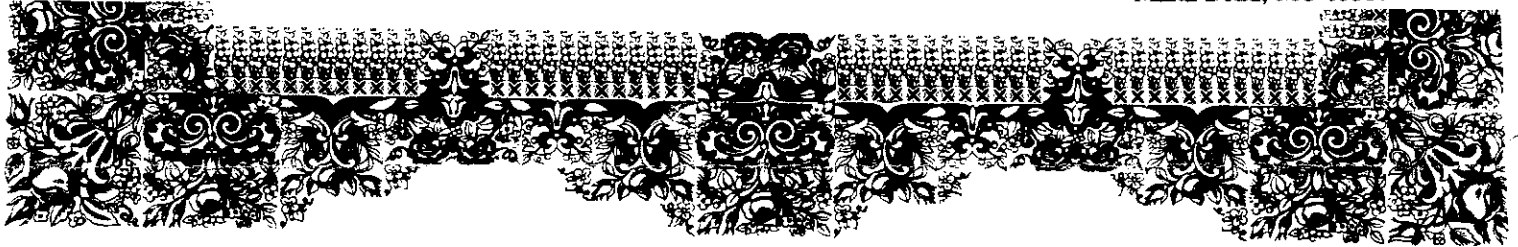
Company A

Mike Hamilton (individual)
608 E. Valley
Cole Camp, MO 65325

Jeff L. Tucker (individual)
602 E. Mary St.
Independence, MO 64052

Jerry & Cindy Lee
(family Membership)
Rt. 3, Box 194-B
Cole Camp, MO 65325

Cherice D. Moulton (individual)
RR I, Box 03
Malta Bend, MO 65339



SOUTHERN ARMY VICTORIOUS IN KENTUCKY

**Federals flee in Disarray
Observers hail tactical success!**

Louisville - The rugged hill country south of this occupied city rattled with the sound of musketry November 5 and 6, as elements of Gen. Smart's 2nd Confederate Brigade struck the Federal Western Brigade and other Lincolnite Hirelings, dealing them a tactical defeat.

Rambo's and Weaver's battalions, with flankers and rear guard deployed under took a flank march of the 5th, hoping to catch the camped Federals unaware. As the column neared its objective, Col. Rambo deployed his lead company as skirmishers, advancing through the tangled briars and underbrush.

The Federals were discovered holding a narrow defile in the road, flanked by wooded ravines, but were quickly routed from the position, falling back to their encampment under the protection of artillery. Col. Rambo was then ordered to hold a road passing to the left and below the federal camp, making repeated charges up the wooded slope toward the federal guns. Meanwhile Col. Weaver was dispatched to secure the next crossroads.

Weaver, seeing grey troops at the crossroads and believing them to be friendly, was rudely shocked to discover they were the Home Guard troops of Col. Medich, bearing Northern allegiance. Medich then advanced, compelling Weaver and Rambo to retire to their original positions, ending the days actions.

There were reports of a Confederate sortie on the Home Guard camp that night, but pickets reported no attempts to breach the lines of the southern camps. In the mist of Sunday morning, the Southerners launched an attack with the objective of taking a crucial crossroads and securing the water supply. A bayonet charge by Rambo's first company sent the enemy fleeing, and Weaver's Battalion followed up, pressing the Federals until they relinquished the area.

The Southern army now held a strong defensive position for the first time during the campaign, and made the best of it, holding the counterattacking Federals at bay from strengthened breastworks. The action became confused when those duplicitous Home Guardsmen, entered the Confederate lines claiming to be friendly, first fired on the bluecoats, and then **TURNED THEIR MUSKETS ON THE SOUTHERNERS!**

However, the action ended with Confederates in possession of the crossroads, and the hostilities came to a close. Both forces withdrew from the area, smarting from heavy casualties yet hoping to meet such worthy foes on the field of honor again soon.

CONSOLIDATION OPTIONS TO FACE MEMBERSHIP

The creation of a second company and a regimental structure within the 5th Missouri Infantry has caused a great deal of friction and dissatisfaction amongst the membership. Complaints are various, but most seem to relate to company size and rank structure.

In order to address these concerns, we appear to have a number of options.

I have suggested a by-laws revision that would have the effect of reforming one strong company. The substance of that amendment is as follows:

Shall Article III of the Bylaws of the 5th Missouri Infantry CSA Inc. Be amended to change the number of members that constitute a company to 40 COMBATANTS AND NOT LESS THAN 20 VETERANS?

The immediate effect of this would be to force the consolidation of the membership into one company, with a more appropriate ratio of officers and NCOs to privates. It would also leave open the option to form a second company if and when our true combat strength reaches a level that really justifies two companies.

It has also been pointed out that we could accomplish the same goal by merely having the membership of one company transfer to the other company at the beginning of the year. This may be the more

expedient option, since a snafu prevented the required public notice in the November Messenger for a bylaw amendment to be voted upon in January.

A third option is to wait it out. Both companies are growing. Maybe by next year at this time we could field two independent companies. The bylaws, as written, provide a remedy for the over abundance of NCOs and officers we find ourselves burdened with when consolidated.

I suggest you mull these options over or suggest some of your own and come to the January meeting prepared to make a decision.

Dennis Faught,
Vice President, Company H

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.



From the Editor's Desk.....

It was suggested at the Company H meeting that the Messenger request that individuals select either Company A or an unconsolidated company with no officers (i.e. an unconsolidated H for example). After much thought I think it is more fair for the regimental membership to make up their own minds about the issue of consolidation at our regimental meeting on January 28, rather than force you into a paper ballot without your input.

There has also been a great deal of discussion about the dilemma we face with members leaving the 5th for other units. If individuals are enticed or choose to leave that is their decision. If we don't want them to leave then we as a group must be more open to the issues which have caused them to look else where. The fifth must be open to the inherent diversity of the members. We might have to become more flexible to encompass all the reasons and desires that we hope to get out of re-enacting the battles of our fore fathers.

Finally I wish for all our members and their families that they have a most joyful Holiday Season and a wonderful New Year. Let's all look forward to a bright 1995 filled with pleasant memories which will fill our campfire discussions for years to come.

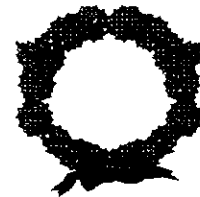
Nick Davis,
Lt., Co. H., Editor

Christmas in Camp

"The wintry blast goes wailing by,
The snow is falling overhead;
I hear the lonely sentry's tread,
And distant watch fires light the sky.

Dim forms go flitting through the gloom;
The soldiers cluster round the blaze,
To talk of other Christmas days,
And softly speak of home and home."

(The Civil War Christmas Album, selected and edited by Philip Van Doren Stern, 1961, Hawthorn Books, New York, p. 16)

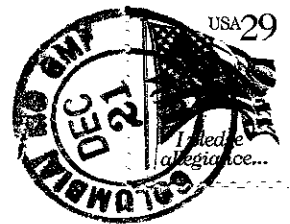


DATE TO REMEMBER

January Regimental Meeting - January 28, 1995, 1 p.m. at Kemper Military School and College, Main Administration Bldg., in Boonville, MO.

THE MESSENGER

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



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