

# THE MESSENGER

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

Vol. 6, No.3

March 1995

## BULLETIN!!

### NEW DATE SET FOR SPRING DRILL!

All members of the 5th Missouri Infantry Reg't are called to answer the long roll for Annual Spring Drill in preparation for the upcoming campaign season.

After the cancellation of Battalion drill, we scrambled to find a date and time for our own drill and meeting prior to Pea Ridge. It will take place April 22-23 at the Block farm on Route C on the northern edge of Huntsville. (Huntsville is five miles west of Moberly). Look for the yellow brick house with a Confederate flag flying. Thanks to Neil's dad for letting us use his land. Apologies for the short notice.

Arrive by 10am Saturday. We'll have our annual spring Regimental meeting Saturday evening, and break camp by mid-day Sunday. We have important business to take up at the meeting, so please try to be there.

It will not be a spectator event. We just need to take care of business and get into drilling form for up coming events.



## FT. BLAKELEY EVENT DETAILS

For those of you going to Ft. Blakeley, details are set for the first event of the new campaign season. The 5th MO has registered twenty military and three civilians, and will represent **Co. B of the 1st & 3rd Missouri Dismounted Cavalry** for the siege scenario. Remember that, because it is how we will be listed at registration. (FYI, these troops were a crack infantry unit who had been dismounted since early '62 and retained no cavalry trappings. Your Missouri Brigade impression is appropriate.)

The event sponsors have announced that all camping will be done 1865 campaign style. There will be no camps laid out in streets. They **HIGHLY ENCOURAGE** shelter tents and shebangs and recommend that you leave your A tent at home. The only company gear the Quartermaster will bring are the water barrel and the shelter halves that were donated for company use by those who won them at Memphis.

Bring your own food. Authentic provisions that don't require refrigeration and that you can carry in your haversack are recommended. Some ideas might include baby carrots, potatoes, parched corn, dried beef and fruit, hardtack, coffee, peanuts, apples, dry beans, onions, cornmeal, and even small canned goods. You be the judge. Just remember you've got to carry it. Parking is on the far side of the site, beyond the Federal camp.

Bring lots of cartridges. The sponsors recommend 100-300 rounds per man. You'll easily fire that many.

Troops may arrive any time after 8 am Friday. Activities begin at 7 am Saturday with an open-field tactical that will portray the skirmishes that drove the Missouri Brigade into the works. The siege will then continue until the scripted Federal assault at 2 pm Sunday.

Each unit will be given designated rifle pits on the front to be manned for a 24-hour period during the siege. You will be detailed for this duty.

A map showing the location of the event location follows on page two!

# Profiles of Our Commanders

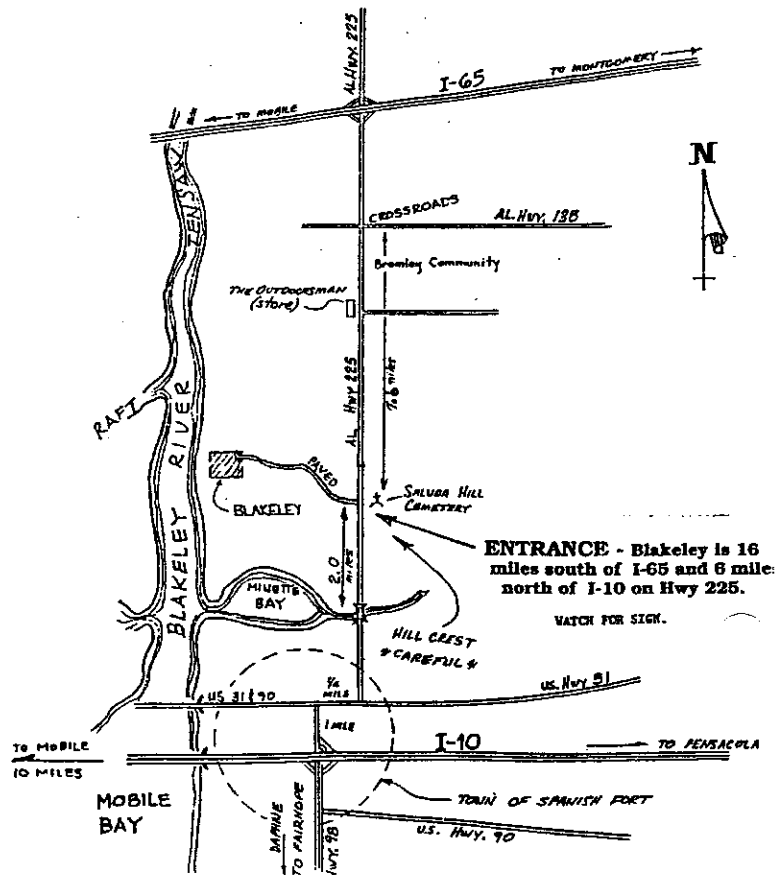
**Gen. Mosby Monroe Parsons**  
(1822-1865)

Lawyer, Mexican War veteran, and Missouri politician, Mosby M. Parsons survived heavy vivious fighting in the Civil War only to die a few months later in Mexico's internal conflict. The Virginia born politician offered his services to his adopted state, Missouri and his assignments included: brigadier general of the Missouri State Guard (spring 1861); commanding the 6th Division, Missouri State Guard, (spring 1861 - April 9, 1862); commanding Missouri State Guard (April 9, 1862 - summer 1862); commanding brigade, District of Arkansas, Trans-Mississippi Department (summer and fall 1862); brigadier general CSA , commanding brigade, Hindman's-Price's Division, District of Arkansas, Trans-Mississippi Department (winter 1862-63 - March 24, 1864); commanding the division (March 24, 1864 - January 29, 1864 and February 1-15 and to May 26, 1865); and commanding the district (January 29- February 1, 1865 and briefly from February 15, 1865).

While in the command of state troops he fought at the battles of Carthage and Wilson's Creek, but missed the fighting at Pea Ridge. Moving to the east side of the Mississippi, he arrived too late for the battle of Shiloh and three months later was ordered to take his men who had not joined the Confederate service back to Arkansas. Commissioned into the Confederate Army shortly thereafter, he held a series of commands in the Trans-Mississippi Department, seeing action at Helena and near Little Rock. Sent in early 1864 to western Louisiana he helped repulse Bank's Red River Campaign before returning to Arkansas to face Steele's Union column. Later that same year he took part in Price's Invasion of Missouri. Following the department's surrender he went to Mexico.

Accounts differ on his motives, some saying he intended to join one side some the other, while other state that he was trying leave for Europe. What ever his reasons, he died near the village of China, Mexico on or about August 15, 1865. His attackers were never identified.

Bio from Who Was Who in the Confederacy, Vol.2. (1988) Stewart Sifkas. p.216-217



**Highway Map To The Ft. Blakely Event**

**BOOK ORDERS ON**  
**Westerners in Gray**  
**A Book on Fifth MO**

OK where are all those individuals who said they wanted a copy of the book?

At the Regimental Meeting the following members stated that they wanted a copy:

Doug Frank	Neil Block	Dave Kesinger
John Cramer	Jerry Lee	Dave Plowman
Bill Wayne	Bob Koffman	Mike Meoli
Mike Hamilton	Larry Dietzel	John Durrill
Dave Pickering		

As of the 20th of March I have received money from the following individuals in the amount of \$26.70 for a copy:

Steve Yoakum  
John Cramer  
Mike Massey

Since the response has been slow, I will wait until after Spring Drill to order the books. If you still want a copy of Phillip T. Tucker's Westerners in Gray, The Men and Missions of the Elite Fifth Missouri Infantry Regiment please let me know ASAP.

Your cost, if we still have order a minimum of 10 copies, will be \$25.20 + 1.50 (S&H) for a total of \$26.70. You will have to make the check out to Nick Davis as the publisher wants one check for all the books. If you don't want a copy please let me know as this can affect the price per book for those of us who do.

Again this will cover the cost of shipping the books to the editor of the Messenger. Getting them to you can be handled in a couple of other ways. I can either hold them and get them to you over the course of our next few events (especially Pea Ridge) or I can mail them to you and you can reimburse me for the expense. Simply let me know what you would prefer.

Send in those checks or money orders as soon as possible. Thanks

**DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**PEA RIDGE:** Site is four miles northeast of Pea Ridge National Military Park. Access by U.S. 71 South to Bentonville then east on U.S. 62 ... or MO 37 South from Monett then west on U.S. 62. More detailed information will come in the April Messenger. While there will be both tented and campaign-style camping, we are being led to believe that campaign-style will be the method of choice. Watch for more details on this next month. At this point we're still assuming we'll have to galvanize as a Battalion for one scenario. Otherwise, your required impression is Missouri State Guard. Those who wish will be able to march 4 miles to the Park, camp on the actual battlefield Friday night, then march back to the site for Saturday's battle. Check the commitment list in this issue to see if you are registered through the unit and whether I have your \$5 registration fee. Walk-ons will have to pay \$15. Straw will be \$1 a bale. As soon as our self-imposed deadline passed, I registered only those who had committed directly to me. There are three battle scenarios scheduled: Cross Timbers Friday at 5pm, Leetown Saturday at Noon, and Elkhorn Sunday at Noon. There is also a full slate of civilian activities. If you intend to "Motel Milish", you'd better reserve a room NOW. Call 1-800-364-7090.

**MAYSVILLE:** Have requested a registration packet. Basics are that this will be a fun little event to commemorate DeKalb County Sesquicentennial. May include a tactical in a wooded area. Sponsored by the 3rd MO. Maysville is on MO 33, northwest of Cameron.

**COLUMBIA:** This is our annual Living History at the Maplewood Mansion in Nifong Park. It's located on U.S. 63 just south of town, adjacent to the Boone County Historical Society museum.

**THE LAST SURRENDER (Watie's Retreat):** Have requested a registration packet. Anyone serious about experiencing a real campaign-style event should contact the 1st Sergeant as soon as possible. There is a \$25 registration fee to offset the costs of this unique event, which will include 6 miles of marching/fighting each day, and a 12-mile train ride to the surrender. Authentic rations provided.

**FULTON: 5TH MO MAX EFFORT.** Pre-registration must be in by JUNE 1. Site is a 71-acre wooded area 7 miles east of Fulton, near Calwood, Mo. Saturday's scenario is a "what if" battle between Confederate and Federal forces based on the "Kingdom of Callaway" treaty legend. Sunday's action is the Battle of Moore's Mill. Uniform guidelines are regular Confederate for Saturday and Civilian or Guerrilla for Sunday. Be prepared to galvanize. Complete schedule and details in the June Messenger.



CIVILIANS	BLA	MBL	PEA	MVL	COL	WAT	FUL	GLA	LON	PK	CAB	CEN	HUM	TEN
Biggs, Amanda			\$											
Biggs, Jessica			\$											
Brown, Connie	Y		Y											
Chastain, Michelle														
Dietzel, Nora			\$		Y		Y							
Dietzel, Charles			\$											
Dietzel, Evan			\$											
Caviness, Jennifer			Y											
Gilger, Alex rct														
Gilger, Flora														
Gilger, Jeannie			\$											
Hafley, Joe rct			\$											
Kerksiek, Lorraine														
Lee, Cindy	Y		\$	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y
Meoli, Nick rct			Y											
Moulton, Cherice	Y		\$											
O'Daniel, Julie														
Reed, Karen														
Riggs, Judy	Y													
Robertson, Deborah														
Roush, Martha														
Thomas, Rebecca														

To all members of the Fifth, please inform 1Sgt. Faught as soon as possible as to what events you plan to attend. As you can see there are quite a few open spaces in our commitments to the events.

## Campaign Events for 1995 Season



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) This event requires a pre-registration fee of \$5 by March 19. You won't want to miss this one, a national close to home! **COMPANY MAX EFFORT**

May 27-28: Maysville (possible tactical); location is east of St. Joseph

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.

July 15-16: Fulton **COMPANY MAX EFFORT**

Aug. 5-6: Glasgow **COMPANY MAX EFFORT**

Aug. 12-13: Lone Jack

Sept. 23-24: Pilot Knob

Sept. 30-Oct. 1: Cabin Creek, OK

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

Oct. 7-8: Centralia 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. **COMPANY MAX EFFORT**

## THE TRUE ACCOUNT OF AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF THE FIFTH

From the Diary of William Ruyle

We went into camp near town and had plenty to eat. On the 14th of September several prisoners and negroes were brought in. On the 15th we marched out a mile from town and lay all night on arms and returned to camp again on the morning of the 16th. On the evening of the 17th we marched out a mile from town and formed line of battle, loaded and capped our guns, ready for a fight. In fact we thought the Feds were right there. I remember Old Pap came along and said "shoot 'em low boys, whack 'em about the knees."

We lay on our arms all night and it rained. Next day I was taken with a chill, and a high fever followed, therefore I was taken to camp. The boys came in on the evening of the 18th and were ordered out again about 9:00 P.M.. They went about three miles

from luka and formed line of battle. On the 19th they were still on the battlefield and fighting commenced about a half hour before sunrise and continued until about a half hour after dark, shooting at each other by the flash of the guns. We commenced our retreat toward Baldwin on the morning of the 20th. Our Brigade did not suffer in the battle much, only four or five men in our regiment wounded. Lt. Simpson of our company wounded slightly in the arm and Gen. Little was killed while gallantly commanding our Division. Col. Whitefield of the 3rd Texas Legion was badly wounded. The Texas and Arkansas of the 2nd Brigade were the ones that suffered most. Our loss in the battle was about 150 killed and wounded. It was thought the Feds loss was much greater.

We lost nothing worth naming on our retreat. On the morning of the 20th our rear guard had a hard fight with the Feds advance guard, near luka. We camped that night about 20 miles from luka. We arrived at Baldwin Station again on the 22nd of September. We were tired and hungry and therefore needed to rest, which we did until the 26th. Then we marched with a two day ration in a western direction. About dark a cloud came up and one of the heaviest rains I ever saw fell. It was so dark we could hardly see our hands before us.

The country was very hilly and the roads very muddy. I think nearly every man fell down from one to a dozen times that night. I have never seen such muddy men, before or since, as we were when we camped, which was near

midnight, about four miles northwest of Baldwin. General Hebert was then in command of the Division. Col. Gates of the Brigade and Gen. Price of the Corp. The next day, Sept. 27th, we marched to camp near Ripley, and we remained there on the 28th. On this day we drew out money, it was our second payment. On the 29th we cooked three days rations and marched to Ripley Tipper Co. and camped. On the 30th we marched 10 miles north of Ripley and camped. That day we formed a junction with Gen. Vandorn's forces, consisting of the Brigades of Generals Rust, Ross, Lovel, Villipigs and Tillman. I believe Lovel and Tillman were commanding Divisions.

I do not remember the rest of the brigades. We must have had between twenty and thirty thousand men. General Vandorn was the senior general and was therefore in command of the whole force.

On the night of October 1st we camped at Pocahontas, Tenn., it was the first we had been out of Mississippi since we first came. On the 2nd we marched in the direction of Corinth, Miss., and camped ten miles east of Pocahontas. On the 3rd we marched up northwest of Corinth, where the Feds were in force, under Gen. Rosencrantz, about thirty thousand strong and commenced the attack. We first opened up artillery, next we charged and drove them from their outside breastworks and took several pieces of artillery. This was Gen. Green's and our Brigade, mostly ours, who so bravely charged and took the breastworks under Gen. Bragg. We did no get a man hurt that day. We were ordered up forward about a mile where Gen. Green had a terrible fight on our right which lasted an hour.



## NEW BOOK ON THE 5 TH DISAPPOINTS ONE READER

A Review by Dennis Faught

**Westerners in Gray: The Men and Missions of the Elite Fifth Missouri Infantry Regiment** by Phillip Thomas Tucker. Maps, bibliography, index, 331 pp., 1995. McFarland & Co., Inc., Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640, \$25.20 plus \$1.50 shipping for members. Regular price is \$36.00.

If one can get past the cumbersome, verbose prose of this long-awaited book, you will find in it some fascinating stories and useful facts. What you will not find is a comprehensive history of the 5th Missouri.

The biggest disappointment in Mr. Tucker's latest work is its limited scope. The story picks up as the 5th is officially formed in the fall of 1862, and covers the period only through the surrender at Vicksburg — a mere 10 months later. The bloody events of 1864 and 1865 are glossed over in a brief epilogue, and the formative years of the regiment with the Missouri State Guard are recounted only as "background" as a means for setting up the story of the unit's Confederate service.

Tucker does use scores of primary and secondary sources effectively to weave vivid accounts of the regiment's exploits during the Vicksburg campaign. Reenactors will find much of the details and minutia to be of use in

crafting a living history personae. The author reveals, for example, how Company H came to be a part of the 5th Missouri. He also uses Lt. George Warren's diary (also cited extensively in Phil Gottschalk's book) to pinpoint when and where the 5th received new gray uniforms. Some of this information differs from that which we have heard elsewhere.

While Mr. Tucker's research talents are evident, as a storyteller he leaves much to be desired. He could benefit from a remedial creative writing course. His style is painfully redundant, and burdened with flowery phrases. He appears never to have met an adjective he didn't like. Furthermore, anyone reading this book should be aware of the fact that it is about the 5th Missouri Infantry. Is it so necessary to use the derivative pronoun "Fifth Missourians" in VIRTUALLY EVERY PARAGRAPH?

The author has relied almost exclusively on Southern perspectives to tell his story, and therefore the book takes on a very one-sided tilt. It also lacks any photos or illustrations, and includes only two simple maps. It does, however, benefit from a well-written forward by Robert Hawkins III — a former associate member of the Fifth. (In light of this, one might have hoped for a mention of the dedicated reenactors who strive to keep the memory of these soldiers alive. There is none.)

In spite of its flaws, Westerners in Gray is a valuable addition to our resource list. However, it would have been so much better if it were a good read.



## From the Editor's Desk.....

Sorry that this issue of the Messenger is getting to you a bit late. Pressures of work and all that pushed it back a bit. As you can see Spring Drill is to be held on April 22-23. I don't know about you but I am as rusty as they come. If you listen real carefully you can just hear 1Sgt. Faught *groaning* and *grinding* his teeth now.

To those of you who told me that they wanted a copy of the book on the Fifth, please send me a check! Come on gang over 14 of you wanted a copy and only three have sent me a check. If we don't get enough interested individuals I'll refund the monies I have already received.

It is important to remember that this is your newsletter. So far only five of you have submitted anything. I try and wait to the 15th of each month for submission of material from the membership. Hey give it a whirl any budding Shelby Foote's in the unit? Civilians are also encouraged to submit articles on the nuances of portraying the individuals who were caught up in the storm of war.

Look forward to seeing you at the Spring Drill if not sooner in Alabama. Until then keep your powder dry and watch out for those Kansas Redlegs.

***Nick Davis,***

Editor

1st Lt., 5th Missouri Inf. CSA, aka the BUTCHER!

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**April 8-9 Ft. Blakely Alabama**

**April 22- 23 Regimental Spring Drill in Huntsville, MO**

**May 5-7 Pea Ridge (Elkhorn Tavern) Arkansas COMPANY MAX EFFORT**