

THE MESSENGER

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The Newsletter of the Fifth Missouri Infantry, Co. A, CSA, Inc.

VOICES FROM THE BATTLE OF FRANKLIN

Colonel Ellison Caper, twenty seven year old regimental commander in States Rights Gist's brigade. Located in the front ranks he recorded the following at Franklin:

Just before the charge was ordered the brigade passed over an elevation, from which we beheld the magnificent spectacle the battlefield presented - bands were playing, general and staff officers and gallant couriers were riding in front of and between the battle lines. 100 battle flags were waving in the smoke of battle and bursting shells were wreathing the air with great circles of smoke, while 20,000 brave men were marching in perfect order against their foe. . . .

Shrouds of Glory by Winston Groom

The following portrays the hell of the Cotton Gin faced by the Missourians under Cockrell's command:

With their brass band tooting "Dixie", Cockrell's Brigade first came under artillery fire. The band abruptly stopped playing. Ahead lay the flaming Yankee earthworks. Into the smoke ran the Missourians. Bullets seemed everywhere. Gates rode up and down the line, cheering his men on. He was shot in one arm. A few minutes later he was hit in the other arm. Helpless and in great pain, he was lead away.

Their battle flag had already fallen three times, but the battle-scarred Missourians, part of Major Gen. Samuel G. French's Division, were under orders not to fire until they had gained the top of the enemy's works.

At the parapet it was hell itself. "The air was all red and blue with flames" wrote a Missouri captain. Reilly's men were firing so rapidly that a Confederate officers mistakenly thought that the enemy was using the deadly Spencer seven-shot repeating rifles (they were using the standard issue single shot rifle). In an instant the Missourian's were swept away like a whirlwind. The survivors came running back as fast as they had advanced, leaving behind their brigadier, Cockrell, who had been severely wounded in three places. Cockrell's Brigade of 687 men, unsupported and isolated in its attack, had been virtually wiped out. When the ranks were counted after the battle, only 240 men remained, a casualty loss of 65 percent. The Confederacy's Last Hurrah by Wiley Sword

Missouri bravery spoke with a voice to be heard through the ages on the battlements at The Cotton Gin:

The color bearers of both the 1st-4th Missouri and 2nd-6th Missouri planted their tattered flags atop the breastworks, but seconds later those valiant men were shot down and their colors captured. . . . Some of Cockrell's men bent their heads as they drove forward as if to escape the storm of lead as thick as raindrops. . . . Despite their horrible losses, many Missourians went over the parapet near the cotton gin swinging clubbed muskets or jabbing with bayonets and swords before being overwhelmed. William Neese described the struggle, "across the works. We fought with pick, shovel, musket and sabre, thinking to dislodge the Federals" even after the blueclads had restored some of the gap in their line. In Deadly Earnest by Phil Gottschalk

DRILL FACTS

By the 1st Sergeant

There are two types of wheels: Those on a fixed pivot (begun from a halt); and those on moveable pivots (done on the march). The principals by which they are accomplished are NOT the same.

When wheeling on a fixed pivot, the oft-stated maxim "look out, touch in" is used to maintain alignment. Since the pivot man remains in place when wheeling from a halt, everyone must maintain elbow contact in his direction to retain integrity of the line, while looking toward the wheeling flank to keep the line straight. From Hardees School of the Soldier, Part III, Lesson IV:

385. The other men will feel lightly the elbow of the next man towards the pivot, resist pressure coming from the opposite side, and each will conform himself to the marching flank — shortening his step according to the approximation to the pivot.

In paragraph 392 we are reminded to "Turn a little the head towards the marching flank, and fix the eyes on the line of the eyes of the men who are on that side" and to "Touch lightly the elbow of the next man towards the pivot." Hence, "look out, touch in." But this is proper ONLY for wheels begun from a HALT. Wheeling while on the march is done in a similar fashion, but with two important differences: The pivot does not remain stationary, and the dress (i.e. touch) is to the WHEELING flank. Again from Hardees:

396. At the second command, ("March") the wheel will be executed in the same manner as from a halt, except that the touch of the elbow will remain towards the marching flank (or side of the guide) instead of the side of the actual pivot (emphasis mine); that the pivot man, instead of merely turning in his place, will conform himself to the movement of the marching flank, feel lightly the elbow of the next man, take steps of full nine inches, and thus gain ground forward in describing a small curve so as to clear the point of the wheel. (FYI, a nine-inch step is about one third of the usual 28-inch stride).

Ergo, when wheeling on the move, the correct maxim would be "look out, touch out." It's also interesting to note that the manual acknowledges that "the middle of the rank will bend slightly to the rear" during such wheels.

The reason for the difference lies in the function of the two types of wheels. Wheels from a halt are generally done to move companies (or platoons) from column into line, or vice-versa. In those cases the pivot/guide needs to remain in place for purposes of alignment on the other units. Wheels done on the march are generally used to change direction in column. Those cases usually require the guide on the outside flank to hit a certain point in marching, thus the rest of the line should conform to him. Keeping the pivot man moving around the corner also helps maintain intervals between units when marching in a column of companies or platoons. (If he were to stop and mark time while his line wheels around the corner, the following unit would catch up to him).

In summary, alignment is easy enough to maintain on wheels if you'll always remember to watch the swinging end of the line. Just remember to touch in when the wheel starts from a halt, and touch out when the wheel is done while the company is on the move.

New Members and Corrections

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Centralia Massacre

Because 1 Sgt. Faught was on a temporary recruiting assignment until Saturday evening, it was my dubious honor to report on the recent events that transpired at Centralia on Saturday, October 7th. After arriving on Friday night, members of the Fifth were disappointed to find that as we had suspected, very few Bluecoats were to be found. In fact, for a Battalion Max Effort, very few of anything but Cavalry were there. We were "requested" to portray Yankees all weekend.

Saturday's high points included Pvt. Dietzel modeling his new long handles while drinking his morning coffee and warming his toes at the Captain's fire, filming by the Discovery Channel, and filming by an MGM film crew.

Low points included overzealous Cavalry portraying Guerrilla forces (Did someone say 8th Arkansas?) manhandling ladies, throwing apples at kids, unsafe firing at the recently deceased "Yanks" pulled from the train, filming by a camera crew associated with the Discovery Channel and MGM.

A special thanks goes to Mrs. Lee for her efforts to calm a non-com suffering from the blast of a double barrel scattergun fired in close proximity to his head while he lay dying following the MGM filming of the massacre. After liberal doses of Southern cough medicine failed to achieve the desired calming effect, she wisely confiscated his sidearm to keep him from inflicting bodily harm to the offending party.

In closing, I would like to welcome new recruit Leon Price who joined our ranks for Saturday and Sunday. I leave the report on Sunday's event to 1 Sgt. Faught who rejoined our ranks on Saturday evening.

Your obedient servant,

2 Sgt. Sam Hafley

Editors note: it was relayed to me by inside sources that we might not get to see the end product of the filming for some time. There is a great deal of the story yet to be filmed and this requires a significant amount of money to be raised by the producer/director.



EVENT REPORT: CENTRALIA, Part Deux!

As expected, Federals were scarce at this recreation of the events of September, 1864 in Centralia. Also scarce was infantry of any sort. Rumor has it that word had been spread that infantry was not invited. No such word reached the 5th MO, and we subsequently fielded 18 men — among our best turnouts all year. There was plenty of cavalry, and six or seven artillery pieces. Due to the absence of true Federal reenactors, it fell to the 5th MO to portray their role in this significant event in Missouri history.

While attending to a recruiting opportunity in Jefferson City, Pvt Doug Frank and I missed the recreations of the train station incident and the subsequent ambush, but I am told it was quite the "Hollywood" affair, as the hapless victims were shot again, and again, and again. Apparently the movie making classic "back to one" has been replaced by "ok guys, take off your clothes", as the female director repeatedly reduced our boys to their underwear. (Pvt "Shade Tree" Dietzel seems to be becoming much too fond of displaying his red flannels for all to see, by the way.) It remains to be seen how realistic the scenario will look on film, as a semi trailer with a rail car facade was the nearest thing to a train available.

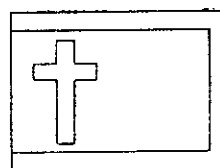
The footage, captured by a crew under the direction of a former Centralia resident who now works for a subsidiary of MGM on the left coast, will reportedly be used in a documentary to be shown at film festivals.

An unscheduled generic battle Saturday afternoon reportedly saw 30+ galvanized Federals under the command of Capt. Lee capture the Confederate artillery. (Memo to the faux Yanks: Don't forget to lose the Rebel yell when you don the blue. Huzzah!)

Sunday's "generic" battle was an abject lesson in the effectiveness of mounted Confederate partisans against infantry fighting on foot. Deployed to the rear of the Federal artillery, we moved to the left to counter dismounted troopers forming on our flank. We were soon pounced upon by hords of mounted cavalry. An overwhelming sense of helplessness gripped us as we looked feverishly about for some "blue" horsemen to come to our aid. After some urging, Captain Lee (hereafter referred to as "Custer") deployed his 22 men in skirmish order and we overlapped the dismounted rebs' line. I fell victim to swarming mounted guerillas while leading a flanking movement on the enemy, and was later scalped by one of their number. Hopefully it will grow back. I haven't as much to spare as I once did.

Although the Yanks had been promised a "win" on Sunday (apparently to entice them to attend), the promise obviously did not extend to galvanized bluecoats, as we were run down and shot to a man, in full view of the horrified crowd. Ok, maybe they weren't so horrified.

Submitted by 1Sgt Dennis Faight, 21 MO Infty (US).



Gear Remains Missing!

Yes it has been reported that M. Steve Yoakum's equipment has continued to leave without registering a forwarding address. Steve informed the Messenger editor that he discovered that he is missing a pair of pillow ticking suspenders following the Pea Ridge event. If you have been lucky enough to discover a spare pair give Steve a call. If we don't find them it will be hard for him to hold up his trousers and shoot at the same time in Tennessee.



All the History Fit to Eat!

Whether we eat as a company or in individual mess units, from time to time we need a little change in our diets. The following recipes are historically correct and will serve as a refreshing change of pace from the omnipresent stew.

Artificial Oysters

These little fried cakes reminded people of oysters when they couldn't get them, this is an easy and tasty dish. The following recipe is meant to feed one soldier, so multiply the ingredients by the number in your mess.

- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 3/4 cup flour
- 1 medium size can of whole kernel corn drained.
- Salt and pepper to taste

Mix all the ingredients together. Make oval cakes the size of a large sausage patty. Fry in oil/butter, browning each side.

Gen. Grant's Cucumbers

Reportedly General Grant was very fond of cucumbers. It has been said that he ate them every morning for breakfast when possible.

- 6 cucumbers
- 2 yellow onions
- 1 cup vinegar
- 1/2 cup of sugar
- 1 cup of milk

Peel and slice the cucumbers into fine slices. Slice onions very finely. Add milk, sugar and vinegar. Mix all ingredients together in a bowl. Add salt and pepper to taste. Let the mixture soak and settle for a while to ensure the flavors have fully spread throughout.

Rabbit Stew

Fresh meat was always a highly prized treat throughout the war. Wild game often provided the only opportunity for a meat dinner after armies had previously scoured the countryside. Although this recipe calls for rabbit a squirrel or two can be used in place of the rabbit.

- 1 rabbit, dressed and cut into pieces
- 1/4 cup of flour
- salt and pepper
- piece of butter the size of an egg (about 4 Tbsps)
- 2 onions
- 3/4 cup chopped carrots
- 1 cup coarsely chopped potatoes
- mixed herbs (what ever you got)

Mix the flour, salt & pepper and herbs together and coat the rabbit pieces. Melt the butter and fry the rabbit pieces until brown. Put remaining ingredients (including the remaining flour mixture) and rabbit in a pot, cover with water and cook over fire for about 1 to 2 hours testing for tenderness.



Profiles of our Commanders

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN STEVENS BOWEN, C.S.A.

John S. Bowen was born at Savannah, Georgia on October 30, 1830. He received his early education in Milledgeville, and was a graduate from West Point, class of 1853. He resigned three years later to take up the profession of architect in St. Louis, where he was living at the outbreak of the war.

While a captain of the Missouri Militia and chief of staff to General D. M. Frost, Bowden was captured at Camp Jackson by the Federal General Lyon. Upon his release he organized and was appointed

colonel of the 1st Missouri Infantry. His regiment first saw duty with General Polk at Columbus, Kentucky. After he was promoted brigadier to rank from March 14, 1862, Bowen's command was attached to John C. Breckinridge's division at Shiloh, where he was wounded.

Participating in the Vicksburg campaign, he opposed Grant's advance at Port Gibson. For his distinguished service there he was promoted Major General on May 25, 1863. He fought in all the battles that preceded the siege and struggle for Vicksburg. He was commended numerous times for his abilities, courage and gallant conduct.

Captured when Vicksburg fell he was paroled soon afterward. His health had become undermined by dysentery contracted during the siege, General Bowden survived the surrender by only a few days. He died a paroled prisoner of war near Raymond, Mississippi on July 13, 1863. Twenty four years after his death, his remains were brought to Vicksburg and reinterred in the Confederate Cemetery there.

General in Gray, Lives of the Confederate Commanders (1959) by Ezra J. Warner

RECENT LIVING HISTORIES

Members turned out for two more recent opportunities to "show the flag" and attract potential recruits. Unfortunately we accomplished more of the former than the latter.

The Brunswick Pecan Festival attracts literally thousands of people to that small Chariton County town each year, and this last September 30 was no exception. Our problem was that old real estate maxim: "location, location, location." Given an open lot several blocks from downtown and off the main highway, our camp was seen by nary a festival-goer. We were, however, quite a hit during the parade.

Two weeks later, the problem wasn't location, but rather crowds. The first-annual attempt at a Fall Festival in Sedalia was met with a glorious sunny day, but rather sparse crowds. We performed loading & firing demonstrations "bout'n'hour" apart and chatted with a few potential recruits. The day ended early when Pvt Marcus Price was taken to the hospital by ambulance when found unconscious in his truck after making a foraging trip for milk. The Gilgers assisted the Prices in returning safely home, and Marcus later reported he was fine, although a bit sore after having slipped & nearly fell at the supermarket on slick heel plates. He has all our wishes for a speedy recovery.

The Continuing Account of an Original Member of the Fifth

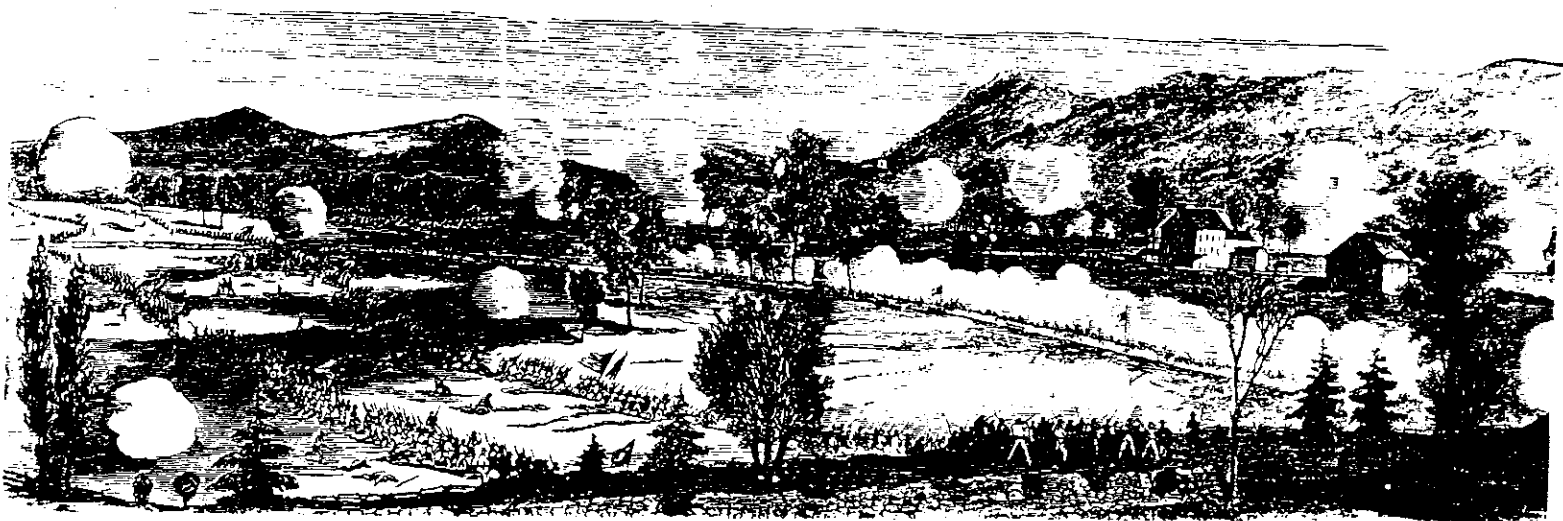
I never saw so many sad faces as I did when all the boys found Old Pap was surely going to leave us in Mississippi. On the 7th and 8th of March, one year ago we fought the Battle of Elk Horn, Arkansas. On March 7th Bird Smith came in with letters from home. No one except those who have experienced what we have and are still doing so far from home, can tell or even imagine how glad we were to hear from our loved ones at home.

As I am now behind and have forgotten many dates I will omit many dates. On March 9th our brigade moved to Grand Gulf, a four days march from Camp Prichard. We camped the first night three miles from Edwards Station, the next night we camped near Lanyard, where Gen. Jackson once camped. The next night we camped near Rocky Springs and on the final day we came into Grand Gulf and camped along the Mississippi River. On the 13th we moved to our permanent camp on Mr. Hamilton's farm three miles from the Gulf. Brig. Gen. Bowen of Missouri was in command of the Brigade composed of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th MO Infantry.

Gen. Bowen gave us more liberty than we ever had before and all the boys loved him almost equal to Old Pap himself. On March 19th a Federal sloop of war, which had passed Port Hudson, passed Grand Gulf. Several shots were passed from our guns at the boat, but we saw no damage to either side. On March 20th all was quiet in the camps. The trees are putting forth their leaves and everything is becoming very green which brings new thoughts of home to mind. On March 25th heavy cannonading was heard at Vicksburg which terminated in three gunboats passing our batteries.

On the 28th we had a heavy rain and storm. On the 31st three gunboats passed Grand Gulf. We had five large guns planted on the river bank so you may have guessed we had quite a duel. One of our guns exploded and killed and wounded six or seven men, this was the only damage done. Nothing of interest took place until about the 23rd or 24th of April when about seven or eight gunboats and transports passed Vicksburg. On April 29th seven gunboats attacked our batteries at the Gulf and continued to attack for six hours without ceasing. Not less than one thousand shots were fired. About fifteen were killed or wounded on our side.

Among those killed was the much lamented and heroic Col. of Artillery, William Wade of St. Louis, MO. At dark that night our regiment moved into ditches and not long before all the boats passed our batteries going down river. Their intentions were to silence our batteries and to land troops but they failed on both accounts.



From the Editor

What a decision faces the members of the Fifth Missouri. To bury a world famous Missourian, the patriot who would never surrender, Jesse James or one of the more outstanding national events in years. To those of our members who will be going to the funeral it appears it will no longer be at William Jewel College. The administration would not allow the Missouri battleflag to cover Jesse's remains. The Columbia Tribune reported that the funeral will now be at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Kearney.

For those of us traveling to Tennessee, it appears that this event might very well become one of the best in a decade. By the last count it appears that 7,300 have registered for Tennessee (4,000 + infantry, 72 cannon and over 70 sutlers). If you did not get your preregistration check to Dennis you might want to call him to see what you need to do to be allowed upon the field.

Until we meet on the field of Combat in Tennessee or next season,

I remain your Obediant Servant.

Lt. John Nicholas Davis, Butcher of the Fifth

DATES TO REMEMBER

SPRING HILL, TN October 27 & 29 - National Event 5th MO Max Effort