

# THE MESSENGER

Vol. 6, No. 12

December 1995

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

## THE CONTINUING SAGA OF A TRUE MEMBER OF THE FIFTH

They marched their forces down on the west side of the river and crossed them at the mouth of Bayou Peern, where they were met by Gen. Green with a part of his Brigade and had a sharp fight. On April 30th they were too strong for him and he had to fall back for reinforcements. On May 1st our regiment along with elements of the 6th MO Reg. along with an Alabama Brigade, which was sent from Vicksburg, met them near Port Gibson and had a hard fight which lasted about six hours. The fight was a hard one with the air at times grey with shot. We lost a great many, killed and taken prisoners, among them were Sgt. Kerr, Thomas W. and A. B. Mitchell of our Company, who were taken to Alton, Illinois. They were too strong for us and we had to give way, falling back from the field.

The reinforcements, which Lt. Gen. Pemberton promised to send to Gen. Bowin, failed to come and we commenced retreating towards Edwards Depot on May 2nd. We had heavy hearts I assure you, for we found Grand Gulf the most pleasant place we had ever camped. The Feds were close after us all the way with skirmishes with their cavalry a constant threat. We marched very hard night and day until we got near Edwards Station on the night of the 3rd.

We remained in camp several days during which time the pickets were generally skirmished and attacked both night and day. On May 7th, Mr. Bird Smith left us to carry letters to Missouri. On May 12th we were ordered into the ditches at the railroad bridges around the Big Black River, and on the 13th we marched towards the enemy in the direction of Raymond.

We formed a line of battle about two miles south of Edwards Station where we remained until the 15th of May. Most of this time it was raining and consequently it was a most disagreeable time. Skirmishing was going on most of the time in front of our lines. Our regiment and the 3rd were sent out reconnoitering about two and a half miles, but the enemy had gone towards Jackson so we had no fight. The wagons were ordered up and we cooked three days rations and marched towards the enemy, who were east of Bakers Creek. We stopped about 11 o'clock at night on the 13th of May and lay in line of battle without blankets.

Our whole force was here, probably about thirty thousand men on the field, with Lt. Gen. Pemberton in command. On the morning of the 16th, the sun arose clear and consequently it became very hot as the day advanced. Early in the morning heavy skirmishing commenced all along the lines and soon the artillery told that the ball was open for our Regiment. We were supporting six pieces of cannon, being about four rows in its rear and I never heard heavier cannonading I don't think.

About 12 o'clock the fight became general on our left at what is called Champion Hill, where the Georgians and Tennesseans were. About 1 o'clock our Brigade was ordered up, we double-quickened about a mile and a half, hot as it was and formed under a shower of ball and shell upon the left. By file into line the rear of our Regiment was in front, consequently our company being the senior company was in the rear of the Regiment.



## From the Quartermaster, Fifth Missouri Infantry

Please return all regimental equipment on loan from the Quartermaster at the Annual Meeting scheduled for January 6, 1996 at Kemper Military School and College in Boonville, MO. If you can not be present arrange with someone who is attending the meeting. I need all the equipment to check, inventory, and repair if necessary. If you still can not make arrangements, send me a card as to what equipment you have. The Fifth would like to start the new year with all the equipment present to support new recruits.

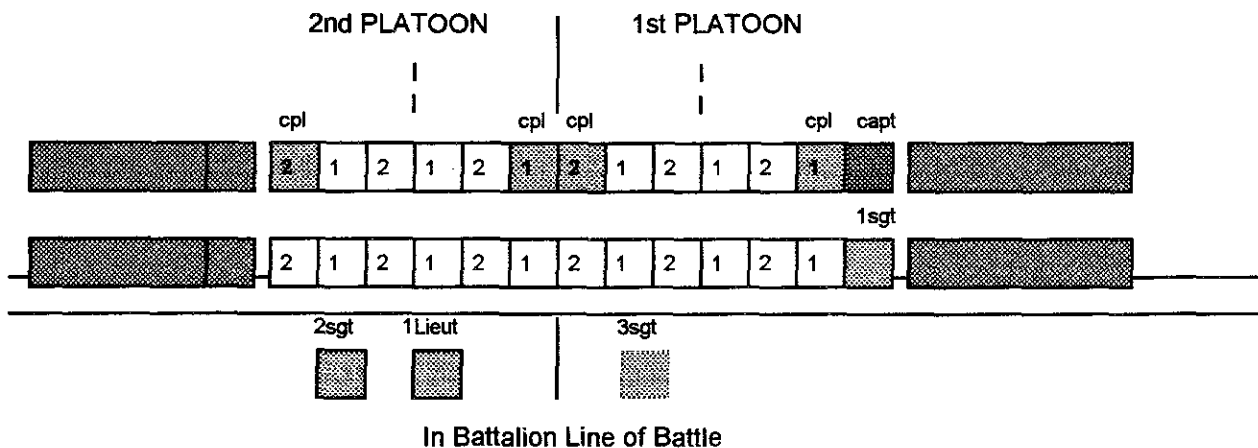
Mike Meoli  
Rt. 4 Box 26A  
Salisbury, MO 65281

### DRILL FACTS: By the 1st Sgt.

With elections for field staff drawing near, it might be a good idea to review the positions and roles of the various officers and nco's.

The Captain commands the company in the field. He is our chain-of-command conduit to Battalion leadership, and as the unit leader is responsible for the overall conduct of the group at events. Advancing in line of battle, his place is at the right end of the front rank. When firing commences he should retire to the rear in the line of file closers. When the company is broken into platoons, he places himself in the front-center of the first platoon. In skirmish order, after superintending the deployment, he's supposed to take a position 80 paces to the rear of the line. In column, he marches to the left of the 1st Sergeant. The Captain should be completely familiar with all drill evolutions at the company level, and have at least a working knowledge of battalion-level evolutions.

The First Lieutenant is the defacto leader of Company A under our current By-law organization (since the Captain theoretically commands all active companies in the Regiment). In practice, since we only have one company and the Captain commands it, the Lieutenant takes his historic role as commander of the second platoon when it operates separately. Since he takes command of the entire company in the absence of the Captain, he, too should be familiar with company and battalion-level drill. In line of battle his place is in the line of file closers (two paces behind the rear rank) at the center of the second platoon. When the company breaks into platoons he passes around the left of the company to place himself in the front center of his platoon. In skirmish order he's supposed to command the reserve, which is held 150 paces to the rear of the line. In column, he marches in his file-closer position, to the right of the second platoon.

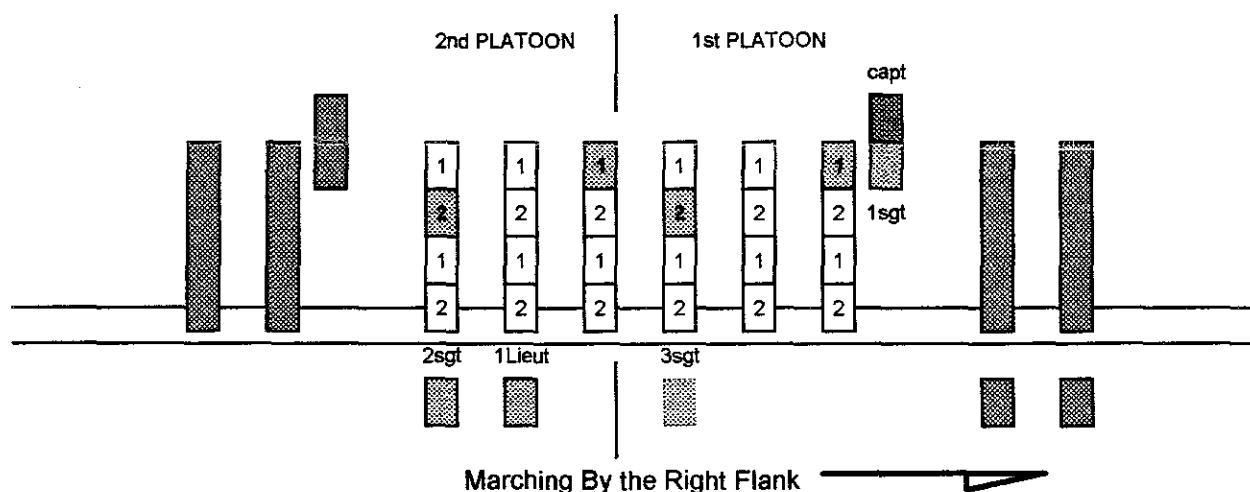


*The sword of Robert E. Lee*

The First Sergeant generally runs the company, supervising all details of duty. Although he is subordinate to the Lieutenant, his responsibility is second only to the Captain. He forms, sizes and numbers the company for all formations, calls the roll, sees that rations are drawn and distributed (when food is an amenity), conducts the sick to sick call, and conveys the morning report to the Sgt. Major at Morning Parade. He is responsible for the safe conduct of the unit at events. He must be familiar with School of the Company drill. In line of battle he is the right guide of the company. His place is at the right end of the rear rank, behind the Captain. If the Captain should move to the front of the line, the 1st Sgt. takes his place in the front rank. When firing commences he becomes a file closer behind the first file. If the company is broken into platoons, he moves to the left end of the first platoon to act as guide. In skirmish order he conducts the first group of four (comrades in arms), then is to retire ten paces behind the line when deployed. He moves up to the line to act as right guide when advancing or retreating. In column he marches on the left front at the head of the column.

The Second Sergeant's most important function is as left guide of the company. Any time there is not another company on our left flank, he takes a position at the left end of the front rank. In a column of companies he follows and maintains the proper distance from the 2nd Sgt. of the company to our front, and the rest of our company conforms to him. When there is another company in line of battle to our left, he does not remain in the line, but retires to his file closing position behind the second file from the left (unless we're the color company, in which case his position is as a file closer to the left of the rear-most rank of the color guard.) In skirmish order he conducts the left group of four, then retires ten paces behind the line (like the 1st Sgt.), moving up on the line as the left guide when the skirmish line advances or retreats. In column he marches in his file closing position, to the right of the last file. When we march by the left flank, he's at the right front of the head of the column, with the Captain on his right.

Under our By-laws, the 2nd Sergeant could also serve as Quartermaster.

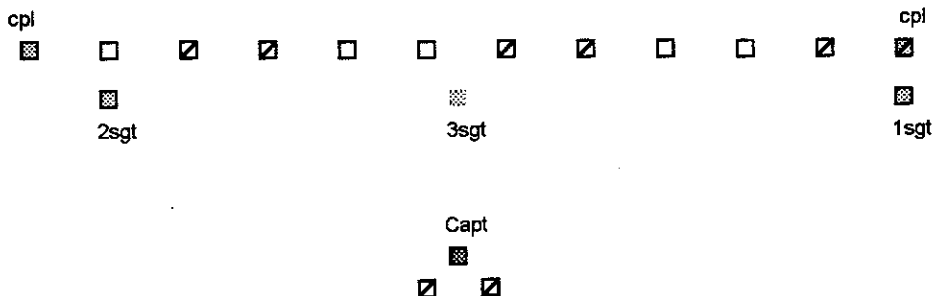


Should numbers permit the election of a Third Sergeant, (we really need 30 men on the field to justify this position), he would station himself as a file closer behind the second section of the first platoon in line of battle. He acts as center guide in the skirmish line (where guide is habitually to the center unless otherwise commanded), retiring ten paces behind the line with the other sergeants during firing. In column he marches in his file closer position, to the right of the last file in the first platoon.

You'll note that sergeants don't have a lot of opportunity to burn powder. They fire when the situation warrants — particularly when numbers are small or casualties take their toll — but their main function is to supervise.

We may elect at least two corporals, plus an additional one for every eight privates. The corporals direct members of their squads in carrying out details assigned to them by the 1st Sgt. They should be well-versed in the School of the Soldier, and have a working knowledge of company-level evolutions. In line of battle they act as guides for their platoons. All are placed in the front rank, with the tallest corporal on the right, the shortest on the left. The middle two are placed side-by-side, with one as a "2" on the left of the first platoon, and the other a "1" on the right of the second platoon. They perform the same as privates in all unit maneuvers.

Candidates for all of the above should generally be willing to make the investment of time required to attend a majority of events. Commissioned rank, of course, also may require a monetary investment for equipment. If any of these positions sound like the kind of responsibility you'd like to take on, come to the January meeting and throw your hat into the ring.



In Skirmish Order

## ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 6th IN BOONVILLE

Make plans to attend the annual organizational meeting set for 1pm Saturday, January 6th at Kemper Military School & College in Bonville. We have important matters to discuss and business to take care of.

In addition to field staff elections (see article), we need to elect a Corporate Secretary and Treasurer for two-year terms, and Company A Vice-President for a one-year term. Dennis Faught is currently serving out the unexpired terms of Secretary Bill Wayne and Treasurer Nick Davis. Bob Koffman is currently finishing his term as Company A Vice-President. The Secretary maintains meeting minutes, correspondence and membership files, and corporate organizational materials. The Treasurer keeps the books and the tax-exemption documents, and signs checks for all expenses. The Company VP presides over Company A meetings. He also presides over corporate and regimental meetings in the absence of the President. The Secretary, Treasurer and Company VP(s) — along with the President — make up the Board of Directors.

These corporate officers are elected by all combatant and non-combatant members. Remember that you must pay your 1996 dues in order to vote at the meeting. Please get them in the mail now, or bring your renewal form and check to the meeting. Even if — *heaven forbid* — you aren't coming to the meeting, you need to renew now, because we'll be electing field staff based on the number of paid members as of January 6th.

In other business, we'll consider members who qualify for Veteran status, approve a 1996 budget, set the schedule for the coming season (including designation of Max-Effort events), discuss the Cole Camp event, and hold a meeting of the new Board of Directors. Please make a special effort to be a part of these decisions.

**FIFTH MISSOURI ANNUAL  
REGIMENTAL MEETING  
January 6, 1996**

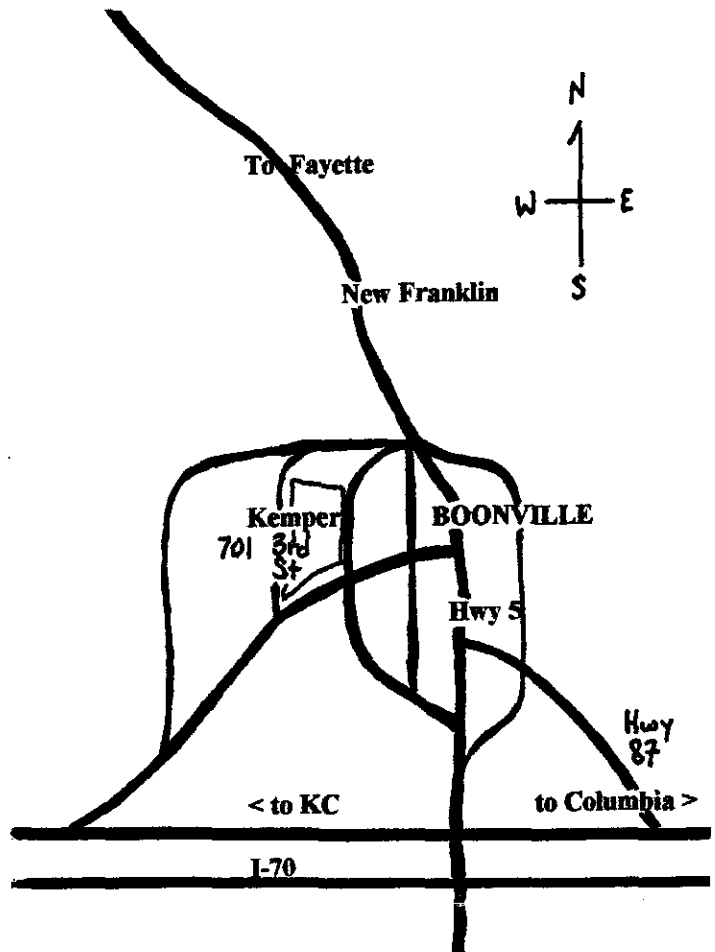
Our Regimental meeting is scheduled to begin at 1 pm. For those of you who have never been in Boonville before Kemper is located at 701 Third Street. Third Street is two blocks west of Main Street. Main Street is easy to locate, the bridge is at one end and Interstate 70 is at the other.

Our meeting will be in the main administration building. This building faces third street and has four black poles with gold banners announcing Kemper's Sesquicentennial on them. Just North of the main administration building are a pair of parrot guns.

The meeting room is on the northern most side of the building at the front. Parking will be on the street the campus is closed to non authorized personnel and vehicles. Pay attention to the parking signs (ask Sgt. Faught).

For those who are still lost, enclosed is a brief map. Don't worry if you get lost just ask at any business in town, they all know where Kemper is located.

You also might want to dress warm. The Administration building is not heated above 60 degrees during the weekend. See you there.

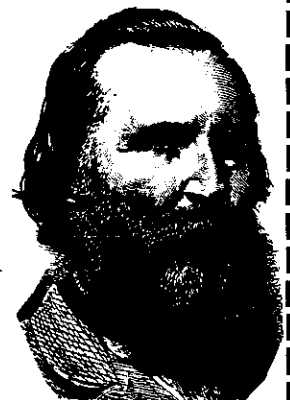


**👉 DUES NOTICE 👈**

Annual Dues are due by **JANUARY 1, 1996**. Please complete and return to:  
**5th Missouri Infantry (CSA) Inc.**  
**PO Box 1265**  
**Jefferson City, MO 65102-1265**

Check one:

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



**Make Check Payable to: "5th Missouri Infantry"**  
 If you paid your MCWRA dues through another unit, please indicate the unit:

*From the Editor . . . .*

With 1995 coming to a close I hope that all of you had a great year and that 1996 beacons a promising year for all of us. Ken McKee and Karen Finch and family have sent holiday wishes to all the members of the Fifth and they want to thank us for making them feel at home.

Larry Dietzel is recruiting soldiers for the America On Line (AOL) Civil War game. He is a General no less and seeking warriors to defend the cause on the internet. If you are interested contact him either by telephone or on the internet at the following address: [Quantrill2@AOL.COM](mailto:Quantrill2@AOL.COM). He said to join soon as the war is just beginning in the east.

I will again be on the internet myself, I've been off for awhile. I had a little computer breakdown. If you have any news for the Messenger you will soon be able to send it electronically to me. If you have an email address please send it in and we will add it to our Regimental database.

Remember to send in your dues as soon as possible to Sergeant Faught. I hope you all can make it to the regimental meeting. See you on January 6, 1996.

I remain your Obedient servant,

*Lt. Nick "Butcher" Davis*

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Annual Regimental Meeting at Kemper Military School and College, 1/6/96 at 1 p.m.

**THE MESSENGER**

5th Missouri Infantry, Co. A, CSA  
2300 Hollyhock Court  
Columbia, MO 65202

