

THE MESSENGER

Vol. 7, No. 1

January 1996

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

The Continuing Saga of a True Member of the Fifth

We join the action as they are about to begin the Battle of Edwards Station near Vicksburg, Mississippi.....

I was acting first Sgt. therefore I was in the rear of the company. Just as we all got in line, and I think I shot two shots. The enemy made a charge on our right and the Georgians, who were on our right gave way in double quick time. Just as luck would have it, the First Missouri Regiment came up and poured a volley of musketry into them and prevented them from flanking us, which they had been doing and had gotten with ten paces of us on the right and nearly that close all along the line. They were aiming to make a bayonet charge, thus you see we had to meet a heavy charge. Very soon we gave them the Missouri Yell, (they were Missourians, Iowans, Illinoisans, Indianians and Ohioans, who had fought us before and knew the sound of the yell) and gave them a charge in Missouri REBEL style. We routed them and took after them, in about three hundred yards we came to another line who were lying down over the hill, they raised up on their knees and gave us a fire. We kept crawling on them until we got, in many places, within ten paces of them.

They spun around and gave way in wild disorder. We again gave the Missouri Yell and took after them. In a short distance we came to another line where I was wounded in my left arm with a ball and had to go off the field. The enemy massed their forces there and we were compelled to give back. Getting no reinforcements our whole line then began to retreat towards Vicksburg. I went on before the Army and came to where our baggage wagons were camped at Boxvina Station.

Here I found Lt. J. L. Mitchell wounded severely in the side of the face, Lt. Ben L. Mitchell wounded in three fingers and the right thigh slightly, and Corporal S. H. Nick wounded in the hand. All of Bradfords Company and P.G. Rudd and Sgt. Sam Lane were missing and no doubt killed on the field. Sgt. Cid Johnson and W.W. Malicoat and several others of Lennon's Co. were wounded and several killed. We, the wounded, went on with the baggage wagons to Vicksburg. The army stopped at the Big Black Bridge and formed a line of battle in the breastworks west of the River this was the 17th day of May.

About 10 o'clock a.m. the enemy came up and attacked our boys. Here a Tennessee Brigade on the left disengaged themselves by running away in wild disorder, which caused a great many of the Missourians to get captured, who were disposed to stand their ground through even the hottest action the enemy flanked them. Of course they had to learn their position or be cut off entirely. The enemy got about forty pieces of artillery and nearly all that belonged to our Division. The whole army then retreated to Vicksburg, hotly pursued by the enemy.



Oh how discouraging this was to us. In the evening all of the boys arrived at Vicksburg. On the morning of the 18th the enemy came on us at the breastworks and commenced firing on us which continued all day. That night we fell back into our inside works. On May 19th the Feds made a general assault but were repulsed with great loss at every point. On the 20th, Thos. C. Mitchell was wounded in the head with a mini ball which fractured bone but soon got well and he again was at his post. Also Peter Griffin was wounded in the leg by a shell and was never able to stand to duty again.

Drill Facts: By the 1st Sergeant

This month's column is a departure from the subject of drill. Instead I'd like to pose a question and present a challenge.

Since we adopted the "Columbus Depot" style of jacket, I've been searching for documentation on the type of NCO insignia appropriate for our impression. Should it be light blue as called for in the official regulations? Or perhaps a darker blue, similar to our collar and cuff trim? Or maybe even black? The more I looked and the more authorities I consulted, the more I've come to believe it was none of the above. In fact, it appears that chevrons were more than likely not worn at all in the field. The little evidence I've been able to find points almost exclusively to this conclusion.

None of the surviving jackets of this style bear chevrons. That, however, is inconclusive since none appear to have belonged to NCOs. On the other hand, there also doesn't appear to be a surviving *photograph* of this style of jacket with stripes — even though at least some of the subjects are known to be NCOs. (Note, for example, the image of Serg't Major Thomas Potter in part two of Geoff Walden's article on "Columbus Depot" jackets in the August '95 Camp Chase Gazette.) For further photographic evidence that the omission of rank chevrons *may* have been common, check Time-Life's Arms and Equipment of the Confederacy. Three — possibly four — jackets of various styles show no chevrons, even though apparently worn by corporals and sergeants.

The few written references on this topic also seem to point to the "less is more" school of thought on displaying one's rank. I've been told of some memoirs and journals that mention chevrons being removed or not worn. Reasons ranged from a desire to be inconspicuous, to the relatively high turnover in the ranks. There are accounts of veterans in the field making fun of newer troops until they removed their stripes.

The only reference I've found, so far, supporting the wearing of stripes is in Sam Watkins' "Co. Aytch". He gets promoted to corporal after the Battle of Atlanta, and quotes a friend who razzes him about "those two yellow stripes". Yellow, even though he was in the Infantry. Watkins oddly reverts to referring to himself as a private after that incident. He also makes a point earlier in the book of recounting how all the officers and ncos in his company *removed* their rank insignia after their first battle. In another memoir, "The History of the Obion Avalanche", I'm told there's a reference to a 1st Sergeant wearing just a small black diamond, rather than the complete insignia.

While I've corresponded with some historians who are authorities on Confederate uniforms, consulted a number of memoirs, and asked for other documentation over the internet; my research is far from exhaustive. Hence, the aforementioned challenge: Can you find any photographic or written evidence of NCO chevrons being commonly worn by Army of Tennessee troops in the field? If they didn't wear them, should we?



The Missouri Brigade is depicted in position along the woodline during the final stages of the Battle of Champion Hill
Courtesy Frank Wood's Picture Bank, Alexandria, Va

DETAILS OF 5TH MO UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 2 **MCWRA BALL.** Lodge of the 4 Seasons in Osage Beach. MCWRA general membership meeting in the morning. Plowman-Moulton wedding precedes ball. Take US 54 to BUS 54 to HH at Lake of the Ozarks.

Mar 30-31 **SPRING DRILL & MUSTER.** On site of this summer's Cole Camp reenactment. School of the Soldier, School of the Company. Possible Saturday evening meal provided. Regimental meeting Sunday morning. You may arrive Friday evening. Site is east of Cole Camp on US 52.

Apr 13-14 *Davisville, MO. Tactical. (Proposed) Sponsors now say they want infantry for two battles. Packet to be requested FYI.*

May 4 *Climax Springs, MO. "Loyalty Day". (Proposed) We've been invited to set up a living history and march in their parade. Recruiting Opportunity. Located midway between Warsaw and Camdenton off MO 7. Call the 1st Serg't if you can attend this VFW event.*

May 17-19 **THE WILDERNESS.** Orange, Virginia. National Event. Scenarios include a Wilderness Tactical in the woods Saturday morning, Saunders Field Saturday afternoon, and Widow Tapp Farm Sunday afternoon. No events Friday except school children touring camps. Impression is FEDERAL. Orange is west of Fredericksburg, midway between Charlottesville & Culpeper. Send \$7 to Serg't Faught NOW. Preregistration will be mailed February 26. Call Serg't Dietzel if you're interested in taking a bus or van.

May 25-26 **CRESTON, IOWA.** Two battles on rolling 10-acre field adjacent to period town. First Person contest, sick call, mail call & pay call (battalion-level), period baseball, ladies high tea, dance, Saturday night moonlight tour (modeled after Lexington), basket social, ice cream social and more. Creston is in southwest Iowa, 32 miles west of I-35 on US 34.

Jun 8-9 **COLUMBIA.** Parks & Recreation's annual living history & skirmish on grounds of Maplewood mansion in Nifong Park. Take AC exit on US 63 in southeast part of town. Turn west then immediately left on Nifong. Drill & firing demonstrations. Skirmish each day. Period crafts. Recruiting Opportunity.

Jun 15-16 **JEFFERSON BARRACKS HAS BEEN CANCELLED.**

Watch for Details on these Upcoming Events

Jun 22-23	GRAND ISLAND, NE. Stuhr Museum. <i>(Battalion Max Effort)</i>
Jul 13-14	COLE CAMP (5TH MO MAXIMUM EFFORT)
Jul 20-21	HONEY SPRINGS, I.T.
Jul 27-28	<i>Lenexa, KS (Listed FYI only)</i>
Aug 3-4	ATHENS, MO
Sep 7-8	FREDERICKTOWN (5TH MO MAXIMUM EFFORT) (Battalion Max Effort)
Sep 14-15	<i>St. Charles. (Listed FYI only)</i>
Sep 21-22	<i>Granbury, TX. (Listed FYI only)</i>
Sep 28-29	<i>Pilot Knob Living History. (Listed FYI only)</i>
Oct 12-13	<i>Shelbina, MO. (We may consider supporting due to Tactical date change)</i>
Oct 18-20	WESTERN TACTICAL -Owensboro, KY (NOTE DATE CHANGE)
Oct 19-20?	WARSAW HERITAGE DAYS
Dec 7-8	PRAIRIE GROVE, ARK. <i>(Battalion Max Effort)</i>



Minutes of Corporate Board Meeting
5th MO Infantry CSA, Inc.
Kemper Military School & College
Saturday, January 6, 1996

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m., following the adjournment of the election meeting. Present were President Jerry Lee, Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Faught, and Company A Vice President Larry Dietzel.

The Treasurer presented a proposed budget for the allocation of membership dues during 1996. From \$744 projected receipts for membership dues, \$644 was allocated for newsletter expenses (\$53.66/mo). The remaining \$100 was allocated for Board Reimbursement and divided as follows: \$45 for Recruiting (postage/copies), \$12 for other Corporate Postage, \$32 for Phone reimbursement, \$6 for Corporate Fees, and \$5 for Bank Charges. Dietzel Moved/Lee 2nd that the budget be approved as submitted. Passed.

The Board then took up the spending proposals discussed during the membership meeting. Dietzel moved/Lee 2nd that a used reproduction drum, complete, be purchased from Gene Dressel for \$250. Passed unanimously. Faught moved/Lee 2nd that \$400 be set aside from the current treasury for donation to worthy preservation causes — the recipient(s) to be chosen at the next meeting of the membership. Passed unanimously. Faught noted that the treasury has a potential income of \$620 from various non-dues sources this year, thus leaving a still-healthy balance of available funds.

In a discussion with members of the Cole Camp event committee, Secretary Faught was directed to begin assembling a pre-registration packet as soon as the committee provides him with information about the site, the historic battle, and the proposed schedule of activities. He will also include specific requirements for uniform impressions, strict rules forbidding vehicles in camp, a requirement that all attending units be prepared (as the host one will) to galvanize as Federals, a notice that one of the generic actions will involve controlled casualties using marked cartridges, and details of available camping arrangements — to include separate camping for campaigners and separate Confederate and Federal civilian camps. Other details discussed included inclement weather options, crowd control/authenticity/safety issues during the historic scenario, and the lack of cooperation the sponsors have received from the MCWRA event committee. Faught is to contact Jim Beckner about that problem.

The committee and the Board will survey the site and options at Spring Drill, or sooner if necessary.

Arrangements were made for Spring Drill on the Cole Camp event site for March 30-31. Sponsors will provide firewood, straw, water, and possibly a Saturday evening meal. Directions will be published in the February and March Messengers.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors was set for the weekend of Spring Drill, to follow the regular membership meeting.

Adjourned at 4:30.

Submitted by Corporate Secretary Dennis Faught



A Wedding Announcement and Invitation

Cherice and I would like to invite all the members of the Fifth Missouri to be with us on March 2nd, 1996. On this day we will be united in marriage. The ceremony will take place approximately at 6 p.m. at the Lodge of Four Seasons, Osage Beach, Missouri. The wedding will be held in the Eagle's Peak Room. We hope everyone will help us continue the celebration at the President's Ball!

D.S. Sam....thanks for getting me shot to get the sympathy of a lady!!!

Ms. Moulton and Mr. Plowman

Civil War Soldiers System Needs Recruits

The Civil War Soldiers System (CWSS) needs volunteers with personal computers to help create a database of Civil War Soldiers. The database will contain basic facts about soldiers who served on both sides during the Civil War. Initially, the CWSS will include 5.5 million names of soldiers as well as which side each soldier served on, regiment and rank. Eventually, the project will be expanded to include regimental histories, personal information (including a photograph of the soldier, if available), burial locations, prisoner-of-war records and descriptions of battles and skirmishes.

In the first phase of the project, volunteers will transcribe information into their home computers from photocopies of military records. Volunteers receive a data packet containing approximately 200 images of Index Card. An Index Card gives the soldier's name, military unit and rank. Depending on the volunteer's typing skills, transcribing a data packet requires four to eight hours.

Each volunteer receives a data packet, program disk, blank disk for data and printed instructions. The program disk contains the data entry software. No technical skills are required to install and use the program. The software runs on IBM-compatible personal computers.

To ensure the greatest possible accuracy the data is entered twice. After an A team volunteer transcribes a data packet, a B team volunteer re-enters the same information to verify its accuracy. Typographical errors are virtually eliminated through this process.

CWSS is a joint project of the National Park Service, the Civil War Trust, the National Archives and the Federation of Genealogical Societies. Midwest Computer Genealogists sponsors the CWSS project in the Kansas City area, with distribution sites at two locations: the National Archives Center, 2313 East Bannister, Kansas City, MO and the Mid-Continent Public Library, Genealogy and History Department, Spring and 24 Highway, Independence, MO.

At the National Archives contact Pat Shackelford at (816) 926-6936 on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. At Mid-Continent Library, contact Annette Curtis or Martha Henderson at (816) 252-0950. For additional information call Jim Stout at (816) 926-7600 before 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., call (816)322-0936 **ComputerUser, December 1995**



**Minutes of Annual Meeting
5th Missouri Infantry CSA, Inc.
Kemper Military School and College, Boonville, MO
6 January, 1995**

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 pm by President Jerry Lee. Present were 30 paid members and two guests from the Cole Camp event committee.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved as printed in the Messenger.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$2,550.30 in the Corporate account as of 31 December — of which \$1,701.30 is available for possible expenditures. He presented to the membership the general ledger and an income & expense report for the year. He noted that per a vote of the Board at the October meeting, newsletter expenses had been subsidized by income other than membership dues to the amount of \$86.84. Gilger moved/Koffman 2nd that the report be approved. Passed without dissent.

Two members, having met the requirements, were considered for Veteran status. Dietzel moved/Sam Hafley 2nd that Alan Bowling be accepted as a Veteran Member. Passed without dissent. Fought moved/Dietzel 2nd that Steven Fink be accepted as a Veteran Member. Passed without dissent.

Organizational Officers

Lee moved/Davis 2nd that the positions of Secretary and Treasurer be held by one individual for the next two-year term. Passed without dissent. Dennis Fought, being the only nominee for the position, was elected by acclamation.

Bob Koffman, Larry Dietzel and Sam Hafley were nominated to serve as Company A Vice President. Koffman withdrew his name from nomination. Dietzel was elected by secret ballot.

Field Staff

Koffman moved/Daleen 2nd that the responsibilities of Quartermaster for the coming year be given to one of the three Corporals. Passed without dissent. Alan Bowling being the only nominee for the position, was elected by acclamation.

Jerry Lee being the only nominee for the position of Captain of the Regiment, was elected by acclamation. Sam Hafley and Nick Davis were nominated for 1st Lieutenant of Company A. Hafley was elected by secret ballot. Dennis Fought being the only nominee for 1st Sergeant, was elected by acclamation. Larry Dietzel and Dave Plowman were nominated for 2nd Sergeant. Dietzel was elected by secret ballot. Dave Plowman, Doug Frank, Mike Hamilton, Mike White and Steve Fink were nominated for the two remaining Corporal positions. Frank and Plowman were elected by secret ballot.

1996 Event Schedule

The membership discussed the event schedule for the coming season, and voted to support the following events:

MAR 30-31	Regimental Spring Muster/Drill -at Cole Camp event site
MAY 17-19	The Wilderness -National event in Orange County, VA
MAY 25-26	Creston Iowa
JUN 8-9	Columbia, MO -Annual Living History/Skirmish at Nifong Park
JUN 15-16	JEFFERSON BARRACKS - MAXIMUM EFFORT
JUN 22-23	Stuhr Museum -Nebraska
JUL 13-14	COLE CAMP - MAXIMUM EFFORT
JUL 20-21	Honey Springs, Indian Territory
AUG 3-4	Athens, MO
SEP 7-8	FREDRICKTOWN - MAXIMUM EFFORT
OCT 12-13	Western Tactical -1st Confederate Div. Event near Owensboro, KY.
OCT 19-20?	Warsaw Heritage Days
DEC 7-8	Prairie Grove, Arkansas

The Secretary will secure event details and registration information for all of the above events. Complete details will be published in the Messenger. The Wilderness event requires a \$7.00 registration fee, which must be in the 1st Sergeant's hands no later than 26 February. Mandatory impression for this event is Federal. (The entire 1st Confederate Division is galvanizing.)

The three maximum effort events were approved without dissent. During the discussion it was attempted to flesh out some of the details of the Cole Camp event with the aid of the event sponsors, but Davis moved/Daleen 2nd that all planning for the event be delegated to the Board of Directors. Passed with two dissenting votes.

Other Discussion

Under Old Business, Jerry Lee had some remarks about the recent membership survey, encouraging those who cited a need for more camp life sceneries to attend more of the small events, where that sort of activity can be highlighted. Faught invited anyone with ideas for such activities to suggest them so they could be arranged for more events this year, and said he would welcome any help in that regard.

Under New Business, Faught expressed a desire to see the Regiment put some of the treasury to use toward preservation of Civil War sites or artifacts. After some discussion of options, Nora Dietzel suggested that a sum of money be set aside from the budget for donation, and the possible benefactors researched further. Faught moved/Lee 2nd that \$400 be allocated for such a purpose. Passed. Gene Dressel offered a used drum for sale to the Regiment for \$250. Moved/2nd that it be purchased, complete with strap and drum sticks. Passed without dissent.

The annual Regimental Membership meeting was set to take place during Spring Muster/Drill at Cole Camp 30-31 March — specific day and time to be announced in the Messenger.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

Submitted by Corporate Secretary Dennis Faught

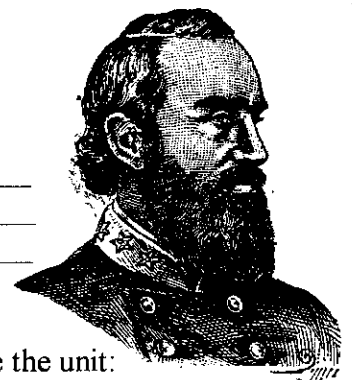
DUES NOTICE

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:

If there is a Red Check Mark by your name you will be dropped from the rolls if you do not renew!

From the Editor

Sorry this is getting to you so late. As you have become aware the Messenger is arriving in your mail boxes later each month. The reason is simple, my work and professional life has become more demanding. I do not foresee this easing any, as a matter of fact it appears that I will soon be called upon to make some extended trips on Kemper's behalf.

An additional problem in getting the Messenger to you on time, is that my wife and I will be moving some time this year. Facing little growth potential at MU she has begun to search for another position to continue her professional growth. I don't know if she will find a position in Missouri or not only time will tell.

Therefore to best serve the needs of the members of the Fifth Missouri, after two years of enjoyable work I think it is time to pass on the mantel of editor of the Messenger. If you are interested please contact our Corporate Officers.

I look forward to serving with all of you as we again take the field against the Yankee Horde in 1996!

I remain your Obedient servant,

Nick "Butcher" Davis

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 2 - MCWRA BALL & Moulton-Plowman Wedding - Lodge of the Four Seasons

March 30-31 - Fifth Missouri Spring Drill and Muster - Cole Camp, MO

THE MESSENGER

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

