

◆ THE MESSENGER ◆

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

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March 1996

The Continuing Saga of a True Member of The Fifth

Submitted by, Pvt. Nick Davis

We rejoin the action as the whole army retreated to Vicksburg, hotly pursued by the enemy and after repulsing additional attacks fell back within their works.

On the 22nd the enemy again made a general assault but were again repulsed at every point, The Rev. B. F. Mitchell of our Co., was seriously wounded. From the 23rd to the 26th sharpshooting and heavy cannonading continued all around our lines night and day. On the 27th our River Batteries sank the federal gunboat Cincinnati. About this time I went into the ditches again and so did Lt. J. L. (name Missing), B. L. Mitchell and S. N. Tuck. I will not give any more dates except as they occur to my mind for I neglected to keep a pocket diary any further. I will just say that the siege of Vicksburg continued until the 4th of July.

All of the army was in the ditches night and day with out relief and on 1/4 rations and that was generally poor. Beef and pea bread and towards the last we ate mule beef for we had no other kind and men as hungry as we were will get anything. Our Brigade was on reserve and consequently the Mo Brigade suffered more than any troops around the lines. Our greatest loss was where the enemy undermined us as a high place and blew us up several times and then tried to come over. About 40 Missourians were killed at one blow up and a great many of the Immortal 3rd LA. It was here that I was wounded in the hand by the explosion of a bomb, which broke my gun and shocked me very badly also.

Thomas C. Mitchell lost his right leg here, E. E. Thompson his right arm, S. W. Tuck and Corporal Patten Denny, of our Company were seriously wounded. Near this place General Green was killed. Lt. James Woodward and Thomas Pyle of Co. "D" were killed. Col. Urvin of the 6th MO. with other brave Missourians, I do not know their names, were killed. On the 4th of July we were entirely out of rations and therefore had to surrender all of our forces and all we had to the enemy on conditions. The officers and men were all to be paroled on the 8th and marched out on the 9th and were given furloughs by General Pemberton of thirty days.

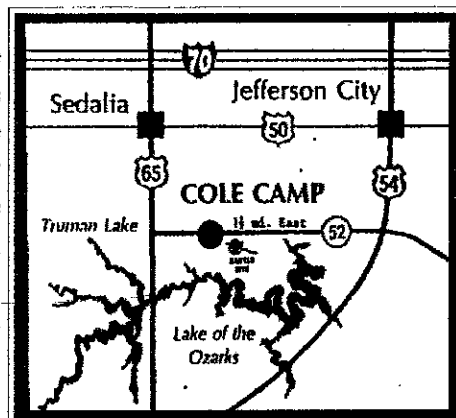
Parole camps were established at Demopolis, Alabama. I was not able to march out with the rest and therefore I was left at the hospital and was treated very well by the Federals all the time I was there. I was allowed to go where I pleased inside of the ditches. During the time I was there I wrote about a dozen letters home, but did not get any answers until I went to Demopolis, Alabama on September 6th. On July 17th the Rev. B. F. Mitchell died. On July 28th Thomas C. Mitchell died. Corporal S. H. Tuck and Corporal Denny both died sometime in August. On July 31st I got aboard a boat where there were about 600 wounded rebels on board. We arrived at New Orleans on August 2nd and remained until the evening of the 3rd. Soon after we landed at New Orleans several thousand of the citizens crowded around to see us. Many of them having their husbands, brothers and fathers on board. There was a multitude of old men, young men, old ladies, and young ladies and down to small children and negroes. They were all southern of course.

THE NEXT EVENT!

★ Drill & Muster, and Regimental meeting for the 5th. ★

The dates will be March 30-31 and the site is 3 miles east of Cole Camp see map. Watch for the sign at the the farm path at the top of the hill, just west of the railroad over pass. This is the original battle site of the "battle of Cole Camp" it is also the site of the event sceduled for July 13 & 14. You may arrive on friday and set up camp. There will be port a Johns, fire wood, and water available one meal will be provided on Saturday. The regimental meeting will be held at 9:00 AM on the 31st. This year we will trying Bayonet drill. Be ready for lots of marching and maybe some fighting too.

See ya all there!



M.C.W.R.A. meeting.

The 5th MO. Inf. was well represented at the MWCRA Meeting held at the lodge of the Four Seasons on March 2nd at 10am. Attending were our Capt. Jerry Lee & Cindy Lee, Pvt. Bill Wayne, 1st Sgt. Dennis Faught, Pvt. Ken McKee & Karen Finch, 2nd Sgt Larry & Nora Dietzel, and Pvt. John & Jeannie Gilger. I will not go into detail, but here is a brief over-view of the meeting. There were some policy changes which affect the business of the MCWRA. Watch for details on these changes in an upcoming Western Campaigner. The Wilsons Creek National battle field is looking for volunteers to assist with special events. The Annual meeting date has been moved to August 24th, location to be announced. The MCWRA is taking suggestions of methods to select events to be supported by the organization so to be fair to all. They will be asking for your input regarding this matter, so be giving this some thought. Refiling with the state of Missouri for tax exempt status for the MCWRA was discussed.

One of the most important items brought out by this meeting was the discussion after the meeting about safety guide lines for the dismounted cavalry.

A commander of a dismounted cav. unit had put together some safety guide lines and presented them to our battalion for review. After the Meeting an informal battalion meeting was held. The point was made clear to this dismounted cav. officer that they are generally believed to be farby, unsafe, and unwanted on the field with most of the units in our battalion. This dismounted cav. officer has a mountain of work cut out for him. This may be the turning point for dismounted cav. Which way? Your guess is as good as mine.

submitted by 2nd Sgt. Dietzel

Plowman/Moulton Wedding March 2, 1996

It was cause for celebration to witness the exchange of vows between Miss Cherice Moulton and Corporal David Plowman at the Lodge of the Four Seasons.

The bride, escorted by her father who was dashing in his Confederate Officer's Uniform, looked lovely in a white, off-the-shoulder gown with a cathedral length train. The gown was detailed with lace applique and intricate bead work. The bride was attended by two bridesmaids adorned in deep purple gowns.

The proud groom was handsome in his frockcoat and was attended by two groomsmen. The ceremony was accompanied by the beautiful refrains of a bagpipe. A small reception followed at the Lodge, before the wedding party adjourned to the President's Ball.

submitted by Mrs. Nora Dietzel

DETAILS OF 5TH MO UPCOMING EVENTS

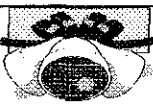
Davisville, MO. (Proposed) Sponsors now say they want infantry for two battles, including Saturday morning tactical. Packet has been requested, but still not received. Three meals provided. Candlelight tour. Located at the Hawkins Farms, 25 miles northeast of Cuba, MO.

Climax Springs, MO. "VFW 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 NOW if you can attend.**

Continued on page 3>

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 likely drilling and school children touring camps. Impression is FEDERAL Army of the Potomac (Iron Brigade) See detailed article in this issue. There is a one way road through the site past CS camps, sutlers, to the US camp and to US parking. US Registration is separate and located at the edge of the US camp. There will be a separate US civilian camp for all 1st Confederate Division dependents. All 4th Battalion troops attending will be consolidated into one or two Companies, as part of a 500-600 man authentically-sized & structured Regiment (the 7th Wisconsin). Therefore, we'll all go prepared to fall in as musket-toting Yankee privates. Site is about 20 miles from the original battlefield, near Orange, VA, which is west of Fredericksburg, midway between Charlottesville & Culpeper.

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. Pre-registration deadline is MAY 1.



WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS



Todd Conner of the 5th Missouri Infantry and 1st Missouri Cavalry (CS) requests the honour of your presence at his impending nuptials with Kathy Evans. The period ceremony will take place at 1:00 p.m., May 25th, at the Chapel at the Confederate Memorial Park in Higginsville, MO. All members of the 5th Missouri are invited to attend in period attire. Officers wear your sabres.

Ken Mckee And Karen Finch also of the 5th Missouri Infantry have announced their intention to wed within the month.

Society Review:

The annual President's Ball March 2, 1996 Lodge of the Four Seasons

The Confederate Ladies Organization certainly went to great lengths to provide a wonderful evening of entertainment for all at the annual ball. The evening commenced with the presentation of a dance card and handkerchief to each lady and a pair of white gloves to each gentleman. The music was provided by the Saxson's Coronet band and the dancing began with the Grand March, which was a beautiful display of elegant ballgowns and dashing frockcoats.

A wide array of dollar sandwiches and finger foods was provided, and during the intermission drawings were held for a large variety of books, prizes and merchant discounts.

In attendance of the ball were such notables as President Jefferson Davis, President Abraham Lincoln and a member of the Czar's mounted guard (heavy cavalry), advisor to the army of the South. Members of the 5th attending included Corporal and Mrs. Plowman, Pvt. Mike Hamilton, Pvt. and Mrs. John Gilger, their daughter and her fiance, Pvt. Mike White and his Lady Debbie. It was even rumored that 2nd Sgt. Larry Dietzel was spotted dancing the Virginia Reel, although those who know him well would certainly need proof of this.

Period photography was available as well as Del Warren's Sutlery. A good time was had by all, and I would highly recommend attendance when the CLO again hosts the ball in two years. submitted by Mrs. Nora Dietzel

COLE YOUNGER DAY PARADE

The Fifth Missouri has again been invited to march in the Cole Younger Day Parade in Lee's Summit. Based on last year's experience, I have declined their offer to be a part of the "carnival" (remember the tilt-a-whirl & petting zoo?) but told them if there is sufficient interest we might consider participating in the parade, which begins at 10 a.m. June 29. You'll be asked for a decision at Spring Drill, so I can convey to the organizers whether we accept or decline their invitation.

Reenlistments

PVT Todd Conner
(membership #5) 1st Platoon
7 Oaks, 820 SE 700
Knob Noster, MO 65336
(816) 563-3472

PVT. Mike & Rusti Heidgerken
(membership #151) 2nd Platoon
HC1 Box 549 A
Lampe, MO 65681
(417) 779-4951

ASSOC. John Kinsey
(membership # A-19)
200 Chennault Ave.
Barksdale A.F.B., LA 71110

ASSOC. George Ballman
(membership # A-7)
105 Fairview Drive
Warrensburg, MO 64093
(816) 747-9510

New Member

Joseph & Cora Hansen
(membership # 157) 2nd Platoon
Rout 1
Bland, MO 65014
(573) 646-5133
Sponsor: Lt. Hafley

New Address

CPL. Dave & Cherice Plowman
804 Ruthann Drive Apt 3B
Sedalia, MO 65301
(816) 827-1478

""TAINT NO MILITIA, IT'S THOSE DARNED BLACK HATS!""

Submitted by, 1st Sgt. Faught

From less than a hundred yards they traded volleys with the famed Stonewall Brigade for hours at Brawner's Farm. They swept through the Cornfield at Antietam. They helped stave off disaster for the Army of the Potomac the first day at Gettysburg, where the brigade was nearly wrecked. But by the time Grant began his final push in the Spring of '64, they were one of the few Federal regiments who had been successful in building themselves back up to nearly full strength. They were the 7th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment -- the "black hats" of the Iron Brigade -- and they are our impression for Wilderness II this May. These men -- like us -- were from "The West" and as such were markedly different in attitude and demeanor from "Eastern" regiments. They were rough, hardy men with little use for pomp and circumstance. They cared little for regulations and even less for military discipline, but fought like demons incarnate when there was a brawl on - and it didn't much matter who was on the other end be he Reb or Brother Union. In short, they and our own Missouri Brigade were kindred spirits. The Iron Brigade had a reputation for rowdiness that set them apart from the rest of the Army of the Potomac. The most important part of a 7th Wisconsin impression is the black hat. Everyone in the 5th MO should be wearing one. These men took a special pride in this distinctive headwear. A Hardee hat would be a handy addition to your impression, as they were quite common among western federals (whom we are occasionally called upon to portray), not to mention very appropriate for your Confederate impression. To the extent practical (and affordable), try to come up with one. As a last resort, a good black slouch will pass. Contrary to present day myth, many of these Hardees, especially in '64 and '65, were fashioned at the wearer's discretion -- lowering the crown, etc -- so feel free to "personalize" the shape. As far as hat brass, tassles, and feathers - you might see a spattering, but again, reenactors tend to over do it. The less the better. At most you might consider adding a bugle with a "7" in the center. The great thing about the Hardee is the protection it offered from the sun and rain. Pinning it up on one side reduces this functionality. Therefore, you should probably forgo the brass eagle used for this purpose.

Although the Iron Brigade was assigned to 1st Brigade, 4th Division, 5th Corps at the time of the Wilderness, they had only recently been transferred from the 1st Division, 1st Corps, and still wore their old corps badge insignia. All men were required to wear the corps badge. The size was quite a bit larger than the size used by many reenactors. It should be a red disc, 1 7/8" in diameter, made of felt. There were probably some who reduced the size so they could fit it into the infantry horn on the hat, but many wore them on the left breast of the sack coat. Sack coats are perfectly acceptable for this impression. The frock coat often associated with the Iron Brigade had largely disappeared by this time. Accoutrements are standard mid-war Federal issue. As to the 7th Wisconsin's deeds at the Wilderness, here is a brief excerpt from Gordan Rhea's Book on the Battle of the Wilderness regarding the action at Saunder's Field: "....Wadsworth's three brigades -- Cutler's, Stone's, and Rice's, extending south from Saunder's Field in that order -- had started forward at the same time as Griffin's Division. Bearing along the southern edge of Saunder's Field was Wadsworth's premier outfit, Cutler's Iron Brigade. Cutler's rightmost regiments -- the 7th Wisconsin and 7th Indiana -- drove into the graybacks side-by-side with Bartlett's soldier's and materially contributed to the collapse of Jone's section of the Confederate line. A Confederate heard them shouting as they charged, "Here's our western men!..."The 7th's nickname was "the Huckleberries", supposedly given by the 6th Wisconsin because they liked good things to eat. They also called themselves the "Hungry 7th". There were 536 men present for duty in the 7th Wisconsin at the Battle of the Wilderness. Our consolidated regiment (made up of all five Smart's Brigade battalions) should number almost precisely the same. You'll be part of a truly authentically-sized regiment for this battle. It will be commanded by Col. John Weaver of 5th (Cheatham's Orphan) Battalion. Col. Bill Rambo of 1st (Rambo's) Battalion will be his Lieutenant Colonel. The other Battalion Commanders will be serving as the staff of this single regiment at the appropriate ranks. For example, Col. John Beck will be a Major. There will be ten companies, each fielding approximately 50-65 men. Ours will be commanded by Willie Huckabee (Lt. Col. of 4th Battalion) serving as a Captain. At this point we don't yet know which company we'll be (A,B,C,etc). All 5th MO members have been registered as Privates, but our NCO's will serve in that capacity if called upon. This one is shaping up to be one of those "don't miss" experiences. You can still go if you register on-site for a \$10 fee.