

◆ THE MESSENGER ◆

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

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THE CONTINUING SAGA OF A TRUE MEMBER OF THE FIFTH MISSOURI.

Submitted By Nick Davis

The Federals placed two lines of infantry guards between us and the assembly and would not let any of us get off the boat or let any of them come aboard. Soon they brought up three companies of what they called the 5th Texas Cavalry and fronted them towards the crowd and gave the order to Charge. Away they went as brave as a wolf among lambs, right into the the crowd. Father you can't judge my feelings. When the charge was made they ran over, whipped over the head and back with their sabers, all that was in their way, old and young no regard to sex or standing.

These people were the most prominent citizens of the city. This would not keep them away and three sections of artillery were brought out and planted. The cavalry continued their charging and throwing lassoes over their heads as long as we stayed there. Just before we left there on the evening of the third they allowed them to bring some brandies, wines, bread, cake, meat and clothing for the wounded. A great many other things which they heaped on and would have loaded the boat had they been allowed. I never shall forget these good people. They allowed some of the soldiers to meet their wives at the guard lines and talked a few minutes with their wives, fathers and mothers.

But as we left the charge was renewed with new vigor and the last I saw of them they were running in every direction with the cavalry at their heels. We were changed to the steamship here which carried us across the Gulf of Mexico to Fort Morgan on Mobile Bay. I saw several of the enemy's steamships as we crossed the Gulf. We were halted by the fire of one of our guns at the Fort, a distance of two miles and one of our own boats came out and took us on board. They took us across the Mobile Bay to Mobile, Alabama, where we arrived on the night of August 4th. I will say here that General Bowdin, then a Major Gen. died near Edwards Station about ten days after the surrender of Vicksburg. He was one of the best officers Missouri ever turned out. In fact he was not second to any Major General then in the Confederate service. All the Missourians loved him next to if not as well as Old Pap. When we got to Mobile we went to a cotton house which afforded us a good shelter but a hard bed.

The ladies brought us plenty to eat and I again felt myself free as a Confederate soldier ever gets. On the 5th after taking a view of the city and our gun boats and transports generally, I got a 30 day furlough and obtained transportation to Macon Station, Mississippi. I got aboard the cars and went at Confederate R.R. time to Macon. After I got there Asbury Tindle (who was in the same company as me) and I went about six miles to an old rich farmer by the name of Smith, where we lived luxuriantly, until our furlough was out, on biscuits, fresh pork, chicken, watermelons, peaches, apples, potatoes, etc. All of which we had in abundance and was given to us free, by Mr. Smith and his kind lady, whom we will remember for her kindness as long as we live.

BUS TRIP TO THE WILDERNESS

For those looking to make a full vacation out of the Wilderness event in May, the Frontier Battalion and the Holmes Brigade are chartering a bus and need approximately fifteen more people. Since we're all doing federal at the event we've been invited to join them. The cost is \$150.00 plus the cost of a room for two nights. the cost of the room will depend on how many persons wish to share. The offer is open to any gender as there are several ladies already signed up.

The bus leaves Topeka Kansas on Monday morning of May 13. The group will visit Gettysburg on Tuesday, Manassas & Fredricksburg on Wednesday, and end up at the site on Thursday. You will return after the the battle with the bus driving straight through. Anyone interested should contact the 1st Setgeant immediately, so he can e-mail your intent to the Holmes Brigade Quartermaster.

SPRING DRILL AND MUSTER OF 1996

For those few of you who did not make this years spring drill missed seeing the largest company the 5th has fielded in a fue years. The company fielded 30 plus men on Saturday but the number dwindled down to less than 10 by Sunday at noon. The depletion in the ranks was probably due to rain which started Saturday evening and ended on Sunday , but by noon the sun was out and the temputure was warm. The day of drill on Saturday had something which the 5th Missouri has never experienced which was Mcclelans Bayonet drill instructed by Pvt.s Gene Dressel and Ken McKee. The Fifth spread out in a skirmish line across the field with bayonets attached to every rifle looked magnificent. This drill I'm sure will show up on the field again some time this year to the thrill of some lucky civilian on lookers. and may even help recruit new members to the Fifth. After a long day of marching, yelling , joking , we were all treated to a good old German meal By the Cole Camp Reenactment Committee . The meal which consisted of Bratwurst, Sauer kraut, Potato salad, Green beans was very fineand appreciated by all. All in all, the drill was not too bad but we could have used some more time Sunday afternoon to drill a little more. If the fifth keeps the support we had on Saturday all year we will have a very fine company to field against the yank hoard this season.

Your obedient servant

2nd Sergeant Dietzel

MINUTES OF ANNUAL REGIMENTAL MEETING

COLE CAMP, MO SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 1996

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Lee at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present. The minutes of the January meeting were approved as printed in the Messenger. The treasurer reported a balance of \$2,774.80 in the Corporate checking account -- including \$72 for eight members' 1995 MCWRA dues which never cleared. The treasurer reported that the problem is at the MCWRA Treasurer's end and he has been notified repeatedly. He also reported that fewer membership renewals than projected at the January meeting would result in a smaller monthly budget for newsletter, recruiting, postage, and director reimbursement. This was being offset by lower than expected Messenger printing costs. The financial report was approved without further comment.

Recruits Everett Biggs and David Pickering, having met the minimum qualifications, were presented for Veteran status. Plowman moved/Fink 2nd that Biggs be approved. Passed without dissent. Hafley moved/Jerry Lee 2nd that Pickering be approved. Passed without dissent.

The 1996 event schedule was then discussed. Motions to add Davisville, Climax Springs and Shelbina to the schedule passed. A motion to add the Lee's Summit Cole Younger Days parade failed, and a motion to drop Grand Island from the schedule passed. Attendance commitments to each of the authorized upcoming events were then tallied.

For 1997, Dennis Faught presented planning information from the 1st Confederate Division regarding an April event near Shiloh, Tennessee, and a fall event on the site of last year's Spring Hill, Tennessee event. The Division staff is soliciting suggestions as to what battle to reenact at Spring Hill in the fall of 1997, since the site has been offered for use but does not suit the previously-planned Chickamauga event. Ken McKee suggested a scenerio involving the Battles around Atlanta, which met with agreement. There being no other suggestions, that wish will be relayed to Division HQ.

Regarding the Wilderness event, Faught relayed a message from Brig Gen Bill Smart proposing to have authentic, silk, hand-sewn colours of the 7th Wisconsin made for our Iron Brigade impression there, and requesting \$2 donations to cover the cost. Members voluntarily donated a total of \$30 for this purpose.

Faught reported that information was still being sought on potential recipients of the \$400 appropriated at the January meeting for donation to preservation causes. Three tentative recommendations included McGavock Cemetery in Franklin, Tennessee, where a restoration project continues; The Friends of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, where the visitors center is in need of expansion; and Vicksburg National Military Park, where many of the Missouri markers are suffering from vandalism. John Gilger moved/Sam Hafley 2nd that \$200 be donated immediately to Kennesaw Mtn to help meet a matching funds deadline, and the remaining \$200 be offered to Vicksburg, pending a response from that Park. Passed without dissent.

Cindy Lee reported that the Cole Camp Boonslick Library had requested reenactors for a presentation to children July 5 at 1:30. Volunteers were sought.

In a discussion about the spacing and location of Company meetings during the season, Faught expressed a desire to no longer take time away from reenactment events for such meetings. After some consideration of whether a bylaw change to reduce the number of required Company meetings, there came some consensus that non-event meetings might enjoy better attendance if there was some other "draw" such as a live fire, with meetings rotating between the several locations available for this activity. John Cramer volunteered to check into the feasibility of such a get-together at his gun

club in Jefferson City. There was agreement that quarterly board meetings could still take place at maximum effort events as allowed in the bylaws.

The Regimental Meeting was adjourned at 10:45, and a meeting of the Board of Directors immediately convened, with all three directors present. The minutes of the January meeting were approved as printed in the Messenger.

The Board unanimously approved an expenditure of \$75 for the rental of porto-potties for the Spring Drill event. Also unanimously approved was a motion by Vice President Dietzel & 2nd by Sec/Treas Faught to buy postage for the newsletter in bulk, rather than month-to-month. Faught calculated that \$144 would cover 1st Class postage for the remainder of the year at 50 issues per month. Additional purchases will be made as needed due to increasing membership.

A brief discussion of details of the Cole Camp event followed, including the plans regarding casualties and aftermath scenerios for one of the generic battles, and the need for volunteers to man the registration table all night Friday until 10 a.m. Saturday. Lee reported that the event committee would take responsibility for enforcing the "no vehicles in camp" rule.

There being no other business, the Board adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Submitted by Corporate Secretary Dennis Faught

THE NEXT EVENT!

★ **April 13 & 14 Davisville, MO.** Sponsors now 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 Hewkins Farms, 25 miles southeast of Cuba, MO. ★

DETAILS OF 5TH MO UPCOMING EVENTS

CLIMAX SPRINGS, MO. "VFW Loyalty Day". We've been invited to set up a living history and march in their parade, which begins at 10 a.m. Activities scheduled from 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. Recruiting Opportunity. Located midway between Warsaw and Camdenton off MO 7.

THE WILDERNESS. Orange, Virginia. National Event. Scenerios include a Wilderness Tactical in the woods Saturday morning, Saunders Field Saturday afternoon, and Widow Tapp Farm Sunday afternoon. No events Friday except Regimental Drill and school children touring camps. You WILL want to be there for drill. Impression is FEDERAL Army of the Potomac (Iron Brigade) See detailed article in March issue. 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. Separate "campaign-style" camp available for those who want to rough it. 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. Entrance is on Clifton Road (Rt. 628) off of Highway 20.

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.

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. Pay Call. Mail Call. Skirmish each day. Period crafts. Recruiting Opportunity. DO NOT send in the individual registration form you may have received. Make your commitments by MAY 20 through the 1st Sgt., who'll register the company as a unit.

COLE CAMP. 5TH MO MAXIMUM EFFORT re-creating events of June 19, 1861. Historic action Saturday morning (for which Civilian impression is mandatory), plus Generic actions Saturday and Sunday afternoons. BE PREPARED TO GALVANIZE. Mail call, pay call, fashion show, and period entertainment. Located on MO Hwy 52, about 2 1/2 miles east of downtown Cole Camp. (Same site as Spring Drill). Make commitments to 1st Sgt. by JUNE 9.

HONEY SPRINGS, OK. Reenactment of July 1863 Battle of Honey Springs in Indian Territories. Two battles, ladies tea, evening social/dance. Friday night ice cream social & watermelon provided to early arrivals. Near Checotah, just off US 69. Commit to 1st Sgt. by JUNE 9.

DRILL FACTS

By the 1st Sergeant

This month: First of a two-part review of Company Skirmish Drill. This article deals with the principles involved. Next month we'll address the specific commands and actions.

A body of troops can be deployed as skirmishers on two general ways: Forward and By The Flank. Which means is used depends upon the circumstances. If the intent is to throw out a line of skirmishers in advance of a position currently occupied, the deployment would be forward. If the skirmish line is to be deployed on the line the troops currently occupy, it is done 'By The Flank.'

Once the officer determines whether we'll deploy forward or by the flank, he then must make a judgement as to which file the men will take their interval from -- or in other words, the point from which the company will "fan out." He needs to immediately decide what front needs to be covered by the line -- and where the company is now located in relation to that front.

In one common scenario, the company might be on the left flank of the battalion, and directed to deploy skirmishers before it. To do this, they would need to deploy FORWARD, and take intervals "ON THE LEFT FILE." The principle works the same for any file. The file called (right, left, center, 2nd, 7th, etc) is the one that moves straight forward. All others "fan out" (take intervals) from them.

In another scenario, where the company is maneuvering alone and needs to deploy as skirmishers on the ground currently occupied, deployment would be BY THE FLANK. The officer again determines what front needs to be covered, and deploys his men in the direction needed. For example, if the threat is to his right front, he would deploy "BY THE RIGHT FLANK" in order to stretch out to meet it.

The specific commands will be addressed next month, but note the difference in the intention of the two deployments. "ON the (____) file." This is a command of LOCATION. Where is the line going to be anchored? "BY the (____) flank. This is a command of DIRECTION. Which way is the line going to spread out? They do two different things and cannot be used interchangeably.

Once deployed as skirmishers, the line can maneuver just as any other line of battle. It can be marched forward and in retreat. It can wheel. It can march by the flank. Guide in a skirmish line is habitually in the CENTER, unless otherwise commanded. Since we lack the 3rd SGT who's responsible as this guide, we often guide left or right.

Firing can take place while halted or while on the move in any of the above directions. In either case, it is always done in tandem with your file partner. This helps insure a steady rate of fire, and assures that at least half of the men are loaded at any given time.

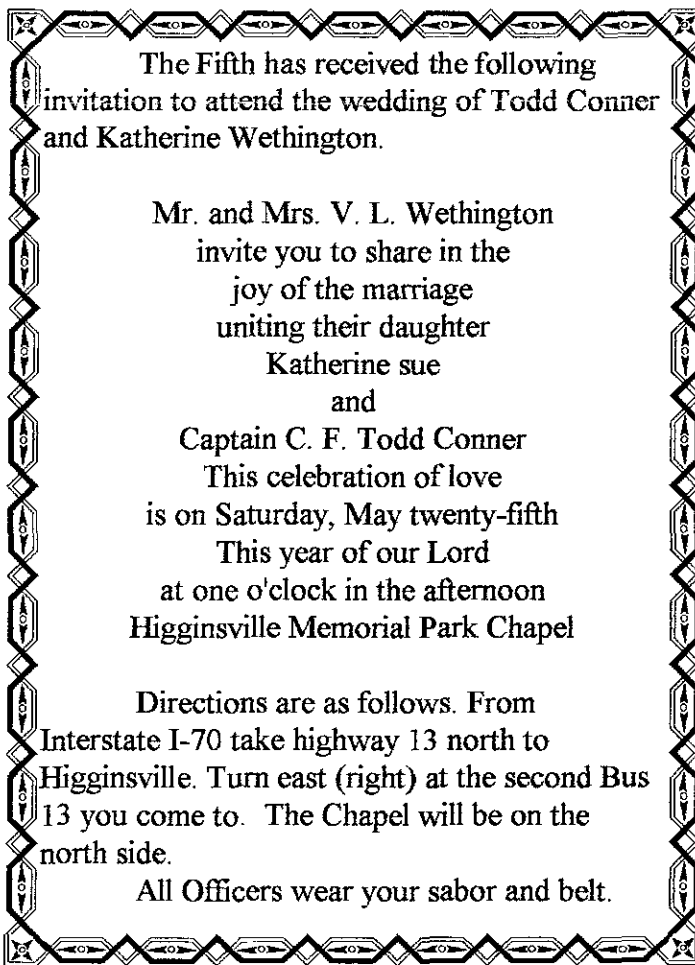
There are two ways to reform the company from a skirmish line: The Rally and The Assembly. "Assembly" is for reforming when there is no longer a threat. It is done at quick time, with groups of four ('comrads in arms') marching back to their assigned places in ranks. "Rally" is to oppose the enemy in an emergency. It is done at the run, and there

are several ways to rally. "Rally by Fours" brings the comrads in arms together at the point occupied by the front rank "2" (he should raise his musket to let his pards know where to rally), their right feet together in the center, and facing outward with muskets "at the ready". File partners may continue to fire from this position, if safety allows. If the commander deems these formations too weak (pressed by a LOT of cavalry), he can "Rally by Sections" ".by Platoons", ".by Company", or "...on the Reserve". In each case the square is formed in the same manner.

In a skirmish formation, the Captain will be behind the center of the line, the 1st and 2nd Sergeants will retire to 10 paces behind the right & left flanks, respectively. It's their job to generally superintend things on the line, rather than get up there and shoot. The Lieutenant would be commanding the reserve platoon if we had one, but since numbers usually require that the whole company be deployed, he'll take a place in the rear along the same line as the Captain.

One important principle to remember in skirmish formation is to TAKE AVAILABLE COVER each time you halt. Kneel, lie down, sit. Don't stand in the open like a target. Alignment isn't as important as taking advantage of cover, as long as you remain within site of your file partner.

Next month: The commands and how to follow them.



The Fifth has received the following invitation to attend the wedding of Todd Conner and Katherine Wethington.

Mr. and Mrs. V. L. Wethington
invite you to share in the
joy of the marriage
uniting their daughter
Katherine sue
and
Captain C. F. Todd Conner
This celebration of love
is on Saturday, May twenty-fifth
This year of our Lord
at one o'clock in the afternoon
Higginsville Memorial Park Chapel

Directions are as follows. From Interstate I-70 take highway 13 north to Higginsville. Turn east (right) at the second Bus 13 you come to. The Chapel will be on the north side.

All Officers wear your savor and belt.

Upcoming Events

- May 4 CLIMAX SPRINGS, MO. Parade & living history
May 9-12 LOWERY CITY, MO (Listed FYI only)
May 17-19 THE WILDERNESS- Orange, VA.
May 25-26 CRESTON, IOWA
Jun 8-9 COLUMBIA MO- Living history (5th MO supported Living History)
Jun 15-16 JEFFERSON BARRACKS- Small Living history
Jun 22-23 GRAND ISLAND- NE. (Listed FYI, Company not supporting ,Battalion Max)
Jul 13-14 COLE CAMP- (5TH MO MAXIMUM EFFORT, 5th MO Sponsoring)
Jul 20-21 HONEY SPRINGS, I.T.
Jul 27-28 Lenexa, KS- (Listed FYI only)
Aug 3-4 ATHENS, MO
Sep 7-8 FREDERICKTOWN - (5TH MO MAXIMUM EFFORT) (Battalion Max Effort)
Sep 14-15 St. Charles- (Listed FYI only)
Sep 21-22 Granbury, TX- (Listed FYI only)
Sep 28-29 Pilot Knob Living History.- (Listed FYI only)
Oct 12-13 Shelbina, MO. - (We may consider supporting due to Tactical date change)
Oct 18-20 WESTERN TACTICAL -Bowling Green, KY (NOTE DATE CHANGE)
Oct 19-20 WARSAW HERITAGE DAYS- (5th MO supported Living History)
Dec 7-8 **PRAIRIE GROVE, ARK. (Battalion Max Effort)**

Missing Company Gear

Cpl. Bowling is still trying to locate the following Company gear: one bayonet & scabbard, one pair brogans size 9. Everyone should check their equipment and see if they have any of these items. If you do have an item let Cpl. Bowling know so he can account for the inventory. Your cooperation is appreciated.