

# \*THE MESSENGER.

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

Vol.8 No.2

February 1997



## EVENT REPORT: BATTALION SCHOOL 4TH BATTALION ADOPTS DRILL MANUAL

Officers and NCO's representing eight of 4th Battalion's nine infantry companies attended a two-day School of the Soldier in Joplin February 1-2. Representing the 5th Missouri were Captain Jerry Lee, 1st Lieutenant Alan Bowling, 1st Sergeant Dennis Faught, 2nd Sergeant Sam Hafley, and Corporals Dave Plowman, Larry Dietzel and Mike White.

Elements covered included an overview of the duties of the reenacting officer and non-commissioned officer, led by Maj. Ted Prater, the Manual of Arms, led by Sgt. Maj. Lynn Shackleford, Battalion Evolutions, led by Lt. Col. William Huckabee, and Skirmish Deployment of the Company, led by 1st Sgt. Dennis Faught. There was also a brief business meeting, during which Col. John Beck discussed event planning.

In light of recent research into the various drill manuals available to 19th-Century armies, there was much discussion of the need for all companies in the battalion to use the same one -- particulary in the Manual of Arms and the method of Stacking Arms. Until now, each company has made its own choice. The result was that no two companies did things exactly the same way. This created problems when companies were consolidated.

Apparently ignoring suggestions from Sgt. Faught of the 5th Mo. and others, Battalion leadership had settled prior to the school on using James R. Gunn's illustrated interpretation of U.S. Infantry and Rifle Tactics to teach the Manual of Arms. Each company also wanted to retain their own preferred method of stacking arms -some with the "Kentucky Swing", some with "Gilham's".

Those of us in the Fifth Missouri protested this, and in doing so created a bit of a stir amongst the battalion leadership, who saw it as unyielding and divisive. After a number of high-level huddles we were finally able to impress upon them that we wanted only to standardize drill throughout the battalion, and would accept whatever the majority decided.

We were allowed to make our case: As a reenactment group representing a Confederate unit -- Cockrell's Missouri Brigade -- we should use a Confederate drill manual. Specifically, the 1861 and later revisions of Hardees (detailed in the Sept. '96 Messenger). This manual prescribes the so-called "Kentucky Swing" for stacking arms, and adapts the loading & fixing bayonet positions to more easily accommodate the three-band rifle musket.

Others made the case for using the Federal manual -- U.S. Infantry and Rifle Tactics -- which is essentially the 1855 version of Hardees with a few additions (minus his name).

In the end, a resistance to change won out, and by a 5-to-3 vote, the battalion chose to use the Federal drill manual. Since that manual specifies no stack for socket bayonets, a second vote was taken to decide which way everyone would stack arms. A 4-to-4 tie was broken when the 9th Missouri agreed to compromise and give the "Kentucky Swing" a trial.

What does this mean for the 5th Missouri? Outwardly, very little. We had only recently begun to incorporate Hardees revisions into our loading & fixing bayonets, so only a few of us need to "un-learn" that. We've always used the "swing" to stack arms. So in the end, it's a moral defeat, but apractical victory. The best result is that all companies in the battalion will be doing these things uniformly.

#### REGISTRATION FOR EVENTS

Men and Women of the Fifth: we need to get your committment for this years events. If you are sure you will be coming to an event, get registered with Dennis ASAP. If you need a ride to the event call Dennis or me and we may be able to set up a car pool for you. So let us make the Fifth one of the largest Companies on the field this year. The more people we have the more we can do with camp life, pay call, mail call scenarios and the more fun we can have.

#### **DETAILS OF 5TH MO UPCOMING EVENTS**

Feb 22-23 Atoka, Oklahoma. Battle of Middle Boggy Depot. (MCWRA Maximum Effort.) Site is on state route 7, five miles west of U.S. 69 in southeast Oklahoma (about 75 mi beyond Honey Springs site). Generic battle 2pm Saturday. Dance at nearby school. CSA Court of Inquiry Sunday morning. Historic battle (Feds vs Indians & Texicans) 1:30pm Sunday. All military come prepared to be privates in the ranks. If you need company gear, contact Lt. Bowling IMMEDIATELY to arrange for it. He is not attending the event.

6 Military and 3 Civilians & Dependents Committed.

Mar 15-16 Cole Camp, MO. Spring Drill. Annual company muster & membership meeting. Location to be announced.

Apr 4-6 SHILOH, Tennessee. National Event three miles from National Park. Site is off Highway 22 in McNairy County. Scenarios will include the opening attack on the Federal camps (Saturday morning, no spectators), the repeated Peach Orchard assaults on the Hornet's Nest (Saturday afternoon), and action from the second day, including the Federal counter-attack and Forrest's rear guard action at Falling Timbers. General Beck will command three battalions portraying Anderson's Brigade (Bragg's Corps). Lt. Col. Huckabee will command 4th Bttn, which will portray Louisiana troops Saturday & Texas troops Sunday (i.e. NO galvanizing). Impression can be our standard gray jean wool. Gates will close to vehicles at Midnight Friday. If you arrive after that, you'll have to "hump" it in from the parking lots. At last count, over 4600 troops and nearly 100 artillery pieces were pre-registered. For late registrants, Fee is now \$7 per person.

Registration deadline March 16.

21 Military and 8 Civilians & Dependents paid.

Apr. 19-20 Rocky Mount, MO. Battle of Indian Creek. North side of Lake of the Ozarks. Rt. W east from Versailles to Lake Road W-6, or take Rt. Y west from Eldon to Rt. W, then Lake Road W-6. Saturday morning "capture the flag" tactical. Generic battles Saturday at 3 p.m. & Sunday at 1 p.m. Ladies tea. Picnic basket auction. Rations provided + potluck Saturday supper with sliced ham provided. Regular Confederate impression, but prepare to Galvanize. Registration Deadline March 16.

May 17-18 Carthage, MO. 1861 Battle of Carthage. (MCWRA Maximum Effort) In city's Kellogg Park, adjacent to Spring River. Impression is VERY EARLY war State Guard (NO gray). No rations provided, but prepared meal served Saturday evening. Further details forthcoming. Registration Deadline: April 6.

Watch for Details on These Upcoming Events:

June 14-15	Columbia, MO. Annual Nifong Park/Maplewood Mansion Living History.
June 21-22	St. Louis, MO. Jefferson Barracks. (MCWRA MaxEffort) Register by 5/1. (\$2)
July 26-27	Site TBA. Company A Live Fire Event & Drill.
Sept 13-14	Calwood, MO. Battle of Moore's Mill.
Sept. 27-28	Leasburg, MO. Battle of Leasburg/Price's Raid.
Oct. 18-19	Warsaw, MO. Osage Valley Heritage Days. Annual Living History.
Oct. 24-26	Spring Hill, TN. The Fight for Nashville. (National Event)

### NEWS LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE FIFTH MO

Over the last couple of months I have received two news letters for Midwestern Reenactors. I will bring them to spring drill for you to look over and decide if you would like to subscribe. Here are the addresses and subscription costs:

The Border States Courier, The Journal of, By and For Midwestern Reenactors. Celia Mater, Editor 108 South Logan, Newton, KS 67114 Tel. (316) 283-0618 Cost \$12.00 dollars yearly.

The Trans-Mississippi news, Published Quarterly by Camp Pope Bookshop P.O. Box 2223, Iowa City Iowa Cost \$15.00 dollars yearly.

## SUTTLERS CORNER

FOR SALE: Used once: Brass-frame .44 Navy Colt (from Cabella's) -- \$55. Very Used "A" Tent (complete with poles & iron stakes) -- \$50. Blue cotton"bib-front" shirt, size 40 -- \$10. Grey-mix forage cap w/McDowell brim,(size small) -- \$10. Also back issues of "America's Civil War", "Military History", and Avalon Hill Game Company's "General" magazines. -- Inquire with the 1st Sgt.

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## SEE YOU ALL THERE!

## THE "NO-TELL MOTEL MILITIA" SUBMITTED BY PVT. YOAKUM

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Over the years, we've all experienced the dangers of Civil War period camping: rain tents blowing over, cook fires out of control, etc. but how many know just how dangerous enlisting in the "Motel militia" can be. Just ask Pvt. Jerry Heidgerken. After a long drive north from Orlando to participate in the Western Tactical in November (1996), Jerry decided an overnight stop at a local hotel would afford him a good nights sleep before embarking on a demanding weekend in the field at the tactical. Stopping just North of Chattanooga, Jerry checked in to third floor room before adjourning to a local pub for dinner and ail. Pvt. Heidgerkin found the local ale much to his liking and returned to his room when the pub closed, fortified with barley & hops and looking forward to a sound nights sleep (off the ground on clean sheets). About 3:00 am, Jerry was awakened by noise in the hallway and, thinking someone was attempting to break into his room, jumped up and dashed into the hallway, as any member of the "fighting fifth" might do.

Unfortunately, the door closed and locked behind him, leaving Pvt. Heidgerken standing in the 3rd. floor hallway of the hotel clad only in his 20th. century, Fruit-of-the-Loom undershorts. While this might be acceptable (even common) attire on a Fifth Missouri company street, most hotels frown on such. After several frantic trips up and down the stairs & hallway in his skivvies. Jerry, Leaning around a corner, finally got the attention of the (female) desk clerk. Pvt. Heidgerken then swears that this "mean, ugly woman" threw the keys so he would have to step out from behind the wall to pick them up.

For Shiloh in April, Pvt. Heiderken has indicated that he'll be camping with the company for the entire weekend.

FORT BENTON, WAYNE CO. MO FUNDS SOUGHT TO BUY SITE SUBMITTED BY PVT. FORD & CPL DIETZEL

Fort Benton is located in Wayne county Missouri 1/4 mile off highway 34 over looking the village of Patterson the birthplace of former Gov. Sam Baker. The Fort was an earthen out post built by Union troops in 1863 to station reinforcements and keep watch over key points of Wayne Co. The fort changed hands serval times during the Civil War. The Wayne county historical society is attempting to raise funds to buy the 30 -plus acre property. The owners are asking \$46,000 dollars for the property and are holding the land until December 1997. The historical society is looking at serval means of help: Missouri Div. of State Parks, National Registry of historic places, and donations from the public.

I think this site may be worthy of a donation from the Fifth MO. This site is in the State of Missouri, and was built during the Civil War. The state has very fue Civil War historic sites and the is would be a good addition to the ones we have. The address for any donation is: Rout 1, Box 187 Patterson MO 63956 or Opal Lee Payton at Route 2, Box 2609, Piedmont MO 63967

The information is form the "Daily American Republic" news paper from Poplar Bluff MO, #276, Monday, December 2nd, 1996. I have this article and I will bring it to the spring drill for your reading.

### 1997 MCWRA SCHEDULE SET

The Missouri Civil War Reenactors Association met August 24 in Springfield, and set the 1997 reenactment schedule as follows:

Feb 22-23	Battle of Middle Boggy - Atoka, Oklahoma.
	MAXIMUM EFFORT.
Apr 4-6	Shiloh, Tennessee. National Event. LISTED.
Apr 19-20	Battle of Indian Creek - Rocky Mount, Missouri.
<u>-</u>	SANCTIONED
May 17-18	Carthage, Missouri. MAXIMUM EFFORT.
Jun 14-15	Columbia, Missouri LOCAL
Jun 21-22	Jefferson Barracks - St. Louis, Missouri.
	MAXIMUM EFFORT.
Sep 13-14	Battle of Moore's Mill - Fulton, Missouri.
ŀ	SANCTIONED.
Sep 20-21	Lexington, Missouri. SANCTIONED
Sep 27-28	Leasburg, Missouri. SANCTIONED
Oct 24-26	Battles for Nashville - Spring Hill, Tennessee.
	National Event. LISTED

Malvern Lake, Kansas. LISTED.

## THE MESSENGER

Date TBA

920 West Broadway Columbia, Mo. 65203 WEBPAGE AT

http://eedarcroft.com/cw/5mo Email Idietzel@digmo.org



## 5TH MO CLOTHING ITEMS

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<u>~</u> If you're intersted in purchasing an ☆ article of clothing with the 5th MO A markings, here is your chance. I will be taking orders for T-shirts in the sizes we are out of .The following is the price list:

~ T-Shirt.....\$11.00 ☆ for sizes overXXL add \$1.00 ☆ T-Shirt Childrens sizes.....\$10.00 Sweat Pants 7oz.(only the Bugle on the <sup>☆</sup> front).....\$18.00 SweatShirt 7oz.(Like the T-<sup>™</sup> Shirt).....\$18.00 for sizes over XXL add \$2.00 ☆ Ball Cap (only the Bugle on the ☆ front).....\$8.00 The Jackets several styles price range from The Jackets \$25.00 to \$55.00 公

⇔ We have ordered 12 caps.