

MESSENGER

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1 CO A 5TH MO INFY

JANUARY 1, 1998

Attention - COMPANY

A Drill Column by the First Sergeant *Attention to Roll Call!*

In the army then, as today, roll calls were a necessary part of a soldier's life, taking place two, three, or more times each day. The reenacting soldier, however, is not bound by the strict discipline of real army life. Although additional duties are sometimes assigned as "punishment", no one gets in real trouble for missing a formation at a reenactment. Nevertheless, we need to understand the importance of being present for roll call.

The primary value is one of planning. Those at every level of command need to know how many are present and available for the day's activities. The First Sergeant, for example, needs to know how many are present for duty to fairly assign camp details, or draw rations. Battalion staff needs to know how many are present in each company to make line-of-march and unit consolidation decisions. Brigade command (at larger events) need accurate numbers for many of the same reasons, in addition to scenario planning. The roll call is frankly the easiest way to ascertain these numbers. It also serves as a natural time to pass important information to members of the unit.

A residual effect of standing for roll call and other formations is that intangible "slice of life" element. It's another part of the 'being there' experience. For those who demure from such martial structure, I humbly suggest that they have made an odd choice in hobbies. We are, after all, portraying military men -- and a well-disciplined and drilled organization at that: The Missouri Brigade.

There is a uniform method -- prescribed by regulation and custom -- for performing roll calls. It is as follows:

The First Sergeant is charged with the responsibility of forming the company for all drills and parades, and thus, he handles the roll call, under the superintendance of an officer. The men are to fall in in two ranks. If ordered to fall in without arms, you take the position of "*parade rest*." (Right foot six inches behind the left heel, left knee slightly bent, weight resting on the right leg, hands crossed in the front, the backs of them outward, left hand on top -- REG322) Note this is the same as the formal parade rest position of the Manual of Arms, sans musket. If ordered to fall in with arms, you automatically take the position of "*shoulder arms*." --(Kautz COS428)

Once the company has been formed, sized, and counted, the First Sergeant takes a position six to eight paces to the front and center of the company, facing it. He then commands

Attention to Roll Call!

If at parade rest, the company comes immediately to attention. If under arms, the sergeant adds

Support -- ARMS.

The roll is then called, beginning with sergeants, in order of rank, followed by corporals, musicians, and privates, in alphabetical order. As your name is called, you answer "HERE", and then immediately bring your musket first to *shoulder arms*, then to *order arms*. --(Kautz COS429)

After the roll is called, the First Sergeant turns to the superintending officer and reports the results, including absentees by name. If no one is absent without proper authority, he reports "*All present or accounted for*." He then takes his position as right guide of the company. --(Kautz COS430)

An interesting side note is that First Sergeants were expected to memorize the roster of their company in alphabetical order, so as to call the roll at any hour, day or night. They were also advised to be able to associate the name, face and voice of each soldier, as the men were likely to answer in the place of absentees if they

January Meeting Agenda

Agenda Corporate Election Meeting January 18, 1998 Sedalia, MO

- I. Call to Order 2:30 PM
- II. Minutes of Last Meeting
- III. Financial Report
- IV. Veteran Status (Veterans Only)
 - A. Nick Meoli
 - B. Justin Gerke
 - C. Randy Bruegger
 - D. TJ Bruegger
- V. Board Elections
 - A. President (2 Year Term)
 - B. Company A Vice President (1 Year Term)
- VI. Field Staff Elections (Veterans Only)
 - A. Regimental
 - 1. Captain
 - B. Company A
 - 1. 1st Lieutenant
 - 2. 1st Sergeant
 - 3. 2nd Sergeant
 - 4. Corporals
- VII. Delegation of Quartermaster Duties
- VIII. Event Schedule
 - A. Officer/NCO School: Mar 14-15
 - B. Spring Drill & Membership Meeting
 - C. Wichita: April 4-5
 - D. Vicksburg Campaign: May 8-10
 - E. Columbia: June 13-14
 - F. Fulton Kingdom Days: June 26-28
 - G. Gettysburg: July 3-5
 - H. St. Charles: September 12-13
 - I. Pilot Knob: September 26-27
 - J. Mill Springs, KY: Oct 3-4
 - K. Warsaw: October 17-18

Attention Company! (continued)

thought they could deceive the sergeant.

At the conclusion of roll call, any number of things could happen at a reenactment. We might march to morning parade, drill, breakfast, or simply be dismissed. The First Sergeant fills out his morning report based on the results of the roll call, signs it and hands it to the Captain for his signature, then delivers it to the battalion adjutant. It is only as useful as it is accurate. I think the process of roll call serves an important purpose at any event, and also adds to the experience for all involved.

See you on the drill field.



VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

THE VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN: May 8-10, Raymond, MS

This event will be a "modified campaign" event, including two separate marches (3 and 4 miles), and battle scenerios on five sites surrounding the city of Raymond, which is about eight miles southwest of Jackson. The action will begin Friday at the "main" site southwest of Raymond, move to the City of Raymond on Saturday, and then on to the "Champion Hill" site on Sunday.

The armies will bivouac the night of May 7 at the starting point. Military participants may park here, or at the Champion Hill site where the action will end Sunday. Those hoping to make a quick getaway Sunday afternoon might choose the latter option. Shuttles will run between those two sites Friday and Sunday.

The civilian ("refugee") camp will be in Raymond, about a half-mile from downtown on the front lawn of Waverly Mansion on the Peyton Plantation. This is near the Saturday night military bivouac, and will be open to spectators all weekend. Civilians will have an important role in Saturday's scenerios. Sutlers will be located at all three sites.

The two armies will first collide at 4 p.m. Friday on a portion of the original Raymond battlefield, along Fourteen Mile Creek, for "The Battle of Raymond" (12 May 1863). Following this battle, the troops will return to their nearby bivouacs.

Saturday morning, the armies will depart on a tactical march of about four miles along an abandoned railway bed. Along this route will be a non-spectator battle in the adjoining woods and fields, representing the first stages of the "Battle of Jackson" (14 May 1863).

Upon entering Raymond, both armies will take part in a parade past the historic courthouse -- CS troops first, followed closely by the Federals. Civilians will line the streets cheering the troops, and recreating events of 12 May 1863, in which the ladies of Raymond had prepared a picnic feast for their Confederate heroes, only to see it consumed by the pursuing federals.

Both columns will rest and reform at the Peyton Plantation, and prepare for the 3 p.m. reenactment of "The Battle of Jackson" (Wright Farm, 14 May 1863). Following that battle, they will bivouac at the Peyton Plantation. There will be a camp dance Saturday evening on the grounds.

Sunday morning the CS troops will depart first, followed a short time later by the Federals, on a three-mile march to the Champion Hill site. Non-spectator skirmishing along the route of the historic Raymond-Bolton railroad bed will recreate opening skirmishes leading up to Champion Hill. Once at the final site, the troops will rest and reorganize for two hours in preparation for the 2 p.m. "Battle of Champion Hill" (16 May 1863), which will conclude the event. Numerous buses will be available to transport those who choose to park at Friday's site.

This is being billed as a "modified campaign" event. As such, the troops will be mobile, without much opportunity to loll about in the refugee camp. Soldiers should bring only that which you are willing and able to carry with you. (Future "Messenger" articles will provide some tips.)

Both routes of march are cross-country and will avoid paved roads. Medical support teams will be located at water/rest stops placed at one-mile intervals, and a "straggler bus" will be located near the midpoint of both routes. There will be provision for those who choose to participate in the battle scenerios but not the campaign marches.

Water and ice will be available at the bivouac areas and along the routes of march. Some firewood will be provided, but expect to forage for at least half of your firewood. Camps will be located in or near wooded areas. Food vendors will be located near all three bivouac/battle areas, or you may carry period rations on your person.

The earlybird registration deadline passed December 31. The Fifth Missouri has 10 Military and 2 Civilians/Dependents pre-registered. Registration is now \$8 per person (all ages) and due before March 1st. On-site registration will be \$10, but be advised that there is a limit of 5000 participants. If that number is exceeded, on-site registration will not be allowed. (FYI, pre-registration numbers at this point are ahead of the pace of Spring Hill 1995, which ended up with 10,000) To make sure you can participate, see that your registration fee is in the 1st Sergeant's hands no later than February 22.

There are many sites to see in the Raymond area. Watch future "Messenger" issues for some recommendations.

MOVIE CRITIC'S CORNER

Video Review

"William Eichler's School of the Soldier". Media Magic Productions, Inc., 1996. 1 hour, 52 mins.

Recruits in the 1860s learned the soldier's craft through countless hours of drill based on the published manuals of the period. As reenactors, we still have the manuals, but lack the hours of drill necessary to become proficient. However, we do have an advantage over our predecessors: video tape.

William Eichler of the 3rd Michigan has consolidated the essential elements of the School of the Soldier into an easy-to-follow video, creating an excellent resource for new and veteran reenactors alike.

The series is divided into two programs consisting of four parts: Positions & Facings, The Manual of Arms, Loading & Firing, and Marching in a Squad. It is based on Hardee's Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics (Vol. 1) and Casey's Infantry Tactics, and as an added bonus includes a clear explanation of Hardee's 1861 revisions for Confederate troops.

While the narrator explains step-by-step, each of the motions are demonstrated repeatedly by squads of Federal and Confederate reenactors in slow motion and at regular speed. The two programs cover everything the new recruit needs to know, including the position of the soldier, facings, the manual of arms, bayonet drill, inspection arms, loading & firing, marching, turning & wheeling, stacking arms, and cleaning your weapon. There is also a healthy dose of safety information.

Scenes featuring the Federals were shot at Ft. Mackinac, Michigan, hosted and narrated by Lt. M. Randy Centers of the 70th New York, and the Confederates at Petersburg National Military Park, with Capt. Charles Humphrey of the 5th Texas.

For new recruits, there is the advantage of viewing the tape at one's own pace, and seeing the various motions repeated several times from several different angles. Furthermore, on-screen graphics and animation illustrate the finer points of doubling, wheeling and turning. Veterans also may be able to learn something new by watching skilled reenactors perform these motions correctly (for the most part) and "by the book."

I do quibble a bit with some of the finer points of the instruction, which seem to perpetuate some reenactor myths. For example, the use of "following firing." I interpret the "recover" command to be reserved for use only when the officer wishes his men not to fire.

The tape also lists "firing at will" as one of the methods of firing. This is not spelled out in either of the featured manuals. (SOS Part Second, Lesson IV 259-289)

The narrator says at one point that troops under arms should "always fall in at the position of ordered arms", and implies that the manual of arms begins in the ordered arms position. This is incorrect. Kautz's "Customs of Service" (para. 428) specifies that armed troops fall in at shoulder arms. The manual of arms, likewise, begins at the shoulder, as taught in School of the Soldier Part Second, Lesson I.

In teaching the manual of arms, the drill instructor uses the helpful technique of counting out the steps (motions) of each movement. For some reason, however, he counts an improper number for some of them. For example, four counts instead of three for support arms (SOS 133) and five instead of two for order arms. (SOS 147)

I also noticed, in the segment on stacking arms, that even though the movements were described correctly by the narrator, the demonstrators did not appear to do them correctly -- particularly the placement of the rifle butts and handling of the fourth piece. The tape, by the way, shows only the "Kentucky Swing" method of stacking, dismissing the method utilized by Casey's as difficult and unsafe, and not even showing it.

Nit-picks notwithstanding, the vast majority of the material is accurate, well-organized and presented in an easy-to-understand manner. It is well-photographed and comfortably-paced. I heartily recommend this tape. A "company copy" to be loaned to new recruits would not be a bad investment.

Reviewed by Dennis Faught

Jeans? Satinette? Cassimere? What cloth is it?

By Christopher White

There is still a great deal of confusion among some re-enactors and those that reproduce historic textiles about the fabric constructions used for jackets and trousers in the 18th and 19th century. Several fabric names are tossed around, but without an accurate description the re-enactor is usually unaware of the differences between so many of the textiles used for civilian clothing and military uniforms of the time period. This is especially true among many Confederate Civil War re-enactors and the Sutlers who manufacture "reproduction" uniforms.

When we desire to understand historic textiles we often go directly to the surviving examples of those particular fabrics in the garments we wish to reproduce. Of course this is an important and necessary place to start, but it is only the first step. It is imperative that we correctly examine and identify the fibers and weave structure of the cloth in question.

This first step is as important as the eventual colors and finish of the reproduction. There is no way that anyone can simply look at a surviving garment from the Civil War or any other era and definitely say exactly what kind of fiber it is.

We can make a good guess and we could be right part of the time, but to do this properly, textile historians use a 100 power microscope.

Additionally, simply "eyeballing" a garment may let you say that it *could* be a jean or a satinette, but without a linen tester or a pick glass of 5X, it is mainly a guess as to the actual weave structure. You need to use a pick glass to determine the count of the warp threads and the ply of the yarns. A word of caution here - A pick glass can not be used to identify fiber. After correctly determining the actual weave structure and fiber of the original garment, we still are not done.

In order to correctly reproduce a historic textile from the time period in question, we need to do more than just look at the weave and fiber content. The second step is to go back to the people who actually manufactured the cloth and closely examine the original weavers' books. Just like a person wishing to reproduce a mid 19th century house could look at an original, take measurements, make a few new working drawings then start building - a far more effective way would be to have an original set of blue prints.

There were literally scores of fabrics used for trousers, coats and other outer garments in the 18th and 19th century. Jean, Satinette, velverette, cord-du-roy, jean backed cords, royal rib, moleskin, swansdown, etc. These were all types of FUSTIAN. Usually, what makes a fabric a fustian is more how the fabric is used and less its actual construction. Fustian were usually intended for the production of clothing, and they usually tended to be relatively firm and heavy.

The similarities between the cloths in the group known as fustian are few but almost all fustian are backed fabrics since they are constructed from one series of warp threads and two series of filling threads namely face and back picks. Many of the fustian were also twill based weaves. They all have a right side and a wrong side and have a heavier filling yarn than warp yarn.

Some fustian are cut like modern corduroys - meaning that the face floats are cut after the cloth has been taken off the loom to create a short pile on the "surface". Many fustian have "face" fillings that are long floats and back fillings that form a back of short floats. For example: un-cut corduroys and cantoon backed satinette. The term fustian can be an extremely confusing term to use because so many common fabrics are a type of fustian.

Then we come to Jean, a cloth which has been around for over 500 years. While jean is a fustian, it has an absolutely rigid definition. The definition has remained consistent since jean was woven commercially in Genoa, Italy in the 15th century. Unfortunately, some modern day re-enactors have been misinformed and have taken to perpetuating incorrect references made by Civil War soldiers.

A jean weave means that the weave structure consists of 2 warp ends over and under one warp end, progressing in a simple diagonal twill. Jean cloth is always a 2/1 twill and it always has a right and wrong side. Because of the use in clothing and the right and wrong sides, jeans falls within the class of fustian.

The term jean remains the same no matter what type of yarn is used to make the cloth. It is the 2/1 twill that defines jeans and anything else, no matter what kind of yarn is used. **If it isn't a 2/1 twill, it can not correctly be called jeans.** During the time period in question jeans was made with a cotton warp with a linen or wool filling. All cotton jeans were produced in some localities but they were not as common as the linen and wool filled jeans.

Of course there are often contemporary accounts written by soldiers or quartermasters in the Civil War period that will refer to a certain type of cloth as a jeans. Upon examination of surviving garments referred to as jeans, we often find that they were not a jean at all but some other type of weave. A reference by a soldier is not nearly as convincing as a microscopic examination and if available, a look at the Weaver's book from the mill that produced the cloth.

The jeans used in the 18th and 19th century was very common in the manufacture of men's clothing and uniforms and it was without a doubt the most common form of fustian used for uniforms and civilian clothing in the mid 19th century, especially when referring to Confederate military uniforms.

If you were to weave silk in a 2/1 progressive twill, it would still be jean. If a fabric is shown to have a cotton warp and woolen filling, but it is not a 2/1 twill, no matter what a soldier called it, it can not by definition, be jean cloth.

Satinette is another form of fustian and was used for men's jacketing and trousers. The term was in vernacular use by the 18th century and it includes several "bastard" twills. Bastard twills are those in which the direction of the diagonal progression does not proceed in a continuous line yet the overs and unders remain constant so that it can be described as a 4/1 or 5/1 twill. The floats are often longer than a jean twill and they are usually based on a 6 thread repeat.

Satin weave is a similar weave structure but it is a

disconnected twill in which the stitching pattern of the floats are not adjacent. In satinette there are often adjacent threads. Satinette was woven in silk, cotton, cotton and linen and most commonly in cotton and wool. It was often used for everyday clothing during the time period, just as jean was.

During the mid 19th century, when the widespread use of power looms became the norm, the term satinette became a generic word in layman's terms to describe cloth in which the warps were cotton and the filling was wool. This use of the word "Satinette" adds to the confusion when reading contemporary references. Despite the generic use at the time in question, the weave structure used for satinette can be recognized easily so we can separate fabrics which are jean from those which are truly satinette.

When examining period samples, the finishes on the cloth often add confusion when we try to identify historic fabrics. Finishing methods will alter the surface appearance of fustian. Cutting the surface float for those fabrics in the corduroy class alters the surface completely by making the long face float stand up to form a "pile" on the surface. Fulling, which means washing and agitating a woolen or part woolen cloth makes the surface look fuzzy, which will often obscure the weave structure.

Napping, which is a method in which the face of a fabric is brushed in way that will extend the fuzzy surface depending on the type of wool used. Shearing, which is as it implies the surface is evened off after napping. Napping and shearing was often used to change the surface appearance of many fustian. Most fustian were finished on one side more than the other thus the right and wrong sides are easily determined.

A jean cloth can be finished in such a way that the cotton warp yarns are barely visible. When a true satinette comes off the loom, you can always see some of the warp yarns although it will be difficult, especially if the warp yarns are dyed a color that is close to the weft yarns or is slightly darker. If a satinette is washed and fulled properly by 19th century methods, there should be very little or no warp yarns readily apparent to the casual observer.

For many modern examples of finished satinette, the cloth will often have more "fuzz" or nap to it, thus the warp yarns are hidden. The twist of the yarn also has a bearing on the "stiffness" of the cloth. Wool yarn used for satinette and jeans during the mid 19th century often varied in the number of twists per inch and yarn was most often that of the single ply type.

Some modern textile reproduction of mid 19th century jeans and satinette are often made with a twist of 6 to 7 which tends to be too tight in most situations and this also causes the cloth to feel "stiff" sometimes as though it was starched. There are also many grades of wool, with some being very soft like lamb's wool while others tend to be coarse and stiff. The type of wool used to spin the yarn can also cause the yarn to be stiff.

In the final analysis, there is no ultimate resource that provides enough information for anyone to make generalities about the various fabrics used in the manufacture of clothing and uniforms during the mid - 19th century. We should always qualify our statements with supporting

information rather than taking a single garment or document to define the entire genre. The data that we collect from all sources should serve to expand our knowledge of jeans, satinette and fustian.

Another common cloth in the mid 19th century used for clothing was called CASSIMERE. I found many references to this cloth in the Confederate records I researched at the national Archives. So far, I have yet to see any other modern reproductions of Confederate uniform trousers or jackets made from this material.

We often see jeans reproduced even though tens of thousands of yards of the cassimere were purchased by the Quartermaster Department for the manufacture of enlisted men's clothing. According to surviving records, The Richmond Depot's Clothing Manufactory used at least 75,000 yards of this material in the time period beginning in the last quarter of 1862 through the end of 1864. I have several dozen photocopies from the microfilmed "Citizens and Business Files" of the Confederacy which show this cloth being purchased by the Confederate Quartermaster's Dept. in Richmond in large quantities on a monthly basis.

Cassimere can be defined in several ways, with the most common mid 19th Century references defined as a 2/2 twill and can be made with a woolen warp and a woolen fill or a cotton warp and a woolen fill. The references I have seen indicate that it was mostly if not all of the latter type.

Contemporary accounts often describe Cassimere as "Slave Cloth" or "Nigger Cloth". When fulled or otherwise finished, it would be somewhat difficult to tell jeans and cassimere apart, especially from a distance, and more so if the same color or tint of warp threads and wool filling yarns were used. Off the loom, Cassimere looks the same on both sides, but once it is fulled and finished, there is a right side and a wrong side to this material.

This type of material is appropriate for reproductions of any jackets or pants made on a pattern used by the Richmond Depot or most other state and government clothing depots. I hope that some of this was useful to you and you are welcome to pass it on to anyone you like.

For documentation and further reading I suggest the following:

Textiles in America 1650 - 1870: by Florence Montgomery

The Grammar of Textile Design: by Harry Nisbitt, published by Greenwood, New York 1919

The Weavers Complete Guide or the Webb Analyzed : by Joseph France

Special thanks also go to Ms. S. Rabbit Goody of Thistle Hill Weavers Cherry Valley, NY. For her assistance in writing this Section.

DUES NOTICE

**ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE BY JANUARY 1, 1998. PLEASE COMPLETE
AND**

RETURN TO:

5th Missouri Infantry (CSA) Inc.
PO Box 1265
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1265

Check one:

- Individual: \$20 (\$10 5th Mo. + \$10 MCWRA) _____
Family: \$26 (\$16 5th Mo. + \$10 MCWRA) _____
(plus \$10 for each additional adult family member desiring MCWRA vote)
Associate: \$8 (non-voting) _____

Make checks payable to "5th Missouri Infantry (CSA), Inc"
If you paid your MCWRA dues through another unit, please indicate the unit:

Please Note! If we do not receive your dues payment by Jan 30, 1998, This will be the last issue of the Messenger you will receive.

Wyandotte: Oct. 17-18
L.Cabin Creek: Nov 7-8
M.Prairie Grove: Dec 5-6
IX.Other Business
X.Adjourn

January Meeting Agenda (continued)

Agenda Board Meeting 5th Missouri Infantry (CSA), Inc. Sedalia, MO January 18, 1997

- I. Call to Order
- II. Minutes of Last Board Meeting
- III. Old Business
- IV. New Business
 - A. Dues Structure
 - B. Spending
 - 1. 1998 Budget
 - 2. Donations
 - 3. Equipment
- V. Set next meeting & Adjourn

MESSENGER

From the Editor

The article you saw by Mr. Christopher White was inserted by me after having received the author's permission. It was of interest to me and I hope you will find it interesting also. The more we know the better we can make our impression. Mr White operates the "New Richmond Depot" a maker of ANV and AoT uniforms. He has done his homework and produces a good quality jeans and other material both as yard goods and as finished uniforms. The First Sergeant and I have his catalog if any are interested and Dennis may have a new uniform to show us at the company meeting. I don't want to endorse anyone but if you are looking for correct jeancloth or a Columbus Depot jacket that is correct as to pattern, material, and with handworked topstitching and button holes at a reasonable price, you could do much worse.

I have enjoyed campaigning with all of you this past year and look forward to sharing a campfire with all of you, my good friends, in the coming year. I hope you have had a joyous Holiday Season and may the New Year bring you and yours health and happiness!

A Bowling