

MESSENGER

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APRIL, 1998

Campaigning

WHAT'S IN THE BAG, MISTER?

If you're a "fresh fish" at campaigning, you're likely wondering what to pack along for the Vicksburg Campaign event in May. It's a delima that faced the Boys of '61 as well. A period newspaper article provides some almost amusing insight: From page 2 of the SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY [ATLANTA, GA], May 21, 1861:

Soldier's Kit

"At this time, when so many are preparing for the wars, a memorandum of the things necessary to take along as baggage will not be unacceptable. The desired catalogue is contributed, by an old soldier, as follows: Two flannel shirts, red preferable; 2 stout hickory shirts; 2 fine shirts, if you can take them along; four pair of woolen socks; 2 pair drawers, white cotton or wool, indispensable; black silk neckerchief, very useful; pocket handkerchief, indispensable; 1 pair stout and easy boots, if you can, take a second pair; 2 towels, indispensable; 1 piece of soap; 1 fine and 1 coarse comb; 1 tooth brush; 1 butcher knife, (a good place for it is in the boot;) 1 quart tin cup; 1 button stick; 1 vial of sweet oil; 1 piece of rotten-stone; 1 button brush, (nail brush will do;) 1 flannel housewife, for and full of needles--throw in a few pins while you are about it; 1 pair small scissors; strong white and black threads in tidy skeins; 1 blacking brush, if you can take it; 1 box of blacking. Learn to pack your knapsack tidily, closely and conveniently for use. To the above you may add all the grub you can stow away inside and out, and replenish when you can, without waiting for the stock on hand to be exhausted."

Whoa. The "old soldier" mentioned apparently forgot to include the kitchen sink. It's likely that anyone who took this advice left much of this baggage along the side of the road a few miles into the first march. I would pare the above list down to the following essentials:

What you wear: One shirt, one pair of drawers, jacket, pants, hat, woolen socks, brogans.

What you carry: One or two extra pair of woolen socks; pocket handkerchief, a cotton towel; 1 piece of soap; 1 comb; 1 tooth brush; 1 pocket knife, 1 tin cup or coffee boiler; 1 housewife (with buttons, needle & thread). Optionally, you might bring along one extra shirt for comfort's sake.

Not mentioned on the above list, essentials I would add: One wool blanket, a gum blanket/poncho, a tin plate or canteen half, a fork, a small tin of baking powder (for brushing teeth), matches, twine and a length of rope. For officers and NCO's, the list of essentials must include a writing implement and paper.

Optionally, you might throw in a beeswax candle, and a second blanket or gum blanket if inclement weather is likely. A hatchet is also very handy. One per mess would be ample -- with the duty of carrying it to be rotated.

A couple of modern conveniences I would include -- especially for a campaign march such as this -- would be foot powder and pain reliever (carried in period tins). Firestarter or kindling of some kind would also be very useful in the event of inclement weather.

Of course, your mileage may vary, and you can add or subtract from this list as you see fit. You might, for example, feel that a shelter tent is a necessity. The crux is that you've got to carry it wherever you go, so if you won't use it -- don't carry it.

The next question is: Where do you carry it? As mentioned in another article, your haversack is for food. I also put my eating utensils there -- but nothing else. That leaves your pockets, bedroll or knapsack for personal items. As a matter of personal preference, I like the knapsack. I find it more comfortable and out of my way than a bedroll. Plus, there is evidence that the Missouri Brigade was issued knapsacks. Here's how you pack it:

Fold your blanket and place it inside. If you have a federal knapsack, your blanket goes in the part closest to your back -- with four flaps & buckles. Your shelter half would also go here, if you're carrying one. Personal items -- clothing, toiletries & etc. -- go in the other bag. Fold your poncho/gum blanket and place it *between* the bags (not inside) for easy access in case of a sudden downpour. If you have an extra blanket you could roll it and strap it to the top -- but this makes your pack top-heavy and uncomfortable to carry. The straps are actually for your greatcoat, and you won't be carrying one in Mississippi.

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• If you go the bedroll route: Lay your blanket out -- folded in half lengthwise. Distribute your extra clothing and personal items upon it and roll the whole business up, tying it in the middle and at the ends. Then lay out your poncho and roll your "bedroll sausage" up in it. (This allows you to remove the poncho without unrolling the entire contents of your kit.) It's helpful to give the finished roll a full twist before tying the ends together. This keeps your roll tightly wrapped.

In either case, keep items you need easy access to in your pockets, rather than burying them in a pack or bedroll.

One final note on authenticity for this event. History records that the Missouri Brigade did not have bedrolls or packs at Baker's Creek. Capt. Joseph Boyce wrote that on May 3rd "...all extra baggage and unnecessary material was sent to Edward's depot ... to be shipped to Vicksburg. Very little in the clothing line was retained, and the command presented a very light marching appearance." Sergt. W.A. Ruyle noted that "...We stopped about 11 o'clock at night on the 15th of May and lay in line of battle without blankets." Finally, Thomas Hogan wrote on May 17 that "...in the retreat from Big Black to Vicksburg everything I had, with the exception of what was on my back, was burned up, as the baggage could not be got away in time to save it."

I'm not suggesting we do this event without packs or bedrolls, but provision will need to be made to drop them prior to Sunday's action. Hopefully we can avoid having them burned in our absence.

WHAT'S FOR SUPPER?

This is the second installment of some period receipts (yeah, that's the 19th-century way of saying "recipe") that can be prepared for a company. These are serialized from Veile's Hand Book of Active Service as printed in the SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY [ATLANTA, GA] June 1, 1861:

Tea for 25 Men.

Allow 12 quarts of water; put the rations of tea--a large teaspoonful to each--in a cloth tied up very loosely, throw it into the boiler while it is boiling hard for a moment; then take off the boiler, cover it, and let it stand full 10 minutes, when it will be ready for use; first add sugar and milk, if to be had, at the rate of 3 pints or 2 quarts of milk, and 1 or 1 1/2 pounds of sugar.

Pork with Peas or Beans for 25 Men.

To 14 pounds of pork add 6 pounds of peas or beans, put them in a cloth to boil, tying it very loosely; place them both in the boiler, let them boil about 2 hours, then take out the pork, add some flour to the gravy, and put the peas or beans in it, with two or three onions cut up fine; let it boil a little longer, mash up the vegetables very finely, and serve them round the dish with the meat.

Plain Stewed Meat for 25 Men.

Take 14 pounds of mutton, beef, veal, or pork, cut it into chunks and put it into the boiler; add 4 quarts of water, 2 quarts to a teaspoonful of salt, and half teaspoonful of pepper, 8 or 10 onions cut in pieces, let it boil half an hour, then let it stew slowly from half an hour to one hour longer, adding one pound of rice, potatoes, or any vegetable that can be obtained; thicken the gravy with flour mixed to a smooth paste in cold water.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO A MEMBER OF THE 5TH!

As most of you know because of the weather we had to cancel Spring Drill and instead hold a Company meeting in Sedalia on 22 March. After the meeting Captain Lee handed me a box and a burlap sack with items that had been donated to the company. In the box was enough powder and caps to make 1000 cartridges and in the sack were 1000 pre-rolled paper cartridges. Hopefully with the help of some local members I will finish these and we will distribute them to participants at Vicksburg. Also in the sack were a new tin cup, cartridge box complete with tins and sling, a cap pouch, a new black tarred haversack, and an Enfield bayonet with scabbard and frog! On behalf of all members of the 5th Missouri I want to thank Mr. Marcus Price for his generosity. I can assure him we will put these items to good use in our struggle to drive the "Yankee Invader" from our soil.

A. Bowling, Lt. 5th Mo Infty

MORE WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR IMPRESSION

Here are some more ways you can improve your impression. As with last month's list, some require an investment, but most will cost you nothing.

1. If you carry a federal smoothside or bullseye canteen -- remove the cover. These canteens were immensely popular with southern troops, but a study of period images of captured and dead confederates show them almost universally without covers. (The cover can be fairly easily replaced for your federal impression, if you like). Do NOT do this if your canteen is <gasp> stainless steel.
2. Consider losing your musket sling (or don't buy one). In period images, you'll notice at least as many muskets without slings as with.
3. Package your cartridges in paper bundles of ten. Each pack should include a tube of 12 percussion caps. This was the way they were issued, and they are easy to carry and use in this form. (A future article will detail how to do this).
4. Roll your cartridges from light brown or off-white paper, rather than printed pages. Original cartridges are rolled in a paper that had a slick finish. A modern equivalent is the paper used in many fast-food bags. Color is difficult to be certain of due to aging -- but was probably not the brilliant white so often used by reenactors. (The author uses paper lunch bags)
5. Travel light. A-tents were a rarity in Confederate infantry units, especially as the war progressed. When present, they were occupied by four or more men. Rarer, still, was camp furniture for any rank below field grade.
6. Carry a knapsack or blanket roll when the scenerio involves troops on campaign (as most do).
7. If your accouterments are Federal, consider getting a separate set of English or Confederate-made (ex. Enfield or Magee & George) leathers for your Missouri Brigade impression. These troops had little opportunity to acquire captured federal gear.
8. Craft a first-person identity. Blend your own background and experiences with those you have read about to create a 19th Century personae. Interaction of this sort can be very educational and entertaining -- to both spectators and yourself.
9. Consider trading in your tin plate for a canteen half. It multi-functions as a plate, bowl, frying pan & digging utensil, straps nicely to your canteen, and saw documented use. (Make sure it has a notch in the edge ala a real canteen half).
10. Research, research, research. Read diaries and memoirs of soldiers to learn more about their daily lives and experiences. Seek out official records and documentation on the unit you represent. Network with other reenactors and share the knowledge you've acquired.

SIGHTS TO SEE IN MISSISSIPPI

For those able to arrive early for some sightseeing in Mississippi prior to the Vicksburg Campaign event in May, our brief tour of Missouri Brigade sites continues with Grand Gulf and Vicksburg.

Leave Port Gibson heading North on U.S. 61. Approximately four miles north of town, turn left on Mississippi route 462 toward Grand Gulf State Military Monument. (Note: As an alternative, you can take another road directly from Port Gibson to Grand Gulf. Poor memory, however, prevents me from giving you specific directions or a route number. The road leaves town toward the northwest off of Main Street, I believe, and is the one the Missouri Brigade took from Grand Gulf to Port Gibson. If you opt for this route you will be backtracking their route to the battlefield.)

Once inside the Military Park you can tour the earthworks and sites described on the markers. The works were defended by Missouri artillery, supported by units of the Missouri Brigade. They include Fort Wade (where member Bill Wayne's ancestor served), and the site of the town of Grand Gulf. Also be sure to visit the small museum. Take note, however, that the museum was closed for lunch when I stopped there on my '95 trip, so plan your arrival accordingly.

Leave the park and return to U.S. 61 via MS 462 (about eight miles) and turn north toward Vicksburg (about 22.5 miles). Take I-20 East to the Vicksburg National Military Park on Clay St.

(As a side trip for those with some extra time, you can visit the area where the 5th Missouri was engaged in the swamps of Louisiana prior to Grant's landing at Bruinsburg. Take I-20 WEST instead of east, cross the Mississippi River, and travel about 20

miles to U.S. 65. Take 65 south for roughly 10-12 miles [sorry I don't have an accurate odometer reading here] until you pass Louisiana Rt. 603 on your left. Two miles south of this point on 65 you will be in the vicinity of Dunbar's Plantation [inaccessible, but on your right]. Missouri Confederates clashed here on the morning of April 15, 1863 with the 2d Illinois Cavalry. Look at the topography and imagine marching/fighting in these conditions.)

Back in Vicksburg, the National Military Park is open daily, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is an admission of \$4 per car vehicle. Visit the visitors center and tour the park at your leisure. The most prominent sites to see from our perspective are stops 3 (Third Louisiana Redan) and 10 (Stockade Redan). Since the Missouri Brigade was used as a "strategic reserve" for much of the siege, they saw action and trench duty in several places, and bivouacked much of the time in the ravines to the rear of the 3d La. Redan. The position "in the ditches" attributed to the 5th Missouri by granite markers is adjacent to the Missouri Monument, which is immediately south of Stockade Redan. These markers -- and the bust of Maj. Gen. John S. Bowen -- have been maintained through donations from the 5th Missouri Infantry (CSA), Inc.

[One note on visiting this or any other national battlefield park: Firearms are prohibited. Lock your musket and cartridges away in your trunk, or otherwise inaccessible from the passenger compartment.]

Before leaving Vicksburg, be sure to make a stop at the County Courthouse. Take Clay Street into town. The courthouse is on Cherry Street, two blocks north of Clay. It houses an excellent city museum. A small admission is charged. (\$1.50 when I visited). Vicksburg is also home to many beautifully-restored anti-bellum mansions.

Return to Clay Street (old U.S. 80) and follow it east out of town to Big Black River Bridge and Champion Hill (next

TRANSMISSISSIPPI ALLIANCE FORMED

Col. John Beck, at the 4th Battalion business meeting March 15, announced the formation of a new alliance of reenacting organizations from states west of the Mississippi. The new "Trans Mississippi Alliance" is a joint Federal-Confederate cooperative bringing together troops from Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas.

In announcing the formation of the Alliance, Beck noted the difficulty in drawing troops from east of the river to western events. While not conflicting with the goals of the North South Alliance, the 1st Confederate Division, or the MCWRA, the new organization is intended to foster cooperation between the various Federal and Confederate units west of the Mississippi. Beck stressed that among the three 4th Battalion events to be scheduled each year, Division (National) events would hold first priority, followed by MCWRA and TMA events.

Representatives will meet annually to formulate a scheduling and organizational philosophy aimed at maximizing participation at events. The first TMA event will be Prairie Grove this December. The 1999 event is Mansfield, Louisiana in April. For the year 2000, Wilson's Creek in June will be the TMA event. (This is also the North South Alliance event for 2000). Beck acknowledged that support for the TMA concept would mean traveling to sometimes distant events.

Participating Confederate organizations are the 4th (Extra) Battalion, Trans Mississippi Battalion, Red River Battalion, and the Louisiana Battalion. Federals are comprised of the Frontier Brigade, 1st US Regulars, Holmes Brigade, and Federal groups from Louisiana.

SUBMISSIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE 5TH

From Amanda Biggs: For any and all children who are coming to our reenactments, we would like to hear from you (and your parents) as to what you want to do. How can we make it more enjoyable for the kids. They are a part of this also! We want to keep their interest in this hobby and make it fun! I will be at Columbia, Clinton, and Warsaw this campaign season. Please send your ideas to: Amanda Biggs, Happy Acers, RR #4 Box #5, Sedalia, MO 65301. Or call 660-829-2984.

From Loren Roush: Mr. and Mrs. Roush wish to inform all interested parties that Mrs. Roush has for sale various articles of ladies apparel. Those seeking to view said items may apply to Mr. Roush at the event to be held in Wichita, KS on April 4th and 5th next. Those who cannot attend this event may contact the aforesaid parties at the number published in the previous edition of this missive.

From Dennis Fought: For Sale at the most advantageous prices, various items of use to the soldier on campaign. To view said items contact 1SGT Fought.

Attention -- COMPANY
"Extra" Battalion Holds Officer/NCO School

Captain Lee, Lieutenant Bowling, Sergeant Faught and Corporal Fink represented Company A of the 5th Missouri Infantry at the 1998 Battalion School, held March 14-15 at the Wyandotte County Museum in Bonner Springs, Kansas.

The sessions, under the overall direction of Battalion Sergeant Major Gary Sutton, were aimed at providing the officers and noncoms of the battalion with a basis of knowledge to share with their respective commands. The lesson plan was drawn from a series of "Attention COMPANY" drill articles appearing in this newsletter. 1st Sergeant Faught facilitated discussions on Stacking Arms, Posting the Guard, and Placement of Officers and NCOs in Ranks. Other topics for NCOs included Camp Duties, Company Roll Call and Inspection Arms. Officers, in separate sessions, covered topics including Manual of the Sword, Company Level Forms and Inspections. There were also group discussions on the Color Guard and Battalion Guides, Bogus Reenactor Commands, Recruiting, and the Application of Civil War Infantry Tactics.

Those present reached a concensus that battalion camps would be run in a more organized military fashion in the coming season, including the use of passes and the posting of a Police Guard (sentries). At the unit level, NCOs will take a more hands-on roll in running each company. Sergeants will assign duties, and corporals will oversee the execution of those duties.

The weekend gathering ended with a Battalion Business Meeting, which included an overview of upcoming events, and the announcement of the formation of the Trans Mississippi Alliance. (See separate article)

Due to the warm welcome and assistance extended by the Museum staff, next year's Battalion School will again be held there, on February 6-7, 1999.

Minutes
5th Missouri Infantry Regiment
Annual Membership Meeting
Spring Muster
March 22, 1998
Sedalia, MO

Spring Muster being canceled due to wet grounds, the membership meeting was moved to the chambers of Bob Koffman in the Pettis County Courthouse at Sedalia. President Jerry Lee called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as printed in the February Messenger. Treasurer Dennis Faught reported a balance of \$2,264.82 in the Corporate Treasury, with estimated outstanding expenditures for 1998 at \$615. Dues income was \$556 with an additional \$200 income anticipated from the October 98 Warsaw event. The report was approved as read.

Faught outlined details of upcoming scheduled events, highlighting Raymond (Vicksburg Campaign) and Gettysburg. Nine additional events were presented for consideration by the membership, but none were added to the schedule approved in January. Members present were asked to mark the 1st Sergeant's commitment roster to reflect their planned attendance.

Secretary Faught proposed two amendments to the corporate By-Laws aimed at addressing the continuing problem of attaining a quorum for company meetings. Both had been published in the January Messenger. The first proposal was to amend Article VI to read, in part, "A quorum at any meeting shall consist of at least 25% of the members authorized to vote at that meeting." (Lowering the percentage from 30). The second would have amended Article III, Section B, Paragraph 1a to add the sentence: "Soldiers revert to recruit status if they fail to attend a minimum of two scheduled events and one business meeting per calendar year." After some discussion, member Bill Wayne offered a substitute which would instead add a new paragraph (1d) to Article III, Section B, reading as follows:

d. Veteran Reserve: A veteran who has not participated as a member of this unit in 3 events, 2 of which involve simulated combat, in the preceding year shall be designated a member of the Veteran Reserves. Veteran

Reserve members shall be automatically reinstated to full veteran status upon participation in the required number of qualifying events plus receiving the recommendation of field staff. Veteran Reserves may vote for Organizational Directors only.

Gilger moved/Bowling 2nd that the secret ballot be dispensed with and the vote be by show of hands. Motion passed without dissent. By show of hands, both amendments passed without dissent.

1st Sergeant Faught presented a brief report on 4th Battalion School, attended by officers and NCO's the previous weekend. Highlights included the delegation of more responsibility at events to the NCO's, and the formation of the Trans Mississippi Alliance for event scheduling in the region.

In other business, members Martha Roush and Dennis Faught announced they had excess used gear available for purchase. Bill Wayne announced he was seeking a seamstress to make a civilian frock coat. The Regiment accepted the donation of a hand-painted Missouri State Guard flag from member Denise Hamilton. Corporal Mike White reported that he had sorted and inventoried the company gear from the trailer, and also that he had copies of the U.S. Infantry and Rifle Tactics Manual of Arms booklets available for members. Lt. Alan Bowling is to notify Battalion staff that two members (Justin Gerke and T.J. Bruegger) are willing to perform musician duty for the Battalion when the company has sufficient strength in the field.

There being no further business to discuss, the next Company A meeting was set for Saturday evening, June 13 at Columbia, and this meeting was adjourned.

--Submitted by Secretary Dennis Faught

DIRECTIONS TO THE VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN at Raymond, MS

From Memphis, take I-55 south to Jackson, MS. Unless you want to visit downtown Jackson (there are some neat sites there, like the Old Capitol) take the I-220 exit (Exit 103) and take the outer loop to I-20. Take I-20 East a short distance to exit 40, and head south on Highway 18 ten miles to Registration at the McKenzie Arena in Raymond.

ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF BAKER'S CREEK

Sergt. William A. Ruyle, Co. C., 5th Missouri Infantry Regiment

Our whole force was here, probably about thirty thousand men on the field, with Lt. Gen. Pemberton in command. On the morning of May 16th sun arose clear and consequently it became very hot as the day advanced. Early in the morning heavy skirmishing commenced all along the lines and soon the artillery told that the ball was open for our regiment supported six pieces of cannon, being about four rods in the rear of our Regiment was in front, consequently our company being the Senior Company, we were in the rear of the Regiment. I was acting 1st Sgt, therefor 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 gotten within 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 & Ohioans, who had fought us before and knew the sound of the yell) and gave them a charge in the 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 Bovina 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. Tuck 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 Lemmon'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 River 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 leave 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.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE COOKHOUSE...

Mrs. Gilger's Cookhouse has served the 5th Missouri well. The following article from civilian reenactor LuAnn Mason might give the rest of us an idea of the planning and preparation that goes into providing food at a reenactment. Following are some suggested authentic menus that could be prepared to feed six or more people over a two-day event.

Equipment:

Two dutch ovens, well seasoned, 1 coffeepot, 2 smallish washtubs (can double for laundry display at other times).

With 1 dutch oven, you're limited to a lot of 1-dish meals, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. If you want to add a second one, that's okay if you don't mind carrying it, but you can do it with just one.

Shopping list:

1 dozen eggs (place in a basket when you get there, and use the cardboard egg carton to start your first fire so nobody sees it), Three pounds cornmeal (place in canvas bag, and tie shut), Two pounds unbleached flour (place in canvas bag, tie shut) small muslin bags of sea salt (chunky), black peppercorns (grind these in a small mortar and pestle--a real crowd pleaser), and baking powder (saleratus if you want to go to the trouble). 1 whole ham, about 10 pounds, bone in (you do NOT want one of those fancy, pre-shaped things--you want the lumpy, bumpy, REAL ham) Remove all plastic wrapping, and place in brown kraft paper, tie with string. 1 pound blackeye peas in muslin bag, 1 pound navy beans in muslin bag, small crock of honey (or molasses), 2 pounds bacon or salt pork (get it all in one hunk, wrap in brown paper like ham, then slice THERE), 1 cheese in a wheel or chunk, well coated with beeswax, and coffee beans.

From the farmer's market / produce stand:

Ten pounds potatoes, burlap sack is best, if you can get it, 5 pounds carrots with the TOPS still on (remove the wire twist-tie) 2 pounds un-snapped green beans (put 'em in a muslin bag for transport), a few onions, Fresh fruit in season (old style apples, rather than hybrids, no tropicals -- but lemons are okay), avoid nectarines as they're an OBVIOUS modern (n) Fresh fruit is for adding to any meal you'd care to, or letting the kids snack on at will--as is the cheese.

Seasonal things: Peaches, berries, watermelon, corn, salad greens, etc.

First breakfast: 1/2 pound cornmeal mixed with 1.5 quarts cold water. Cook over quick hot fire until thick. This is cornmeal mush. The kids won't eat it at home, but pour on some honey at an event, and it goes right down. Add some sliced fresh fruit.

First lunch: Cut off some of the ham, chunk it up, and put it on to cook with the blackeye peas. IF you have a second dutch oven, fry half the bacon slices up in it (reserve for later). Mix 1/2 pound cornmeal, 1/2 pound flour, 2 tsp baking powder, 1 tsp salt, and 1/2 a small minced onion with enough water to make a stiff dough. Drop by spoonfuls into hot bacon grease. This makes corn-dodgers. Slice some more fresh fruit and carrots to go with it.

First dinner: Bury all your potatoes in the hot coals to make baked potatoes. Slice about 1/2 the remaining ham for sliced ham. Place ham slices on your dutch oven lid to heat. Put a couple of tablespoons of the bacon grease in a pot, and add 1 minced onion. Cook until onion is limp. Add snapped green beans with enough water to cook down. Sprinkle half of reserved bacon on top. Eat half the potatoes you cooked with dinner, and save the rest till morning.

Second breakfast: Peel the cold potatoes from last night, slice up, and cook in reserved bacon grease. Sprinkle remaining bacon on top (parsley is nice, too, if you have any fresh). Slice half remaining ham, and warm on dutch oven. Scramble 10 of the eggs in same dutch oven.

Second lunch: Immediately after breakfast, slice off all remaining ham from bone, then throw ham AND the bone into a dutch oven, add the pound of beans, enough water to cover, 4 - 6 carrots, chopped, and 1 chopped onion. Let it cook till lunch time. About 45 minutes before lunch, mix equal parts of Cornmeal and flour (about 3 cups each), 3 teaspoons baking powder, 2 teaspoons salt, remaining 2 eggs, and enough water to make a fairly stiff batter. Pour into greased dutch oven, and bake 40 minutes or so, until done. Serve with honey.

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Next Event: April 4-5, Wichita, Kansas

Sponsored by Co. B, 9th TX Infantry, at Maple Grove Cemetery in Wichita. Two battles on Saturday (1 and 4 p.m.), one on Sunday (1 p.m.), plus memorial service for Union Veterans buried around the Pavilion. Proceeds benefit the restoration of the pavilion. The cemetery contains numerous graves identified as Union and Confederate veterans. Scenerios will be based on the Battle of Maysville, Arkansas (Sept. 5, 1863). The event packet, however, curiously calls for an early-war Confederate impression of the Missouri Brigade ("white" wool). Suggestion: Go with our regular Mo. Brigade impression. Also bring Federal Impression, as galvanizing may be necessary.

Directions: US 54 or Interstate 35 (Toll) to Wichita. Take US 54 (Kellogg St.) into Wichita, then north on Hillside Ave. about 3 miles to 9th Street. Turn right on 9th, and make immediate left into cemetery. Registration will be on the right side of this park road. Traffic will be one-way. You will be required to unload your vehicle on the paved road in camp, then go park before setting up camp. We pre-registered 21 members (15 military, 6 civilians/dependents).

MAY 8-10 Vicksburg Campaign held near Raymond, Mississippi. We will be portraying the Missouri Brigade on Sunday.