

MESSENGER

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 7 CO A 5TH MO INFTRY

JULY, 1998

EVENT REPORT: COLUMBIA

What began a few years ago as a very small living history/drill involving primarily the 5th Missouri Infantry, has grown to become what could be the largest annual event in Missouri.

Registration for this year's Columbia Parks and Recreation Department-sponsored event approached 250. Present were seven artillery pieces, over a dozen mounted cavalry, and by far the largest turnout of infantry to date.

Newcomers included the 11th Mississippi, Co. G, from St. Louis and the Olathe Union Guard from "that" state. The 6th Missouri, Co. A, fielded a full company for the first time at this event. The 2nd and 5th Missouri each fielded over 22 men both days. The ever-cooperative (not) Holmes "Brigade" was represented by a handful of stand-offish Yanks. Also present, of course, were the ubiquitous dysfunctional cavalry, replete in their stunning neon yellow trim and led by a pre-pubescent color bearer. When will these cowboys ever learn?

With the larger numbers, we were able to present the public with two very well-executed skirmish scenarios. The thin ranks of earlier years had made for some rather laughable exhibitions.

Conversely, the increasing size of the turnout has to force us to examine whether it's time to find a better site. The burgeoning camps are encroaching on both the already-limited battlefield and the spectator area. This year the over-abundance of cavalry forced us to endure both the dysfunctional cav and "provost" camping in the infantry camp. And cramped quarters aside, the site has always suffered from the intrusive farbisms of the modern barnyard, imposing historical society museum and adjacent highway -- not to mention the cranky thespians at the next-door theater.

Weatherwise, we were blessed again. Rains seem to skirt the event each year, but have yet to dampen the spectator hours. Sunday morning's storms seemed to have little effect on anyone other than the few cav types who reportedly departed as the first drops fell.

The skirmish scenarios were the routine we have become accustomed to at this event -- limited, as always, by the area and topography available. They do, however, deserve mention for the fact that nothing went wrong. There were no broken scenarios; no fisticuffs over captured flags.

Portraying Federals on Saturday, we presented the longest blue infantry front yet seen at this event, with fall-ins from the Olathe Guards and over 25 muskets from the 5th Missouri in line. Defending our camp from a sortie by the 2nd/6th Missouri and 11th Mississippi, we drove them from the field and captured an artillery piece. [Not before it rendered Sgt. Faught hors'de combat -- with a canister blast that *'should'* have eliminated our entire first platoon].

In gray on Sunday, it was our turn to assault the camp -- this time protected by three companies of blue infantry and a squad of mounted cavalry. All were eventually pushed aside as we charged the camp with a Missouri Yell. A personal 'tip of the slouch' to Pvt. T.J. Bruegger, who broke for the rear in convincing fashion when the 11th Mississippi succumbed to a double-canister blast.

While the scenarios went as expected, they brought to light a problem we've long been aware of, but reluctant to address: the lack of early casualties. Steve Yoakum, watching the action for the first time as a spectator, heard the inevitable comment: "Why isn't anyone dying?"

This is an issue we must force ourselves to address. Next year, some effort must be made to *insure* a more equitable distribution of casualties. At least a FEW people need to take hits earlier in the action. Whether it's by drawing lots, using colored cartridges, or whatever other scheme can be devised, we need to get over this reluctance to take an early hit. I submit that if burning powder is the only reason you're out there, you've probably chosen the wrong hobby.

In the end, another successful event, generally enjoyed by all. Karen Ramey of the parks department should be commended for a weekend that went off -- for the most part -- without a hitch. We picked up three new recruits, so far -- always a hoped-for result of this event. And finally, we had some productive drill sessions, for which you have the gratitude of the 1st Sergeant. The company is looking good, performing well, and you should all be proud of yourselves.

Of course, there's always room for improvement...

Submitted by 1st Sergt. Dennis Faught.

GETTYSBURG

"MILITARY" HORSES ONLY... NO CIVILIAN RIDERS

Civilians must not bring horses to this event. Space, control, and safety issues require this.

IMPORTANT UPDATE ON RVS AND MODERN CAMPING

All large RVs for reenactors and sutlers must be placed in the "modern camping area" next to the tenting areas. Water and port-o-johns will be provided. A \$25.00 fee will be charged at the registration desk. This is in response to the township's parking requirements. Please call Glenn LeBoeuf's 24-hour information line at 908-903-1064 and leave your name and daytime telephone number should you need to discuss particulars. He will return your call within 24 hours.

"UNIT PHOTOGRAPHERS" NOT ALLOWED

We feel the more we stress this, the more it will be understood by everyone. We will have perhaps two to three well-hidden and well-dressed video crews (no boom microphones) in order to provide a high quality video at a very reasonable cost. We must have the absolute minimum amount of approved video people in our battle areas so that you can get the most out of this experience.

BRING TENT POLES/STAKES

While we are camping largely in the trees, we would hate to see a lot of chopping-of tent poles. With this many people coming the woods would soon be a prairie.

PLEASE GO THROUGH THE CHAIN OF COMMAND

Each commander will be incredibly busy all weekend. Please take your complaints/suggestions/desires to your unit or battalion commanders. If they deem the situation important, then it will be passed up to brigade, HQ, and, if required, the organizers of the event.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER

Our security team will have a 24 hour emergency line coming into the site. This is not a message service, and we will attempt to relay all emergency messages on a "best efforts" basis. Please make sure family members or employers know what division, brigade, battalion, unit, and company the person is with. Civilians should be sure to know whether or not they will be camped with their unit or in the Confederate or Federal civilian camps. We cannot search the entire site for you. You must help us. The telephone number as of Monday, June 29, will be 717-338-9355.

NO PETS

There will be no pets allowed on site or in the modern camping areas. We will not have an animal boarding area at this event. No animals can be left in or near vehicles under any circumstances.

ICE

Ice will be delivered by horse drawn wagon for sale during the entire event.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions will be permitted at the registration barn with the written permission of the unit's commanding officer.

ORDER VIDEOS EARLY AND SAVE

There will be two chances for reenactors to order videos of this battle reenactment at a discount, as well as guaranteeing early shipment. In Us registration package there is an order form that you can send before July 1 to receive a discounted video of the entire weekend with a guaranteed "first to ship" status. Call 1-888-326-1863 during regular business hours to order your video now. Ask about the early ordering reenactor discount.

MILITARY COMMAND

Gen. Dana Heim (U.S.), Commanding Officer

Gen. Charles Hillsman (C.S.A.), Commanding Officer

Col. Reg Wirth (U.S.), Chief of Staff

Col. George Miller (C.S.A.), Chief of Staff

Col. Craig Beachler (U.S.), Chief of Cavalry
Gen. Barry Sheppard (C.S.A.), Chief of Cavalry
Col. Gil Strosnider (U.S.), Chief of Cavalry
Col. Brian Carter (C.S.A.), Chief of Artillery

CIVILIANS

We will have two civilian camps that may be next to each other depending upon registrations received. We will place these camps where they benefit the event as a whole. At this time the federal camps will have a "refugee" camp directly next to the military camp and a traditional civilian camp nearer the sutlers and activities tent. There is more detail elsewhere in this follow-up package.

ARRIVAL

Please arrive during daylight hours between Tuesday, July 1 and Thursday, July 3. You will be allowed to register on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, but you must be aware that no vehicles will be allowed in camp after 8:00 AM on Friday and before 3:30 PM on Sunday following the "Picketts Charge" reenactment. No exceptions.

WALK-ONS

Because freedom township has restricted the number of reenactors we can have on site, "walk-ons" may not be allowed. Any "walk-ons" allowed must register at the barn on the movie site of "Gettysburg" (1992) on Pumping Station Road. Under no circumstances can anyone take the field without being registered. We reserve the right to cancel "Walk-ons" at any time should we reach maximum site capacity. "Walk-ons" will be charged \$15.00.

NO ONE UNDER 16 WILL TAKE THE FIELD WITH A WEAPON

The burden of proof is on you to prove a participant's age, not on us to prove he isn't 16. Please photocopy birth certificates of anyone under 20 years old in order to help us keep the battle areas as realistic as possible. Functional musicians only over 12. No one is to be on the field under 12 years of age under any circumstances.

HAY-STRAW

Hay will be free to all reenactors with horses. Straw for bedding will be sold at a nominal cost at the registration barn for pick up on site.

HORSE INSPECTIONS & WATERING

All horses must be checked at the registration barn prior to being allowed on the actual reenactments site. Current Coggins papers are essential. No watering of any horses from a common source should occur. Bring period (canvas or wooden) buckets to water horses individually. All horses will have one foot-painted.

CIVILIAN "DEPENDENTS" CAMP

For the Federal civilians, you have two choices (three if you count camping with the unit you belong to if allowed to do so). Those civilians who wish to remain closer to the Federal army camping in the trees with a longer walk to the sutler, food, and activities area should be directed to the Federal "refugee" camp. The civilians who wish to be closer to sutlers, vendors, and "Living History" activities should be directed to the "Federal civilian camp" that will be camped in the open, next to the "Confederate civilian camp." We offer these two choices because we know what pleases some people displeases others. Due to space requirements, we can offer, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday in order to place the least stress upon yourselves prior to the event. Please make sure your federal civilians are aware of this choice.

Federal Civilian Camp Coordinator, Mr. King Bennett

Confederate Civilian Camp Coordinator, Mr. Lynn Bull

CIVILIAN VIEWING OF BATTLES

Civilians must proceed to the designated viewing areas at least one hour prior to the battles. Due to the large number of civilians coming to this event, we urge everyone to understand we can only hold a reasonably large space open for a reasonable amount of time.

DIRECTIONS

Undoubtedly the best ways to approach the site do not involve going through town or through the battlefield. Reenactors coming up from Virginia, the Carolinas, or the D.C. area should come up Rt. 15 North to the Steinwehr Ave. Exit. Head towards town and make the first left onto Bull Frog Road. This takes you directly to Pumping Station Road, where you will make a right and head 2 miles towards the Red Barn (registration). You must register, sign the insurance waiver, get your vehicle pass, personal ID medalion, maps, schedules, and "orders-of-battle," and purchase straw (if you wish, to be picked up on-site). You will then proceed to your camp area (modern campers will be directed to their tent/RV areas).

FROM THE NORTH

The previous paragraph holds true for people traveling down from New York, New Jersey, and Eastern Pennsylvania (in fact all of New England). Take 15 South to the Steinwehr Ave. exit, make a right at the end of the ramp and immediate left onto Bull Frog Road. Make a right at Pumping Station Road and go down about 2 miles to the Red Registration Barn.

DIRECTIONS FROM THE WEST

Take Rt. 30 heading East towards Gettysburg. Take Ortana Road South. Make left onto Rt. 116 heading towards Gettysburg. Make a right onto Camp Gettysburg Rd. Go to Pumping Station Road and make a left. The Red Registration Barn will be on the left. Look for CW signs at Camp Gettysburg Road and Pumping Station Road.

PLEASE DO YOURSELVES A BIG FAVOR

Arrive before Friday and during daylight hours if at all possible. You must have your car in camp no later than 7:00 AM Friday. All cars must be out of the camps by 9:00 AM Friday. If you arrive later than 7:00 AM, you must carry (or be shuttled from the parking lots) all of your equipment. Sorry, no exceptions. No cars can enter the site again before 3:45 PM Sunday afternoon. There will be thousands of folks staying over until Monday... why not stay with us one more night? There just might be an "impromptu" dance at the activities tent if we all have any energy left.

Gettysburg Unit Assignment

The following came to me by E-mail from Ted Prater concerning our unit assignment at Gettysburg. For new members, Ted Prater is Major Prater of the 4th Battalion commanded by Col. John Beck. When we do battalion or larger events the 5th is part of Beck's 4th Battalion CSA, a part of the 1st Confederate Division commanded by Gen. William Smart. Lt Col. Huckabee is second in command of the 4th Battalion.

Alan

Gentlemen,

I have just received a phone call from Colonel Beck. division has shuffled the deck. If you and I have previously communicated about our assignment at the event, disregard that information. Full details of our new assignment are to come from General Smart within the next day or two. As soon as I have received that order I will forward it to you, the unit Representatives. Following is what I have now:

The "4th Battalion" will be combining with "Hardee's Guard" to form one Battalion, to be designated "First Battalion", under the command of Col. Dave Thomas and Lt.Col. Willie Huckabee.

The "First Battalion" will brigade with "Rambo's" Battalion and be designated "First Brigade" under the command of Brig. Gen. John Beck. Gen. Beck's "First Brigade" will be under the 1st Confederate Division, Gen. Smart commanding.

The "First Brigade" will portray the "45th Georgia." Additional portrayals or assignments will be detailed in Gen. Smart's orders to follow.

Please be certain this information gets to the appropriate people in your respective units. I will make every effort to pass additional info on to you as it comes in.

Ted Prater

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE 5TH

Tom & Dana Fields
210 N. Washington
Clinton, MO 64735
Sponsor: John Gilger

Rolf Crockett
10751 E. Mt. Zion Church Rd.
Hallsville, MO 65255
Sponsor: Alan Bowling

Randy & Brendan McKee
600 S. Walker
Montgomery, MO 63361
Sponsor: Dennis Faught

Associate Renewal
Jennifer Routh
Apt 8B Gains
Clinton, MO 64735

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

July 3-5: Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. 135th anniversary event, reenacting the battle "From Start to Finish". Complete details, directions, etc elsewhere in this newsletter.
Registration deadline has passed. 17 Registered (15 Military).

Aug 8-9: Fordland, Missouri. Living History & Skirmish. Hosted by 1st Missouri Cavalry.
Directions: Fordland is east of Springfield on U.S. 60. Further directions/details not available at this time.
Registration Deadline Aug 1. 19 Committed (12 Military).

Sept. 26-27: Pilot Knob, Missouri. Reenactment of the Battle of Pilot Knob (Ft. Davidson) on the actual site. Impression is Trans Mississippi Confederate (Civilian/Federal/Some gray ok). Raw food provided for five meals, prepared by Gilger Cookhouse. Battles at 1:30 both days. [Required Drill both mornings]
Dance 7:30 Saturday. Sponsored by Missouri Department of Natural Resources. 600 reenactors expected.
Directions: U.S. 63 & MO 68 to St. James; MO 8 to Potosi; MO 21 to Pilot Knob. State Park is at MO 21 & Route V. Registration open until 2 a.m.
Registration Deadline August 1. 30 Committed (20 Military).

Oct 10: Clinton, Missouri. Tales of the Civil War. Living History at Dorman House and on Courthouse Square. Depiction of Federal occupation of town. Arrests, executions, skirmishes, first-person living history. Impression is Civilian/State Guard. (Some gray ok). May arrive Friday evening at camp at the Dorman House (west of square). Details and exact schedule TBA. Meals provided. Hosted by 6th Missouri Infantry.
Directions: MO 52 or 13 to Clinton. Take Business 13 into town, and follow signs to business district.
Registration Deadline September 1. 21 Committed (14 Military).

Oct 17-18: Warsaw, Missouri. Osage Valley Heritage Days. Living History encampment near Truman Dam. 19th Century life and crafts displayed. Camp scenerios, firing demonstrations. Impression is Missouri Brigade, but bring Federal impression for skirmishing scenerios. Gilger Cookhouse in operation, plus discounts available for prepared meals by Lake Association.
Directions: Take Truman Dam exit from U.S. 65. Turn right and pass through gates, proceeding to Visitor's Center parking lot. Follow path to the right from parking lot down to the site. In order to park on site you must arrive prior to 9 a.m. Saturday. (If gates are closed upon arrival, push them open -- they are not locked)
Registration Deadline September 1. 24 Committed (15 Military).

Dec. 5-6: Prairie Grove, Arkansas. Semi-annual reenactment of the 1862 Battle of Prairie Grove. Battalion and Brigade-level drill. Impression is Trans Mississippi Confederate. No food provided. Gilger Cookhouse plans pending. Weather can be mild or icy. Motels are nearby in Fayetteville in the case of the latter. 1,000 reenactors expected.
Directions: U.S. 71 to Fayetteville, Arkansas. U.S. 62 West to Prairie Grove. Registration at Latta Barn on circle drive, adjacent to sutlers.
Registration Deadline October 1. 15 Committed (12 Military).

Watch future issues for further details and late updates.

Company A Meeting Held at Columbia

A company meeting was held Saturday night, June 13th, at the Nifong Park living history event. In the absence of Dennis Faught the meeting was called to order by Sam Hafley at 7pm. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the last meeting. There being no old business, new issues were discussed. Alan Bowling gave an update on the status of the Gettysburg event. An event commitment roster was passed around for members to update and a brief discussion followed concerning the event schedule for the rest of the year. The next company meeting was scheduled for Saturday night September, 26, at Pilot Knob. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting the vote to do so was unanimous with the exception of Cpl. Dietzel.

5th Missouri Corporate Meeting

A 5th Missouri corporate meeting was held immediately following the company meeting. Present were Jerry Lee and Sam Hafley. It was voted to donate \$100 for preservation of Confederate Battle Flags. No other new business the meeting was adjourned.

AUTHENTICITY

No visible anachronisms in camp at any time, including but not limited to automobiles, coolers, modern cans/jugs, sleeping bags, propane stoves, cigarettes, bags of chips, bread in plastic bags, poparts, 20th century clothing (shorts, tee-shirts, stretch pants, etc.).

Non-authentic visitors are encouraged to dress authentically, otherwise they should expect to depart at the end of the spectator day and not return until spectator hours recommence.

Officers are expected to bring troops or have been assigned to an appropriate staff position.

No unblocked hat blanks, hats must be properly blocked with sweatband an appropriate crown and brim ribbons (no hat cord or brass).

Shirts, jackets and trousers all must be of 19th century cut and tailoring and correct cloth.

Trousers should be cut full, with the waistband covering navel and raising sharply from side seam to center rear.

Jackets should be of a documented pattern following the 19th century cut. Too many articles of clothing are available from sutlers that are cut on a 20th century pattern.

The above "standards" come from a reenactor named Charles Heath. They were a part of an ongoing discussion on the "net" among civil war reenactors. It was forwarded to me by Dennis Faught. As we have several recruits in the company I thought it might be a good time to have an article about what is expected when people come out with the 5th. I think most members agree with the above listed "standards" and strive to live up to them. For the 5th our main impression is mid to late war Missouri Brigade. That means a Columbus Depot jacket of light grey jeancloth and appropriate trousers made of correct materials and pattern. If you smoke try a pipe or cigars. Modern filter cigarettes are definitely not period. Keep any modern gear or clothing out of sight. If you are going to camp out with the 5th you must be in period attire, this includes all family members. Women and children should not be in the military camp unless escorted by an officer or NCO. This is the way it was done in the 1860's. If you wear glasses then they should be of period pattern or of course you can wear contacts. Modern glasses look really out of place for a 19th century impression. Well this is at least a few basics. I did not write this to discourage anyone or put anyone down, just some ideas of what will help to make a good civil war period impression. I welcome any comments, discussion, or complaints.

Alan Bowling

MESSENGER

SOURCES FOR AUTHENTIC GEAR

During a conversation at the Columbia event in which I was showing some new tinware I had acquired I was requested by a member to put information about it in the messenger. The tinware I have is produced by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. It is all copied from originals in the museum collection and is documented as to the name of the individual who carried it and the unit in which he served. The copies are faithful right down to the use of the 19th century "hot-dipped" tin coating process. This produces a finish that is unlike the modern electroplating found on most tinware available today from suttlers. They also make an excellent blanket that is copied from an original. I have one but it is rather expensive. The tinware prices are about what you will pay for "good" reproductions from most suttlers so are not unreasonable. I have a catalog if anyone is interested. The address is: Wisconsin Veterans Museum, 30 West Mifflin Street, Madison, WI 53703, Phone 608-267-1799.

Also the First Sergeant and I have acquired handsown authentic leathers that are copies of original "Magee & George" leathers. This firm was in business in New Orleans until the city was occupied by the Federals in the spring of 1862. It has been documented that the state of Missouri purchased and issued 16,000 sets of these leathers prior to this. The maker is Tom Czekanski of T. Czekanski Leatherworks, 925 Montegut St. New Orleans, LA 70117, phone 504-945-8797. I have his catalog his prices are not unreasonable for accurate handmade work, but plan on waiting about 12 to 14 weeks for delivery.

Alan Bowling