

Messenger

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 8

CO A 5TH MO INFTRY

AUGUST, 1998

EVENT REPORT 135TH GETTYSBURG

Well, it's over, what turned out to be, as advertised, "the largest gathering of the blue and gray since 1865."

I have no official figures but from what I saw and heard I would say the turnout was between 23 and 25 thousand reenactors. Broken down to be 18-20 thousand military and 4 to 5 thousand civilians. Was it perfect? No, but of the large non-campaign events I have seen it was by far the BEST! Attending from the 5th were, Alan and Ann Bowling, John and Jeannie Gilger, Mike White, Bob Koffman, Justin Gerke, Randy and T J Bruegger, Joe Hafley, Jerry Heidgerken, Rolf Crockett, Mike Massey, Mike Meoli, Nick Meoli, and Mark Meoli. In addition, on Sunday Todd Conner and one of the men from his unit fell in with us for Pickett's Charge.

WEATHER The weather for the event was very good, Temperatures at night 55-60. On Friday the high was in the mid 80's and about 90 on Saturday. Saturday night a front moved through and we had periods of light rain but never enough to even get the ground wet. Sunday dawned mostly clear with lower humidity a nice breeze, and temperature reaching a high in the low 80's.

CAMPING/AMENITIES Depending on your unit and time of arrival there was some difference in campsites, none were that bad. The Bowling's and Gilger's set up in the confederate civilian camp and since they were on site by noon Wednesday, got a campsite in some woods in reasonable proximity to wood, water, porta-pots and the sutlers. The military camp was in some woods also so shade was available. Some units and later arrivals had to camp in the open. Federal camps, and they were HUGE, were some distance away and in woods. Wood was not overavailable but there was enough, water never ran out but sometimes there was a line, straw was sold for \$3 a bale, and gators ran through the camps selling ice for \$3, but this was for a 20lb. bag. The porta-pots were kept very clean and there were enough. In all not bad for an event this size and considering up to 10 thousand more than forecast attended.

SCENARIOS Friday morning we fell in for company weapons inspection and company drill, then battalion drill. The 4th Battalion combined with Hardee's Guard to form a battalion under the command of Colonel Thomas of Hardee's Guard. We were brigaded with Rambo's Battalion to form Beck's brigade commanded by Brigadier General John Beck. In Battalion formation Hardee's Guard formed the right wing and the 4th Battalion formed the left wing of the Battalion. Hardee's Guard had 2 large companies, the 4th 4 smaller companies composed of, 3rd company, the 5th, commanded by yours truly, 4th company was a combination of the 6th and 3rd MO commanded by Allen Conner, 5th company a "Texas company" with their captain, and 6th company composed of 15th NW Arkansas and 9th Texas commanded by Tom Griggs of the 15th.

In all about 115 muskets, Rambo's Battalion was twice as large. The scenario for Friday was Heth Vs Buford. Our battalion portrayed the 45th Georgia, a little strange as the 45th took almost no part in the entire battle except for some minor skirmishing. We formed the battalion then the brigade and marched out at 3pm. After about a 2 mile march we ended up on a hill above the battle field. Fighting was going on at this time. We came down the hill deployed into line of battle and hit the Federals, we pulled back to allow fresh regiments into the action, then reformed and hit the Federals several times more driving them back and finally flanking and capturing a large contingent of them. This ended our part in the action for the day and we marched back to camp.

For the day Pvt. T J Bruegger served as a member of the colorguard. On Saturday we fought two engagements, the Wheatfield and the Slaughter Pen. We formed up and marched out at about 9am. As we were to fight in the morning, pull back into some woods, then do the Slaughter Pen. The company had to have full canteens, plenty of ammunition, and food in haversacks for the noon meal. General Beck arranged for a mule drawn wagon to meet us in the woods to replenish water. This was excellent as it was hot and by the afternoon battle many men would have had little or no water left. For the morning action the Federals broke the scenario, we were supposed to go through some woods and attack them. A large contingent occupied the woods and it took some time and several battalions to drive them out.

We then formed up marched into the field and engaged the enemy with the battalion firing by company. The action ended when we flanked the Federals on the right. We pulled back to the woods, stacked arms, then rested, ate and replenished canteens. The Slaughter Pen action in the afternoon was disappointing. Of course we were supposed to be "slaughtered" by the Yanks but what happened was that we formed line marched on to the field were attacked by numerous yanks and promptly fell back. We fired two company volleys and that was about it. Over in 15 minutes. I saw very few casualties. The bright spot was that the 5th fell back in good order, maintaining ranks, and with the front rank keeping some fire on the enemy. Most of the other companies kind

of "clustered to the rear." Saturday evening there were tug "o" wars between units. Beck's Brigade beat Johnson's. The final event being Army of Northern Virginia Vs Army of Tennessee. AoT took the honors! The entertainment was completed by a concert by a period brass band playing period music. This provided by General Smart. Of course at the big tent near the sutlers there was a huge dance held. I didn't go but was told attendance was large.

Action for the final day was "Pickett's Charge". *"We formed up about 11:30 and after some time marched to a point along a tree line facing the Federal positions. At 1:00pm the action started with a cannonade. This lasted for a little more than an hour. Just past 2pm we sent out skirmishers and engaged the Federal skirmishers.*

About 2:20pm we received the order to go! The artillery stopped firing and we passed through the guns. We were the 14th Tennessee of Archer's Brigade. We aimed our attack about 40-50 feet to the left of an angle in a stone wall. I want to here commend "Ensign" T J Bruegger, Battalion Colorbearer. As third company the colors were immediately to our right. Pvt. Koffman served as the battalion left guide. Our brigade was in the lead with Rambo's battalion 22 feet in front of us. Marching toward the Emmitsburg road we marched by the left oblique until in position then straight toward the enemy. Rambo's Battalion was to take down the fence at the Emmitsburg Road. As we approached the road we started taking a few casualties. Rambo's battalion took down the fence and started forward. The Federal fire became heavy and Rambo's boys started to melt before us. We were still walking. Colonel Thomas ordered the charge and we went for them!" ...Only one member of the 3rd Company, and of the Battalion, made it to the all, Acting First Sergeant White who was wounded and captured. The company commander was killed by a volley from a New Jersey regiment about 20 feet from the wall, the rest of the company were lying dead or wounded on the field between him and the Emmitsburg road with the exception of Ensign Bruegger who then retired. Thus saving the colors!

Ya had to be there I guess! Pickett's Charge made it worthwhile for me!

SUMMARY For a VERY large event it was well run! There were the usual Farbisms you will see at this type of event. The thing I had the most problem with was the large number of "female soldiers". I wouldn't have a problem with a woman in the ranks if she had a good impression. The ones I saw did nothing but put on the uniform and take off their earrings! This included not even tucking hair under hats. These "ladies" disrespect not only their modern pards, but also the men and WOMEN they are trying to portray! Water could have been gotten at more readily if there had been more spigots on the tankers. Also, there should have been more casualties on both sides on Saturday, especially the Confederates at the Slaughter Pen. On Thursday there were long lines at registration, but considering probably the majority of people arrived Thursday afternoon or night, perhaps inevitable. Still, my hat is off to the event organizers. To arrange for and "support" a city of 25 thousand for 3 days in the middle of nowhere is no easy task. It wasn't perfect but it worked.

Alan Bowling, Lt. 5th MO

Attention — COMPANY

A Drill Column by the 1st Sergeant

Aligning the Battalion

Achieving a straight battalion front is not difficult, and certainly doesn't require the amount of fuss it generally entails. The key is the proper use of the 2nd sergeants of each company and the battalion right and left general guides.

For purposes of this article, an assumption will be made that the battalion is maneuvering by the right flank.

When the battalion commander wants to deploy a battleline, he must first place his right general guide in the spot where he wants the right flank of the battalion to rest. The left general guide is directed to where the left of the battalion is to rest. (Since the left guide is at the rear of the column, he has to haul ass — a good reason to be in shape if you're a left general guide).

Between these two guides you have your new battalion front. A straight battleline can be formed between them with the help of the 2nd sergeant of each company.

As each company comes successively onto line, that company's 2nd sergeant should move from his file-closer or left-flank position and place himself on that imaginary straight line between the two general guides.

HARDEES RIFLE AND LIGHT INFANTRY TACTICS, VOL. II:

444. The second company having arrived opposite to the left file of the first, its captain will cause it to turn to the right, in order to approach the line of battle; and when its right guide shall be at three paces from that line, the captain will command:

1. Second company. 2. HALT

445. At the second command the company will halt; the files not yet in line with the guide will come into it promptly, the left guide will place himself on the line of battle, so as to be opposite to one of the three files on the left of the company; and, as soon as he is assured on the direction by the lieutenant colonel, the captain, having

placed himself accurately on the line of battle, will command:

3. Right — DRESS

Note, by the way, that the captain is supposed to halt the company BEFORE it arrives on the intended line. Everyone is NOT supposed to rush all the way up to the line at the "right turn into line" command — this inevitably results in over-shooting the line.

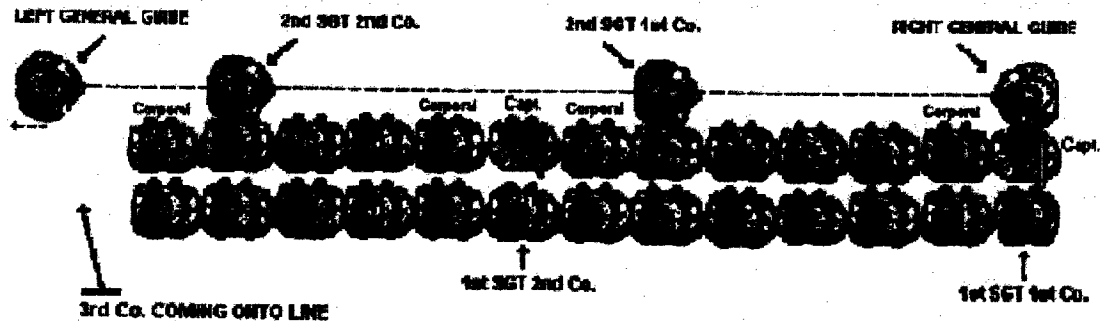
For further illumination:

424. The left guide will ... place himself before one of the three left files of his company, and, facing to the right, he will place himself accurately on the direction of the two markers of the preceding company.

If each 2nd sergeant does his bit by lining up with the other guides, and each individual file dresses right on the captain and 1st sergeant as they come on line, you can't help but have a straight battalion front. (see Fig. 1) Once the final company has come up and the entire line is sufficiently dressed, the battalion commander is to command "*Guides — POST*", at which time the sergeants return to their file-closer positions. The captains and 1st sergeants step out of line to let the 2nd sergeants pass through.

It matters not how the line is being formed — by companies, by file, wheeling, turning — any time the battalion is forming a halted line of battle, these sergeants should get out there and provide a basis for alignment. Success depends on all of them forming a straight line, which is another reason why the position of 2nd sergeant is probably the most vital in battalion maneuvers.

See you on the drill field.



POSITION OF SERGEANTS & GUIDES WHILE FORMING A BATTALION FRONT

WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR IMPRESSION:

For those interested in adding another authentic twist to their early-war Missouri impression, I found this excerpt while researching in the Official Records:

MEMPHIS, December 7, 1861.

President DAVIS:

All the supplies ordered by General Price's officers for the Missouri army have been secured and shipped as directed, except blankets; for those woolen carpeting, made in proper shape, is being sent as a substitute. More than half the million fund has been expended. If the admission of Missouri causes any change as to the disbursement of the remainder, the instructions will probably reach me before I leave for the camp.

With the highest respect, your obedient servant,

W.A. BROADWELL.

Broadwell was a Confederate government quartermaster official. The "million fund" to which he refers is \$1 million appropriated by the Confederate Congress around the time of the state legislature's secession, to equip Missouri troops in the field. A portion of this went toward the purchase of leather accoutrements as mentioned in previous articles.

The interesting revelation is that, due to the inavailability of blankets, *woolen carpeting* was issued to the troops at this point.

Look at period images and artwork, and notice the type of patterns used in carpeting. Some of it is quite gaudy. Geometric de-

signs seem to be particularly common. You could check flea markets and estate sales, and possibly come up with some old carpet or rug in a similar pattern. Cut it to the size of a blanket, and 'viola', you've added an authentic touch to your impression. Carry it folded in your knapsack or rolled into a blanket roll and you've taken another step closer looking like a true Missouri soldier.

-Dennis Faught

YOUR PRESERVATION DONATIONS AT WORK:

A Certificate of Recognition has been presented to the 5th Missouri Infantry (CSA) Inc.

"In Grateful Recognition for its Generous contribution for restoration and maintenance of the monuments and markers connected to the 1st Missouri Brigade(CSA)at Vicksburg National Military Park 1998"

William O. Nichols Superintendent

Also...

7 July 1998

Dear Dennis,

Thank you very much for the [\$100] donation to the Wilson's Creek Flag Restoration Fund. Our goal is \$3,500. We now have \$2,100. Enclosed is a brochure with a history of the flag. We appreciate your help. Let me know if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry

Adjutant, J.H. McBride Camp, S.C.V.

A Confederate First National or "Stars and Bars" pattern flag in the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield museum collection is perhaps the last surviving Confederate flag known to have been carried at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Aug. 10, 1861.

The identity of the unit which carried the flag may never be known, but it was captured on a portion of the battlefield used as a campsite by Texas, Arkansas and Missouri cavalry units, including the 3rd Texas Cavalry, 1st Arkansas Mounted Rifles, 1st Arkansas Cavalry (State Troops) and Brown's and Major's Missouri State Guard cavalry.

Theodore Cline Albright, a private in Co. C, 1st U.S. Cavalry, was temporarily detached from his company and served with Co. C, 2nd U.S. Dragoons at the Battle of Wilson's Creek. He retrieved the flag during fighting and successfully carried it back to Springfield.

According to family stories, Albright lost one of the flag's stars as a souvenir to his company commander, and apparently lost a few other pieces to souvenir-hunters as well. He brought the remainder of the flag home to St. Louis after his discharge from the Regular Army in November, 1861. Albright died in 1903.

In 1990, Charles Hudson and Theodore E. Albright III donated the flag to the National Park Service and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

In 1997, the members of Gen. James H. McBride Camp No. 632, Sons of Confederate Veterans, agreed to lead the fundraising effort to have the flag professionally restored and permanently displayed in the battlefield's visitor center. Once conserved, this flag will be prominently exhibited at the battlefield as a memorial to the soldiers of both Gen. Benjamin McCulloch's Southern army and Gen. Nataniel Lyon's Army of the West.

Members of the 5th Missouri wishing to make additional individual donations may send them to: Richard Perry, Adjutant, Gen. James H. McBride Camp, "Flag Restoration Campaign," 504 E. Cherry St., Apt. 11, Springfield, MO 65806.

Finally...

We still have \$100 allocated for donation this year. The Save the Franklin Battlefield organization has requested donations to place a marker at the site of the Carter cotton gin. I would recommend this cause as a worthy possible recipient. Contact Treasurer Dennis Faught if you have an alternative.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Faught received a phone call in June from Honorary member Phil Gottschalk, and forwarded this for publication in The Messenger:

Phil [Author of "In Deadly Earnest - The History of the First Missouri Brigade, CSA"] called to thank us for sending him the newsletter. He was very appreciative of being considered an honorary member of the 5th, and enjoyed reading about our activities. He was especially gratified at the growth and success of the Columbia event, of which he has been such an integral part. [I understand Phil was able to stop by Saturday evening for a visit. Sorry I missed him]. He also supplied me with his phone number: (573) 876-5890. His mailing address is as listed in the last company roster: Phil Gottschalk, 3300 New Haven Rd., #1336, Columbia, MO 65201. As always, our hearts and prayers are with Phil, who's contributions to the enduring legacy of the men we seek to emulate are invaluable.

-Dennis Faught

Illness in the 5th Family

One of our founding members, David Kesinger, is in the hospital with a serious, but not fully diagnosed, heart condition. While a yank by inclination and heritage, David was a very active member in our critical first couple of years and ramrodded one of our raffle fundraisers. He's also a past-president of MCWRA.

Expressions of support would be appreciated and would best be sent to his home address, 142 SE 411, Warrensburg, MO 64093. It would also be appreciated if you could forward this message to other members of the 5th from our early years & any other leading MCWRA folks.

Bill & Sandra Wayne

I have since gotten word from Bill Wayne that Mr. Kesinger is at home and medication will be used to control his symptoms.
A Bowling

MISSOURI BATTLE HYMN

GENE DRESSEL
RR1 BOX 48R
JONESBURG,MO
63351

22 June, 1998

Alan:

This is a copy of the Missouri Battle Hymn that we spoke of last weekend at Columbia. I found it several years ago at the Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis. It is believed to have been written ny Harry McCarthy (author of "Bonnie Blue Flag"), and the music may also be similar to that song. Mary Hause transcribed it from the original, so if there are any mistakes she can be drawn and quartered at the next event. I thought you migh find this to be an interesting addition to the newsletter.

Gene

continued

Missouri, Missouri free land of the west
Where the way worn emigrant always found rest
Who gave the farmer reward for his toil
Expanded in working and tilling the soil
Awake! to the sound of the bugle and drum
Awake! from your sleep for the tyrant has come
 And swear by your honor your chains shall be riven
 And add your bright star to the flag of eleven

Missouri! Missouri! Where is thy proud fame
Free land of the west, and thy once cherished name
Trode in the dust by a tyrant's command
Proclaiming his martial law in your land
Men of Missouri strike without fear
Price and McCulloch, brave men are near
 Then swear by you honor your chains shall be riven
 And add your bright star to the flag of eleven

They've forced you to join in this unholy fight
With fire and with sword, and with power and with might
Gainst Father and Brother and kindred most near
Gainst women and children and all you hold dear
They've invaded your soil, insulted your press
Mowed down your citizens, and shown no regrets
 Then swear by your honor your chains shall be riven
 And add your bright star to the flag of eleven

The above song can be heard on the recording by Cathy Barton and Dave Para entitled: Rebel in the Woods, Civil War Songs from the Western Border, Vol. II., available on tape or CD. On the CD it is the third song and is entitled, Missouri, Bright Land of the West. The Lyrics are printed on the cover insert of the CD, I don't know about the tape, and are as printed above. They also credit the song to Harry McCarthy. The tune is not however the same as "Bonnie Blue Flag".

A. Bowling

Messenger

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MESSENGER

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 8-9: Fordland, Missouri. Very small living history event with 1st Mo. Cavalry (CS). Camp life, drill. Impression is Missouri Brigade, but bring federal impression also for possible skirmish scenerios. No food provided. Gilger Cookhouse planned.
Directions: Fordland is east of Springfield on U.S. 60 (or south of Marshfield via routes A & FF). Site is next to the sewage treatment plant. [Oh boy!] Watch for signs.
Registration Deadline Aug 1. 21 Committed (14 Military).

SEP 19 Company A of the 5th Missouri Infantry has been invited to return to the Ozark Ham & Turkey Festival in California, Mo. We appeared at this event in 1995, setting up camp in a vacant lot adjacent to the renovated Moniteau County Historical Society building. We have been promised that spot again for the Sept. 19 event. Due to the late nature of the invitation and the event's proximity to Pilot Knob on the calendar, we could not promise a large turnout. (We had 10 military, 3 civilians last time). However, those interested are encouraged to attend. This annual event attracts several thousand of spectators, and is in a prime recruiting area. We will provide a camp display and periodic drill/firing demos (depending on numbers). We can participate in the parade, if you are interested. Take U.S. 50 to California, turn north on MO 87 (Oak St.) and follow it to South St. Park in the church parking lot adjacent to camp. Arrive early (prior to 8 a.m.) and stay until 3 or 4 p.m. We have been invited to camp overnight Friday, but probably will not. (It was hard to sleep with trains and ducks passing by).
Contact the 1st Sergeant if you can attend. Impression: Missouri Brigade.