

Messenger

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CO A 5TH MO INFTRY

SEPTEMBER, 1998

EVENT REPORT: FORDLAND

This living history appears to be the private project of a local family, a family which evidently enjoys little support from the community. During our brief stay, we entertained fewer than a dozen spectators -- and that number includes the aforementioned family and two TV news crews.

The event, now in it's second (and probably last) year, suffers from a hideous location, flanked by a water treatment plant and a busy four-lane highway. An even busier mainline railroad is painfully within earshot, and the site sits in a hole devoid of air circulation.

The hosting unit, 1st Mo. Cavalry (CS) could muster less than a half-dozen, mostly dismounted, troopers. We brought 12 infantry and five civilians. There was no one else. Oh, one lone Yank infantryman wandered in about midday. He was unarmed, and said little. I don't know where he came from. Perhaps a deserter.

We were able to use the opportunity to brush up on skirmish drill, with a brief session of bayonet drill, but did little else. For no reason other than the fact that we could put some of that skirmish drill into practice, we also staged a brief skirmish with the handfull of dismounted troopers. Once that was completed, there surfaced a desire to cut short our visit to this idyllic community. The sponsor was busily mowing a clearing for the planned evening dance, when a majority of those present voted to break camp at 3:30 p.m.

Report submitted by 1st Sergt. Dennis Faught

HEADQUARTERS

Company A, 5th Missouri Infantry Regt.
Cole Camp, Missouri

Be it known:

In view of the placing of the captain's wagon under his tent fly on the grounds of the Maplewood mansion the evening of 12 June or morning of 13 June last, and the damage inflicted on said wagon by the perpetrators, the captain has decreed that any individuals found to be responsible for similar disruptive shenanigans in the future will be detailed for crowd control in lieu of battle at the captain's discretion.

By authority of Capt. J.Lee

Dennis Faught, 1st Sergt., Co. A

AUTHENTIC CARTRIDGE BUNDLES

Pick any five reenactors at random, check their cartridge boxes, and chances are you'll find five different ways of rolling cartridges. I've seen them all: everything from rounds that looked like they had been stolen from a museum display, to multi-colored monstrosities wrapped from the comics page of the newspaper.

For some, the thought of spending much effort on rolling cartridges is abhorrent. After all, you're just going to shoot them up in a battle, right? For others, properly rolled and packaged cartridges add to the experience of 'living' history. This article is for the latter group.

During the War Between the States, soldiers were issued ammunition in packs of ten cartridges, bundled together with an eleventh tube containing 12 percussion caps. The bundles were usually bound with string, and sometimes had a label affixed to them. (See Echoes of Glory, Arms and Equipment of the Confederacy, page 39 for an example)

CARTRIDGES

Realistic-looking cartridge bundles must begin with a realistic-looking cartridge.

Start with a cylinder for forming your tubes. It should be the same diameter of the ammunition your musket would use. I use a half-inch wooden dowel, wrapped with masking tape to a diameter of about 9/16-inch. [A half-inch dowel alone yields

cartridges that are too skinny, and won't make a properly-sized bundle for .577 cal ammunition.] Carve one end of your dowel to mimic the shape of the ammunition you are loading.

For cartridge (and bundle-wrapping paper) I recommend parcel-post mailing paper, or those little brown lunch bags. You want paper that's thin and lightweight but sturdy, and able to hold a crease. Newsprint is cheaper, but will not hold a crease well, and it will NOT work for wrapping the bundles.

Cut trapezoids that measure roughly 4.5 inches long at the base, and 4 inches along the tallest side. Roll the paper tightly on the dowel by placing the dowel -- 'bullet' end to the right -- on the paper with the straight edge nearest you; tall side to the right. Leave at least 1/2 inch of paper overlapping the right end of the dowel. Roll away from you. Give the extra paper at the end a light counterclockwise twist to crimp it in place. Wrap a length of twine twice around this crimp, sinch it tight and tie it off with an over-hand knot. (The twine on original cartridges is flax thread -- available at shoe and leather repair shops. A suitable-in-a-pinch substitute is fine cotton twine.) Push/spread the end of the paper back toward the string.

Remove the dowel and ram a cotton ball or wadded toilet paper into the tube to substitute for the minie ball. This is necessary to make your cartridges the proper length. Your faux bullet should occupy approximately an inch (no more) of your tube. Pour in 60-65 grains of black powder. Grasp the open end of the tube and shake it to settle the powder toward the cotton. Squeeze it off against the powder and flatten the empty part of the tube. The diagonal edge of your trapezoid should be facing up.

Fold the flattened 'tail' lengthwise by thirds. Bend it back -- *away* from the visible diagonal edge -- then crease and fold back *toward* the diagonal edge. Fold the remaining 'tail' flat up against the body of the cartridge.

Finished length is about 2 3/8 inches.

CAPS

Percussion caps were issued in a tube wrapped up with the cartridges. For this tube, I recommend a different kind of paper -- preferably a different color -- for safety's sake (so you don't easily confuse it with a round and pour caps down your muzzle). Make the tube as indicated above, but instead of cotton and powder, drop 12 caps into it and fold the tail over as above.

BUNDLES

Bundled ten-packs are not only authentic, they are an excellent way to transport your extra cartridges -- much superior to pouring them loosely into a plastic bag.

To make mine, I cut a wooden block the size of the bundle -- approximately 2 7/8-inches wide by 2 3/8-inches tall by 1 1/8-inch thick. It should fit in the bottom space of your cartridge box tins. Securely affix a string to one of the long ends.

Cut the paper into sheets roughly 10 1/2-inches by 4 1/2 inches. Lay the block on the paper lengthwise-to-length, and fold the paper around your block -- just like wrapping a tiny Christmas present, creasing the corners and edges sharply. Open one of the long ends and remove the block, (here's where that string comes in handy) leaving the rest of the package closed.

Original ordnance specs called for the balls to be alternately placed (one row of five with the ball at one end, the other reversed -- for balance) but I fudge here. I drop them all in 'butt' first, then place my tube of caps perpendicularly across the top. It nuzzles nicely into the 'trough' between the tied ends of the cartridges, making for a squarer, easier-to-wrap end. Since there are no lead balls in blanks, balance is not an issue.

Re-close the package, aided by the sharp creases you made when forming it. Secure the bundle with a length of twine -- again, much like wrapping a present with ribbon. Tie the twine in a square knot on the side where the edge of the paper shows, and clip off the loose ends. A label may be added -- glued to the package over the twine -- if you have a good copy of an authentic one, but it is not necessary.

You'll find this an easy way to carry extra rounds -- tucked away in your knapsack or blanket roll -- and you'll never want for percussion caps or have to fumble with a tin of caps again.

Dennis Faught

COLUMBIA EVENT TO BE CANCELLED

The Columbia Parks and Recreation Department has decided to cancel the annual June Nifong Park living history event, effective immediately. Concerns have been expressed about the growth of the event, the subsequent effect on safety, and increased costs, and the department has zero interest in staging it in a better location.

LOCUST GROVE CEMETERY

MISSOURI CONFEDERATE SOLDIER HONORED 136 YEARS TO THE DAY AFTER HIS VALOROUS DEATH

A squad from Company A, 5th Missouri Infantry, rendered military honors Aug. 16 for ceremonies honoring the placement of a memorial stone for Capt. James Blair Watson.

Capt. Watson was a member of Locust Grove Methodist Church, serving as a pastor there before the war. In 1861, he raised the first company of state soldiers in the community. On August 16, 1862, Capt. Watson was killed at Lone Jack, and his body was buried in an unmarked grave.

Through the efforts of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Boone County Historical Society, and local historians William Berry and Dell Cunningham, a VA headstone was placed in the church cemetery, next to the grave of his widow, at Midway United Methodist Church. (formerly Locust Grove Methodist Church, AB)

Providing a musket salute were Sergt. Faught, Corp. Fink, and Pvts. Gerke, Meoli, Massey Robertson and Block, under the command of Lt. Bowling. Also present was Lt. White of Co. A, 6th Missouri Infantry, and a gun from Collins' Battery.

The service was attended by nearly 100 onlookers, including members of the church and descendants of Capt. Watson.

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 19: California, Missouri. Ozark Ham & Turkey Festival. Parade, living history, drill & firing demos at Moniteau County Historical Society. Impression is Missouri Brigade. No camp-over; arrive early (*before 8 a.m.*). Will break camp before 4 p.m. Barbecue get-together at Mike White's afterwards.

Directions: Take U.S. 50 to California, north on Oak St. (MO 87) to South Street. You may park in church parking lot if you arrive early.

16 Committed (10 military)

Sept. 26-27: Pilot Knob, Missouri. Re-enactment 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. Non-MCWRA members pay \$2 fee on-site. Registration Deadline passed. 32 Pre-registered (22 Military).

Oct 10: Clinton, Missouri. Tales of the Civil War. 2nd Annual Living History at Dorman House and on Courthouse Square. Depiction of Federal occupation of town. Arrests, executions, skirmishes, first-person living history. Preferred impression is Civilian. (Blue and 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 scenarios, firing demonstrations. Impression is Missouri Brigade, but bring Federal impression for skirmishing scenarios. Gilger Cookhouse in operation, plus discounts available for prepared meals by Lake Association. Will provide honor guard for period wedding Sunday. 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 overnight arrival, push them open -- they are not locked) Registration Deadline September 1. 24 Committed (15 Military).

Dec. 5-6: Prairie Grove, Arkansas. Semi-annual re-enactment 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.

MCWRA SETS 1999 SCHEDULE

At it's annual inaugural/scheduling meeting August 1 in Jefferson City, the MCWRA approved the following events on its 1999 schedule:

April 17-18: Butler, MO (Maximum Effort) Hosted by 3rd Mo. Infantry
April 30-May 2: Mansfield, LA (Listed) [TMA Regional event]
May 22-23: Rolla, MO (Sanctioned) Hosted by 4th Mo. Cavalry
June 5-6: Ft. Scott, KS (Listed) [Federal Living History]
June 12-13: Columbia, MO EVENT CANCELLED
July 3-4: Texas County, MO (Listed) [Cavalry Tactical] Hosted by Mo. Bushwhackers
July 17-18 (?) Honey Springs, OK (Listed) Sponsored by Oklahoma Historical Society
August 7-8: Athens, MO (Sanctioned) [DNR event] >Hosted by 2nd Mo. Infantry
September 11-12: St. Charles, MO (Sanctioned) Hosted by 9th Mo. Sharpshooters
September 17-19: Chickamauga, GA (Listed) [National event]
Oct 2: Pilot Knob, MO (Listed) [off-year Living History] Hosted by 4th Mo. Cavalry
December 3-4: Ft. Scott, KS (Listed) [Federal Living History]
Date TBA: Shelbina, MO (Sanctioned) Sponsored by 2nd Mo. Infantry

(The 5th Missouri will meet in January to decide which of these events, and others, will comprise our 1999 unit schedule)

Additional important 4th Battalion infantry events (not MCWRA-listed) include:

Feb 6: Bonner Springs, KS Officer/NCO School
Feb 20: Springdale, AR 4th Battalion Ball
March 27-28: Bonner Springs, KS Battalion Spring Muster/Company Drill

(All 4th Battalion companies will be asked to consolidate their spring drills into the scheduled Battalion Spring Muster)

Upcoming tentative events for 2000 include:

May: Carthage
June: Wilson's Creek [National Event]
August: Kirksville
September: Cassville
September: Lexington

In action related to scheduling, the board was given the authority to upgrade the Columbia event to 'Sanctioned' at the request of the sponsors if a larger site can be obtained. The same upgrade authority was reserved for the Honey Springs event, which was 'Listed' on the calendar even though the sponsors didn't bother to present it for consideration.

The meeting included a lengthy debate when a new unit ("Missouri Bushwhackers/Quantrill") sought probationary status. The unit leader asked that "guerrillas" be accorded a status separate from cavalry, arguing that a true guerrilla impression differs substantially from "cavalry," as these irregulars did not fight under the standard cavalry tactics of the time.

This was objected to by several members, including the 5th Missouri, because the status would have placed this specialty mounted/dismounted impression on the same level as "Infantry", "Cavalry" and "Artillery" under the by-laws. Several felt this tied the hands of Max-effort sponsors, who would then be forced to include roles in scenerios for "guerrillas," or not get a 'Maximum' designation.

Ultimately the new unit was accepted -- but will not be accorded this special status. However, since the unit is a hybrid between mounted and dismounted, it was given dual sponsors: 2nd Mo. Infantry and Anderson's Rangers (formerly Porter's NE Mo Cav).

-Dennis Faught

WANTED: Progressive-minded volunteers to form a mess for the Red River Campaign 2, April 10-17, 1999. This event is not for the faint-of-heart. It is an opportunity to step to the next level in reliving history. It will take place in Western/Central Louisiana -- along the same roads and routes the original armies traveled, and fighting on the same ground (all privately owned). It will cover 50 miles of dirt roads over the course of the week, with some fighting every day... much of it tactical, impromptu and unscripted. There will be five major battles: Marthaville, Wilson's Farm, Ten-Mile Bayou, Mansfield, and Pleasant Hill. Amenities: None. You'll be in a "howling wilderness." Rations will be issued in period style. Port-a-johns? Forget it. You'll learn what a "sink" is. Modern stores and restaurants: None. Ice chests and such: Do you REALLY want to carry that sucker in your pack for fifty miles? Anyone who's game to try this, contact the 1st Sergeant.

Division Bylaw Changes

These changes to the 1st Confederate Division Bylaws were taken in context from the gathered notes taken from Battalion Staff and others present at the North / South Alliance Meeting. The official verbiage to these changes will be forth coming from Major General Smarts headquarters. When the revised bylaws become available, we will forward them to you.

Be It Resolved

The following items were made policy as a result of the vote of battalion commanders:

- (1) Minimum Infantry Battalion strength shall continue to be 135 "shooters" (plus Field and Staff, company file closers, etc).
- (2) Battalions that fail to field the minimum numbers shall be consolidated into another battalion.
- (3) Battalions that fail to field the minimum numbers twice in a row, shall not be recognized by the Division as a standing Battalion and remove that Battalion's voting status.
- (4) Participation at officially designated First Confederate Division events is MANDATORY for battalions (It was felt that this is not unreasonable for only ONE event per year).
- (5) The Division will continue its flexible brigade commander concept AND will allow fixed brigades. In conjunction with this, Roger Johnson's unofficial brigade was made an official brigade (and therefore a "fixed" brigade) in the Division.
- (6) The brigade commander was given the right to vote on Division business, a privilege in the infantry branch heretofore reserved only for battalion commanders.
- (7) Also in conjunction with this was decided that a brigade shall consist of a minimum of two battalions.
- (8) The Division was asking for safety rules from every battalion in order to compile a Division safety list.
- (9) The Division artillery will be organized by batteries, for registration purposes as well as for action on the field.
- (10) Each battery will have a Guidon. In conjunction with safety rules, commanders were alerted to give attention to the battery's guidon in battle. The guidon will be dropped to the ground as a signal that the guns of the battery are unloaded, and so an assault on the guns is safe.
- (11) Both Federal and Confederate commands were asked to produce a workable Casualty Assessment system, so we can stop having "shoot 'em in the face" fights.
- (12) Another Five Year Plan was agreed upon (2001-2005). Proposed events included:

2001 - Atlanta campaign

2002 - Perryville

2003 - Murfreesboro

2004 - Forts Henry and Donelson (with a tactical in between)

2005 - Corinth and Iuka

Thus concluded what I thought was a very productive meeting of the largest, most efficient reenacting organization in the country.

Colonel John Beck Commanding 4th Battalion

Look for another Brigade to be formed in the near future consisting of the 4th Battalion and the Louisiana Battalion with Brigadier General John Beck in command. This pretty much sums up the agenda of the North South Alliance meeting held in Collinsville, IL, August 21 & 22. Which I attended.

Alan Bowling

MESSENGER

COOKOUT AFTER CALIFORNIA LIVING HISTORY

As noted in the Details of upcoming events article, Mike White and his wife have invited those who attend to a cookout at his house. This is from Mike: After the festival we would like to have everyone over for burgers and hotdogs at our place. If you plan to attend the cookout please RSVP as soon as possible so we can plan on numbers. My phone is 573-796-2686.

Thank you very much,
Mike White

TRADING POST

FOR SALE: Ladies size 10 to 12 Maroon Wool Hooded Cloak
size 6 to 8 Light blue print skirt & lined top
size 6 to 8 light green print skirt & top
undergarments and accessories plus three wide brimmed straw hats all with trim.
Boys size 12 to 14 Cotton canvas pants (long) two cotton shirts
Questions and prices call Martha Roush 785-887-6008.

FOR SALE: one Federal four button sack coat from R&K. Very good condition with hand sown button holes size 42
asking \$30.
Alan Bowling 573-442-9489.