

# Messenger

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CO A 5TH MO INFY

OCTOBER, 1998

## EVENT REPORT: CALIFORNIA

The Ozark Ham & Turkey Festival draws a crowd of thousands to California each year. This year, Co. A of the 5th Missouri Infantry was invited to return for an encampment at the Moniteau County Historical Society's Cultural Heritage Center.

We were provided with an open lot within ear-shot of the throngs of festival-goers clogging the main street downtown, and surrounded by restored Victorian homes. Across the street was the Eitzen Mansion, open for the first time to public tours. Charles Eitzen was a citizen in Hermann at the time of the war. As the story goes, he was detailed to guard the Gasconade railroad bridge during Price's 1864 campaign, and reportedly ran at the first shot.

A good turnout of 11 muskets with an officer allowed us to provide some competent drill and loading/firing demonstrations each hour. I was, however, troubled by the need to constantly remind the ranks to elevate muskets as spectators walked carelessly in front of the battle line. I must again caution everyone that this should be second-nature. Never level muskets in the direction of people (or horses) within 25 yards. Having passed up the parade during our last visit, we opted to participate this year. The platoon -- bearing aloft Mrs. Lee's newly-completed 3rd and 5th.Mo.Infty. battleflag and trailed by a number of our civilian contingent -- was placed near the head of the parade, behind the Grand Marshall. We were greeted warmly for the length of the procession, stopping frequently to discharge volleys. (I am told by the local prosecuting attorney that the town is 'secesh' to the core) Some complained of the quick pace set by the leading unit -- a National Guard band which refused to play "Dixie" because it was 'politically incorrect.'

We broke bivouac at 3 p.m., and adjourned to the homestead of Corp. Mike White and his wife Debbie for a barbecue cookout.

Submitted by 1st Sergt. Dennis Faught

## EVENT REPORT: PILOT KNOB

Troops from several states gathered Sept. 26-27 to re-create Sterling Price's 1864 assaults on Ft. Davidson near Pilot Knob. Reenactor turnout appeared to be equal to or greater than that of recent years, with the largest federal infantry battalion in memory. Crowds appeared to be similarly strong. Weather cooperated by remaining dry, although after a chilly dawn Sunday, the afternoon broiled.

Most arrived Friday night to a considerable amount of confusion in the camp setup: The shady pine grove where the CS infantry has historically camped was jammed with wall tents belonging mostly to artillery and civilians. Infantry was now, for the most part, in a recently acquired and cleared (shadeless) field, along with most of the CS cavalry. Modern vendors were immediately adjacent and in full view. The captain and other 5th Mo. family campers pitched their tents in the spectator area -- but at least it had shade.

The event had several other drawbacks -- most of them minor. Most troublesome was the failure to show up by 11 of the soldiers who committed to the event. A few of these notified the appropriate contacts; most did not. Among the MIAs were the Gilgers (unfortunate last-minute victims of car trouble), which created a significant cook-gear crisis. Those present were reacquainted with the wisdom of having a planned backup.

Other nettlesome complaints include the lack of a battalion sergeant major, and subsequently most military camp decorum (pickets, communications, formations & etc.); and the maddening persistence of inconsiderate dweebs who drive their blasted vehicles into and adjacent to camp every Saturday night and Sunday morning.

The event could have been stellar without the drawbacks (these are all fixable problems), but even so it was as good or better than any previous incarnation of this reenactment.

Saturday, the Confederate infantry and cavalry marched about a mile up the old Ironton Road, then turned to press the federals back down the road and into the fort. On our march out we met a federal hard-core contingent who camped Friday night in Ironton. One of them marched the entire three-mile route sans shoes -- some of it over sharp gravel. The 1st Sergeant hereafter relinquishes any and all claim to the sobriquet "barefoot." The group of yanks sporting a fine campaign impression also numbered among them T.J. Bruegger and Dave Bears.

The battles, having been done every three years, have a tendency to get stale. But occasionally something happens to make them memorable. Three years ago it was Maj. Bob Koffman's headlong charging of the fort with two parallel columns of four. Suicidal, but memorable. This year, it was some spectacular cannister hits in Saturday's assault, and the capture of two federal guns (outside the fort walls) on Sunday. Both incidents involved the 3rd and 5th Mo., serving as the first and second companies of the battalion.

I don't believe the capturing of the guns had any basis in historical fact. Of course this is not unusual, as sham reenactment battles rarely bear any resemblance to the history they purport to re-create.

But in the end, everyone seemed to enjoy them immensely, and perhaps the public was able to observe the futility of massed infantry charges against an entrenched enemy with artillery.

Submitted by 1st Sergeant Dennis Faught

#### Minutes

Co. A, 5th Missouri Infantry (CSA), Inc.

Saturday, September 26, 1998

Pilot Knob, Mo.

Company A Vice President Sam Hafley called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., in front of the Finks' tent at the Pilot Knob reenactment. A quorum was present.

The minutes of the June '13 meeting were read and approved as corrected by Corporate Secretary Dennis Faught.

There being no recruits eligible for consideration for Veteran status, the secretary gave an overview of upcoming events through 1999. Faught expressed concern with a "bank robbery" listed on the schedule of the Oct. 10 Clinton event but no one associated with the event was immediately available to clarify. There were also some concerns raised by family-camping members over the campaign-style focus of next year's major national event at Chickamauga. Jerry Lee reported that the 2nd Mo. was planning to take advantage of the now-open June Columbia date to stage an event in Shelbina or Bethel.

In other business, Faught asked for input on a planned purchase proposal. He suggested the corporation acquire microfilm rolls of the Combined Service Records of the 5th Missouri Infantry from the National Archives. These records – which contain valuable information to help improve the group's portrayal of a company of the regiment – are available for purchase at \$32 per roll. The 5th (and 3rd-5th)'s records comprise seven rolls. Faught asked how the membership would prefer to see them handled/made available should the board approve the purchase. He suggested they could be donated to a library or historical society. Ken McKee suggested that they be converted into a digital format that would allow the posting of the information on the internet. He further suggested that the rolls be stored in a safe place after posting, rather than donated. His suggestions were put into the form of a motion, 2nd by Sam Hafley, and passed unanimously. McKee volunteered to investigate the computer logistics of copying/posting the material. Faught promised to bring the issue before the Board.

The company accepted the donation of a lantern for the Cookhouse from Associate Member Marcus Price. Also donated by Price were his & her rings which he had had designed and crafted with the Latin cross motif of the 5th Mo. colors. It was his wish that the rings be given to deserving members for their dedication to the company. After some discussion of how to make such a choice, Tucker moved/Sam Hafley 2nd that the rings be awarded to the Lees. The motion passed by majority voice vote. Those interested in purchasing copies of the rings can do so at a savings.

Alan Bowling reported on a meeting of Battalion unit commanders/supernumeraries which took place Saturday afternoon at Pilot Knob. Dissatisfaction with Col. John Beck has resulted in a schism within the battalion. Beck is expected to ascend to Brigadier this year, and a faction of the unit leaders desire to insure a more democratic choice for battalion command. There is also a likelihood that the 15th NW Arkansas, TMR and the various 9th Texas companies will leave the Extra Battalion to form a command of their own under Lt. Col. Willie Huckabee. A new colonel would then be elected to command the remainder of the Extra Battalion, which would be composed solely of Missouri units and would focus its impression on the Missouri Brigade. Maj. Ted Prater has expressed an interest in this command.

After a lengthy discussion of the reasons for these developments and the ramifications of same, Company A of the 5th Missouri drafted this statement to be offered to battalion staff:

***"The 5th Missouri agrees with the need for an election mechanism to allow the rank-and-file a more realistic voice in the choice of battalion command. We object to the idea of splitting the battalion into two smaller units, feeling this would make it impossible to achieve the 1st Confederate Division's mandated 135-musket threshold for independent command at national events."*** Moved by Faught/2nd by Bowling. Approved unanimously.

Todd Conner apologized to the unit for extending an invitation to an event even though he suspected it would be of poor quality -- and did not voice these concerns at the time. The unit, which accepted the invitation to Fordland on his recommendation in January, left the event after only a few hours due to many problems as outlined in the September Messenger.

The membership was apprised of the recent death of Judy Riggs, wife of founding member Charley Riggs. Dietzel moved/Tucker 2nd that the unit donate \$25 to a memorial fund if such exists. Passed unanimously. The Board will take up the expenditure.

Finally, there was discussion of continuing authenticity concerns in the family camp. Unit-guideline violations include -- but are not limited to -- the wearing of modern eyewear during spectator hours. If the problems persist, the membership will revisit the issue and consider what possible action could be taken.

The next Company meeting was set for Saturday evening, Oct 17, at Warsaw. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

**-Submitted by Dennis Faught**

**Minutes  
Board of Directors  
5th Missouri Infantry (CSA), Inc.  
Saturday, September 26, 1998  
Pilot Knob, Mo.**

President Jerry Lee convened the Board of Directors in front of the Finks' tent at the Pilot Knob reenactment, immediately following the Company A meeting, with all members present.

The minutes of the June 13 meeting were approved as corrected by Secretary Dennis Faught. Treasurer Faught presented the quarterly financial report, showing \$1,946.66 in the corporate treasury with \$55 cash-on-hand. Dues income exceeded projections for 1998, at \$636. Expenditures are under projections for 1998, including \$300 in preservation donations (\$400 budget), \$44.16 for recruiting, postage and director reimbursements (\$100 budget) and \$240 for the newsletter (\$400 budget). Faught noted that next year's dues restructuring would have an impact on those surpluses.

Faught moved/Lee 2nd to approve the expenditure of the final \$100 for preservation to the Save the Franklin Battlefield Association toward a plaque marking the site of the Carter cotton gin. Approved.

Faught moved/Hafley 2nd that funds be expended to purchase microfilm rolls of the 5th Missouri/3rd-5th Missouri regiments from the National Archives @\$32. Approved.

Faught moved/Lee 2nd that \$25 be donated to a memorial fund for Judy Riggs. Faught is to inquire as to the existence of such a fund. Approved.

The final 1998 board meeting was set for Saturday evening, Oct. 17, at Warsaw. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

**-Submitted by Secretary Dennis Faught**

**HONOR GUARD NEEDED**

The SCV has requested that Co. A of the 5th Missouri Infantry provide an honor guard for the dedication of a headstone Saturday, Oct. 24 at 3:30 p.m. in Moniteau County.

The veteran to be honored is John English, who hailed from an influential family in Cole/Moniteau County. He served at the rank of Captain, commanding a company in the Missouri State Guard until the transfer to Mississippi. He is mentioned in William Ruyle's diary: (Ruyle -- who eventually served in Co. C, 5th Mo., was in the same MSG battalion with English's company, serving as Gen. Sterling Price's escort) English subsequently served as a Lieutenant in Co. F, 3rd Mo. Cavalry, and was wounded twice. He was a Mason, and served as a county judge after the war.

Robert Hawkins III will speak at the dedication. English's grandson, also named John English, will be present.

The ceremony will take place northeast of McGirk, which is between California and Jefferson City. To get to the cemetery, take Route PP north from Hwy. 50. Go 2.8 miles to where the blacktop ends; turn right onto Cedar Ridge Road; go 1.2 miles then left onto Leonard Road; go a quarter-mile on Leonard and turn right onto Sweetwater Road. Go another quarter of a mile and Sweetwater cemetery will be on your right. There will be a sharp turn to the left at the cemetery.

Contact the 1st Sergeant if you can spare a portion of your afternoon to honor this man. Impression is Missouri Brigade.

## DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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). There will be an 8 p.m. skirmish Friday night. Other schedule highlights: 7:30 a.m. breakfast; 8:45 a.m. reveille; 9 a.m. speeches; 9:15 a.m. bank robbery; 10 a.m. battle (including artillery); 10:30 a.m. prisoner exchange; 11 a.m. lunch; 1 p.m. battle. 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.  
20 Committed (13 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. 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)  
26 Committed (17 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

Natchez Daily Courier  
May 2, 1863, page 1, column 4  
How a Man Feels in Battle

**There can be nothing more puzzling than the analysis of one's feeling on the battle-field. You cannot describe them satisfactorily to yourself or others.**

**To march steadily up to the mouth of a hundred cannon while they pour out fire and smoke, and shot and shell in a storm that mows the men like grass, is horrible beyond description -- appalling. It is absurd to say a man can do it without fear.**

**During Hancock's charge at Fredericksburg, for a long distance the slope was swept by such a hurricane of death that we thought every step would be our last, and I am willing to say, for one, that I was pretty badly scared. Whatever may be said about "getting used to it," old soldiers secretly dread a battle equally with new ones.**

**But the most difficult thing to stand up against is the suspense while waiting, as we waited in Fredericksburg, drawn up in line of battle on the edge of the field watching the columns file past us and disappear in a cloud of smoke, where horses and men and colors go down in confusion, where all sounds are lost in the screaming shells, the cracking of musketry, the thunder of artillery, and knowing our turn comes next, expecting each moment the word "Forward."**

**It brings a strange kind of relief when "Forward" comes. You move mechanically with the rest. Once fairly in for it, your sensibilities are strangely blunted, you care comparatively nothing about the sights that shock you at first; men torn to pieces by cannon shot becomes a matter of course.**

**At such a time, there comes a latent sustenance from within us, or about us, which no man anticipates who has not been in such a place before, and which most men pass through life without knowing anything about. What is it? Where does it come from?**

**FAMOUS LAST WORDS OF RE-ENACTORS:**

Don't worry, I'm sure it's safe by now.  
 Let's go around here, we'll surprise 'em.  
 I dunno. Pull the trigger and find out.  
 Heck, I ain't thirsty anyway.  
 Trust me, I know all about black powder.  
 He can't hear us, he's asleep in the tent.  
 I'm sure this isn't the poisonous kind.  
 Whatever you do, don't touch that.  
 Hey y'all, watch this!  
 This won't start, maybe just a little more gasoline...  
 OK, throw her in reverse and c'mon back!  
 Hang on, we'll push it out!  
 I thought YOU had the lantern.  
 Heck, they probably don't care if we're wearing gray (blue) in here!  
 Safety inspection, SHMAFETY inspection!  
 Wait, I thought he was with you.  
 You're WHOSE daughter??  
 YEE HAWWW! Let's charge 'em boys!  
 Naw, it's not that deep.  
 Event pass? What event pass?  
 Well, at least this storm can't get any worse.  
 Calm down, of course it's not loaded.  
 Now THIS'LL really scare 'em!Hmmm, let's see.... looks like something stuck in the barrel...  
 Yes, I'm single. And you?  
 Well, there's only one way to find out...  
 Care to dance, Miss Bertha?  
 Man, I'm gonna try to take a hit like THAT!  
 Cannon? Where?  
 What's this wire on the ground for?  
 I'm sorry Dirty Billy, but your hats really suck.  
 Hey! Don't pull that yet!  
 Climb on, we'll ride in.  
 This medicine isn't working, I'll take a few more.  
 No officer, I'm a re-enactor I swear!  
 I don't need to drill -- Just let me fight!  
 Nah, it's just a wonderwad.  
 I know this great shortcut we can take.  
 No, there are none of those in this part of the country.  
 Hey, when it comes to driving in mud, I'm a pro!  
 No I'm fine, just give me another beer.  
 How come those horses aren't stopping?  
 Watch this, the spectators love it...  
 What does it mean when your feet turn this color?  
 Hey, Farb!

-Anonymous

**FROM THE EDITOR**

As per vote I informed Dave Weaver that the 5th MO supports some way to elect battalion Commanders but we would like the 4th Battalion to stay as is because of concerns about meeting numbers at big events. In light of communication I have received from Capt. Weaver since that time it looks like the battalion split is pretty much of a "done deal". I think the boys in OK and AR want to form their own unit. In a way I can't blame them as it is quite a drive to come to MO events. and their units may not have been part of the Missouri Brigade. I do not think there are any hard feelings in this just a sort of natural evolution. That doesn't mean they will not be coming to our events or that we won't be welcome at theirs. So we will have to shoulder our muskets and support our new Battalion when it comes about. That means that all of us will need to make an effort in the future to turn out at events!!!

AB

## IN MEMORIUM

**Judy Riggs died Thursday, Sept. 17, 1998, after a long & valiant struggle against cancer. Funeral services were held Sunday, Sept. 20 at Lakeside Chapel Baptist Church near Windsor, with burial in Windsor cemetery. She is survived by her husband Charley, son Chip, and four daughters.**

**Judy was well known in area reenacting circles as the proprietor of Clear Creek Sutters.**

**Charley Riggs is a founding member of the Fifth Missouri Infantry; the organizational meeting in early 1990 was held at his house. He started re-enacting with Crowley's 3rd Missouri Infantry at the beginning of the 125th series.**