

Messenger

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CO A 5TH MO INFNTY

NOVEMBER, 1998

EVENT REPORT: CLINTON

The 2nd annual "Tales of the Civil War" living history was held on the square in downtown Clinton Oct. 10.

The scenario was much the same as last year's inaugural event: The depiction of the oppressive occupation of a western Missouri town in the wake of Gen. Ewing's Order No. 11. Changes this year included a Friday night skirmish in the streets, the robbing of the local bank by the marauding federals, and the addition of two full-scale artillery pieces to the skirmishes.

It was the 5th Missouri's turn to portray the secessionist militia. We camped a block from the square at the Dorman house, while the hosting 6th Missouri -- portraying the federals -- camped on the square.

I opted to pass up the Friday night camp-over, after last year's experience. This year the square was blocked off and the all-night revelry of the locals was somewhat diminished.

As with last year, the event was well-run under the primary responsibility of associate member John Sherrer. The reenactors were extremely well-provided for in issues and amenities.

Some occurrences worth noting:

Dangerous mishaps oftentimes provide a good laugh after the fact, but carry with them a serious message.

For example, Friday evening, the Lees nearly burned down their tent when space-heater fuel was inadvertently spilled and set afire. We'll no doubt kid them unmercifully and laugh as we retell the story again and again around the campfire. But it serves as a cautionary reminder: If you choose to use modern heaters in canvas tents, be extra careful.

In another it-wasn't-funny-at-the-time mishap that will provide us all with hours of merriment later, involved Jeff "Canteen" Tucker. Having joined the 5th over seven years ago and served without injury at dozens of events, Pvt. Tucker finally purchased his first canteen at Pilot Knob. During the final skirmish at Clinton, he broke for the year as the federals advanced, and in his haste to shed himself of the encumbrance of this newly-acquired item, it struck him near the eye, opening a nasty gash. The injury stopped the event and earned Jeff an ambulance ride to the emergency room. Fortunately his eyesight was unaffected and we hope to see him back in ranks soon. The lesson to be learned is that this sort of thing could happen to any of us -- so think 'safety first' at all times.

One final note: The event provided one amenity that hadn't been promoted: Free admission to the circus. We were enthralled by the sight of the disfunctional cav fellow who plopped down with a futon next to our campfire. Yes, one of those folding cushion chair-beds. He was carrying, along with an assortment of boxes and impedimenta, several revolvers and a cheaply-made Hawken-type repop gun with a barrel about as thick as a soda can. One of his pards was wearing bright white pants, a spotless white shirt with red, yellow & blue trim -- and a hat with a large, bright turquoise plume. Nice show. When does the tattooed lady arrive?

-Submitted by 1st Sergt. Dennis Faught

EVENT REPORT: WARSAW

Having, with the exception of some uncomfortably frosty mornings, enjoyed excellent weather during Heritage Days for most of the last seven years -- we were probably about due for Mother Nature to even the score.

Heavy downpours bookended the day Saturday -- striking at sun-up and sundown -- and the threat of showers throughout the day seemed to keep crowds smaller than in the past. The daylight hours were mostly dry, however, and the sun came out Sunday. Over the weekend, Co. A managed to put 10-12 muskets in line for periodic firing demonstrations.

As far as laid-back living histories go, there are probably none more enjoyable than this one from year to year. In trying to keep the experience fresh, we are always looking for new twists to work into the camp-life portrayal. This year, it came at the expense of -- who else? -- the younger members of the company and the recruit.

The victims, recruit Fields and privates Fink and Gerke, left camp Saturday morning without the requisite permis-

sion/pass from the First Sergeant. Fields, upon his return, was dressed down for the infraction, and ordered to carry a firewood log until relieved of the burden. Lt. Bowling, apparently feeling sorry for the unwary recruit, relieved him of the burden in short order -- just in time for the tardy arrival of privates Fink and Gerke.

These soldiers were given the task of jointly carrying and caring for the log for the remainder of the day. One of them was to carry it at all times -- including during drill (a peculiar sight which raised numerous questions from spectators) -- and to never let it touch the ground. Once the log had served its purpose, it was thrown on the fire as an 'overnighter.'

Another tradition of the weekend -- Mrs. Lee's fried apples -- made their return. The sight of the captain's wife stirring her sweet concoction over the campfire, as usual, drew repeated inquiries and interest from spectators -- much to the puzzlement of Pvt. Gerke, who wondered why this was so much more interesting to them than the soldiers. We are told she was even featured on the front page of the Sedalia newspaper.

Speaking of specators' inquiries, one woman unwittingly added a new one to the list of "Stupid Questions" reenactors hear from the public: Observing Pvt. Thomas snoozing on the ground, she asked, "Is that a real person?"

Lt. Bowling fielded the query by replying, "No, that's just a mannequin we use. Doesn't he look real?"

In other happenings, Saturday's Company A meeting was cancelled for lack of a quorum; the Hafleys arrived Sunday morning -- in Union blue -- and had to be flushed from the woods; the 1st Sergeant took the \$50 prize in the loading & firing contest; and Pvt. Gilger complained about drill. Ok, some things never change.

On Sunday the company was asked to provide honor-guard duties for a period wedding. The couple -- Heritage Days craftspeople Eric Godt and Linda Ahern -- were wed at 1 p.m. at the visitors center, and held a reception party afterwards at the Hooper house. We couldn't help but wryly note that previous unions for which we've provided this service have not fared well. Best wishes to the Major and his new bride.

Submitted by 1st Sergt. Dennis Faught

APPEARANCE REPORT: ENGLISH MEMORIAL

On October 24, Capt. Lee, Lt. Bowling, Sgt. Faught, Corp. White, and Privts. Gerke and Biggs provided a color guard for a memorial service dedicated to Lt. John English of Moniteau County. Also present for the event at Sweetwater Cemetery were Cindy Lee and Amanda Biggs.

English, a member of a prominent Missouri pioneer family, was instrumental in the early secession movement in the area, after President Abraham Lincoln's call for troops to put down "the rebellion." He organized a cavalry company, and was in the same battalion as future 5th Missourian William A. Ruyle, who's journal appears on our Web site.

He served in the 3rd Mo. Cavalry, and after the Battle of Corinth, returned to the Trans Mississippi theater, and served out the war under Sterling Price, participating in the 1864 campaign into Missouri as a Lieutenant. He was wounded twice: at Camden and Blue Mills.

Sweetwater Cemetery also contains the graves of at least three other Confederate veterans -- one of them from the Missouri Brigade.

Our color guard, carrying the Missouri Battle Flag, presented arms to each veteran's grave site, then fired a volley over the English grave at the conclusion of remarks by Robert Hawkins III. A crowd of about 60 was present, including a number of English descendants.

Submitted by Dennis Faught

HUMOR: THE NAME GAME

Match these nicknames with past and present members of Co. A:

Pvt. Cocoa	Larry Dietzel
Pvt. Foo-Foo	Mike Meoli
Barefoot	Nick Meoli
Buttons	Joe Hafley
Shade Tree	Cramer's '42
Punkin'	Doug Pani

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HUMOR (continued)

Rabbi	Justin Gerke
Pvt. Lewinsky	Steve Fink
Rotten Peach	Rolf Crockett
Butcher	Nick Davis
Burnside	Dennis Faught
Tape Worm	Marcus Meoli
Little Peach	Steven Fink
Canteen	Jerry Lee
Peach	Jeff Tucker

Answers on page 6

RR2-FOOD AND AMMUNITION

The following was taken from the "net" by the First Sergeant concerning the upcoming Red River II event next April. I thought it might be interesting for those who are going as well as giving some ideas for rations to take to other events. There will be a charge for the rations. This will be announced at a later date. As more information becomes available you can expect updates to be printed in future Messengers. AB

Based on RR1, type of rations will be issued?

Parched Corn

Dried fruit of several kinds (apricots, peaches, apples, raisins)

Cheese

Bread

Hard Tack

Coffee

Dried Beef

Raw vegetables (cabbage, corn, onions, potatoes, carrots)

Fresh apples

"Desecrated" vegetables (dried soup fixins')

Fresh meat (bacon, salt pork)

How much ammo will troops be expected to carry at any one time?

About what you'd have as 'standard battle issue.' Each unit should have rolled ammo in proper boxes, marked with unit designation. These boxes will be transported by wagon.

Will there be a supply wagon to replenish us from time to time? How Frequently? On RR'94, our supply wagons "caught up" with us every evening, and often at the noon rest stops.

We will have FIVE planned battles... Additionally, there will be numerous quick skirmishes, ambushes, delaying fights, etc. Usually, on these "tactical" fights, only a portion of each army is involved... So, although your unit may have one to three tactical skirmishes, only a company or so may actually bust caps...

Attention -- COMPANY
A Drill Column By the 1st Sergeant

No column this month; just a quotation on the amount of drill the Missouri Brigade was accustomed to enduring:

"It was often said, and even by officers of the old regular service, that it was the finest brigade of soldiers they had ever seen, and so fond was Cockrell of taking it out and putting it through the most difficult parts of tactics, especially when he had any persons of note for spectators, that he drilled us on some occasions until our tongues were fairly hanging out." E. Anderson

See you on the drill field.

FROM THE EDITOR

Dennis Faught forwarded an E-mail to me from Allen Conner, the captain of the 6th Missouri who was at the Wyandotte event held the same weekend as Warsaw. The split of the 4th Battalion into two battalions is a fact. We will be a part of the "Missouri" Battalion commanded by Colonel Ted Prater and the Oklahoma and Arkansas boys will form a Battalion commanded by Colonel Willie Huckabee. I am told this will become "official" at the Prairie Grove event this December during which there will be a ceremony retiring the 4th Battalion colors and we will accept our new colors. I have no details as to what our Missouri colors will be like at this time. As more information comes available to me I will print it in the Messenger. I would encourage you to attend Prairie Grove as the 5th may need to stand alone as part of the retirement ceremony and it would be nice to have a decent showing. Besides, Prairie Grove is a good event! Also, Corporal Dietzel gave me a box of 5th Missouri T-shirts. These are the Grey with the 5th Battle Flag on the back. The sizes are large and extra large. The company is selling them for \$10 each. I will try to bring some to events in the future. If you wish to purchase one before we have an event you can contact me and arrange to come by my house. See you at the next event!

Alan Bowling

K&P Weavers Blankets

The following is part of a posting on the reenactors boards by a reenactor named Charles Heath. I thought it might be of interest to anyone looking for a blanket to go with their impression. I personally have not dealt with these makers.AB.

They stock two types of blankets, Federal-issue and civilian homespun. The issue blanket is a tanish gray and entirely hand-loomed. The black end stripes are part of the weave, and not painted on. Paula will leave the blanket blank, or if you request it, she will stitch in the U.S. in the center of it for you. She has two wartime patterns for the U.S. letters, the "triple parallel stitch" and the "solid letter stitch". The federal blanket comes in two grades, both hand loomed, but the more expensive one is heavier, I think. The cheaper grade is 65.00, and the higher grade is 115.00. She charges 15.00 to put on the U.S. stripes, so the lower grade blanket will cost you 80.00 plus tax. I know that's a bit over 50.00, but her blankets are really impressive, and are true 5 lb. reproductions, they will keep you as warm as two or three typical thin sutler blankets put together.

Their address is:

Ken and Paula Weaver
P.O. Box 1131
Orange, CT. 06477-7131
(203)734-9043

Their catalogues are available for \$1.00. It includes some sample swatches of her shirt and uniform materials, as well as a swatch of the homespun blanket.

☞ DUES NOTICE ☞

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE BY JANUARY 1, 1998. PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:

**5th Missouri Infantry (CSA) Inc.
PO Box 1265
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1265**

Check one:

Individual: \$20 (\$10 5th Mo. + \$10 MCWRA) _____

Family: \$26 (\$16 5th Mo. + \$10 MCWRA) _____

(plus \$10 for each additional adult family member desiring MCWRA vote)

Associate: \$8 (non-voting) _____

Make checks payable to "5th Missouri Infantry (CSA), Inc"

If you paid your MCWRA dues through another unit, please indicate the unit:

Minutes

**Quarterly Board Meeting 5th Missouri Infantry (CSA), October 17, 1998
Warsaw, Mo.**

The 4th Quarterly meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. at Osage Valley Heritage Days. President Jerry Lee and Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Faught were present. Co. A Vice President Sam Hafley was absent.

The minutes of the last quarterly meeting were approved as printed in the Messenger.

Faught presented the financial statement, which included \$1,915.28 in the corporate treasury and \$78.50 cash on hand. Outstanding obligations for 1998 included approximately \$30 for the newsletter and approximately \$5 in board reimbursements. He reported that the Combined Service Records had been ordered on Sept. 30 at a cost of \$238, which was charged to his personal credit card, to be reimbursed by corporate check when the microfilm rolls arrive.

In a brief discussion about placing the CSR information on the unit's Web page, Steven Fink expressed interest in designing and maintaining a page. (The unit currently has a page provided as a link to member Bill Wayne's bed & breakfast Web page). Fink is to explore options available, including costs and the acquisition of a domain name. It was felt this could possibly be covered as a recruiting expense.

In other business, Alan Bowling informed the board that Larry Dietzel had delivered to him a box of the remaining company t-shirts. These will be advertised and sold to members at \$10 each.

Faught suggested a clarification might be in order of the March 1998 bylaw amendment establishing a Veteran Reserve membership level. The amendment requires "participation" at three events yearly to maintain voting status. He asked for input on whether a short appearance (i.e. showing up for a battle scenario only, or taking part in a short cemetery dedication) would constitute "participation" at an event. While it was agreed cemetery ceremonies should not be considered "events" for this purpose, no conclusion was reached on participation in larger, unit-scheduled events. It was deemed to be a subjective decision. Faught noted that, at this year's level of participation, a quorum for company meetings next year would be in the neighborhood of five (5) veterans.

There followed a short discussion of the pending reorganization of 4th Battalion, and the board re-iterated the membership's position of Sept. 26, objecting to a split of the battalion for purposes of forming a small brigade. Faught reported that Capt. Allen Connor of the 6th Mo. was carrying this position on our behalf to this weekend's battalion officers meeting at the Wyandotte event.

There being no other matters to discuss, the 1998 board adjourned at 7:20 p.m., pending election of a new board in January. Meeting date TBA.

-Submitted by Sec/Treas Dennis Faught

MESSENGER

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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 not in operation. 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

THIEVES STRIKE MEMBERS OF THE 5TH

After returning home from Warsaw, Steve Fink parked his Chevy Suburban in his drive way. It was stolen. In the vehicle was his and his son Steven's gear. Uniforms, Enfield muskets, leathers. haversacks, etc. Also a wall tent and fly and a camp table, several chairs, bedding, lanterns etc. In short they lost most of their reenacting gear! I know I am joined by all members in hoping the culprits will be apprehended and the Fink's vehicle and gear returned to them. If anyone is approached by individuals selling gear and they are not known to you as reenactors or seem suspicious you might get their license number and notify Steve . A. Bowling

ANSWERS TO NICKNAME QUIZ

Pvt. Cocoa: Justin Gerke; Pvt. Foo-Foo: Joe Hafley; Barefoot: Dennis Faught; Buttons: Doug Pani; Shade Tree: Larry Dietzel; Punkin': Cramer's '42; Rabbi: Steve Fink; Pvt. Lewinsky: Rolf Crockett; Rotten Peach: Mike Meoli; Butcher: Nick Davis; Burnside: Jerry Lee; Tape Worm: Steven Fink; Little Peach: Marcus Meoli, Canteen: Jeff Tucker; Peach: Nick Meoli.