

# The Messenger

The Newsletter of the 5th Missouri Infantry (CSA) Inc.

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July 1999

## Procter & Gamble Brigade Routs Yanks at Fayetteville

EVENT REPORT  
By DENNIS FAUGHT

Confederate infantry — under the command of Gen. John Beck and carrying colors emblazoned with what appeared to be the Procter & Gamble logo — surrounded and destroyed a force of federals approximately one-fourth their number at Fayetteville, Ark., June 12-13.

Film at 11.

For me, any weekend spent reenacting beats one spent doing just about anything else, but the callous disregard for history displayed at Fayetteville is enough to try the most patient soul. On the bright side, the damage inflicted on the impressionable minds of the public was minimized by the fact that most spectators opted to go to a local airshow featuring the Confederate Air Force, rather than to the reenactment featuring our Confederate circus.

As usual, any resemblance the battles had to actual events was purely coincidental — but I had expected this going in, since, according to the Official Records, the Battle of Fayetteville was mostly a cavalry affair.

However, I hadn't expected the battalions of the brigade to actually carry the faux flags unveiled at Prairie Grove into battle.

These flags (see the December issue of *The Messenger*) are nothing more than historical fiction, used solely for the ego gratification of a few individuals. The brigade should be a laughing-stock for using them in such a manner.

I made a request through chain of command that the battalion march under a documented pattern of flag (e.g. the Van Dorn flag that hung at battalion HQ all weekend), but Capt. Sherer was rebuffed at the officer's meeting. [We had nine attend the event; a turnout in line with some of the other

companies, and probably could have stood alone as our own company had we possessed the officer's accoutrements authorized for purchase earlier this year. In lieu of that, with no officer present we fell in under the command of the 6th Missouri.]

I can't report much detail on the battles, as I took an early hit in the first and skedaddled in the second rather than participate any further in the faux flag charade.

However, a call did go out Sunday to the C.S.A. OB/GYN, as virtually the entire brigade — with the creditable exception of the 5th Missouri — chose to fight the battle in their underwear. (Apparently their nether regions hurt.)

Bully for the 5th! Real men with sand!

The event did have a few other bright spots:

- I thought the candlelight tour was well-laid-out. Various stops progressed from a fiery political speech; to a young woman planning her wedding; a view of Union soldiers in camp; evesdropping on the Confederate high command planning a battle; and finally the horrific aftermath of that battle, with a graphic field hospital and a heart-rending burial.

- A brigade pay call was held Sunday morning. This is a nice scenerio to have at least one event per year.

- During drill and the portions of the battles I took part in, the battalion worked well in the field, with proper use of some rarely-used tactics.

- Haversack inspection yielded some interesting contraband from recruit Travis Tackett. He was at a loss to explain the 'tickler' and lubricant -- but will henceforth be saddled with the *nom de guerre* "Frenchy."

- Oh yeah, and Mike Meoli ate a live grasshopper.

### FROM THE EDITOR...

Ah, 'tis summertime, and the thought of scratchy wool beckons as the mercury rises to the stratosphere.

A couple of reenacting opportunities present themselves this month. At the end of July, we take part in a parade at Otterville. Look for details in this issue. For the hardier souls among you, the opportunity to sweat in Union blue presents itself at Honey Springs, Oklahoma. Contact T.J. Bruegger if you'd like to attend.

Elsewhere in this issue you'll find a drill column, a living-history recipe for the civilians, an ode to our farby battalion flag, and details on upcoming events.

And of course, submissions are always welcome from the membership. Send them to P.O. Box 1265, Jefferson City, MO 65102, or e-mail them to fifthmo@aol.com.

See you at Otterville.

— DF

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### A certain cure for coughs.

—A remedy never known to fail: Three cents' worth of liquourice; three cents' worth of rock candy; three cents' worth of gum arabic. Put them in a quart of water, simmer them till thoroughly dissolved; then add three cents' worth of paregoric, and a like quantity of antimonial wine. Let it cool, and sip whenever the cough is troublesome. It is pleasant, infallible, cheap and good.

—CHARLESTON MERCURY  
Dec. 28, 1861, page 3, column 3

## THE BATTLE FLAG OF FARBDOM

(To the tune of "Battle Cry of Freedom")

A lie is crassly waving o'er the M'issouri  
Battalion,  
Look! Look! The battle flag of farbdom.  
At this joke they laugh, and they'll  
laugh oft again.  
Look! Look! The battle flag of farbdom.

Our colonel's a strange one, He  
doesn't bat an eye.  
Down with hist'ry, Up with a lie.  
And they rally 'round that silly flag,  
Rally 'round and grin.  
Look! Look! The battle flag of farbdom.

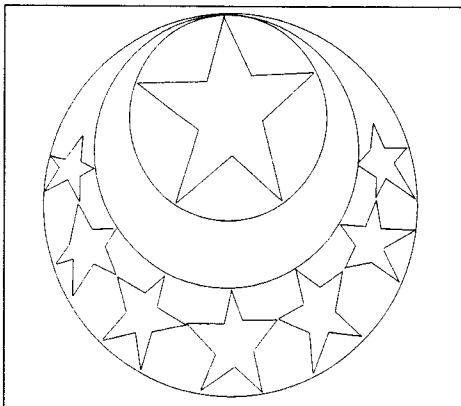
No battalion in its right mind would do  
anything so dumb.  
Look! Look! The battle flag of farbdom.  
We can't believe our leaders, It's an  
ego trip for some.  
Look! Look! The battle flag of farbdom.

Our colonel's a strange one, He  
doesn't bat an eye.  
Down with hist'ry, Up with a lie.  
And they rally 'round that silly flag,  
Rally 'round and grin.  
Look! Look! The battle flag of farbdom.

They laid down their lives on the  
bloody battlefield,  
But not for the battle flag of farbdom.  
Our motto must be B-I-R-D, We can  
never yield.  
Let's burn the battle flag of farbdom.

Our heritage forever, we cannot take it  
light.  
Down with the fantasy, up with what's  
right.  
Let's rally 'round the Missouri flag,  
Raise a hearty cheer.  
And cast off the bitter yoke of  
farbdom.

--Lyrics by Dennis Faught



# Attention — COMPANY

## A DRILL COLUMN

By DENNIS FAUGHT

### UNDOUBLING FILES

Pop quiz: How do you get a column four ranks wide through a space wide enough for only two?

Answer: By undoubling files. William J. Hardee provides a handy way to squeeze a column of fours through a narrow defile without losing formation.

#### SCHOOL OF THE COMPANY LESSON VI

**326. If the company be marching by the right flank, and the instructor should wish to undouble the files, which might sometimes be found necessary, he will inform the captain, who, after causing the cadenced step to be resumed, and arms to be shouldered or supported, will command:**

**1. In two ranks, undouble files.  
2. MARCH.**

**327. At the second command, the odd numbers will continue to march straight forward, the even numbers will shorten the step, and obliquing to the left will place themselves promptly behind the odd numbers; the rear rank will gain a step to the left so as to re-take the touch of elbows on the side of the front rank.**

What you are doing here is simply sliding back into the spot where you would have been if the company (or battalion) had right-faced 'without doubling.'

The process is the same (although inverted) for a column marching by the left flank:

**328. If the company be marching by the left flank, it will be the even numbers who will continue to march forward, and the odd numbers who will undouble.**

Once the column has negotiated the narrow passage — e.g. a gate, a bridge, a narrow trail or pathway — the column is reformed into four ranks:

**329. If the instructor should**

**wish to double the files, he will give the order to the captain, who will command:**

**1. In four ranks, double files. 2. MARCH.**

**330. At the command march, the files will double in the manner as explained, when the company faces by the right, or the left flank.**

This simply means return to the spot you were in before undoubling files.

The doubling men step up into their places in the files, and the rear-rank men step over a bit to make room.

This reformation is done by company as each passes the defile (applying SOB718).

Interestingly, Hardee does not provide for narrowing the column to a single rank on the march. He provides only for narrowing a column marching by the flank to two ranks, and one marching by the front to a minimum of six files (SOC324).

He apparently assumes we'll never have to pass such a narrow space as to warrant a single line. Experience teaches differently.

Hardee does provide a method for forming the company into a single rank, albeit at the halt. [Detailed in a previous article and available on our Web page] One would suppose the command "In one rank, form company. MARCH," and the reciprocal "In two ranks, form company, MARCH," would work. But Hardee is silent on the issue in his "Rifle & Light Infantry Tactics"; or the method is more obtuse and buried in another maneuver. Stay tuned.

Finally, an important thing to remember in undoubling and doubling files on the march is to maintain the pace. The men who are not doubling must not slacken their pace, lest they cause the column to stretch out, delaying the next unit or falling behind the unit ahead.

One thing I learned on the Red River Campaign — marching often at the end of the column — is that the successive stretching out of intervals forces the guys in the rear to run to catch up to the column once it has passed the defile.

See you on the drill field.

## CIVILIAN PROJECT: MAKING CONFEDERATE CANDLES

By VICKI BETTS  
of the Texas Rifles

To make 10-12 Confederate candles wrapped around corncobs, you will need:

- 2 lbs beeswax
- 1/2 lb pine rosin
- 30-36 yards 100 percent cotton yarn (not even part polyester)
- 5-6 corn cobs, cut or broken in half
- 3" x 3" squares of approximately 1/4" thick wood, not plywood
- small square headed nails if available
- A fire or a stove
- A heavy skillet (if done on a stovetop, could line the skillet in heavy aluminum foil to help in cleanup)
- A grate if done over a fire
- A hot pad
- A couple of knives or sticks to maneuver the long candle
- A rack, a table, or a counter for cooling (or another person)
- A long afternoon and a lot of patience

*Disclaimer! This is a very messy operation and is not recommended for children because of the hot wax and the necessity of sometimes handling the coated wick while it may still be quite warm. It can also try your patience, and seems to be a skill learned by practice. Longer wicks can be produced if you have assistance--I made my candles alone and found that lengths the equivalent of my full reach (about 56") were the maximum I could handle fairly successfully.*

1. Nail through the center of the square base of wood up into one end of each half corn cob to make the foundation for the candle. A small square headed nail would be most accurate.
2. Cut lengths of cotton yarn about 56" long. Tie each two lengths together with a knot at one end to make a single

wick.

3. Melt the beeswax and rosin together in the skillet. A wide flat pan is easier to use when sections of the wick must be dipped horizontally.

4. Dip each wick (two lengths of yarn) into the mixture, saturate, and remove. Lay each aside to cool. This process binds the two yarns together and makes them somewhat stiff. If you want to twist the yarns, this is the time to do it. Remember, the wax is very hot, and you may want either sticks or knives on which to suspend the wick as you draw it out of the wax. Don't let the wick double up on you or it will make a mess. Place the cooling wicks on a surface that will not pick up dirt and to which they will not stick badly--never cloth or paper.

5. Turn off the stove or remove the wax from the fire to allow it to cool. Continued dipping at this point will not result in any accumulation. Check on the wax from time to time to see if you can start seeing the light-colored hardened wax solidifying around the edge of the pan. You will then have five to ten minutes to make candles.

6. Dip the wick section by section horizontally into the wax, allowing enough wax to form on the wick to make a candle about the diameter of a pencil. The more horizontally straight that you can keep it, the less it will segment and the prettier candle you will produce. If you have a second person, she can hold the finished end out straight as you continue to dip the later sections. Otherwise you are more or less limited to wicks the length of the distance from your own fingertip to fingertip. A second person could also smooth down the candle while you are holding it. The wax in the pan will continue to harden until you have only a strip of still liquid wax. Avoid the scum on top unless you have someone to smooth out the lumps on the candle as you hold it up to cool.

7. Hold the candle up in the air to allow it to cool for a minute or two. Then you can lay it down to further cool as you work on a second candle. Two candles are about the maximum I have been able to make without reheating the wax.

8. After a few minutes, while the candles are still slightly warm to the touch but not sticky, start wrapping the candle around the upper end of the corn cob and continue wrapping to the base. If you have too much candle, start wrapping back toward the top. You may have to do a little smoothing to have a pretty candle. Take the end of the candle at the top and turn it up--that is the end that you will light.

9. These candles have burned well and they give a good light, but they have a black smoke, probably from the pine rosin. They make a great conversation piece and lead into discussions about the effect of the blockade of the South and the resulting ingenuity and substitutions. You may also want to consider okra seed or rye coffee, parched corn, or yaupon holly leaf tea.

### MATERIAL SOURCES

- Beeswax--Cumberland General Store  
Route 3, Box 81  
Crossville, TN 38555  
Item #1407, 1 lb blocks of  
beeswax, \$5.50, not including  
postage and tax (price 1994)
- Pine Rosin (crystallized)--Ray Clontz  
5919 Mallard Dr.  
Charlotte, NC 28227  
\$2.50 per pound (1994 price)

Wicks--any 100% cotton two-ply yarn, such as Bernat Handicrafter Cotton Quick Crochet--handspun would be even better!

Corn cobs--if you have no farm sources, consider squirrel corn, sold dried on the cob at many hardware stores. Parch the corn and eat it, but

The Battle Flag. -- The papers are all discussing what kind of flag the South ought to adopt as the permanent ensign of the Confederacy. It seems to be generally agreed that the "Stars and Bars" will never do for us. They resemble too closely the dishonored flag of Yankee Doodle.

Should the questions remain undecided until Gen. Beauregard redeems the pledge which has given -- to plant upon the stately column which towers aloft from Mount Vernon Place, in Baltimore, the battle flag given him by a lovely

and exiled rebel of Maryland--we imagine that the battle flag will become the Southern flag, by popular acclaim.

We are indebted to the cunning fingers of a lady friend for a small but very accurate and beautiful model of the battle flag under which our brave soldiers on the Potomac will yet march to victory. It may be seen at the Mercury office.

—CHARLESTON MERCURY  
Jan. 27, 1862, page 2, column 1

## TRADING POST

### For Sale:

5th Missouri Infantry T-shirts. Gray with infantry bugle emblem on left breast; 3rd-5th Mo. battle flag on back.

Sizes L and XL only. \$10.

Contact Alan Bowling  
at (573) 442-9489 or  
acbsa@aol.com.

### For Sale:

Various farby cast-offs at garage-sale prices, incl: Fed vest, wool shirt, cotton shirt, tin plate, tin cup, fork, forage cap (gray). Sizes generally 40-42 or smaller.

Inquire with Dennis Faught  
at (573) 636-8336 or  
fifthmo@aol.com.

## PLANNING AHEAD

### HONEY SPRINGS

This event is not on the 5th Mo. calendar, but for those who wish to partake, some members will be falling in with a federal unit for the weekend of July 17-18.

The event is near Checotah, OK, on U.S. 69. Contact T.J. Bruegger.

### ATHENS

State park is at end of Route CC off Missouri 81 in far northeast corner of the state.

Impression is civilian (absolutely NO Confederate or Federal uniform items). Rations will be provided.

Unknown number committed.

### CHICKAMAUGA

Registration is under way now for this North-South Alliance event, which expects a turnout in the neighborhood of 10,000. Fee is \$10.

The 4th (Extra) Battalion will re-consolidate for this event, under the command of Col. Willie Huckabee. It will be part of

Beck's Brigade, along with the Louisiana Battalion.

Impression is Army of Tennessee. Bragg's army had been recently resupplied, and out of contact with the enemy for some time. Uniforms and equipment should be Confederate issue, rather than 'captured' federal gear: "Columbus Depot" jacket, Confederate-issue pants, knapsack or blanket roll suggested. No hat brass allowed. If you only have federal leathers, *remove the US plates*.

Camping will be campaign style (shebangs preferred). A-tents will be allowed, but are highly discouraged. Distance between 'civilian/sutler' camp, parking and military camps is considerable.

No food provided.

Complete details (schedule & etc) coming in the September issue.

All nearby motels are full; Ramada rangers may still find rooms in Chattanooga or Dalton.

9 pre-registered.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Co. A, 5th Mo. Infantry Regt.

Contact your ranking NCO with event commitments as soon as possible, so you can be pre-registered for the following events:

#### JULY 31: OTTERVILLE, MO

Parade. Federal impression. Company A and Board meetings to follow. Details in this issue.

#### AUG 7-8, 1999: ATHENS, MO

Reenactment of 1861 Battle of Athens. Sponsored by Missouri Department of Natural Resources, hosted by 2nd Mo. Infantry (CS). Impression, civilian.

#### SEPT 17-19: CHICKAMAUGA

Large-scale, national reenactment of the 1863 Battle of Chickamauga. Impression, Confederate Army of Tennessee.

#### OCT. 9: OTTERVILLE, MO

Encampment of federal troops for DNR dedication of historical marker at Lamine River.

#### OCT 16-17: WARSAW, MO

Osage Valley Heritage Days. Living history encampment near Truman Dam.

## The Smile and the Laugh

When my chest was forty-eight,  
And my waist was thirty-four,  
And my back curved from the straight,  
And my vest curved not before,  
And my boots were smooth as glass,  
And my calf was perfect styled,  
Then when'er I chanced to pass,  
Mirthful maidens on me smiled.

Now my waist is sixty-four,  
And my chest is forty-nine,  
And my back curves in no more,  
And a corporation's mine,  
And a corn's on every toe,  
And to drumstick's shrunk my calf,  
I discern, where'er I go,  
Maidens smile no more--they laugh.

—FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER,

APRIL 26, 1862, PG. 415

# NEXT EVENT

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## OTTERVILLE

Company A, 5th Missouri Infantry has been asked to provide a federal infantry marching unit for a parade in Otterville. Our purpose in doing this is two-fold:

1. To help promote the October 9 living history of a federal encampment we'll be doing at the Lamine River Bridge site, and
2. To recruit in a centrally located area.

In addition to marching in the parade, we'll be setting up a small bivouac and providing drill and firing demos downtown following the parade.

Impression is federal. The parade begins at 10 a.m., so arrive at the jump-off point (the school at the north end of town) no later than 9:30 a.m. for weapons inspection.

Otterville is about midway between Sedalia and Tipton, just off Highway 50 at Route A.

Contact Sergt. White if you'll be attending.

*The Messenger*

*P.O. Box 1265*

*Jefferson City, MO 65102-1265*

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