

# The Messenger

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

Volume X, No. 6

August 1999

## 5th Missouri portrays Union troops at Otterville

EVENT REPORT  
By STEVE FINK

I arrived in Otterville shortly after 9 a.m. in the company of recruit Ethan Van Loenen. There we found Dennis Faught, Larry Dietzel, John and Jeanie Gilger and Jennifer Roush. Soon we were joined by Tracy, Amanda, Jessica and Jeb Biggs. It sprinkled lightly as we got our equipment on and marched to the starting point for the parade. The sky would remain cloudy for the remainder of the morn. I, for one, was thankful for the clouds, as we all know how warm the blue suits can be.

After inspecting arms and clearing weapons we took our place in the parade lineup, behind the Shriners. We stood in the exhaust fumes for a short time while we patiently waited for the parade to commence. When things finally started to move, we didn't try to keep up with the Shriners as they took off in and on their assortment of vehicles.

We marched several blocks to business district, passing small groups of spectators along the way.

In the downtown area, the sidewalks were crowded with spectators. The announcer introduced us as representing the 45th Missouri Infantry, which was recruited and trained in the Otterville area.

We fired one last volley, wheeled onto Old 50 Highway and the parade was over.

Lt. Dietzel found a spot for us to perform some drill demonstrations. We stacked arms Federal fashion with the help of Pvt. Faught and rested. We talked to a few spectators and then did a little bayonet drill.

With competition from the Kiddy Tractor-pull and such, we decided to leave the festival and look over the sight of the old bridge over the Lamine River.

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### FROM THE EDITOR...

The dog days of summer bring a dirth of reenacting opportunities.

What details are available for Athens you will find in this issue, along with an account of the unit's appearance at Otterville and a report from those members who attended Honey Springs.

I've provided the text of Gen. Beck's order regarding the retirement of the flags recently ridiculed in these pages. I believe, however, that the pointed remarks aimed at me are based on a misunderstanding. Contact me if you'd like an explanation.

Opposing viewpoints, as always, are encouraged. Send them to P.O. Box 1265, Jefferson City, MO 65102, or e-mail them to [fifthmo@aol.com](mailto:fifthmo@aol.com).

— DF

## Brigade to retire inaccurate colors

General Order No. 3,  
Brigade and Battalion Colors

After much deliberation I have decided to retire the Brigade and Battalion colors that were placed in service on the 5th of December 1998 at Prairie Grove. These colors were conceived to provide a graphic illustration of the unity and the solidarity of our then newly formed Brigade. The sincerity and purpose behind them being placed into service is still here, however, it has become obvious to Colonels

Huckabee, Prater, Kloopfer and myself, this was not the correct medium upon which to demonstrate our resolve.

We wish to express our gratitude to all of you, the rank and file, who have supported us, though not necessarily agreed with us, throughout this period. I state this with conviction, "It is one thing to disagree with topics concerning the brigade and to resolve those issues within the brigade forum, with respect, dignity, honor, and loyalty as men with a common

pursuit would be expected to conduct themselves. It is entirely another to continually and intentionally defile and denounce an organization, or its members, While standing within its ranks." It is for the rank and file, who have demonstrated their loyalty by carrying on throughout this difficult time, that the Brigade and Battalions do this. For this reason and no other.

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## ★ Flags

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The formal retirement ceremony of those colors and the placement of the new colors into service will be conducted at a future date to be determined and announced.

Effective immediately, the Trans - Mississippi Brigade flag will be a variation of the Van Dorn on a blue field. (This flag was first flown over this command at the Battle of Honey Springs three years ago, when the formation of a Brigade was just an idea.) The 2nd Trans-Mississippi Battalion will display a Van Dorn Battle flag; the 1st Missouri Battalion, the Missouri Brigade Battle flag; and the 1st Louisiana Battalion, that of the 1st Louisiana. The national colors of each of the battalions and of the brigade, and the common flag of this confederation, will be an exact rendition of the 12 Star First National flag found on page 46 of the publication, *Flags of the Confederacy*. With exception of the aforementioned retirement ceremony, only these colors, as described above, or event specific appropriate and historically documented colors will be flown by the Brigade/Battalions from the date of this General Order.

I ask that all questions regarding this issue be directed towards Battalion commanders or myself. This was our concept, and any other conjectures can only be speculation. Assumptions are not a part of this Brigade's foundation.

Brig. Gen. John D. Beck  
Commanding  
Trans - Mississippi Brigade C.S.A.

Col. W. Huckabee  
2nd Trans-Mississippi Bat.

Col. T. Prater  
1st Missouri Bat.

Col. M. Kleopfer  
Louisiana Bat.

There is no better

# Black Irish victorious at Honey Springs, I.T.

## EVENT REPORT By JUSTIN GERKE and DENNIS FAUGHT

On July 15, 1863, Gen. James Blunt crossed the Arkansas River in the Creek Nation, part of the Indian Territories that would become the state of Oklahoma. Two days later, his force -- composed mostly of Indian and colored infantry -- attacked Gen. Douglas Cooper's army defending the depot at Honey Springs. Cooper's mixed force of Indian and Texican mounted and dismounted cavalry was posted along Elk Creek. The battle raged for several hours as Cooper's men grudgingly gave ground until pushed across Elk Creek. A major turning point of the battle was the near destruction of the 29th Texas Cavalry (Dismounted), which advanced to within yards of the 1st Kansas (Colored) Infantry and were cut to pieces, losing their flag. Cooper placed the blame for his defeat on poor Mexican powder.

The reenactment of this battle, held every three years by the Oklahoma Historical Society, drew a much smaller turnout this year -- several groups having voted with their feet over problems ranging from broken scenarios to the oppressive heat.

The heat, of course, returned, with temperatures rising well into the 90s.

Federal infantry was comprised of two companies of the Frontier Brigade -- 8th and 10th Kansas -- and our consolidated company of progressives from the Olathe Union Guard, Chicken Neck Mess, Tishomingo Mess and 1st Kansas (Colored). More on that later.

The Confederates were Huckabee's 2nd Trans-Mississippi Battalion of Beck's brigade.

We arrived after dark, and after wandering blindly for a bit, found a member of the company bivouacked in a thicket of trees.

Once the sun rose, the advantages of our shady, breezy campsite became obvious. The federal and Confederate tent camps were up the hill, crowded together in the broiling sun.

Still, there were drawbacks. "Lots of bugs," Justin said as he scratched 64 bites from mosquitoes, ticks spiders and chiggers.

During battalion drill, special atten-

tion was given to performing maneuvers "left in front" and inverted. Maj. Dave Murphy commanded the federal infantry, and is a bit of a drill maven.

A joint inspection by both commanders was held in which T.J. Bruegger's filthy rifle was found "in order" by our Lieutenant, age 19.

Prior to Saturday's action, a near-race riot was averted.

"Hey, boy, where are you from?" says Bruegger to a colored soldier. This was answered with a cold stare and the response "Oklahoma City." But before long, the troop caught on to the first-person intent. A couple of his pards really got into it later in the event.

We moved into a field to drive some dismounted cavalry in our front. That's when secesh infantry hit our rear.

"Where were our (expletive) flankers!"

Then T.J. panicked and hit the ground. Dennis and others were shot before our very eyes. We ran to a safer spot and rallied on our officer. Trying to fight against three fronts Justin was dragging a paralyzed, whimpering T.J. along, looking for a way out. Seeing none, surrender was inevitable.

On Sunday, we were on the left, portraying the Native Americans. Why, we must ask, were the three men of the 1st Kansas colored again attached to us, when their unit was actually at the battle?

Perhaps the discussion went something like this:

"So who shall playeth the Negroes, may I ask? 'Tis nary but a handful of them."

"Why, then the Irish of course. Assign the 10th Kansas to the center."

"'Tis true though, that the Irish are not noted for their fondness of the coloreds. Neither do they look quite like the blacks."

"Aye, then, obviously sir, you just don't think like an officer. All's well though, you'll understand things like these soon enough. Now go fetch the Irish."

Perhaps when the event rolls around again, the 1st Kansas (Colored) will be represented with at least a full company, and allowed to portray their own unit in the Battle of Honey Springs.

## TRADING POST

### For Sale:

#### Mens

(All from Jarnagin except boots)

Carbine cartridge box — \$30

Gray cotton battle shirt, Size L — \$25

White cotton shirt, blue stripe, Size L — \$20

White cotton trousers, waist 34, w/suspenders — \$25

Gray shell jacket, jean wool, 9-button front (brass), belt loops — \$55

15-inch-high black leather boots, Size 11 — \$120

#### Womens

(All from Grand Illusions, except boots)

Pagoda-sleeve dress, periwinkle blue paisley, Size 14 — \$85

Bolero vest and shirt, dark green, Size 14 — \$50

White Garibaldi blouse, Size 12 — \$15

Hooded cape cloak, wool-lined, black, full-length — \$100

As set: 5-hoop underskirt, black snood, black fingerless mitts — \$45

Ladies' black leather boots, 14 eyelets, Size 8 1/2 — \$65

### Contact

D.E. & Lorraine Kerksiek

P.O. Box 231

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(573) 377-4133

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

#### 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.

## ★ Otterville

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Larry, Dennis, Ethan and I followed a guide out of town to the place where the highway crosses the Lamine. The abutments of the old bridge were still visible between the new road bridge and the railroad bridge.

Also visible, on privately owned land, are the remains of the Federal earthworks that guarded the bridge. After talking to one of the property owners, we walked along what a portion of what remained of the works. They cover a hilltop on the west side of the river and curve back toward the river on both ends. They are fairly well preserved, despite being trampled by cattle for the last 134 years.

We parted company and headed our separate ways about noon. I hope all of you will attempt to attend the encampment and marker dedication ceremony in October.

(The scheduled Company A and Board meetings were not held)

## PLANNING AHEAD

### CHICKAMAUGA

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. A-tents are highly discouraged. Distance between 'civilian/sutler' camp, parking and military camps is considerable.

No food provided.

Walk-on fee now applies.

Approximately 10 committed.

### OTTERVILLE

Federal encampment Saturday, Oct. 9, for the dedication of a historic marker.

Otterville was an important hub of fed-

eral activity throughout the war. Gen. John Pope commanded the Army of the West from there during the period between the battles of Lexington and Elk Horn Tavern. The town and bridge were garrisoned by federal troops for the duration of the war, and it was the military headquarters for the District of Central Missouri for a time.

The Pacific Railroad bridge was an important crossing point over the Lamine (La Mine in period accounts) River. To this end, extensive earthworks were built adjacent to the bridge. These are still visible on private property adjoining the site. (They apparently made little difference, as forces under Gen. Jo Shelby burned the Pacific Railroad bridge not once, but twice.)

The encampment will be that of a federal garrison force. Large amounts of tentage and camp equipment are appropriate. We'll portray, probably, a company of the 45th Missouri Infantry, which was raised in the area during the summer of 1864, and drilled recruits there prior to Price's Raid.

# NEXT EVENT

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## ATHENS

Reenactment of the Aug. 5, 1861, skirmish between Martin Green's state guard and David Moore's unionist militia -- the northern-most battle west of the Mississippi during the War Between the States. The clash ended with a bayonet charge which scattered the secessionists. The event takes place on the actual battlefield, which includes period buildings -- one of which retains cannonball damage. (This is a state park. Take Missouri 81 north of Kahoka in the far northeast corner of the state to Route CC.)

**Impression:** For this very early-war battle, no Confederate or Federal uniforms or accouterments should be seen. Both sides were in civilian dress, although the unionists were better-armed.

No specifics were available for the event. In years past, a generic display of linear tactics has been held Saturday, with the historic battle on Sunday. There is customarily a ceremony at a nearby cemetery Sunday morning.

The event is sponsored by the state Department of Natural Resources, which usually provides raw rations, and occasionally a powder/cap stipend.

Approximately 6 members committed.

## *The Messenger*

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