

The Messenger

The Newsletter of The Fifth Missouri Infantry (C.S.A.), Inc.

Volume XI, Issue 4

April 2000

Event Report-Cassville, MO April 8-9, 2000

Headquarters
3rd Regiment,
8th Division,
Missouri State Guard
Sir, it is my honor to report the valiant conduct of my company of Infantry, known as the "Johnson Guards" in actions in the vicinity of Cassville, Missouri on April 8 and 9 of this year. A squad of men from the company set up

camp on the southern edge of the town along with the other companies of the Missouri Battalion. Establishing our camp that evening were Privates David Boone and Nick Meoli and myself. Lt. Dietzel had arrived earlier in the day and was camped with the battalion staff. Nora and Evan Dietzel were camped with the civilians

that are at this time displaced from their homes and following the army. Private Don Reed arrived in our camp later that evening after making his way through Federal lines and dodging many enemy patrols. The weather was cool that evening and we had quite a time getting our fire going in the high

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Notice:

A Company A General Membership meeting will be held Saturday evening at the Carthage event. It will be immediately followed by a Board of Directors meeting.

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Oilcloth Construction

Submitted by Sam Hafley

Materials

- painters drop cloth or canvas
- 2 quarts of linseed oil
- 1 or 2 tubes of lamp black
- Japan dryer
- bucket
- paintbrush
- stir stick

Construction

1. Pour linseed oil into bucket. Now apply the lamp black. **(I have seen the lamp black sold in two ways. One was little tubes of near liquid consistency. If you get these it takes two complete little tubes for 2 quarts**

of linseed oil. The other kind is in the form of paste which can be found in art supply stores. Keep adding this until the mixture is a very dark black. The material will have to be mashed up with you stir stick in order to disperse it.)

Finally add just a splash of Japan dryer. A splash is measured by pouring it in for 3 to 4 seconds. This helps in the drying process, so it is not totally necessary.

2. Mix ingredients together by using the stir stick. Remember to always mash the lamp black so it disperses.

The ready color should be a very dark black.

3. The cloth should have been hemmed on the edges. In some documentation the top and bottoms were left un-hemmed. The dimensions can vary but a "standard" is 3'x6'.

4. Hang the cloth in a very well ventilated area, like outside. The more oxygen the oil gets the faster it dries. Hang the cloth and begin to paint on the mixture. When you apply the "paint" make sure the cloth is so dark you can not see through it. If you are using the paste lamp black the best

Oilcloth Construction-continued

way to achieve this is by scraping the bottom of the bucket with the paintbrush. The paste lampblack sinks to the bottom when it all has not been mashed.

5. Once you have applied the first coat it is now time to add a second one. This is done mostly to darken up the cloth. Remember to try to make it as dark as you can.

6. Now let the cloth dry. Leave it outside no matter what. The rain will not hurt it because after all it is oil. The drying time will vary. When I made mine it took about 3 to 5 days to be dry and usable. My pard's took about 3 to 5 weeks. I did mine in the late Winter he did his in the Spring. The higher the humidity the greater the drying time.

7. Mid way through the drying process you can add a second coat. I just apply all of the 2 quarts in the first coat and I have had a waterproof cloth for two years. Over time you will have to add more oil. This can be done by add-

ing plain linseed oil with maybe a little Japan dryer to speed the drying process.

8. Finally, if you wish to add small 1/4" grommets or sew button hole to edge it is up to you.

You can make a cloth with no black added. All the procedures are followed except for the lampblack steps.

The earliest documentation I have found on the oilcloths is from James E. Hall's diary of Co. H, 31st Virginian Infantry. After retreating from Phillippi in June of '61 at Huttonsville, (West) Virginia he writes he was sent an oilcloth from home. In my opinion these items were much more common than thought and stated. In the east they were probably for the most part items sent from home and not from the Depots.

I hope you enjoy your new cloth and may you sleep well and comfortable in your campaigns to come.

Re-enlistments

We welcome back into our ranks:

John Sherrer
497 NW 391
Clinton, MO 64735
sherrer@advertisnet.com
Associate

Todd & Kathy Conner
7 Oaks, 820 SE. 700
Knob Noster, MO 65336
(660)563-3472
1st Platoon
Private
Veteran Reserve

Jim & Brandi Houk
423 W. Gravel St.
Clinton, MO 64735
(660)885-2779
qmp@dam.net

Event Report-Cassville (continued)

winds.

Saturday morning dawned to sunny skies, but still some rather brisk winds. The Hafley corporals had arrived in camp during the wee hours of the morning. Our 1st Sergeant being absent, I appointed Sam Hafley as acting 1st Sergeant. Our morning report showed 1 Captain, 1 Sergeant, 1 Corporal and 3 Privates present and fit for duty. I was soon called to the Colonels tent. There I was

asked whether we would consider acting as Color Guard because of our diminished numbers. I told the Colonel that I would have to talk it over with the men and that I would report back to him. After some discussion among ourselves, David Boone volunteered to act as Color Bearer and Sgt. Hafley and Corp. Hafley volunteered to act as Color Guard. Privates Meoli and Reed were more inclined to shoot Yankees and were sent to swell

the ranks of the 6th Missouri for the day. I reported the decision to the Colonel and was at that time brevetted to the rank of Major. Major Sherrer received a brevet at that time to the rank of Lt. Colonel.

We were soon called to the Colorline to form for the Morning Parade. Private Ethan Van Loenen arrived in camp about this time and was attached to the 6th Mis-

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Editorial Reply to the K.C. Star

By David Boone

The following article was written by new member David Boone and submitted to the Kansas City Star. I have heard it will be published sometime the week beginning April 23.

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this essay for the "As I See It" forum in the Kansas City Star, partly in response to the April 17, 2000 column by Miami Herald journalist

Leonard Pitts column you ran but also in recognition of the upcoming Confederate Memorial Days which other states will be celebrating. Should you choose to use this piece, I would appreciate it being done in the near future.

Sincerely,

David B. Boone, Jr.
SCV Camp #215

4622 Jefferson, #2-S
Kansas City, MO 64112
816-561-0838 (h)
816-942-8400, ext 4996 (w)
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This April, in various towns and states across the South, the descendants of those who fought, long suffered and died for the right of self government will recognize their sacrifices in Confederate Memorial Days and

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Carthage 2000-May 13-14

Our unit has been invited to participate in this years reenactment of the Battle of Carthage. The Battle of Carthage, Missouri, fought on July 5, 1861, has been recorded by the U.S. Military War College to be the first major land battle of the American Civil War.

Early on the morning of July 5, 1861, just hours after President Lincoln formally declared war on the Confederate States of America, Union forces commanded by Col. Franz Sigel confronted the Missouri State Guard, under the command of Missouri Governor Claiborne Jackson, on the rolling prairies eleven miles north of Carthage. The ensuing daylong battle did not end until the Federal forces had been forced southward to Carthage and out of the city. While retreating, the Federal forces were forced to fight several desperate actions against overwhelming odds to escape being killed or captured. The State

Guard forces, although having superior numbers, were unable to continue their pursuit of Federal forces past Carthage, due to exhaustion and supply shortages.

A minimum of two battles involving all services will be fought to recreate specific segments of the Battle of Carthage. Other skirmishes may be planned as the event draws nearer that may or may not include all services, however, all services will participate in the two main afternoon battles for the spectators.

Amenities will be as normally expected at events, i.e., water, wood, straw, hay and port-a-johns. Backup supplies of each will be readily available should higher than expected usage occur. There will be NO rations or meals provided. Please plan to provide your own meals. The Civil War Ranch Arena does have a concession stand located in the arena. They serve a full range of fast food

type items, hamburgers, hotdogs and the like, plus biscuits and gravy in the morning. They plan to be open at 6:30 each morning and be open though the evening for your convenience. They will be open Friday afternoon and evening.

The event site this year will be on property that lies within the area covered by the 1861 battle. the site address is: Civil War Ranch Arena, 11838 Civil War Ave., Carthage, MO. It is located about two miles northwest of the city. Exit off U.S. 71, about one mile north of Carthage, at the "Civil War Road" exit. Signs will be abundant from there. The event site is about 1.5 miles north of U. S. 71 on Civil War Road. See the attached map.

The event is sponsored by "Battle of Carthage, Inc.", and is co-hosted by the 3rd Missouri

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Editorial Reply to the K.C. Star (continued)

Confederate History Month. This is right and honorable, for those who do not recognize their ancestors are themselves unworthy of being remembered by their descendants.

It grieves me upon reading the April 17, 2000 column by Miami Herald journalist Leonard Pitts, that many people in today's society are unable or unwilling to accept the fact that descendants of the Confederacy may revere the heritage passed down from generation to generation and not have racist agendas. This is witnessed by the fact that many Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) newsletters end with the prayer—"that we may see the face of God in ALL humanity", a fact overlooked by those who wish to decry Southern heritage groups as racist.

I am reminded of the old adage of how much of an animal

must be a horse before you call it a horse. A horse with a broken leg, no matter how badly turned, remains a horse. The proud descendants of soldiers who endured hardships under the total war waged by Sherman and other Union generals must deal with those in their midst who would use the flag to promote racism. Still, the Southern battle flag, the St. Andrew's Cross, is a flag that like any other symbol of any other group, may be used for good or evil. History shows a multitude of atrocities carried out beneath the cross, yet does this make one love their Savior less? How then could the few who bring shame to the flag of the Confederacy make the majority love their ancestors or their cause any less?

The radical reconstructionism begun more than a century ago continues in its attempt to re-define the cause for which Southerners fought and died. The words from the then popular tune, Bonnie Blue Flag, "Fighting for

our liberty..." do not mean much in today's society, so we look for some other way to explain away the reason behind the war. Wealth, greed and property being ever relevant, persons point the finger at slavery. Estimates run as high as nine out of ten Confederate soldiers owned no slaves nor possessed wealth in the forms of large farms or plantations. Why then were so many disinterested parties willing to suffer four long years of separation from their loved ones, starvation, cold and disease? Could it be that there was some nobler cause to which three hundred thousand would make the ultimate sacrifice?

Many Southerners know the truth and our affections are eternally bound to the graves of our forbears who fell in defense of the South. Courage, honor and character - these are the qualities that identify the true Southerner and in the end will save our great Republic, the United States of America.

Event Report— Cassville (continued)

souri also. The Battalion consisted of companies from the 9th Missouri Sharpshooters, 5th and 6th Missouri Infantry, 11th Mississippi Infantry, 4th Missouri Infantry, 9th Texas Infantry, 1st Missouri Infantry and the 3rd Missouri Cavalry (Dismounted) and numbered about 100 men.

Just before 1 O'clock that afternoon scouts reported a body of Federal troops a short distance

from our camp. The Battalion was formed and along with a detachment of cavalry and 4 pieces of artillery went out to meet the enemy. They were found a short distance away and in the process of constructing a breastwork. The artillery opened fire, while the cavalry was sent to strike the left flank of the enemy and the Infantry attacked their right flank. A company from the 9th Missouri was

sent forward as skirmishers to engage the enemy. The Battalion advanced toward the enemy and began pushing him back toward his works. We began to take enemy fire from some woods on our left flank and the 3rd Cav.

(Dismounted) was sent to flush them from the woods. This task was completed quickly and the yanks scrambled for the protection

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Event Report-Cassville (continued)

of their works. The skirmishers were recalled to join the Battalion as were the flankers from the 3rd. Three separate assaults were made against the Federal position, each time we were repulsed with heavy losses. Private Boone, Sgt. Hafley and Corp. Hafley were all wounded as they tried to break through the enemy line. Privates Meoli, Reed and Van Loenen and Lt. Col. Sherrer were also wounded during the assaults.

There were no survivors from several of the companies and we had been reduced to about 15 men still able to fight. Lt. Dietzel had rescued our battleflag from the clutches of the enemy and we rallied about the banner as we held our position outside the enemies works. Both side had suffered heavily during the engagement and a truce was called to remove the dead and wounded from the field.

Private Lee arrived in camp that afternoon in the company of his wife Cindy. During the afternoon and evening we were reinforced by more troops from our Battalion and by Col. Huckabee's Battalion of troops from Arkansas and the Indian Territories.

The night was cold, but not

as cold and windy as the previous night. Sunday morning we rose and prepared our breakfasts before the morning parade. This day I was back at the rank of Captain and our ranks were doubled by the addition of 8 members of the 6th Missouri, their Captain serving in the position of Lieutenant. After Parade we proceeded about the business at hand and prepared to meet the enemy that afternoon.

We formed to attack the Federals about a quarter to one Sunday afternoon. Our brigade of infantry was supported by a battery of artillery, but were without any Cavalry support as they had been sent out to forage for their troops. As we approached the enemy fortifications, we were attacked on the flanks and in the rear by enemy cavalry. The Combined 5th & 6th Missouri and the 9th Missouri Sharpshooters refused the right flank of the brigade and the Trans-Mississippi Battalion protected the rear. I didn't see what companies made up the left flank, as we were pretty busy with the mounted Federals on our side of the square. I guess this would be a good time to state that as the Federal cavalry attacked the Bri-

gade formed a square with battlelines front and rear and single files on each side. The Brigade continued to advance on the Federal works while formed in our square and fending off the enemy's cavalry. I was quite impressed that the brigade was able to maintain the formation of the square as we moved across the field. Eventually we engaged the Federal Infantry skirmishers and pushed them back toward their works, all the while we had to defend your flank and rear against the repeated attacks of the Federal Cavalry. When the battle ended we had advanced to within about 10 yards of the enemy works.

After the battle the troops marched in review before the crowd and removed the Federal works from the field. We then marched back to camp and started packing up. I believe that everyone there had a good time. Other than the wind and cold temperatures of Friday night, the weather was perfect.

Your Obedient Servant,
Steve Fink, Captain
Johnson Guards

Carthage (continued)

Cavalry(Dismounted), CSA and the 4th Missouri Infantry, CSA. This event has received a Maximum Effort designation from the M.C.W.R.A. and as such will be conducted under the rules and

guidelines of that association.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE "BATTLE OF CARTHAGE"

MAY 12-14, 2000
FRIDAY - MAY 12

12 noon REGISTRATION
OPENS AT CIVIL WAR RANCH

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Carthage (continued)

ARENA ENTRANCE. ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER UPON ENTERING.

Midnight REGISTRATION CLOSES. (IF ARRIVING AFTER MIDNIGHT, PROCEED TO YOUR ASSIGNED CAMP AREA AND SET UP, AND RETURN TO REGISTRATION BEFORE NOON THE 13TH AND REGISTER.)

SATURDAY - MAY 13

6 a.m. REVEILLE

7 a.m. REGISTRATION REOPENS FOR SATURDAY ARRIVALS.

8:00 BRIGADE/BATTALION OFFICERS CALL

9 a.m. CAMPS AND SUTLERY AREAS OPENED TO THE PUBLIC.

(All vehicles must be removed from military, civilian, and sutlery areas before this time.)

9 a.m. MILITARY UNIT DRILLS

12 noon REGISTRATION CLOSES

1 p.m. WEAPONS SAFETY & UNIFORM INSPECTIONS BY RESPECTIVE COMMANDS.

1:30 p.m. "BATTLE OF CARTHAGE" REENACTMENT

1:30 p.m. BAND CON-

CERT - Period Music

3:30 p.m. LADIES TEA - Main Arena *(Public invited)*

5 p.m. CAMPS CLOSED TO PUBLIC

8 p.m. BARN DANCE - MAIN ARENA *(The public is invited to observe or participate.)*

SUNDAY - MAY 14

7 a.m. REVEILLE

9 a.m. BRIGADE/BATTALION OFFICERS CALL

9 a.m. MILITARY UNIT DRILLS. CAMPS & SUTLERY AREAS OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

10 a.m. CHURCH SERVICES *(By individual unit Chaplains at locations of choice. Public is invited)*

1 p.m. SAFETY INSPECTIONS

1:30 p.m. BATTLE (PLEASE KEEP CAMPS INTACT. DO NOT BRING VEHICLES INTO THE CAMPS OR SUTLER AREAS UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE BATTLE.)

★ The highest standards for Civil War reenacting authenticity and safety will apply at all times throughout the event. Where issues of authenticity and safety exist, the final resolution will be the decision of the respective overall field commanders.

Anyone who persists in violation of any of the above stated rules or who in anyway creates a safety or authenticity problem whether stated in this notice or not, may be asked to leave the premises of the event. Anyone refusing to vacate the premises when ordered to do so will be declared a trespasser and will have to deal with local authorities up to an including arrest.



Upcoming Events

- Max** May 13-14 Battle of Carthage
- Max** June 16-18 National Event Wilson's Creek
July 4 Osage Beach, MO
September 9-10 St Charles, MO
- Max** September 12-17 Battle of Lexington, MO
October 14-15 Battle of Boonville, MO
- Max** October 20-21 Warsaw, MO
October 28-29 Leasburg, MO
November 4-5 Atoka, OK
December 2-3 Battle of Prairie Grove, Ark.