

The Sentinel



Vol. 8, No. 4 – The Newsletter of the 6th Arkansas Infantry, Company A, C.S.A. – April, 2004

Living Historians

<http://www.geocities.com/capitalguards>

TMVI Fields 200+ at 140th Mansfield/Pleasant Hill Event

The 6th Arkansas and 37th Illinois joined forces for the first weekend in April to participate in the 140th anniversary reenactment of the battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill during the 1864 Red River Campaign. Of the six years we have been attending this event, this time was the biggest, and was definitely memorable.

Good things this weekend:

1) **The turnout** for the Company, and the way we worked well together on the field. On our part, we fielded 17 men, counting me, Steve Shore, Bob Black, Robert Giles, Ken Nations, David Sesser, Jerry Simpson, Chris Stewart, Richard Stewart, and Paul Trotta from the 6th; Jim DeCann, Pat DeCann, and W.J. Monagle from the 37th Illinois, and Chris' friend Matt Nichols. Three fellows from the 173rd New York (from Dallas) also fell in with us for the weekend, and Jonathan Shanks, Justin Shanks, and Jameel Whiting were solid performers and great soldiers. We had a cohesive, strong company. We lost quite a few of our pre-registered folks from last-minute conflicts, but were still able to field a full company on our own both Saturday and Sunday.

2) On the battalion's part, it was a banner weekend in that the **TMVI fielded more than 200 troops on the same field in the same formation at the same time**, for what I believe is the first time in the battalion's history. Colonel Blanco was ecstatic. We had 11 companies on the field, and with the 1st and 9th Arkansas consolidated, had a full ten companies on the color line for the first time in a coon's age. It looked pretty darned impressive. On Sunday noon, after the usual attrition, the TMVI still had a little more than 130 rifles on the field, fielding a small Confederate battalion with the 12th & 19th Texas and 19th Louisiana, and a similar Federal battalion of everybody else.

3) **Weather.** We couldn't have asked for much nicer weather/temperatures. This was the first time I've ever been to Pleasant Hill



6th Arkansas at Pleasant Hill on Sunday afternoon: Front, kneeling L to R, Justin Shanks, Bob Black, Richard Stewart, Ken Nations, and Jerry Simpson. Rear, standing, Jonathan Shanks, David Sesser, W.J. Monagle, Steve Shore, Tom Ezell, and Stan Anderson.

“Battle at Port Jefferson” is next event for Capitol Guards

The Trans-Mississippi Volunteer Infantry Battalion will be headed southwest to Jefferson, TX in support of a battle reenactment hosted by the 19th Texas Infantry and the community's "Jefferson Hometown Pilgrimage," a local heritage festival featuring tours of historic houses in the downtown area. The "Battle of Jefferson" is intended to portray a fictional scenario of what might have happened had the Yankees ever made it past Mansfield, LA during the 1864 Red River Campaign.

In the event announcement in the current *Camp Chase Gazette*:
APRIL 30 - May 1, 2, 2004 - Battle of Port Jefferson. Jefferson, Texas is welcoming all area reenactors to the Jefferson Pilgrimage and Battle Reenactment. There

will be a battle both days, a parade on Saturday and a dance on Saturday night. Expect all amenities: wood, straw, plenty of water and a meal on Saturday evening. Come join us in a great historical Texas town. To register on line www.jefferson-texas.com. For more information e-mail hunt_ricky@hotmail.com or jeffersonchamber@msn.com.

This is a TMVI Battalion event, so our primary impression will be Confederate. Participants are requested to bring both Federal and Confederate gear; we will very likely be galvanized for one day.

Driving distance from Little Rock to Jefferson is 205 miles, approximately a 4-hour, 20-minute drive. From Little Rock, take I-30 west, crossing the Texas line at Texarkana. Turn South onto U.S. Highway 59 South, and go 56 miles to the intersection with Texas Highway 49. Turn

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left onto Highway 49, and follow 49 until you reach Polk Street. Turn right onto Polk Street and follow this to the intersection with FM 2208 and FM 134. Turn left onto FM 134 and follow this into the event site. The site is on FM 134 2.7 miles southeast of downtown, and 2.9 miles east of Highway 59.

In some late-breaking updates for the Jefferson event, gathered from the battalion officers' call held at Pleasant Hill, there are a few additions:

1) In addition to the BBQ Chicken Supper on Saturday night, the event hosts will be offering breakfast on both Saturday and Sunday... essentially providing three of the five meals one would normally consume during the event.

2) The little "Soldiers' Rest" free bar has been done away with. According to Lt. Col. Hunt, "they burned it down." So, if you want to go kissing around with ol' John Barleycorn at this particular event, you'll need to bring your own partner. And maybe after some of the past weekend's sessions, this might not be a bad thing to do without.

3) The TMVI will seek to set up a garrison-style camp per the Army Regulations, with the staff set up in a regimented row, followed by a row of the company officers, then the individual company streets. While there is no prohibition on attending and camping "campaign-style," the feeling I got is that if you do, you may feel out of place. The rest of the Battalion will apparently be camping fairly heavy.

4) In order to build a little "friendly competition" between the companies, there will be some sort of competition for the best-drilled company. Details to follow.

The schedule is otherwise a little light. There will be a Parade through the downtown area on Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. Figure on something like the folks did at Mark's Mill last year. The Saturday afternoon battle will be delayed until 4 p.m. in order to better accommodate the Tour of the old homes in town, which is the center focus of the town's "Hometown Pilgrimage." Supper and Camp dance on Saturday night. Nothing on the schedule Sunday morning save for church services; followed by another battle demonstration at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, which will close the event.

If you are planning to attend the event or want to work out a car pool, but have not contacted the Company headquarters yet, please call Tom Ezell at (501) 912-1047.

140th Mansfield/Pleasant Hill (Continued from Page 1)

(six year's running) when it didn't rain or even sprinkle... even if the forecasts said thunderstorms both days this weekend.

4) **The Preservation efforts.** Those who got down there in the daylight were pretty rudely shocked by the devastation to the southern portions of the old Mansfield battlefield by an ongoing lignite open-pit mine. It looked like the surface of Mars out there. Two units took the opportunity to conduct preservation marches on Saturday to raise money to help buy out the surviving areas of the mine, the "15th Texas," made up of the Army of the Trans-Mississippi and friends, and the TMVI's own 19th Louisiana. The boys in the 19th Louisiana made the whole 17-mile march in one go, marching for 50 minutes and resting for 10 minutes each hour, and pulled into camp around Pleasant Hill around 1:00 a.m.. The 15th Texas stopped about halfway when it got dark, then pushed on at daylight the next morning, arriving around 11:00 a.m. Sunday morning. You could tell who the marchers were - the fellows walking tippy-toed and a little bow-legged, and with the big smiles of pride on their faces. Overall, the two units raised a little over \$10,000 in funds, which can be matched 3:1 with grants from the Civil War Preservation Trust or other foundations to apply more than \$30,000 to preserving what left of the field at Mansfield.

5) **The battles.** Also for the first time since I've been coming to Pleasant Hill, the battle scenarios somewhat resembled the original fights. On Saturday at Mansfield, the TMVI portrayed the Confederates, and while the Left Wing (Texas and the consolidated Arkansas companies) went for and overran the Federal batteries, the 6th Arkansas and the Louisiana companies made a supporting attack on the left end of the line, and like Mouton's Louisianans in 1864, the Yanks pulled a few tricks out of their hat and we got really slaughtered along a rail fenceline. On Sunday, the Federal wing of the TMVI dug in along the fenceline on Pleasant Hill, while members of the Red River Battalion were echeloned in support to our right rear. We held off the first few assaults, but the Rebs steadily pushed us back until their flank was exposed to General Griffin's sucker punch, the 1st Arkansas Battalion hidden in reserve in the woods, and those boys came out and rolled the Rebs up like a blanket, sending them back down to the bottom of the hill where the fight slowly fizzled out, both sides too badly

shot up to do much of anything.

That crazy pyrotechnics guy was there again, and fired off some 70 explosive charges on the Yankees this year... on of them blowing the top out of a tree at the right end of the fenceline where the TMVI (-) was taking cover. I think I can see why some folks were concerned about the insurance business, now...

And once again, Steve managed to clean 'em out during the raffle at the Saturday night dance :-)

But when it was bad, it was really bad:

1) **Event organization/dis-organization:** I think they found out just about what the upper limit was for the Pleasant Hill site this time. Local papers reported 700 reenactors in attendance, with about 500 of those being infantry. Pleasant Hill was definitely a heavy camp... The TMVI was pert near crowded out of their area, and the 6th Arkansas & Friends wound up camping about 50 yards down the trail behind the old log barn and a Federal hospital set-up. Reenactor parking was far, far away this time... nearly three miles down the road from the event site, just outside the modern town of Pleasant Hill. In one way, the company's decision on "one uniform" paid off, in that many of us wound up far away from the vehicles anyway. Others stashed their cars in corners of the normal spots, reserved this year for trailered vehicles, or behind the Legion hall, and simply stonewalled any questions.

2) **The shuttle bus support** broke down before the event started. The ten buses they had arranged for shuttle support all disappeared Thursday over a dispute with the event organizers over liability insurance. The event staff scrambled and came up with a 50-passenger tour bus and a school bus by Saturday morning.

3) **Wasted time.** With only two buses, 500+ infantrymen, and a 36-mile round trip per load, it took more than three hours each way to get the troops moved from Pleasant Hill to Mansfield, and then back again. Once we got to Mansfield, the companies were dropped off in several different places, taking a great deal of work by the battalion staff to find everybody and get them back together again. Then there was confusion in getting weapons inspected by the park staff. We wound up going to four different places to be checked; and the Texas companies and some of the Louisianans got even more of a run-around than we did.

140th Mansfield/Pleasant Hill Re-Enactment - April 3-4



One for the Records: This is what it looked like on Saturday at Mansfield State Commemorative Area when the TMVI put 200 rifles and a full ten companies on the color line... the battalion's best showing in more than seven years!



Help is on the way... the 1st Arkansas Battalion passes the Capitol Guards on the march to Mansfield. Mounted is Col. Willie Huckabee, on the right is Pat DeCann, Jim DeCann, David Sesser, Jonathan Shanks, and Paul Trotta.



Matt Nichols, Chris Stewart, and Bob Black strike a pose at Mansfield.



In camp at Pleasant Hill: Clockwise from left - David Sesser, Steve Shore, Tom Ezell, Jerry Simpson, Ken Nations, and Richard Stewart.



Jonathan Shanks and Chris Stewart take cover behind the rail fence at Pleasant Hill on Sunday afternoon, as the Rebel line deploys to our front.

4) When we did get back to Pleasant Hill, thinking dreamily of jambalaya, we found out that they weren't serving the Saturday evening meal this time around. There was a good bit of grumbling, but in re-checking the event literature and announcements once I got back to home station, I found that they didn't mention anything about the Saturday meal... after everything having been the same-old same-old for the past five years, we just

assumed this was the same, too. So any false promises and subsequent complaints about the Saturday meal are my fault... familiarity led me to taking too many things for granted. Thanks again to Steve and our civilian contingent for the excellent substitute spread on Saturday evening.



This is why everyone was taking cover... The pyrotechnics and ground charges are always a big part of the Pleasant Hill event, and the Yankees out in the impact area get the full benefit of them!

Col. Cannada, former TMVI commander, passes on

I am deeply saddened to announce that Colonel Gary Cannada, the former Colonel and one of the founding officers of the Trans-Mississippi Volunteer Infantry Battalion, lost his battle with lung cancer, and passed away on Monday night, April 19th.

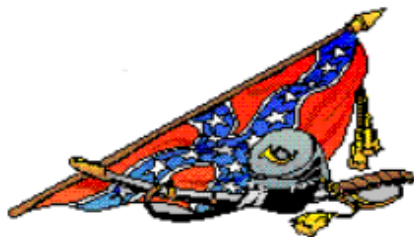
Col. Cannada was the first reenacting officer that I really got to know and to respect, as he led us at Raymond in 1998 and the 135th Gettysburg reenactment that same year. I always looked forward to serving with him any time, any where. He was stricken with cancer in the summer of 2002, and



Col. Gary Cannada

retired from the hobby at Prairie Grove later that year. Most recently he was on the field with us at Pleasant Hill earlier this month. He said that "he had some days better than others but he was at least getting around". He was very happy to be there and see the TMVI in the field, and to be on the ground once again where his ancestors in the 19th Texas fought.

He took a sharp, sudden turn for the worse this weekend, and died at his home around 10:40 p.m. Monday night, surrounded by his loving family. Funeral services were scheduled at 1:00 p.m., on Monday, April 26th, at the First Baptist Church in Keller, Texas. Graveside services will be held at Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth, TX. Colonel Cannada and his family requested a military-style funeral, with the 19th Texas, Gary's reenacting unit, providing services as an honor guard.



Capital Guards Monument to be Unveiled on May 15

Stephan McAteer of the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History announced on April 22 that the Museum had mostly met its fundraising goal for the restoration of the Capital Guards monument. \$31,975 was needed to pay for the cost of the restoration and refurbishment, and as of April 22, the Museum had raised \$32,423.92. A bronze plaque listing the names of those donors who gave more than \$2500 was anticipated to cost an additional \$3000; and the Museum has found a benefactor who will cover the cost of this plaque.

Restoration of the monument is on track, and an unveiling and rededication ceremony is planned for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 15. While plans are still coming into place at this time, the 6th Arkansas and 37th Illinois reenactors will be providing a living history program at the museum from 12 to 4 p.m. that day.

Cabot Middle School Living History; May 21

Members of the Capitol Guards and the 37th Illinois will be conducting what has now become an annual program at Cabot Middle School (South). Between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Friday, May 21, members of the 6th Arkansas and the 37th Illinois will provide a living history demonstration on the life of the Confederate and Union soldiers.

Depending on turnout by our members, we will have three stations, one for the Confederate soldier, one for the Union soldier, and one where students will be taught the basics of Civil War drill. If we have enough reenactors show up, a fourth station will be set up to concentrate on the muskets and other weaponry.

We will be working with approximately 300 5th-graders, with five sets of demonstrations at each of the three stations... approximately 25 minutes per station. The school will provide a noon meal, and offers a \$100 payment for our services, which we have traditionally donated to battlefield preservation efforts.

If you're interested in participating, contact Tom Ezell (912-1047) for directions

and additional details. We will meet at Cabot Middle School (south) between 7:30 and 7:45 a.m., and will be setting up around the period cabin located in front of the school. This has always been an enjoyable event, has done a great deal for community support and battlefield preservation, and we hope to see you there!

140th Anniversary Living History – The Affair at Pickett's Mill

*Pickett's Mill State Battlefield Park, Dallas, Georgia
May 28-30, 2004*

DALLAS, GA – This event looks to be one of the best 2004 events anywhere. Yes, it's a long trip, but it'll be worth the effort. This is may be the last Pickett's Mill immersion event ever, so don't miss out! Plus, it's on Memorial Day weekend, which gives you an extra day off for travel home.

This event will portray parts of the approach march, skirmishing, and battle of Pickett's Mill in real time on the original battlefield, and is a semi-immersion (first-person highly encouraged) event. The event coordinators are John Cleaveland and Rick Joslyn, and the Federal battalion commander is Dom Dal Bello. The Western Independent Grays (WIG) will be serving as Federals under the command structure of the Army of the Pacific.

Confederate registration is limited to the first 100 troops to sign up as Confederates, and will be portraying a company of the 33rd Alabama, Lowrey's Brigade, Cleburne's Division. The Confederate company will be led by Rick Joslyn of the Wool Hat Boys.

There is no limit on Federal registration. The Federals will portray the 124th Ohio Infantry of Hazen's Brigade, Third Division, Fourth Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland. The 124th Ohio was severely engaged in the "Hell Hole" at Pickett's Mill, both in attacking the Confederate works and repulsing a counterattack. The regiment lost 72 men in this battle. The Federal approach march during the event will approximate the real 124th Ohio's and will be about four miles in length. The event website says, "Throughout this event, we will be portraying the battle in real-time with events occurring as close as possible to historic times and upon the

exact ground where these units fought.”

Participants must pre-register and pay a \$25 registration fee. The registration form may be printed out from the event website: <http://www.westernindependentgrays.org/PMILL2004/index.htm>. Registration is by individuals! A copy of your photo ID and medical insurance card must accompany your registration. Registration is due by May 15.

Federal uniform requirements are:

- Headwear: Dress (Hardee) hat is preferred; black civilian slouch hat or forage cap is also acceptable.
- Jacket: Fatigue blouse is required.
- Shirts: Domet-flannel Federal-issue shirt is strongly encouraged. Civilian shirts are also acceptable.
- Canteen: Smoothside body is preferred with cotton strap.
- Waistbelt: US brass with brass or leather keeper.
- Scabbard: Two-, seven-, or eight-rivet patterns are acceptable.
- Shelter: Bring EITHER a shelter half OR a gum blanket, but not both, per Hazen's memoirs.
- Baggage: Double-bag knapsacks or blanket rolls are acceptable. Pack light—the terrain is VERY ROUGH.
- Overcoats: Greatcoats are prohibited at this event.
- Long Arms: 1861 Springfield rifle musket is preferred; 1853 Enfield is acceptable. No smoothbores.
- Miscellaneous: The event portrays veterans on a rough campaign. Clothing should be dirty and semi-ragged. Bring all other appropriate items: haversack, mess furniture, &c.
- Ammunition: Bring 60 rounds of ammunition. Ammunition shall be provided in correct bundles of ten cartridges plus caps.
- Rations: The Army of the Pacific will be issuing rations at this event.

Additional information on the event and portrayal is available on the event website at: <http://www.westernindependentgrays.org/PMILL2004/index.htm>. Battlefield website: <http://www.geocities.com/esmereldah/pickettmillpg.html>. Contact: John

Cleaveland, jcleaveland@earthlink.net, (706) 769-0541, or Coley Adair, cadair8064@aol.com.

Registration is due by May 15. Please advise the Capitol Guards point of contact, Tom Ezell, (501) 912-1047, tomezell@aristotle.net, if you are interested in participating.

Minutes: March '04 Meeting of the Central Arkansas Civil War Preservation Assn.

The Central Arkansas Civil War Preservation Association held its organizational meeting on March 21, 2004, 6 p.m., at 1508 South Taylor St., Little Rock Arkansas. Members present: Mike Laum, Tom Ezell, Harvey Moore, WJ Monagle.

Announcements

Tom reported that the Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail dues of \$50 have been paid by himself.

The members present discussed taking five dollars from each individual membership of the 37th Illinois Company to pay for membership in the CACWPA. Mike Laum preferred that five dollars in addition to the regular company membership to cover this cost.

Review of constitution and bylaws

The constitution and bylaws will be changed in the following fashion: under Article 4: Membership, Section 3, subparagraph (B) the word “club” will be changed to the word “Association”.

Election of officers and directors.

Election of officers: President: WJ Monagle; Vice President: Harvey Moore; Secretary/Treasurer: Mike Laum; Directors: Keith Petersen, Sheldon Gately; Tom Ezell.

Association goals, needs, and upcoming events

Tom Ezell would like to get the Association more involved in preservation and conservation, creating and maintaining and enhancing our Civil War sites, cemeteries and battlefields. He

would like seeing our association develop a vision statement.

The 6th Arkansas was approved for affiliate organization status.

Saturday, March 27, 2004 is from nine to three at Reed's Bridge for cleanup effort.

May 15, 2004 is the rededication of capital guard. Organizations are still doing fundraising — 37th Illinois company “B” can go gray and form part of the 6th Arkansas Company for that day.

May 31, 2004 is Memorial Day WJ is looking into the possibility of the 37th Illinois participating in Memorial Day ceremonies.

The next meeting of the Association will take place in June, possibly on the 6th or 13th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Oak Leaves at Last...

Captain Ezell got an unexpected letter from Uncle Sam on April 15, this time it seems that RC PERSCOM in St. Louis finally got to the bottom of their in-boxes, and cut his orders for promotion to Major in the Army Reserve, retroactive to the summer of 1990. After getting over the initial surprise, he observed the time-honored ritual of making little delay in getting one of those field grade officer service caps. He says after waiting all this time, those oak leaves felt “pretty derned good,” and promised to hold a promotion party in the near future to properly anoint them.

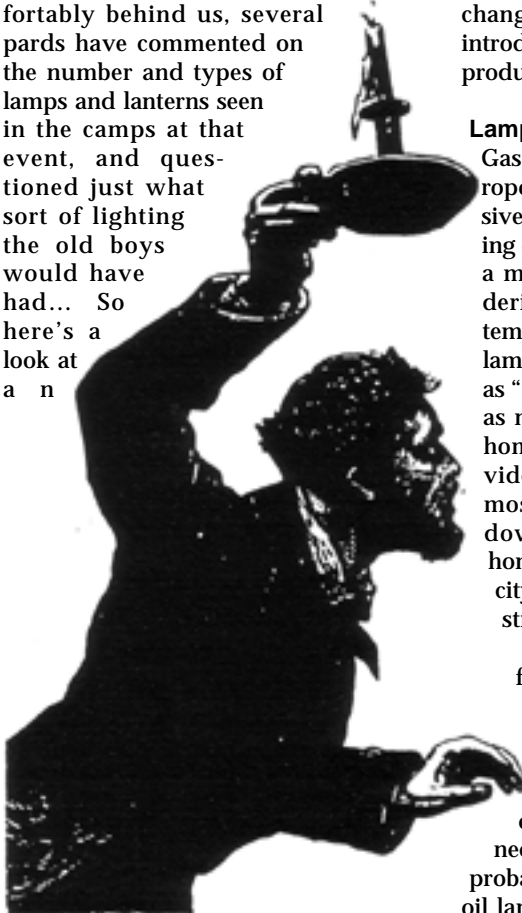


Confederate Flag Day, 2004. The Arkansas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, held their annual Confederate Flag Day observance on a rainy Saturday morning, April 10th, at the Arkansas State Capitol grounds. Three members of the Capitol Guards, George Davis, Tom Ezell, and Mike Loum, showed up to provide approximately a third of the firing detail. A steady rain curtailed the service, and none of the reenactors were able to hear any of the program, so there's little else to report other than we “showed the flag” to help support the Division's efforts.

To Shed a Little Light ...

Lighting for Civil War Reenactors

With the Pleasant Hill event comfortably behind us, several reenactors have commented on the number and types of lamps and lanterns seen in the camps at that event, and questioned just what sort of lighting the old boys would have had... So here's a look at a n



issue that bears on both our campaign and garrison impressions, just what did they use for light back in the Civil War?

Providing lighting around the reenactment camp at night is something simple that has gotten very complicated. Many reenactment camps sprout a host of oil lamps and candle lanterns around sunset, creating a far better lit scene than would have been typical of any original Civil War encampments. Citizens of the middle of the 19th century were not by any means accustomed to the high levels of light in the evening which we find normal today - the 19th Century was literally a darker time, a world still lit by firelight. Lighting devices were used sparingly - one individual recalled that "when evening came we used to set a candle on the candle stand and pull the stand to the centre of the room so that four people could sit around it and see to work." If peacetime homes were kept dark, it is fair to assume that military camps were dim places indeed.

Perhaps unfortunately for reenactors, the Civil War era was a time

of transition in lighting technology - the changes being brought about by the introduction of petroleum-based lighting products.

Lamps

Gas lights were available in many metropolitan areas and was fairly inexpensive. Little Rock introduced gas lighting on July 21, 1860, using "coal gas" - a mixture of hydrogen and methane derived from distilling coal at high temperatures.¹ Gas was conducted to lamps or gas-fired chandeliers, known as "gasoliers," using lead piping much as natural gas is supplied to modern homes. Little Rock's gas works provided lighting for the State House, most of the business houses in the downtown area, and many of the homes. By September of that year, the city's business district sported 26 gas street lights.

For the most part, however, folks of the 1860s depended on candles, oil lamps and the family fireplace for lighting at night. Even if a family had gas lights, there may not have been a gas fixture everywhere a light source was needed. If they used oil lamps, they probably would not have had enough oil lamps for an entire family or house. Thus, candles would have filled in the gaps.

Oil lamps were the next level of technology in lighting. What one used, depended on the location and circumstances. The most ancient and most common of lamps, from Biblical times forward, was the so-called *slush lamp*², or *betty lamp*, which burns animal fat or grease - a practice relatively common among our Civil War forebears. All devices of this type rely upon some sort of oil or melted fat (commonly grease poured off the skillet or, less accurately, cooking or bottled lamp oils) in a receptacle from which projects a simple wick.

Lamps of this type ranged from the type used by Aladdin (which typically burned olive oil), to intricate "betty" lamps of the 17th and 18th centuries, and were the cheapest and most common forms of lighting until the advent of the kerosene lamp. Poor families, or soldiers could make a cheap, expedient lamp by using a flattened tin can or similar receptacle, filling it with oil, and inserting

some sort of wick.

These directions for making a slush lamp may provide an emergency method of lighting during power blackouts:

First, a sardine can or other similar container is filled half way with sand or other soil. Tightly twist a piece of rag to form a wick, and stick one end of the "wick" in the sand to anchor it. Fill the tin nearly to the brim with liquid fat, making sure to soak the wick. Light the free end of the wick, and you have yourself a fine and dandy "slush lamp."

A slush lamp's often smelly, sputtering, flickering reddish light taxed the eyes, and it required frequent replenishing of the fat. There was also an art in putting the light out. Blown out, it stank, giving, off oily, heavy fumes which stifled those in the room. One adept at this operation would ladle the molten fat over the flame until it was snuffed. This created a minimum of fumes.

The invention of round cotton wicks, as well as glass chimneys for lamps around the mid-1700s produced brighter, less smoky flames and added to safety by placing the flame under glass. These represented the most significant improvements in lighting since the time of the ancients.

Before 1860, oil lamps typically burned whale oil. In looking at original/ antique lamps, you can tell a whale oil lamp in that it has two small round wicks, whereas kerosene lamps had (and still have) a wide flat wick. Whale oil was expensive, which led to a strict economy on their use. In looking at store ledgers from 1860, sperm (whale) oil was sold only in small amounts, which would indicate that it was only being used in small amounts. A small bottle sold for 38 cents. By the early 1860s, whale oil lamps were being phased out and the kerosene lamp was coming into wider use. In the cargo of the steamboat *Arabia*, sunk in the



Two types of betty, or slush lamps. The chain is used to hang or suspend the lamp over the area to be lit.

Missouri River in 1856, all the oil lamps found used whale oil. By the time the *Bertrand* sank in 1865, they had no whale oil lamps in their cargo, but only kerosene lamps

The discovery of oil in Pennsylvania in 1859 just about killed off the use of whale oil lamps. In an 1860 issue of *Vanity Fair* there was a cartoon showing the whales celebrating the discovery of oil in PA. The whales were depicted as dressed in tails and ball gowns, and I guess this was the world's first "Save the Whales" poster. Whale oil was still used until the late 1970s for lubricating machinery, watches and clocks.

Kerosene was still a comparatively expensive commodity in 1860, though its availability improved and price quickly dropped with the expansion of the petroleum industry during and after the War. While it outsold whale oil, a gallon of kerosene typically cost \$1.50. Also, the only lamps and lamp parts sold were kerosene oil lamps.

The 1859 *Scientific American* published a table of different oils available for lamps, with their relative costs. The oils, the type of lamp they're burned in, and the prices per gallon quoted are:

Kerosene,	kerosene lamp,	1.00
Camphene,	camphene lamp,	\$0.63 (.47)
Whale oil,	solar lamp,	\$1.00 (.58)
Lard oil,	solar lamp,	\$1.25 (.90)
Sperm oil,	solar lamp,	\$2.25 (1.35)
Burning-fluid	Large Wick lamp	0.87 (.54)

A reader wrote in to complain that the chart was skewed in favor of kerosene, and that \$1 a gallon was the wholesale price of kerosene, while the other prices quoted were too high. The prices above in parentheses are the lowest realistic prices what that reader cited for the New York market. "Burning fluid" (camphene) was sold in much smaller quantities and less times than kerosene oil was sold. Camphene is a highly flammable liquid, and those lamps were not as safe as the kerosene lamps.

Candles

Putting lamps aside, candles were very commonly used, even by the middle class. In store ledgers of the time, in many rural areas candles were being sold in far greater proportion than oil for lamps. The most common candles purchased were the adamantine or stearine candles. Wax (beeswax), sperm (made from spermaceti) and tallow candles were also being sold, but in comparing store ledgers, the adamantine ones were purchased more frequently. Most of the candles being sold were adamantine (stearine candles). Only recently had par-

affin candles been sold. Tallow candles were the cheapest, but the most expensive spermaceti candles were still being sold. Few beeswax candles were noted in the sales ledgers.

Unfortunately, period publications (see *Notes on Preparing Stores for the United States Army and on the Care of the Same. etc.* by C.L. Kilburn, Cincinnati. 1863) indicate a strong preference on the part of the military for the whale-based items, which are of course no longer available. Tallow candles, made from household animal fat - an extremely common source of light on the home front - were deemed by the military to be satisfactory only "for cold climates" - and they are hard to come by today, too.

Regardless of materials, candles were made in two ways - either by pouring the fluids into molds or by repeatedly dipping the wicks into containers full of molten fluid. Candles could be made in prodigious numbers by either process, but surviving mid-19th century candles known to have been commercially produced (those aboard the sunken steamboat *Arabia* and one illustrated on page 135 of *The Fighting Men of the Civil War* by William C. Davis [New York: Gallery Books, 1989] show the smooth sides and sharply conical tips typical of candles made in molds.

Proctor and Gamble made adamantine candles, and were arguably better known for candles in the 1860's than for making soap. Their candles were shipped in boxes marked with red stars on the side, so that folks loading and unloading would know that candles were inside. These candles soon became known as "Star candles" and I have also seen references to "Star Brand Candles".

However Procter and Gamble don't refer to them as such in contemporary accounts. The star is also arguably the first trademark for a United States made product, though not entered as such, and the simple red star is

also what the famous "moon and stars" P & G logo, was derived from.

Candle lanterns, such as we see at many reenactment camps, were uncommon - at least the wood & glass



Examples of the "hog scraper" style candlesticks made by Richmonville Historic Tin Works

Sutlers' Row. More common were tin or brass lanterns, with isinglas (mica) windows. In homes, candlesticks were the norm. Candle holders or candlesticks, made of tin, brass, japanned tin, britannia, silver plate were all used. They came in all shapes and sizes. Both the *Arabia* and *Bertrand* steamboats carried lamps and candle sticks in their cargo. There were a fair number of the saucer-shaped candlesticks with the thumb ring used for carrying the candlestick. A number of the lamps look similar to those we can purchase now. Lanterns came in all different shapes.

Collapsible two-piece brass candle holders like that on page 137 of *The Fighting Men of the Civil War* are available from many sources. Brass candlesticks can be had from gift shops, department stores, and elsewhere, and might be appropriate for civilians, especially those portraying refugees who have brought along some household goods. One of the types of candle holders most often seen in Civil War photographs is the so-called "hog scraper" style stand in tin (an example is shown held by the man in the large illustration on the facing page) - a couple of them even show up in the famous photograph of Abraham Lincoln sitting in General George McClellan's tent. If you just must have a candle lantern, use a well-made tin reproduction instead of a wooden one - the latter too often deviate-from period designs, materials, and finishes and are very hard to document in a Civil War context. For both "hog scraper" candle stands and excellent candle lanterns of a documented style (see page 152 of *Images of War* volume I. *Shadows of the Storm*) contact Jim Richomond (address and phone below).



1860s-style military issue candle lantern, as reproduced by Richmonville.

So What Should We Do?

We are better off just forgetting about most oil lamps. Nearly every "railroad lantern," "Gone With The Wind" globe lamp, and similar device typically used today by reenactors has features not likely to have been in use in the early 1860s. The little red \$5 oil lamps typically found at Wal-Mart bears no resemblance to the lamps of the 1860s except that they are inexpensive and look "old-timey" to our 21st Century eyes.

There were, and still are, practical problems in using oil lamps in the field. Finding reliable supplies of oil would have been very difficult, as would have been transporting the heavy, volatile fluids. Obviously, our sources for whale oil have been pretty well shut off, and we would not recommend a source to you if we knew one. (We can, however, recommend a dandy source of reproduction whale-oil lamps, if you just must take this route: contact Pewter Reproduction Works, 5950 Park Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45243; (513) 831-2815. Likewise, original and reproduction whale oil lamps can often be found for very reasonable prices on eBay.)

We could (and should) make more use of lamps that burn animal fat or grease - a practice relatively common among our Civil War forebears. Several tinsmiths offer convincing betty lamps and small conical pedestal lamps (check with Jim Richmond, of Richmondville Historically Correct Tinwork, 340 Smith Drive, Sumpter, OR 97877, (541) 894-2440, or <http://www.richmonville.com>.)

Even so, the use of oil lamps is best restricted to "officers' row," hospitals, refugee camps, troops settled in permanent garrisons, and the like. Enlisted men might want to experiment with making "slush lamps" from grease, rags, and improvised receptacles like sardine tins (the latter offered in 1860s style by Maki Boxes and Mercantile, 9128 Walnut, Kansas City, MO 64114). All devices of this type rely upon oil (commonly grease poured off the skillet or, less accurately bottled lamp oils) in a tin receptacle from which projects a simple wick (normally a bit of rag).

The appropriate source of light for most soldiers then and now is the candle. The armies issued candles to the men in camp right along with food, soap, and

other commodities. Wilbur Hinman records in his series, *Corporal Si Klegg and his Pard*:

"Once in a while Si's mess 'drew' a candle, but the Regulations did not provide for any candlestick. The bayonet was an excellent substitute. It could not have been more 'handy' if made for that particular purpose. The hollow shank was always ready to receive the candle, while the point could be thrust into the ground or a log or cracker-box in an instant, and nothing more was necessary. This was one of the general spheres of usefulness found by the bayonet during the war. Barrels of candle grease flowed down its furrowed sides for every drop of human blood that dimmed its luster. The soldiers had little to read, and it might be imagined that they had not much use for candles or candlesticks; but it must be remembered that there were millions of games of euchre and 'old sledge' that had to be played, and it was necessary to have light enough so that a player could not with impunity slip aces and 'bowers' up the sleeve of his blouse, or 'turn jack' from the bottom of the 'deck.' To protect its brave defenders from these fraudulent practices was no doubt the object of the Government in issuing candles, as that was about all they were used for."

Beeswax candles are commonly available now, but this writer finds no evidence of their regular issue by the armies. New, "high tech" candles of our era of interest were made of paraffin - one of those revolutionary, new petroleum products - as are the great majority of candles manufactured today. The availability of paraffin candles to Civil War soldiers and associated civilians is uncertain, however, but may have been very limited.

So, in the absence of candles made of the proper materials - what to do? We can use candles that approximate as best possible the appearance of those issued by the armies. They should be of a pure, dull white color - always avoid the many "decorator colors" commonly available. The size of the boxes for the P&G "Star" candles indicates they were typically about 8 inches long. Use candles made in molds rather than made by dipping - this will provide the desired smooth surfaces and pointed tips (a feature of little significance moments after the wick begins to burn). To simulate

candles obtained from civilian sources, off-white yellowish candles that look like tallow may be appropriate. Molded beeswax candles can be found in some antique and craft shops, and these might be useful for civilian impressions.

Essentially, the correct candle is one that doesn't go in a candle lantern. As mentioned above, the Army issued candles - but not candlesticks - principally in support of duties such as headquarters, guardhouses, etc. where reliable lighting was needed. Officers should carry a candle stub with them, and something to light it with, for those times when you will have to write or read a message after dark, and it is a good idea for sergeants to do the same. For candlesticks, a bayonet socket is a good substitute, as is the corner of a cracker box, an upended tin cup, or an empty bottle of some sort (see chapter five of *Hardtack and Coffee* by John D. Billings for ideas). For the average private, there's not much need for light on campaign that can't be satisfied by the campfire or the occasional candle stub.

And remember, when using any kind of Civil War lighting device - BE CAREFUL!!! You are playing with fire!

Selected references:

Hughes, Nicky, "If everyone lit just one little candle...: Lighting for Civil War Reenactors" *The Watchdog*, 3, 2 (Spring 1995), pp. 4-5.
 Brown, William L. III. *The Army Called It Home. Military Interiors of the 19th Century*; Thomas Publications, Gettysburg 1992.
 Roy, F. Hampton, Sr. and Charles Witsell, Jr., *How We Lived: Little Rock as an American City*. Little Rock, August House Publishers, (1984)

Endnotes:

1 Little Rock's first use of natural gas, by the way, did not occur until 1911. F. Hampton Roy, Sr., and Charles Witsell, Jr., *How We Lived: Little Rock as an American City*. Little Rock, August House (1984) pp. 79-81. See also William F. O'Donnell, *The Civil War Quadrennium*,
 2 *Slush* was the term used to refer to the extra fat or grease found in the bottom of the barrels in which salt pork was stored, as well as the grease skimmed from the top of the pots or kettles in which the meat was boiled. The cooks would collect this grease and sell it to others for lamp oil or other purposes. The money derived from these under-the-table sales was used to buy extra goodies for the mess, and was known as the *slush fund*.



Weapons Stolen from Wilson's Creek Recovered; Local Man Charged

Published April 6, 2004
By Matt Wagner
Springfield News-Leader

SPRINGFIELD, MO: A Springfield man has been indicted on federal charges of possessing three antique pistols stolen from Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in January. Convicted felon George T. Doos, 44, has been charged with four separate counts in connection with the January 11, 2004 theft of the handguns, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Kansas City.

Doos was arrested Friday and is in custody at the Greene County Jail, where he's being held for U.S. marshals.

The federal indictment alleges that Doos received the stolen firearms — an M1849 .36-caliber Colt pocket revolver, a U.S. Model 1842 percussion pistol and a Model 1851 Colt Navy revolver — between Jan. 11 and March 16.

The Colt pocket revolver was previously owned by Confederate Col. E.B. Greer, who fought at the Battle of Wilson's Creek in August 1861. It's valued at \$4,000.

The other two pistols were worth roughly \$1,000 apiece.

All three are back at the battlefield in a secure place and have been for "several days," said park ranger John Sutton. An ongoing investigation precluded the battlefield from publicizing the development, he added.

Federal authorities believe Doos used physical force to prevent another person from notifying law enforcement about the stolen weapons.

Greene County sheriff's deputies and members of the Springfield Police Department's Special Response Team executed a search warrant at Doos' home March 22, said Detective Richard Mayo with the sheriff's department.

During the raid, authorities discovered a .32-caliber semi-automatic pistol with its serial number destroyed and a Taurus .38- special revolver.

No one has been arrested for breaking into the battlefield's visitor center and stealing the handguns, and Mayo declined to talk further about the ongoing investigation.

Sutton said the guilty party — or parties — shattered a \$2,000 plate-glass window with a brick in the early hours of

Coming Events

May 1-2, 2004 – Civil War Days, Jefferson, TX. 6th Arkansas and TMVI Battalion Maximum effort event. (battle demonstrations)

May 15, 2004 – Rededication of the Capital Guards Monument, MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History, MacArthur Park, Little Rock. (living history)

May 21, 2004 – Cabot School System Living History, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Cabot Middle School (North), Cabot, Ark. (living history) **37th Illinois event**

May 28-30, 2004 – 140th Anniversary Living History, Battle of Pickett's Mill, Pickett's Mill Battlefield State Park, Paulding County, GA. Hosted by the Western Independent Grays. (semi-immersive, "hardcore" battle reenactment/living history)

June 26-27, 2004 – "Bleeding Kansas - 1855" near Lawrence, KS. Immersive civilian living history event, Pre-War civilian impression

July 10-11, 2004 – Battle of Massard Prairie Re-enactment, Fort Smith, AR. **37th Illinois max effort event.**

August 7-8, 2004 – Wilson's Creek Living History, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. (immersive living history. Missouri State Guard impression.)

September 18-19, 2004 – Arkansas Post National Memorial. Gillett, AR. Semi-immersive living history, Confederate impression.

September 24-26, 2004 – 140th Anniversary Reenactment, Battle of Pilot Knob. Pilot Knob & Iron County, MO. 6th Arkansas/**37th Illinois** max effort event

October 1-3, 2004 – 140th Anniversary reenactment, Battles of Franklin and Spring Hill, Spring Hill, TN. *1st Confederate Division, 37th Illinois Maximum effort event*

October 9-10, 2004 – "Ambush at Jacksonport" reenactment/living history, Jacksonport State Park, near Newport, AR. Hosted by the Wretched Mess.

November 6-7, 2004: Civil War Days at Old Washington. Old Washington Historic State Park, Washington, AR. **37th Illinois event.**

December 3-5, 2004 – Battle of Prairie Grove reenactment, Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park, Prairie Grove, Ark. TMVI, **37th Illinois** Maximum effort event.

*Events marked in **bold type** are maximum effort events as voted upon by the Company, and your attendance is expected. If for some reason you will be unable to attend a max effort event, please contact Steve Shore or Tom Ezell (6th Arkansas) or W.J. Monagle (37th Illinois) beforehand.*

Jan. 11 to get inside.

Sutton said the break-in triggered the building's alarm, but by the time police arrived, it was too late. The display case holding the handguns had been obliterated and a small cash-donation box was missing, he said.

The National Park Service is completely upgrading security at the visitors center, but Sutton declined to elaborate.

"We have added additional detectors

in the building," he said. "We're always concerned about protecting our artifacts."

Officials believe whoever broke into the facility had intimate knowledge of its contents and layout, although Sutton said Doos is "unknown to us."

Sutton said the handguns won't be on display again for some time, noting that they aren't part of the permanent exhibit at the museum.

"We're glad we got them back," he said. "We hope to have a successful resolution, but it's not over yet."

The 6th Regiment, Arkansas Volunteer Infantry, Co. A, the "Capitol Guards" is affiliated with the Arkansas Reenactors' Alliance, the Trans-Mississippi Volunteer Infantry Battalion, Mississippi Valley Brigade, and the 1st Confederate Division. We are dedicated to the faithful and historically accurate portrayal of a unit of Confederate infantry in the War Between the States in 1861-1865.

The *Sentinel* is published on a more-or-less monthly basis by the "Capitol Guards", 6th Arkansas Infantry reenactors. Subscriptions are included as part of Company dues; or are available separately for \$15.00 per year. Back issues are \$2.00 each (index available upon request). Send subscription requests, inquiries, and article submissions to the Captain below.

Captain Tom Ezell 338 Johnson Road Scott, AR 72142 (501) 961-1937 (501) 912-1047 (cell)	1st Sergeant Steve Shore 68 Stonewall Drive Jacksonville, AR 72076 (501) 985-0560
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Visit us on the Internet at <http://www.geocities.com/capitalguards/>

The 6th Arkansas is always in need of "a few good men" to fill the ranks in service of the Cause. If you are interested in Civil War Reenacting, please call the Recruiter or the Company Commander as listed above.

The 6th Arkansas living historians are available for living history presentations to schools, public and private organizations, and community events. Please contact the Company Commander.

140th Mansfield (Continued from Page 3)

5) The Company's decision to bring only Federal uniforms for the weekend did not sit well at all with the rest of the battalion... even if several of us did bring a spare gray jacket for Saturday, we were still pretty uniformly blue as a group, and really stood out. Jackets were shed before Saturday's battle, for both heat and an attempt at camouflage, but we were still the blue-bellied stepchildren of the battalion for the weekend... Pleasant Hill is simply not a Federal-friendly event to begin with, and even with the records and documentation that the Confederates in this campaign were wearing about as much blue as Mr. Banks' people, it simply wasn't what folks expected to see, both the public and our sister units in the battalion.

After a six-year run, the general consensus in the Company was that we probably need to give this event a rest for a year or two and look for something a little different for our April event. Still, this was a great way to end this string... with a great big bang... or 70 of 'em, if anyone was really counting!

News from the Front

March 28, 2004
Camp New York, Kuwait

Dear 37th Illinois,

I wanted to drop y'all a few lines to bring you up to date on my latest happening over the past few days.

On March 23rd our plane took off from Alexandria, La. We flew on a 747, which is a huge plane. How often do you hear the announcement on a flight, "Please don't put your weapons in the overhead compartment"?

On the flight I got to see Philadelphia, New York City, and on east coast of Canada there was rivers frozen over and large chunks of ice in the water. When we got to Greenland we turned southeast. I got to Belfast, Ireland at night and it was a pretty impressive sight. We then crossed England and the English Channel. We entered mainland Europe through the Netherlands, where I got to Amsterdam at night, also. After nine hours of flying we landed in Prague, Czechoslovakia, to refuel. My first time on foreign soil, sort of, we had to stay in the airport. After 2 ½ hours we loaded up and took off again.

I didn't see much on this leg of the flight because I fell asleep. When I awoke, we were over Saudi Arabia about to enter Kuwait. We landed at the airport in Kuwait City at 3:18 p.m. local time. From Prague to Kuwait City was five hours, so we spent 14 hours in the air.

Once we landed in Kuwait City we got onto some buses and were taken to Camp Wolverine, which is right next to the airport. We stayed there for several hours where we were given several briefings and ate supper.

We were next given a loaded magazine and loaded onto some more buses. We went on a 2 ½ hour ride to Camp New York, still in Kuwait. Once here we unloaded our duffel bags and rucksacks and went to sleep.

Here at Camp New York we are staying in large wall tents and sleeping on cots. There is a pretty decent chow hall, a phone center, a Burger King and Subway trailer, a PX, barber shop, and a laundry service, & a TV tent.

When I got here, next day I made a call to my folks to let them know that I made it safe and sound. It was a collect call, so I wonder how much that will cost.

The other day we went out to the TOW missile range to shoot, and I saw two herds of camels out grazing in the

little bit of grass there is. As far as weather, it is hot here, but it's not humid and there is usually a breeze blowing. At night it gets a little cool. I have now been issued my ceramic plates which go into my vest to make it bulletproof.

We are supposed to be here another week before we head out for Taji. Several, but not all, of our Humvees have had additional armor added to them.

I'll admit I am a little nervous being here. There's always the thought they could attack us at any time. Everywhere we go we have to have our rifle & a loaded magazine with us. I'm still not quite adjusted to the climate. I feel drained and want to sleep all day, even if I haven't done any work. But I'll close for now and I'll start e-mailing when I can.

Take care,

Jeffrey Stewart

+++++

April 21, 2004
Camp Cooke
Taji, Iraq

Hello 37th!

How is everything going back at the home front? Everyone is doing well I hope. A few days ago I started a shift from 1800-0200 monitoring the radios at the company command post. Not really all that hard of work. One night while I was out there the base got mortared attacked again. This time they landed close enough that is vibrated me. When they started hitting I cut a trail to the nearest bunker. No one was injured.

I have only been to Baghdad once since we got to Taji. I had to go visit two other camps in the city. We didn't have any incidents while we were out. But it's still nerve wracking driving through that place. But we own the roads. We cut into oncoming traffic, across medians, and go the wrong way all kinds of roads. We can't be stopping to wait on traffic and traffic lights. Don't want to be sitting ducks!

Y'all keep me updated on the company's latest doings. I don't want to be left out of the loop.

Take care,

Jeffery