

The Sentinel



Vol. 8, No. 2 – The Newsletter of the 6th Arkansas Infantry, Company A, C.S.A. – February, 2004
Living Historians

37th Illinois plans '04 Campaign

Company B, 37th Illinois Infantry held its winter planning meeting on the evening of February 8, 2004 at the home of Keith Peterson. Other members present were Mike Loum, Harvey Moore, Tom Ezell, Sheldon Gately, W.J. Monagle, and Marcus Dailey.

The group briefly discussed the Dodd event in January, and concluded that it was a great success, for both of the participating units as well as the fledgling Central Arkansas Civil War Preservation Association (CACWPA). Tom reported that he had caught a good deal of flak from the SCV following the event, but it wasn't anything unexpected. W.J. reported that the Little Rock city manager had reviewed the video of the Dodd window unveiling and trial reenactment, and for an unknown reason decided not to air it on the city cable channel at this time. W.J. has a copy of the video; Harvey Moore will make copies of it so we can see just how it looked from the other side.

Harvey reported that the Company treasury has a current balance of \$982.44 with no outstanding debts. Members currently in good standing (dues paid) are: Marcus Dailey, Tom Ezell, Sheldon Gately, Mike Loum, John Malloy, W.J. Monagle, Harvey Moore, Keith Peterson, Don Simons, and Jeffrey Stewart.

W.J. reported on the progress with the CACWPA; the Internal Revenue Service has approved the Association's application for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and awarded us an identification number. The need to hold a formal Association meeting to get better organized as well as to formally act on the 6th Arkansas's application for membership was discussed, and scheduled for Sunday, March 21, at the home of W.J. Monagle.

Harvey brought up the issue of loaner gear from the company quartermaster stores. A better means to account for company property needs to be established; especially since a pair of brogans went missing at the Hardy event last October, and remains unaccounted for. Marcus



"Just from Dixie - 1864"

With the discussion that has raged around the TMVI Battalion over the past couple of weeks over shifting standards of, and just what Confederate soldiers really looked like, the above photograph surfaced on one of the more popular web forums.

Titled "Just from Dixie — 1864", this image depicts soldiers, believed to be from Reynolds' Arkansas Brigade, shortly after they were captured during the Atlanta campaign in the summer of 1864. It was taken in Chicago, just before the men were consigned to the prisoner-of-war camp at Camp Douglas. The Federal officer (3rd man from left) and the Federal guards were from the 105th Ohio Infantry in George Thomas's Army of the Cumberland.

Photographs like this, of Confederate soldier in the wild, or fresh from it, are few and far between, and give us a much better idea of the sort of impression that we should be aiming for in our portrayal of Arkansas Confederates in the Army of Tennessee.

Note the different shirts, slouch hats, knapsacks, and civilian sack coats in the ranks? They wear mostly identified Confederate-issue jackets of

the "Columbus Depot" pattern or untrimmed versions of that garment, and two fellows are wearing what appear to be North Carolina issue jackets (North Carolina provided at least 10,000 of their unique state-issue jackets to the Army of Tennessee in the spring of 1864), homemade items (and lots of them) vests, shirts, coats, and trousers. One man wears a military-style trimmed sack coat, another a frock coat with collar trim. Though not every unit may have been this varied, this is perhaps a good example of the ratio of depot-issue vs. homemade type items. There are at least four detectable civilian sack coats, one trimmed sack and one trimmed frock. Six men with non-issue (known issue really) garments out of about 15 with visible clothing.

Note the man directly to the officer's left, who is wearing what looks like a "Star" on his hat. The man kneeling beside him is wearing a Columbus Depot jacket. The guy third from the right seems to have the poor boy type suspenders and from what I can tell, they are buttoned on the inside of the pants. No one has his trousers bloused into his socks, rather several men have rolled their trouser

EVENTS

Capitol Guards set Winter Drill for February 28

The Capitol Guards will be holding their winter drill and Camp of Instruction on Saturday, February 28, at Reed's Bridge Battlefield Park.

We will be getting started around 9:00 or so, and with a bit of organization should be ready to dismiss around 4:00 p.m.

The Agenda is to cover the School of the Soldier and the fundamentals from School of the Company, from Hardee's 1861 Tactics manual.

Wear: Uniform if you have it; otherwise street clothes are okay if you don't have your uniform yet. I would rather have you out learning the ropes with us than sitting at home worrying about 1860s fashion or whatever. What you will learn here is a lot more important than what you wear; plus we will have loaner gear on site.

Bring: Musket, cartridge box and at least 10 cartridges; cap box (with caps); waist belt, bayonet and scabbard. canteen, haversack, and personal mess gear (plate, cup, utensils). Gum blanket or poncho will be a good idea.

We will have spare/loaner gear on site if you don't have your stuff yet; give me a holler if you need a loaner so that I can try to have enough available.

The company will furnish a period lunch, so don't worry about going hungry. Potable water will be available on site, and we'll have coffee available.

The morning session will work at the School of the Soldier, weapons drill, and safety. The afternoon will work at company drill, and skirmishing..

Morning Session - School of the Soldier :

1. Position of the Soldier (without arms)
2. Facings (Left Face; Right Face; Right About Face)
3. The Direct Step - Common and Quick Time.
Short break The Manual of Arms
4. Shoulder Arms
5. Manual of Arms (Support Arms; Present Arms; Order Arms; Right Shoulder Shift Arms; Secure Arms; Arms Port; Inspection Arms)
6. Stack/Un-stack Arms
Short break
7. Load in 9 Times
8. Load in 4 Times/Load at Will
9. Direct Firing (by company; by

rank; by file)

10. Oblique Firing (Left Oblique; Right Oblique)

11. Fire and Load Kneeling

12. Fire and Load Lying

Break for Dinner/Questions

Afternoon session - School of the Company

13. Marching quick time, double-quick time, backward and right (and left) oblique

14. Marching by the right and left flanks; right about march

15. Countermarching

16. By company into line

17. On the right (and left) by file into line

18. Right (and left) wheels, backward wheels, and half wheels; Right (and left) into line, wheel

19. Right and left turns into line

20. By the right of companies to the front/rear into column

When everybody's head is full, then we'll call it a day. We'll do a short meeting for the 6th Arkansas to bring everybody up to speed on the stuff that's come up since the company meeting as well as any coordination for the March events. With a bit of focus, we should be able to turn loose around 4 or so. I will bring potable water, and some sodas to relax with after drill. It will have been a busy day...

For the new recruits who don't have a uniform yet, modern or street clothes will be okay for the February drill. I would rather have you in the ranks learning something rather than sitting on the sidelines or at home worrying about the color or the cut of your jacket. For this session, what is going into your head is the important thing.

We will be using Volume I of the 1862 edition of "Hardee's Tactics" included on your 6th Arkansas mini-CD-ROM, so it will be a good idea to read over this a time or two between now and the 28th.

Bring a pack of ten (10) rounds and caps for the firing drill. We'll have water and coffee available, and are working on providing a period noon meal for the troops. Uniforms if you've got 'em; we will have the Company loaner box on site so as to outfit the new fellers as best we can. If you need to borrow something for the event, please let me know and I'll do my best to get it laid on.

To get to Reed's Bridge if you are coming down U.S. 67/167, go past the Jacksonville exits to the new exit for I-440 (labeled as the "RIXEY" Exit. Turn back east on Highway 161 toward Jacksonville, and go two miles to the Bayou Meto

bridge. Reed's Bridge park will be immediately on your right.

Alternatively, take the last Jacksonville exit (REDMOND ROAD) off U.S. 67/167, and turn left under the overpass onto REDMOND ROAD. You'll pass a ball park on your right, but keep going. After about a mile, the street name will change to TRICKEY LANE and it will zig-zag a little bit. At the red light (intersection with HIGHWAY 161) turn right, and go approximately 3/4 mile to the Bayou Meto bridge. Reed's Bridge park will be on your left just past the bridge.

The Blue and the Gray on St. Patrick's Day

Members of the 6th Arkansas and the 37th Illinois Infantry will be celebrating the green, as well as wearing the blue or gray, as they take part in Little Rock's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The date is Saturday, March 13, starting at 1:00 p.m. and running until whenever we get to the other end.



We are registered as the "Central Arkansas Civil War Preservation Association."

We will need

to meet in the parking lot over behind the Arkansas Arts Center at MacArthur Park by 12:30 or so to line up. The route goes from the Arts Center onto Cumberland for one block; then left (west) on 9th Street for four blocks, right (north) on Main Street down to Markham (8 blocks), then right (east) again on Markham past the River Market (4 blocks). It will break up just past the Museum of Discovery on Markham.

There will be a short program of "Irish music and dance" immediately following the parade, and I am informed that the microbrewery down there (now called Bosco's) is still in operation for those with a penchant for a little more traditional Irish entertainment. And if I am misinformed, there are a number of other similar convivial establishments that may show pity for a footsore soldier.

This will be very similar to what we did for the parade down at Fordyce during the Marks Mill event last spring. Most members indicate that they'll be wearing the blue in honor of the Irish Brigade, but

St. Patrick's Parade (Continued from Page 2)

there will be room as well for those who want to march in honor of "old Pat."

For more information, contact Tom Ezell at (501) 912-1047 or 961-1937.

140th Anniversary of the Red River Campaign: The Battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill April 2,3 & 4, 2004

There are a few significant differences from the previous times that we have gone to Pleasant Hill. First, this year's event will be split between two sites approximately 18 miles apart: the Mansfield State Commemorative Area, and the traditional Pleasant Hill site on private property. Registration, the sutlers, and "heavy"/tented camping will be at Pleasant Hill. Campaign camping on Friday night, and Saturday's battle will be at Mansfield. The town of Pleasant Hill still expects to have a show on Saturday, so immediately after the fight at Mansfield Saturday afternoon, some of the troops will be loaded up on buses and sent down to Pleasant Hill to fight another skirmish there. Camping Saturday night and Sunday's fight will be at Pleasant Hill.

The registration fee has been boosted from \$2 to \$5 per person, and where up until last year the event allowed folks to register as walk-ons, this year everyone must be registered and have their \$5 fee paid no later than March 1st, one month in advance of the event.

Confederate registration is limited to the first 1200 folks who sign up; everyone after that point will have to register (and fight) as Yankees. This is probably just an idle threat, a note from Scott Solice this morning indicated that he expects three battalions of Confederates and one battalion of Federals, for about a 3:1 CS/US force ratio.

Start clearing your calendars; I need to get a list of who's coming by the last weekend of February, so as to get us registered and squared away before the March 1 cut-off date. Please RSVP with your intent to attend (or not attend) at Mansfield/Pleasant Hill on April 2-3-4...

Registration Information

Enclosed is the registration information

for the Battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill. The Mansfield State Commemorative Area and the 3rd Louisiana Infantry will host the battles.

This year you will have the opportunity to fight on two original battlefields at one event. Saturday's first battle will be at Mansfield then the troops will be moved to Pleasant Hill for an afternoon skirmish and the final battle on Sunday.

All garrison camps will be at Pleasant Hill as well as all the Sutlers. All reenactors will park at Pleasant Hill in a designated area away from the site. There will be a shuttle to and from reenactor parking and buses to move troops between Pleasant Hill and Mansfield.

Only cavalry and artillery trailers will be allowed to park at Mansfield. All cavalry and artillery and Sutlers will be allowed to park in the small lot next to sutler row at Pleasant Hill. No vehicles will be parked in camps or on the fields after Friday night.

Upon arriving on site all reenactors will come to Pleasant Hill and register at the dogtrot house. You may then set up camp at Pleasant Hill and park your car in the appropriate lot; or for those that will be campaigning the event, park first, then register before being bussed back up to Mansfield.

Amenities provided will include firewood, water, and porta-johns at both locations, and hay at Pleasant Hill. Each cannon will receive 10 lbs of powder each. There will be a period dance Saturday night at Pleasant Hill, as well as ladies' activities.

There is a registration fee of \$5.00 per participant over the age of 12. All units must be pre-registered and paid before March 1, 2004. The event will be limited to 2500 infantry and 16 full-scale cannon. The first 1200 or so infantry registered will be allowed as Confederate. There will be no walk-ons.

The normal rules for safety will be followed at all times. No one will be allowed on the field under the influence of alcohol. Illegal substances will not be tolerated at all and will be reported to the proper authorities. All weapons will be inspected before the battles on both days. At no time will paper or the ramrod be placed in the musket when loading.

Due to insurance concerns, children will not be allowed on the field except as musicians and couriers for battalion commanders.

We ask that all combatants be registered with a unit on the field. To participate you must be a member of a

unit or a unit commander vouches for you. That commander will be responsible for your proficiency in drill. All troops will be inspected before each battle. This inspection will include weapons, uniforms and equipment. Please, remove all wristwatches and modern eyewear.

All battalions that participate will stay together and under their own commanders. Unattached companies will be assigned to a battalion. The chain of command will be followed during the battles. The overall commander will issue orders to the battalion commanders and battalion commanders will give orders to their captains.

As is always the case, the Federals will be outnumbered. Please consider bringing both uniforms and galvanizing for one battle. Too many Confederates on this field can get a little congested.

For more information contact Scott Solice at 318-688-5717 (home) 318-686-8545 (work) or E-mail at thirdla61@aol.com. You may also contact Mansfield State Commemorative Area at 888-677-6267.

Event Schedule:

Friday

10:00 School Day

Saturday (At Mansfield)

8:30 Officer's call

8:30 All Vehicles must be removed from camps

10:00 Drill

10:00 Parade in Pleasant Hill

11:00 Ladies' Tea

11:30 Mandatory weapons inspection

1:00 Battle of Mansfield

3:30 Skirmish at Pleasant Hill: Wilson's Farm

7:00 Dance at Pleasant Hill

Sunday (at Pleasant Hill)

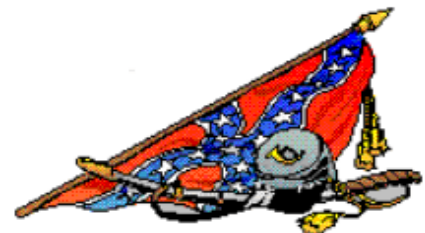
8:30 Officer's call

10:00 Church - NO DRILL

11:30 Drill

1:00 Inspection

2:00 Battle of Pleasant Hill



19th Annual MG Pat Cleburne Memorial Service Scheduled March 20 in Helena

Robert E. Lee called him "a meteor shooting from a clouded sky." And as long as Confederate veterans of the Army of Tennessee lived, and traveled up and down the Mississippi River past Helena, Arkansas, they would come up on the deck, remove their hats, and stand at attention as they passed the small white obelisk standing atop the end of Crowley's Ridge marking his grave. He was the greatest combat leader that Arkansas has ever produced, and in the tradition of the old veterans, the Arkansas Sons of Confederate Veterans and living historians of the state gather to honor him on the weekend nearest his birthday.

The Patrick R. Cleburne SCV Camp #1433 and the 1st Arkansas Infantry reenactors announced they will hold their 19th annual memorial service for Major General Patrick R. Cleburne at the Confederate section of Maple Hill Cemetery in Helena, Ark. on March 20, 2004. The ceremony will begin promptly at 12:30 p.m. and will last approximately 45 minutes. Period dress or Confederate uniform is encouraged.

Dr. Bill Gurley, of the University of Arkansas Medical Center and a local Civil War author, is scheduled to be the guest speaker.

Cleburne is perhaps the most noted and most accomplished of the soldiers who served the Confederacy from Arkansas. Enlisting as a private in a local militia company, the "Yell Rifles," in Helena late in 1860, Cleburne was elected to captain and commanded the company during the seizure of the U.S. Arsenal in Little Rock in February 1861. When Arkansas left the Union later that spring, Cleburne was elected to command the 1st Arkansas State Troops (taken into Confederate service as the 15th Arkansas Infantry) and then to command of a brigade at Shiloh and in the 1862 Kentucky campaign. His competence and courage brought him a division command at Murfreesboro, and Cleburne's division, with its distinctive blue-and-white battle flags struck fear into Yankee hearts until his death in the battle of Franklin, TN on November 30, 1864.

Originally buried near Columbia,

TN, Cleburne's remains were returned to his home town of Helena in 1870 and interred in the Confederate cemetery there.

Maple Hill Cemetery is located on the north edge of Helena, at the point where Crowley's Ridge touches the Mississippi River. From Little Rock, take either I-40 or Highway 70 east to Brinkley. At Brinkley, take Highway 49 east to Helena. At the traffic signal where Highway 49 splits south in West Helena, follow U.S. Business 49 (e.g., go straight ahead) into downtown Helena. [The reenactors typically assemble around 11:00 a.m. at the McDonalds restaurant on the left hand side as you reach the Helena, so this is a good place for a pit or coffee stop after your drive.] In downtown Helena, turn **left** from 49B onto **Columbia** Street. Go **3 blocks** and turn **right** onto **McDonough** Street. Go **2 blocks** and turn **left** onto **Holly** Street (the Helena Housing Authority sits on this corner). Go 3/4 mile north on Holly Street, and turn left into the front gate of Maple Hill Cemetery. Turn right onto the first avenue in the cemetery and follow this road and the signs to the Confederate cemetery, about 0.4 mile. Park at the foot of the hill, and walk up to the crest where the memorial service will be held.

Helena Battle Casualties to be Buried March 20.

In a separate ceremony following the Cleburne memorial service on March 20, the remains of five Confederate soldiers killed in the July 4, 1863 battle of Helena will be buried in the Confederate section of Helena's Maple Hill Cemetery.

According to an account in the Phillips County Progress last year, the soldiers' remains were discovered in the fall of 2002 when a hunter came across what appeared to be human skeletal remains in a heavily wooded tract inside the Helena city limits.

John House, the Arkansas Archaeological Survey's station archeologist at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, visited the grave site in December, 2002 in company with a survey party from the AAS and the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. They observed that the road where the remains were found, on a steep hillside near the site of Battery D, was eroding badly. In

this light, House and others, including the property owner, agreed that the grave should be excavated and the remains should be recovered and later reburied in a proper cemetery.

The salvage excavation at the grave site was carried out from May 6-8, 2003. Exposing the bones in the grave, the AAS team found portions of at least five adult skeletons. Some bones from disturbed soil may represent the remains of a sixth person. The remains appeared to have been hurriedly thrown or rolled into the grave, one on top of another. One of the skeletons was face-down, another was lying on its side, and in some cases the arms and legs were sprawled to the side. House speculates that the fallen soldiers were Confederates, who were buried by Federal troops after the Confederate army had retreated.

Based on the location where they were found on the Helena battlefield, the soldiers most likely served in either the 35th Arkansas or Hawthorne's Arkansas Infantry regiment, both of which suffered heavy casualties at Helena.

Following the salvage effort, the human remains were taken to the AAS Coordinating Office in Fayetteville for forensic study. The AAS then prepared the remains for reburial in a common grave at the Helena Confederate cemetery.

In the fall of 2003, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program staff began coordinating support for a reburial service for these five Arkansas Confederates, to be held in conjunction with the Cleburne memorial held each March.

Over the past week, the funeral service has pretty much been taken care of, save for getting boots on the ground in Helena and carrying out the event. While the plans will not be finalized until on or about February 21, the following is the concept at present:

Terry Bandy with the Jonesboro SCV Camp is assembling a coffin to hold the five sets of remains, and that project is reported to be on track. Danny Honnoll's SCV group from Jonesboro has agreed to provide a grieving widow's impression to symbolize those on the home front. She will participate in the procession to the grave, and at the graveside service to receive the flag removed from the coffin, as well as to place a rose at the grave.

Roller-Citizen Funeral Home in Helena is holding remains until the March 20 funeral, and will deliver them to the cemetery. They will also open the grave some time before Saturday morning.

Helena Reburial *(Continued from Page 4)*

We'll rope it off before the ceremony to keep anybody from falling in it before the funeral service.

Once the remains are delivered to the cemetery, members of local reenacting units will hold a 24-hour honor guard over them, until the beginning of the funeral service. As I understand, we will have the coffin underneath a pavilion (tent fly) at the foot of the hill below the cemetery. An honor guard will be mounted on a 24-hour basis once the coffin is brought out to the cemetery. Preferably we would have at least three reliefs of two sentinels plus a corporal of the guard, the reliefs being under the supervision of a sergeant and an officer of the guard. The coffin will be covered with a Confederate flag.

The Cleburne service will be carried out in whatever form the SCV Camps arrange for. Typically this starts at noon, and lasts for about an hour. We will hold the funeral service separately, and anticipate a start time of 1 p.m. to form the escort and begin the procession to the grave. We will not have a military formation standing by during the Cleburne service.

After the Cleburne service is over, we will assemble all the reenactors at the foot of the hill, size and form the escort, and check weapons to ensure that bores are clear, locks are functional and ignition paths are clear. Once this is done, we will move the escort (all armed troops present) to an area across the road from and in front of the tent where the coffin is under guard.

Pallbearers will most likely be detailed on Saturday morning at the cemetery, once we see what and who we have on hand. The intent is to pick six strapping young fellows, well decked out, since they will 1) have to tote the coffin up that hill; and 2) will be prominently on display to the public.

Uniforms for the sentinels will be the duty uniform (Confederate), with musket, bayonet, cartridge box, cap box, bayonet scabbard and waist belt, and canteen. Haversacks, knapsacks, and/or blanket rolls will not be worn. Uniforms should be clean and brushed, shoes and leathers should be blacked. Trousers will not be bloused into the socks. Caps/kepis are preferred, or a serviceable hat. Uniforms should be documented to an appropriate Confederate impression; no kilts, no tam o'shanter, no visible modern garments.

When all is ready, a detail of six pallbearers, escorted by an officer, will bring the coffin out to begin the

procession. Funeral honors will be rendered as prescribed by Article XXIX of the Confederate Army regulations, and this will be a military service, without the usual greetings and guest speakers from the various heritage organizations.

Keenan Williams of the Steele SCV camp in Hempstead County has been contacted to serve as minister for the funeral service. Keenan is an ordained Southern Methodist minister and for a long time was the Arkansas Division's chaplain, and still serves as chaplain for the SCV's Army of the Trans-Mississippi. He performed the service at the 1997 interment of the unknown soldier at White Sulphur Springs.

At the conclusion of the funeral service, the escort will fire three volleys (symbolizing, 1) peace to their ashes, 2) peace to their souls, and 3) glory to their name). The remains will then be committed to the earth. The troops will be marched off, and halted some distance away. At that point, the commander will form the detachment into a single file, which will offer each man a chance to pass individually by the grave to pay his respects. This will conclude the service, and once the crowd fades away, we'll have a fatigue detail standing by to complete filling in and landscaping the grave and setting the grave markers.

Maurice Amason of the Magnolia SCV camp has an "Unknown Soldier" VA marker for the grave, and Doyle Taylor and Edgar Colvin will provide a foot stone noting the significance of the grave. We will have a work detail standing by to set these markers and clean up around the grave site once the crowd disperses.

The Capitol Guards voted this as the max effort event for March, and while I cannot promise this will be "fun" (funerals aren't inherently fun, for some reason or other), it will be every bit as much an honor as the highly advertised Hunley funeral the following month, and a lot more respectful.

Following the event, we'll try and get together for a late lunch, and a tour of the sights of MG Pat Cleburne's home town. For more information, e-mail Tom Ezell, or call (501) 912-1047 or 961-1937.

Big Guns Make Big Fun...

General Don Waymack wants me to remind everyone that the United States Army Field Artillery Association will be hosting it's annual cannon live fire artil-

lery practice/competition at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, on Saturday, May 29th and Sunday, May 30th, 2004. There will be a live fire pistol and musket shoot competition as well. Fort Sill is located immediately north of Lawton, Oklahoma, just off the H.E. Bailey Turnpike.

I vividly remember my days at Fort Sill's School of Fire in my younger days, and somewhere in my box of gee-gaws is my St. Barbara's Medal attesting my prowess in bringing mass quantities of death and destruction upon the godless Russki hordes, and the little silver badge denoting me as a "steely-eyed missile man." I doubt they'll have any guns that like that in the competition, but if you do head out for the Apache Nation (located, curiously, in *Comanche* County of the Indian Territory), be sure to visit the Field Artillery Museum, the Old Fort (including the old guard house where they used to lock up Geronimo when he had sampled too much firewater), and Atomic Annie, the only cannon to have live-fired a live nuclear weapon. For a Gun-Owner's Information Packet contact: Don Waymack, 64 Parkview Dr., Cabot, AR 72023, or e-mail: drwaymack@classicnet.net or Phone: 501-843-0833 Note. If you are a cannon crew member, Information Packet will be mailed to one contact person.

TVB Quits Mississippi Valley Brigade

As of February 7, 2004, the Tennessee Valley Battalion ended its affiliation with the Mississippi Valley Brigade, and joined "The Heartland Brigade." The Heartland Brigade is a new organization, made up at this time of the TVB and the Hardee's Guard Battalion, formerly a member of Rambo's 1st Confederate Brigade. BG Paul Flowers of the TVB will command the new brigade, made up of units from Tennessee, Kentucky, and Indiana (TVB), Georgia and Alabama (HGB).

The Mississippi Valley Brigade now becomes a mostly Trans-Mississippi organization, retaining the Red River Battalion/9th Texas from TX, the Trans-Mississippi Volunteer Infantry (TMVI) Battalion with units from Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas, and the Elk River Battalion, from middle Tennessee and northern Alabama.

By the Seat of Your Pants

Some Thoughts on Covering your Rebel Rear

Recent discussions on the Battalion's and other message boards concerning the recently-published Mississippi Valley Brigade and 1st Confederate Division uniform standards have raised some concerns as to just what sort of pants are most appropriate for reenactors who wish to bear some passing resemblance to Confederate soldiers.

In a survey of the published uniform standards of the member units of the TMVI Battalion, as well as several of our neighbors, the current, prevailing standard is that we tell our members to purchase a pair of sky-blue kersey trowsers as their initial uniform purchase. The TMVI itself does not specify a particular uniform, but sets its authenticity level at the least common denominator of its member companies. But to return to our initial question, is it authentic for Confederate re-enactors to wear sky-blue pants?

From time to time, Confederate troops wore federal-issue trowsers made of sky-blue kersey. This was typically immediately after they had overrun and captured a Federal quartermaster supply point or depot, however, and was not a routine thing. For example, A.P. Hill's Light Division was wearing captured Federal clothing as they came up at the end of the day at Antietam — having seized and plundered the Federal stores at Harpers Ferry the previous day. Cleburne's Brigade captured a Federal supply dump at Richmond, KY in September, 1862, and most of his troops were wearing Federal sky-blue trowsers at the battle of Perryville a couple of weeks later. As Cleburne's brigade was moving forward on the attack, a Confederate artillery battery pulled up and unlimbered on the hillside behind them, and seeing only the blue trouser legs underneath the black powder smoke, the battery opened fire on them and did a considerable amount of damage until one of Cleburne's staff officers could get them to stop shooting. As Cleburne stated in his official report on Perryville:

"...I now advanced in line of battle, my skirmishers ten paces in front of the line and carrying the battle-flags of the regiments. As we ascended the hill we were fired into by our own artillery in the rear. Several of our men were killed and wounded, and we had to fall back. I sent an aide to stop this battery. I can only account for this blunder from the fact that most of our men had on blue Federal pants."



Richmond Depot pattern trowsers of gray jean, worn by Lt Sanford Branch, 8th Georgia Infantry.

(O.R., LII, Pt. 1, pp. 51-52)

Both these incidents happened in the fall of 1862, shortly before the central Confederate clothing depots came fully on-line and while the soldiers' clothing was required to be provided by their home states. After that point (October 1862) the Confederate armies were kept



General schematic of the Richmond Depot pattern, which shares many characteristics of contemporary civilian trowsers.

fairly well supplied in jackets and trowsers from the central depots, and the need to appropriate Federal clothing grew lesser.

In response to some of the other comments made, here are some of the typical reasonings for sky-blue pants:

"I saw this in 'Johnny Reb...'" I've got the same book, plus a few others, and in looking at every photograph therein that showed trowsers, only two pictures were captioned that the subject "might" have been wearing Federal trowsers, and of the others, I was unable to clearly identify anyone wearing Federal sky-blues. There were a large number of what we now call "Richmond Depot," "Other Issue", and civilian pattern trowsers. and yes, there's a good bit of difference in these patterns from the Federal pattern.

"Confederate Uniform Regulations called for sky-blue kersey trowsers." Yes, they did (Regulations for the Army of the Confederate States, Section XLVII, para. 1484). But the uniform regulations were typically ignored by the state and central government clothing depots, and even the issue manufacturing order for uniforms made to the regulation standards was cancelled (because of cost overruns) before it could begin to be filled. So if any uniforms were made from the pretty templates that you see accompanying the clothing regs, they were made to order by private tailors; not the clothing depots.

Confederate depots did make blue trowsers, but these were typically made of wool jeans or cotton jeans, or as the cloth became available, dyed or undyed kersey as well as the "English cloth" brought through the blockade in the latter half of the War. Confederate trowsers were typically made on a modified civilian pattern, and were neither the same pattern nor the same color as federal-issue trowsers. Colors for the blue trowsers issued to the Army of Northern Virginia in 1863 (Longstreet's Corps were wearing these at Chickamauga) were more akin to modern blue jeans than the Federal sky-blue. The Confederate volume of *Echoes of Glory* shows three pairs of blue Confederate-issue trowsers, and none of these resemble Federal sky-blue trowsers.

"But I took these off'n a dead Yankee," you might say. Stop and think about what happens to a body after sudden and violent death. Assuming that the fatal wound is in the upper half of the body so that the pants

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By the Seat of Your Pants (Continued from Page 4)

remain free of bloodstains, bullet, or shell fragment holes, think about what else may be in those pants. One of the first things to let loose after death are the sphincters, and the otherwise clean trowsers are now fairly well stained with urine and liquidy excrement. Given the extremely limited laundry facilities available to the typical soldier in field conditions, do you think you could get those pants clean? Would you want to wear them if you couldn't? (And for the squeamish, would you want to wear them if you could get them at least partly clean?) So much for the "took 'em from a dead Yankee" theory unless you're really into being downright funky... Documented Confederate use of Federal trowsers are directly connected to the capture and looting of Federal supply depots. Trowsers typically wore out in two to three months of field use, so these usages would be short term. The Confederates in the western theatre very seldom controlled the field after the battle, so "battlefield pickups" would have been rare.

So why do you see so many sky-blue trowsers out in the Confederate reenacting ranks? It's simple... bad advice, a lack of research, and parsimony. Most Confederate reenacting units require the troops to buy sky blue pants so that you can quickly and easily galvanize at the whim of the Event Fuehrers by simply changing your jackets or taking the jacket off and going in your shirt sleeves. Sky-blues are called upon to do double duty until the fresh fish can "improve" his Confederate impression. That's why. And even sadder is the fact that these folks are poorly served in that the run-of-the-mill sky blue trowsers offered by most mass-market sutlers are themselves very poor representations of what Federal sky-blue kersey trowsers are supposed to look like. It's very rare that you'll find a decent pair of pants, of any color, on Sutler's Row at any reenactment.

So what do proper Confederate pants look like? Since Confederate trowsers as a whole were patterned after contemporary civilian trowsers, let's take a look at what pants were like in the 1860s:

Civilian Trowsers

Aside from variations based upon personal preferences, trowsers underwent little change from the 1840's to the 1860's. The usage of drop-front trowsers was exceptionally out of style by the mid-1850's with fly front being the preferred means of closure. One other interesting development which takes place in trowser design of this era is the addition

of the strap and buckle arrangement with a vent in the rear. It has been noted that this design feature appears in England in 1857 where they were referred to as "American Style" trowsers. It is uncertain how much earlier its usage had been seen on trowsers in America, but evidence from artwork indicates it was at least as early as 1851. Features that typify trowsers in the era are:

- Materials used to make trowsers were varied. Wool broadcloth with solids, stripes, checks, and plaids were exceptionally common. Wool jean was another type of cloth not unusual among the laboring class. Cotton drills and denims were worn as were linens, cashmere, and corduroy.

- One dramatic difference between trowsers of the period was the where the waistband fell on the wearer. Contrary to modern practice, the waistband of period trowsers falls at the natural waistline (somewhere in the vicinity of the navel). There is a marked "rise" to the back of the trowsers and they ride considerably higher on the back. 19th Century trowsers were very full in the seat, not only for comfort but to afford slack to allow the wearer to bend over or sit down without straining the suspenders, or pulling the waist down when tightly girded.

- Pockets are generally of the "mule ear" or "side seam" variety. On many original trowsers a watch pocket is present on the right front waistband. Trowsers of this era did not incorporate back pockets, and Levi Strauss did not develop copper



"Other issue" trowsers, principally characterized by the side-seam pockets.

riveting of pockets on denim trowsers until much later in the century.

- Trowsers could be unlined, partially lined, or fully lined. Partially lined trowsers typically have the lower leg and cuff area lined, often with cotton or linen drill. Original pairs have been observed that incorporate leather sewn into the cuff to protect from wear on the

heels.

- Cuff treatments could be varied as well. Straight cut, cut with a curvature, and those which flared over the shoe with straps extending under the soles are observed. These straps generally button or have a buckle arrangement. Unlike military trowsers, it does not seem to have been common to have a vented cuff on the outside seam on civilian trowsers.

- Leg shaping could be of a straight or slightly tapered style, as well as those which were somewhat shaped to the leg.

- Based on evidence from tailoring manuals, most trowsers did not incorporate a separate panel or "yoke" in the seat area as is seen on some Federal military variants.

- One interesting decorative technique that begins appearing on trowsers in the mid-1850's are stripes or braiding extending down the side seams. The result resembles striping used on military trowsers of the era, however to date there is no indication that either usage influenced the other. This striping or braiding appears to have ranged in width anywhere from 1-3".

- Usually trowsers of this era have button arrangements for braces either mounted to the outside or inside of the waist band. Common practice while wearing an overshirt seems to have been to wear a belt in lieu of braces.

- Buttons on trowsers at this time are generally of painted metal with a stippled edge. In addition, it is likely that hard rubber and gutta percha was also used.

Confederate Military Trowsers

While the Confederate War Department established uniform regulations at the beginning of the War, the contracts to procure these garments were quickly cancelled because of cost overruns, and the task of clothing the army was initially given to the states mustering their volunteers. Southern quartermasters and tailors simply adopted the common civilian pattern of trowsers, making them with uniform cloth, or with the material they had available.

The Confederate Army regulations provided for a soldier to receive seven pair of pants during a three year enlistment. He was authorized to draw three pairs in the first year, then two pairs in each of the following years, at a cost allowance of \$9.00 per pair of pants. With the rigors of campaigning, however, trowsers tended to wear out within 45 to 90 days. While issues above the clothing allowance were supposed to be deducted from their pay, this rule appears to have been ignored, as

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the resources of the Confederate clothing department (at least from 1863 onward) was able to meet its goal of providing the basic uniform items at least twice per year to every soldier, as well as replacing worn-out items.

In general terms, period pants are similar to modern pants only in that they have two legs, a waist band, side pockets, and a fly front. Unlike modern pants, they had a large button which closed the trowsers at the waist, a long narrow fly closed with 4 smaller buttons, 4 (sometime 6) buttons on the outside of the waist band for attaching suspenders, and a split in the back where a cloth belt was used to adjust the pants to fit snugly. Like civilian trowsers, military trowsers were worn as high as the navel in front, and even higher in the back. No "plumber's gap" here!

The most common style of Confederate military trowsers is what has been termed by modern historians the "Richmond Depot" pattern. This was based on contemporary civilian trowsers, made principally from wool or cotton jeans, or from kersey.

Kersey is a coarse woolen material that had been used in the manufacture of military clothing since the 1700s. It is a heavy fabric with a crisp hand whose 2/2 twill produces a distinct diagonal pattern. The stiffness original kersey is due to several factors: the high kemp content (coarse, stout hairs), the dense thread count of its tightly twisted yarn, and the stiffening effect of dyeing with natural dyes. The gray (and sky-blue) wool pants seen on sutler's row today are typically made of a more modern, blended woolen/synthetic fabric called merton, and bear little resemblance to kersey.

Restricted home production and limited access to imported wool drove most Southern textile manufacturers to use the abundant supplies of cotton as much as possible. This, combined with the lesser costs, led to jean-wool or all cotton jeans as the primary material for Confederate uniforms. Wool jean is a 50/50 wool to cotton weave, and even less expensive was a 100% cotton jeans fabric.

In addition to kersey and jeans, the other materials used in the manufacture of trowsers are lining materials, buttons, and thread.

Waist bands were typically lined with unbleached cotton drill, while pockets were made from either drill, unbleached muslin, or osnaburg. Fly linings were either drill or muslin. The "mule ear" pockets were faced with pieces of jean or kersey both to protect the pocket from wear as the hand



An original pair of Confederate enlisted trowsers in the collection of Gettysburg NBP. These pants are uncommon in that they have no waistband. Note the narrow fly, and the distinct rise in the back of the trowsers.



This image shows the construction of the fly, as well as the back lining. The buttons are bone.



The front of the pants with the fly buttoned, showing a watch pocket set in the right front. Note that there are only four suspender buttons - two in the front and two in the back, consistent with the most common type of suspenders used in the 1860s. Images on this page courtesy of C.J. Daley Historical Reproductions, Inc.)

goes in and out, and to prevent the white cotton pocket material from being seen if the pocket slit is open.

Richmond Depot trowsers used stamped tin buttons, jappaned black, or bone buttons. These buttons typically had 4 holes punched in the center for attachment. Incidentally, these types of buttons are sewn diagonally from hole to hole forming an "X" pattern as opposed to the modern technique which produces two parallel lines of stitching.

The waist band on Confederate trowsers tend to be an average of 1 1/2 to 2 inches, much wider than that of Federal trowsers. The corners are square, but given the individual productions of these garments, rounded corners are not uncommon. The cotton drill lining of the waist band is almost always wider than the waist band itself. This lining is folded in and hand sewn to the waist band with tiny slip stitches all the way around, even on trowsers where the rest of the pants are machine-sewn.

The rear of the waist band is not sewn together as it is in modern pants, but is finished as an open vent that continues into the rear seam. Rear vents average 2 to 3 inches in depth. A cloth back belt and buckle is hand sewn over the vent to allow the wearer to cinch and adjust the pants to his waist and alleviate the need for a waist belt or suspenders. The bottom of the vent is reinforced with a short buttonhole stitch to help prevent splitting down the seam.

The fly fronts on original trowsers tend to be longer and much narrower than on modern pants. They averaged about 1 1/2" in width, and up to 11" long on the larger-sized trowsers. The button hole piece of the fly had four or five small, hand-worked buttonholes done with the common buttonhole stitch. The fly faces are made of kersey or jean on the outward-facing sides, and muslin or cotton lining in the inward-facing sides. As with the waist band lining, the fly lining is inset about 1/16" from the edge so that it is hidden worn the pants are worn. (The entire idea is not to draw attention to the fly and the wearer's crotch.)

What we commonly refer to as the "Richmond Depot" pattern was widely used by other Confederate clothing depots, and is simply the common style of civilian trowsers, adapted to military use. The most common authentic reproduction patterns usually refer to the mule-ear pocket style pants as the "RD" pattern, and to pants with side-seam pockets as "Other Issue" pants.

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By the Seat of Your Pants (Continued from Page 6)

This view of the rear shows the typically baggy seat (note the darts on each side, inserted to compensate for the lack of a waistband), the vent and suspender buttons, and the back belt, used to tighten and adjust the trousers to the wearer's waist.

established a clothing manufactory at the Arkansas State Penitentiary in Little Rock where it made frock coats for the State Troops. The uniform produced by the Little Rock Depot included the so-called Arkansas frock coat, with matching trousers and kepi. No surviving examples of the Little Rock trousers have yet been identified, but it may be assumed that these trousers followed a typical civilian pants pattern, and were made of the same gray jean-wool on brown cotton warp that the frock coats were made from. Some of these trousers may be seen in the images of soldiers wearing the frock coats, but only the trouser legs are visible.

For Confederates in the Department of Trans-Mississippi, Chief Quartermaster Edward C. Wharton left a good description of the trousers that his shops made at the Houston (TX) clothing depot. Each pair was made with 1 1/4 yards of double width, coarse cadet gray cloth. Cavalry trousers used an additional half yard of material to reinforce the seat and inseams. Coarse light or sky-blue cloth was occasionally used as well, starting in November of 1863. For material made in less than double width (60") such as the cloth made by the Huntsville, TX penitentiary, a proportional increase in material was needed. Wharton substituted the Huntsville cloth for use in trousers whenever he could, as he preferred saving the cadet gray cloth for use in jackets.

The Houston Depot trousers were made with either 4- or 5-button flies, and were sewn with flax thread. Two types of buttons were used for flies and suspenders: an imported black bone button, and pewter buttons made in the depot's tin shop. The tinsmith used a 42% tin, 58% lead mix in this pewter. These pewter trouser buttons can still be found today at many old Confederate camp

sites in eastern Texas, southwest Arkansas, and northwest Louisiana.

One half yard of unbleached domestic cotton was used to make the pockets and line the waistband. Many of the Houston trousers were additionally decorated with a half-inch wide stripe of cotton webbing or braid in the branch of service color. Wharton did not always add stripes to his trousers, so many were plain. The trousers were finished with a buckle and cloth belt in the back to adjust the girth of the waistband.

Reproduction Trousers

As I have alluded in the beginning of the article, re-enactors are very poorly served by the typical offerings of trousers along Sutler's Row and many of the mail order sources. Nearly all of the "sutler row" quality trousers are basically modern-styled and modern-worn pants with a button fly. Among their many faults, here are the significant problems with these items:

- They are too tight in the legs.
- They are too tight in the butt.
- They are too low on the hips.
- The fly is too short, and the topstitching is too wide.
- Waistbands are often as much as three inches wide, and straight. The cut of the waistband should be higher in the back instead of being even all the way around.
- The same patterns are used for US and CS trousers, when the US trousers should be using an outdated style while the CS normally used a "current" civilian style.
- The distinctive issue cuff treatment is absent, usually just being hemmed.
- The colors and materials are wrong.
- The buttons are wrong.
- They are missing the arsenal size stamps, and where applicable, the inspectors' stamps.
- They come in more than the four standard sizes.
- And so on...

If you are looking for unquestionably authentic pants, there are a number of reputable vendors of pants with authentic cloth, cut, and construction. Several of these are listed on the Capitol Guards vendor list, such as Cotton City Tailors (Becky Nall), C.J. Daley, and County Cloth. The price will be dear, (average \$120 to \$140 per pair depending on pattern and hand sewing options), but the work is impeccable. There is a great deal of hand sewing in making a good pair of trousers, and the authentic price lists reflect that.

All in all, the least expensive way to authentic pants is to get a pattern and bulk cloth, and make them! It takes 2 yards of 50-60" wide material to make a pair of trousers (3 yards if your cloth is only 45" wide). I heartily recommend the County Cloth Richmond Depot pattern. Using the above, I was able to make a very decent pair of pants in two evenings for a total cost in materials and pattern of less than \$50. Once I figured out the "Secret of the Fly", construction was very simple and straightforward. Other good patterns for Confederate pants include the Homespun Patterns Confederate Trousers and Civilian Trousers. A good option for both economy of material and comfort of wear is the 100% cotton jeans cloth offered by Family Heirloom Weavers, and mentioned in the above description of the Houston Depot pants.

Hopefully this article will not only dispel some of more popular myths about blue-pantsed Rebs, but also help you to cover your Rebel rear end in a less expensive and more authentic manner.

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The Captain's Tent

by Tom Ezell

The January 17 living history program down near Arkansas Post was a bit of a bummer after last year's success... It rained all the way down there, and on arrival around 9:00 a.m. I made a total of three reenactors in attendance. "Fingers" was the only fellow from the Wretches to come down, along with Chuck Lee of the 1st Arkansas.

The 1st Arkansas showed up in fair strength about half an hour later, bringing a half scale Parrott rifle and a Confederate flag display along with them. Reinforcements came along in the form of "Ol' No. 7", a mustachioed feller from one of Huckabee's companies and his black bulldog. We did a couple of firing demonstrations in the rain, and while Miz Ellie was telling tall tales, Doyle Taylor, Mark Kalkbrenner, Edgar Colvin, and I along with several others from the Pine Bluff SCV got together on the porch of the dogtrot house and came up with a plan for the Cleburne memorial and the Confederate funeral that will directly follow it. It should be a lot like last month's program out at Mt. Holly, and "reenactor-friendly."

I skulked out of the afternoon drill demo, and went over to the NPS park to meet with Dave Sesser's buddy on the September living history out there. It looks like a good deal, and something we can do with small numbers and a little help from our friends. It's not a max effort event because of the close proximity to Pilot Knob and Franklin, but it stands a good chance to get us some good publicity and visibility for the future.

With the continual cold drizzle, I started catching a chill, so I headed home about dark. Was mildly sick enough not to head back down there for another dose this morning... the last time I did that, out at Cane Hill, I did get sick and took a little over a week or so to get rid of it. Overall, it turned out to be a pretty good trip, though... though probably not real high on the new year's "fun" list.

When I got back, I committed the notes from the Helena meeting to paper, or what passes for paper in these times when e-mail is king, and sent it out to the folk who were there, as well as the contacts

for the Cleburne service. Within less than 24 hours, the SCV camp commander from Pine Bluff fired back, complaining that we were belittling the Cleburne service and not giving proper deference to the SCV because we did not plan to hold a reenactor formation during both the memorial service for Cleburne and the funeral for the five soldiers, as well as the fact that we didn't write any preliminary "greetings" or speakers into the funeral service. This took all of us from the Post by surprise, as we sure hadn't intended it that way. If you like cat fights, I've got the exchange filed away somewhere.

At anyrate, there will be two separate events in Helena on March 20. First, the traditional memorial service, then shortly afterward, a military funeral for the five Arkansas Confederates.

The burial of these five Confederates after the Cleburne memorial in Helena is a funeral, pure and simple, for a few American veterans who were otherwise forgotten. It's not an appropriate forum to damn Abraham Lincoln or Billy Sherman, to re-fight the war or preach starting a new one. It's not about Wesley Clark's opinion on a flag in South Carolina. It's about paying respect to the five soldiers in that wooden box, and the dozens more of their comrades who still lie unnoticed under the kudzu blanketing the ridge or under Cousin Shaneqa's flower bed in that new housing development on the slopes of Graveyard and Hindman hills. That's why reenactors come to these sorts of events, whether it's ten blocks or a hundred miles away.

"Historical revisionism is not an evil thing, it's a good thing." At least that's what the Sons of Confederate Veterans have gone on the record as saying, at least on behalf of its members in Hot Springs... and no one from the State organization or other camps have stepped up to refute that witticism. This is probably one of the clearest indicators of how low this organization has sunk in its public perspective. Back when I became a member of the SCV several years ago, they used to adhere to the idea that a great part of their function was to "...see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations." So much for that tradition, I guess.

While we were down in the rain at Arkansas Post, the yahoos over in Hot Springs held a seminar, seeking to present what they represented as the "truth" about Abraham Lincoln. One of the many "interesting" statements recorded by the

attending press was the idea about the revision of history, all plainly written in a three-page spread in the February 6 issue of the *Arkansas Times*. Framing the article and gracing the cover of the *Times* were a color photograph of the Confederate battle line from the Old Washington event last fall, labeled *SOME SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS HAVEN'T SURRENDERED YET*, and a foggy picture of David Sesser and Ken Nations at the Dodd trial reenactment.

Plainly, the SCV is increasingly pursuing a different agenda than most reenacting groups. While we go to some significant ends and a great deal of research aimed at "getting it right," the SCV will apparently say just about any ol' derved thing to suit their aims. I'd be careful about standing too close to some of these fellows, lest they be struck down by a lightning bolt for some of the stuff they're saying.

One thought that that struck me while I was pondering these circumstances was that some of us may be struggling with the intellectual honesty of re-enacting, role-playing and historical interpretation. Sparking this was the recent issue of *The Watchdog*, containing some information presented at a U.S. National Park Service (NPS) interpretive training course in 2002. It makes a lot of sense, and gives a whole new perspective on our trying to represent the boys and the citizens of 1861-'65... While we all should be familiar with Freeman Tilden's principles of historic interpretation (see the April 2003 *Sentine*), maybe it might be time for us to stop thinking of ourselves as the reincarnation of 1863, and admit that we are just actors, some of us really good and really well costumed and equipped, but actors just the same.

Anyway, read Marcella Sherfy's little paper, *Honesty in Interpreting the Cultural Past*, over on the next page, and see if it doesn't gouge you in the ribs, too...

Paper Trails

Some folks have also asked about going back to at least a few paper copies of the newsletter. Starting in March, we'll have at least a few of our subscribers over in a place where e-mail and web access ain't easy to come by, and I will be printing a few paper copies to mail to our lonely GIs. If you're wanting a paper copy of the newsletters as well, e-mail me, and let me know where you want it sent.

I'll keep at least two years' worth of newsletters up on the Company web site at <http://www.geocities.com/capitalguards/newsletters.html>, so if you

Honesty in Interpreting the Cultural Past.

In its increasing dependence upon living history and demonstration, historical interpretation has come to violate the boundaries of interpretation's special function and the canons of historical study and presentation. It has become a form of communication used more to attract attention and applause than to transfer park values into understandable terms. Its use as a vehicle for communicating contemporary social and political beliefs abuses historical people and the sense of the past. Its sweeping claims to broad portrayal of the past blur visitor perception and appreciation of historic resources. Historical interpretation, in short, needs to be honest in its treatment of the past and in its statement of purpose.

An Ethic beyond Accuracy.

No historical interpreter admits any virtue in factual error. But this is only the beginning of historical interpretive ethics. We must be historically honest as well as accurate.

Historical honesty involves a particular patience, tolerance and perspective. It requires a desire to understand and present the events of the past on the past's own terms.

It is a delicate task of both trying to put ourselves into the perceptions of another generation, and still recognizing that we cannot fully do so. It suggests that we treat historic people as we would wish to be treated by future interpreters: To be historically honest, we:

- have no right to assume that the people of the past felt as we do about similar experiences or ideas.
- cannot imbue previous generations with our own political principals or values.
- cannot misleadingly "select" the facts that we present to make a particular point.
- must not think or tell others that we are portraying the past when in fact we are simply demonstrating some few physical activities or objects of a previous generation.

Few experiences are more frustrating than to stand silent, unable to offer any explanations or qualifications when someone pokes fun at us, takes our words out of context, bends our opinions to serve their arguments or characterizes us with unimportant details of our life. The people of the past are in that position.

Since we will be where they are someday, we have every reason to be as thoughtful and honest about our predecessors as we want posterity to be to us.

That kind of honesty requires a different sort of research than that needed to determine the exact color of a military uniform, but it is far more important. What we are doing, after all, is interpreting. That means that we must listen to the people of the past in all records and sources we can find, and then repeat (not twist or cull or exaggerate) their words and thoughts.

Past Time.

Interpretive programs are now characterized by the words "recreate" and "reenact." Living history talks and interpretive brochures frequently begin with the words "step into the past with us." When asked what it is that we want to accomplish in a historical area, we often respond with "to make history live."

Perhaps we use those phrases only because we were taught in school to employ clever and dynamic introductions, or perhaps we have used them so long in interpretation that we believe that they express what we do. Regardless, those phrases are misleading, and in a real sense, dishonest.

Rather what we do at any historical park is preserve and interpret remnants – pieces – of the past that have survived to the present. Those remnants including buildings, fences, furniture and, as presented, usually in written form, the bare outlines of human thought and activity. The rest of our parks or the rest of our words and actions surround those



SI'S FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE VETERANS.

remnants. We design that surrounding environment or activity to resemble what we think the historic setting was, but in no sense have we brought back, or "recreated" the past. Except by miracle, we will not do so. Yes, we can reproduce some physical elements of the past, but even the simplest items, such as clothing, we cannot, even after much debate and research, be certain that we are wholly accurate. The physical world itself changes subtly though irrevocably: weather patterns shift; chemical fertilizers and insecticides take a toll; and breeding changes the animal population.

It is extremely important to recognize that no formula exists from which to recreate the thoughts, values and emotions of people who lived in the past. Even having studied the literature of a previous generation, worn its clothes and slept on its beds we cannot free ourselves of our own perspectives and values. Inevitably, we use our perspectives to evaluate and interpret previous generations. We cannot, however we wish it, be another person, or know their time as they knew it or value what they valued for their reasons.

Our claims to presenting a total recreation of the past are misleading and destructive. Our certainty that we can "know" earlier generations denies essential human complexity. More important, that claim distorts our visitor's understanding of history and its value to us in the present. Too often we promise visitors a total "past." Then we really give them bits and pieces of it instead; allowing them to assume that they have learned all there really is to know about an event, a lifestyle or a person. The deception leads to romanticizing, false stereotyping and easier manipulation of the past for use in propaganda. Visitors will, I think, understand more of the past, consider it more wisely and want to know more when we tell them the limits of our knowledge and portrayal.

Past time, in short, has gone by forever. That is the first principle we should convey to visitors at historical parks. The magic of history and its ability to provoke thought and learning depend on our recognition of how intricate and unfamiliar earlier human life may be. Hence we must make the remnants of the past in our historical parks prompt visitors curiosity about the past, rather than be reassuring, but false presenters of "the way it was."

— Marcella Sherfy

Rain & Wet...

To the boy who has never before been soaking wet before:

You may find yourself in a pouring rain fairly soon. When that day comes, use that gum blanket and painted ground cloth for that which they were intended. They will keep your torso dry, even when the head and feet are sopping wet. If you were issued a leaky painted cloth, then lament the fact, but realize you are better off than the man who has none. If you have complained in the parched heat of the day as to the weight of the rubber blanket, then praise it during times of dampness. A spare lace, some hemp twine, or extra knapsack hooks can make the beslighted gum blanket a far superior raiment than the coveted cavalry poncho.

Wool, a rarity to our modern eyes, has yet to be improved upon by man as a wet-weather textile. When soaked, it retains 80% of body heat; it wicks water from the inside to the outside, and dries quickly by the fire, or when the sun makes a return. Many a soldier has realized by the time the coat is turned inside out, and the lining dried by the heat of a pitch-laden campfire, the rest of the jacket is all but dry.

The luxury of extra socks cannot be overestimated. Acquire a pair, and be mindful of them. Cotton socks are useful as boot liners on a warm and sunny day, but sturdy wool socks are the soldier's friend. He fords a knee-deep creek, and much to his surprise his wool sock clad feet are nearly dry upon marching less than a mile. At the end of the day, those wet socks can be dried in minutes over a fire, or tucked into a fold of the blanket to wick away the moisture.

Bacon grease can revive tired shoes, and make supple rain soaked leathers. It provides a surprisingly effective protectant for the bayonet and musket

when applied before the rain or heavy dew. A grease soaked newspaper page can be your best friend, and assists with starting a fire like no other.

Your hat will become wet. Dry it out. A cap or forage cap is next to worthless in the rain. There is no joy greater than the protection yielded from an old soft hat. Leave those oilcloth cap covers for the dandy and often useless boys who hang about the head quarters. Each foppish trinket dragged along the route of march is a stick with which to beat you.

Your drawers may become soaked and uncomfortable. Linen can try quickly, but can also feel as if wearing a sheet of ice. Osnaburg, when wet, can become a wet abrasive suitable for earning the nickname "nubbin" upon your return to civilized society. The domet is only more so, but the canton dries rapidly when exposed to the modest heat of the cook fire.

The wet condition is certainly depressing, but it does not last. March along long enough, and you'll dry out.



AoT Image (Continued from Page 1)

cuffs up.

What really stands out in this photograph is that of the 25 pictured Rebels, only one is wearing a kepi. One soldier, partly hidden between the 3rd and 4th soldier on the right, appears to be wearing a Hardee hat. The rest wear bowler or beehive hats, and flat crown bowlers. It makes one think that the issue of kepis in the Army of Tennessee was somewhat less common, or simply that the soldiers preferred brimmed hats. None of the hats are the droopy, floppy style we know as the "hillbilly hat."

Most of the Rebs are clean shaven, only one sports a full beard. Six look as if they have moustaches. Their hair appears to be trimmed, and is for the most part, short, as the regulations prescribed. A few men wear goatees, and several are smoking or at least holding a pipe (note the fellow just left of center).

Several appear to still have their haversacks and canteens, some of which appear to be tarred varieties (haversacks that is).

What we don't see, what we will never know is who they are, where they are from and what horrors they had witnessed. They had a name, a favorite food, a mother who loved them and had a sweet little name for them when they were young. These boys look fed, rested and a little content... Maybe not quite realizing what the coming winter in the prison camps along the Great Lakes shores have in store for them.

The First Re-Enactor?

"There is at the police station at Woodside, New Jersey ... an aged nomad who gives his nam as Martin Schwein, and who is a veteran of the war for the Union. He was brought in near midnight from a tent he had pitched at the edge of the village, and he tells a strange story. Enamored with army camp life and a vagabond existence, he has, since his discharge from the army in 1865, wandered about the country, pitching his

tent literally wherever night overtook him. For seventeen years he has thus tramped over the country from the lakes to the gulf, and from the seaboard to the Mississippi. He retains the weapons he carried when in the army, is provided with a camp kettle, blankets, &c, and seems to be in good health , although somewhat emaciated from lack of a proper commissariat. For a time his presence created some excitement in the vi-

cinity of his camping place. He was held under a charge of vagrancy, and now in a rambling way is expressing his grief over the ingratitude of republics."

(Published in *The National Tribune*, Washington, DC, April 1, 1882. Reprinted as the afterword in *The Civil War Infantryman* by Gregory A. Coco, Thomas Publications, Gettysburg, PA (1996))

Transitions



Specialist Jeffrey Stewart, of Headquarters Battery, 5-206th Field Artillery, 39th Infantry Brigade, just completed the Brigade's idea of a "maximum effort event," a training rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana as the final exam before the Arkansas Brigade deploys to the Iraqi combat zone for a year's duty. Jeffrey sent us this photo at the first of the month when the Brigade was issued their new Desert Camouflage Uniforms, or DCUs. The Brigade will begin deploying to its staging area in Kuwait on March 1. Brian Harmon of the Wretched Mess is deploying as the motor sergeant of 3-153rd Infantry. Let's all remember Jeffrey and Wretch, and lift them up in our prayers over the coming year!



Coming Events

February 28-29, 2004 – Company Camp of Instruction, Reed's Bridge Battlefield Park, Jacksonville, AR.

March 13, 2004 – Little Rock St. Patrick's Day Parade, MacArthur Park to the RiverMarket. Meet at Arkansas Arts Center at 12:30 p.m.

March 20, 2004 – MG Patrick Cleburne Memorial Service, 12 p.m., Maple Hill Cemetery, Helena, Arkansas. 6th Arkansas Max effort event (LH/memorial)

April 2-4, 2004 – 140th Anniversary Reenactment, The Red River Campaign (Mansfield/Pleasant Hill, LA) 6th Arkansas & TMVI Battalion; **37th Illinois** maximum effort event. (Battle reenactment)

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.*

37th Illinois Meeting Notes (Continued from Page 1)

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.

The Captain's Tent (Continued from Page 10)

have access to a public computer or have lost one of your old copies, everything back through January 2003 is posted (and indexed) there.

The deadline to sign up for Pleasant Hill is fast approaching (within the next two weeks); the Company drill at Reed's Bridge will be about the deadline for us to get our stuff mailed in. Somehow I get the feeling that the pre-registration business is an idle threat (haven't heard anything from Battalion yet on the matter or the event) but I'd rather be ahead of the curve than buried under it somewhere...

The Orderly Sergeant reminds me that dues are due... each of us needs to send \$15 to Steve Shore by the end of the month to re-establish a Company Fund, which we hope to use to help acquire some spare gear for our new recruits, as well as to possibly help pre-pay registrations for some of the events like Pleasant Hill, so we don't have to come back and hit you up each and every time as event organizers are getting more and more insistent on collecting registrations way, way up front, "pay or don't play."

Dailey was appointed as the new quartermaster, and a system where gear is logged out in a property book or a voucher/receipt was set in place.

Mike Loum volunteered to take over as treasurer; he and Harvey will coordinate during the coming month to change over the Company bank account. With the formal establishment of the Association, \$250 was budgeted to establish a separate account and funding for the CACWPA. \$300 was budgeted to buy additional loaner gear: a sack coat and trousers, as well as a set of leather accoutrements. Mike was charged with shopping around and getting a good deal for these items.

Sheldon Gately solicited assistance in clearing a quarter acre of brush at his home, and offered to pay \$450 to the Association in return for members' assistance on February 21.

Discussion then turned to the Event Calendar for 2004, with the following selected as Company events:

- March 13: St. Patrick's Day Parade, Little Rock
- April 2-3-4: 140th Mansfield/Pleasant Hill. Pleasant Hill, LA
- May 21: School Demo, Cabot Middle School South
- July 10-11: Battle of Massard Prairie Reenactment, Fort Smith, AR
- September 25-26: 140th Battle of Pilot Knob Reenactment, Pilot Knob, MO
- October 1-3: 140th Battle of Franklin; Spring Hill, TN.

- November 6-7: Civil War Days, Old Washington, Washington, AR
- December 3-4-5: Battle of Prairie Grove Reenactment, Prairie Grove, AR.

Keith Peterson discussed a potential event with the Little Rock area Boy Scout Council, where the Association or the 37th would sponsor a weekend Civil War encampment for local scouts. The original date proposed was May 1-2, but this now conflicts with one of the 6th Arkansas events. If we do this, it would be better to move it to a deconflicted date in April or June. Keith will go back to the Council with the amended dates to see if these will fit within the Scouts' schedule. An alternative would be to present a living history demonstration at the Scouts' annual Jamboree.

A desire was expressed to conduct an annual memorial service similar to what the Confederates do each year at the David O. Dodd memorial, but to hold it at the 3rd Minnesota monument in Little Rock National Cemetery each spring. The State currently holds a Memorial Day observance at the Cemetery, and we will look at trying to tie this as an adjunct to the regular Memorial Day observances, or to hold an observance of our own.

Tom Ezell was assigned to investigate recruiting opportunities and initiatives for the companies in the Little Rock area, and to report back at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

We'll be collecting dues at the Reed's Bridge event on February 28, as well as finalizing our roster for Mansfield/Pleasant Hill.

M/PH, by the way, is shaping up to be a hopefully different, unique event this year. I hope you'll sling your knapsack and come on out with us.

Tom Ezell

Did You Know?...

The Confederate South largely ignored St. Valentine's Day. This was mainly because, as a Richmond newspaper noted, the times are "too stern, the mails too uncertain, and gilt-edged, flowered and embossed stationary too expensive in these blockade days, to admit of such indulgences."