

The Sentinel



Vol. 9, No.1 – The Newsletter of the 6th Arkansas Infantry, Company A, C.S.A. – January, 2005
Living Historians
<http://www.geocities.com/capitalguards>

Forging Ahead in '05...

LITTLE ROCK ARSENAL LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM, FEBRUARY 5, 2005.

With the 2005 campaign well underway, the Capitol Guards will be assembling on February 4, 2005 at the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History in Little Rock's Mac Arthur Park to commemorate the 144th anniversary of the seizure of the United States Arsenal by State forces in 1861.

At present, this will be a low-impact event, where we will be representing elements of Battery F, 2nd U.S. Artillery, which garrisoned the Arsenal, as well as the State militia units called up to respond to rumors that the Federal government had planned to reinforce the manning of the Arsenal to prevent the sort of event that actually did take place. The schedule is still flexible at this point, but will include company drill and the sort of work and section-level training that went on a day-to-day basis around the arsenal in peacetime, as well as a presentation on the circumstances and the history of the event. If all comes off, we'll have a full-scale artillery piece present to demonstrate what Battery F did for a living as well.

Impressions are 1860/1861, pre-War, garrison soldiers for the Federals; pre-War militia (mostly civilian clothing and arms) for the pro-Southrons; at this time there weren't any Confederates yet and would not be until the following week and the opening of the provisional congress of the seceded states in Montgomery, Alabama.)

Activities will kick off at approximately 10:00 a.m. when the Museum opens, and will go until closing time at 4:00 p.m.

For more information on the Arsenal crisis, check the Company web site at <http://www.geocities.com/capitalguards/arsenal.html>.



PASSING EVENTS

Arkansas State Gazette
Saturday, February 9, 1861

A most extraordinary excitement was aroused in this city during the past week. It appears that a rumor had gained credence that the S.H. Tucker was on her way to this city with a large body of U.S. soldiers, for the purpose of reinforcing the Arsenal at this place. Cannon were taken to the river, and every arrangement was made to effectually resist her approach – and the Tucker didn't come.

On Tuesday our quiet citizens were again greatly excited by the fact of the approach of several volunteer companies from different parts of the State, who having been informed by telegraph or otherwise that the Arsenal here was to be reinforced, and that it was the desire and intent of the citizens, not only to repel such an invasion of U.S. soldiers but to take forcible possession of the Arsenal, had rushed to our assistance with an ardor and patriotic zeal worthy of the highest commendation, and for which, we are sure, they will ever be held in the highest estimation by our people. The number which came here from different portions of the State are variously estimated at from 800 to a thousand men, a portion of whom have already returned to their homes.

On the (by our citizens unexpected) arrival of these troops, we understand that notwithstanding the fact that they had received orders to march to this place, the Governor explicitly disavowed all knowledge of the transaction, but after consultation with his advisors, and at the urgent solicitation of the citizens of Little Rock, he assumed the responsibility, for the purpose of avoiding if possible a conflict between the troops of the State and the U.S. command in charge of the Arsenal.

Capt. Totten, on the demand being made in the name of the State, requested that he be allowed 24 hours to consider – and within that time, with a just and manly view of the whole matter, which still adds more to his fame, and in consideration of the frightful slaughter which must have ensued, of the great sacrifice of life and property which must have taken place in the city, and of the immolation finally of his own gallant corps, he concluded to evacuate the post, his men under arms, to the proper authorities of the State, and marched his company out within the time prescribed by himself. And by way of remark here, it may be proper to state, that Lieut. Dearing, one of the officers of the company, a Georgian, who had resigned his position in the Army upon secession of his native state but whose resignation had not been accepted, came gallantly to the counsels of his superior officer, and boldly took a position, at once just, sensible, and magnanimous. His praiseworthy conduct is the theme of every tongue.

The names of the different volunteer companies which assembled in the city, as far as we have been able to learn, were: The Phillips Guards, Capt. Otey; the Helena [Yell] Rifles, Capt. Cleburne; the Southwestern Guards, Capt. Schaife; the Lagrange Cavalry, Capt. Gist; the Jefferson Volunteers, Capt. Carlton; a command of men from Jefferson county, under Capt. Collins; in addition to which there were companies from Prairie, White, Saline, Hot Spring, Montgomery, Monroe, and St. Francis, under officers whose names we have not been able to learn. The two companies from this county were also ordered out by the Governor, and appeared in force. The troops, on their arrival, were in command of Capt. Johnson, of Helena, but were afterwards taken command of by Ex-Gov. Roane, of Jefferson. Brigadier General Holt, we believe, finally assumed the control of the whole body.

AAR: TMVI Command and Staff Meeting

The staff and company commanders of the Trans-Mississippi Volunteer Infantry Battalion (TMVI) met in Texarkana, TX on Saturday, January 22, 2005 to transact Battalion business and decide on a Battalion schedule for the coming 2005 re-enacting season. Present were:

- COL Ricky Hunt
- MAJ Rick Schell (also representing the 12th Texas)
 - Adjutant George Strawn
 - Sgt. Maj. Preston Ware
 - Scott Solice – 3rd Louisiana
 - Ted Brode – 4th Louisiana
 - Gary Stephens – 12th Louisiana
 - Richard Holloway – 19th Louisiana
 - Melvin Faris – 19th Louisiana
 - Mark Kalkbrenner – 1st Arkansas
 - Tom Ezell – 6th Arkansas
 - Will Hardage – 9th Arkansas
 - Ralph Falconer – 19th Texas

Following an invocation by Capt. Brode, the meeting was opened with a short welcome by the Battalion staff, and a treasury report.

The TMVI Battalion fund has a current balance of \$847 after settling expenses of \$176 for rental of the meeting room and amenities today.

BRIGADE AUTHENTICITY GUIDELINES

Col. Hunt opened the first topic by distributing a set of amended Brigade authenticity guidelines which the staff had met and discussed with General Griffin the weekend prior. (Attachment 1) He noted that there has been a great deal of dissent and disgruntlement among the companies in the interpretation and enforcement of these guidelines, and cautioned the companies that we should not let this issue drive wedges between the units or cause break-ups in established unit relationships.

Capt. Brode queried whether the battalion was expected to “rubber-stamp” and adopt these new guidelines as is, or if there was any leeway allowed within them. Col. H. replied that the Brigade sees these guidelines as a “vision,” or a goal. Achieving these should be seen as a work-in-process, or a continuing improvement process. It will take time to implement them in a “volunteer” force such as seen in the hobby.

The new guidelines do not necessarily require that we have a cookie-cutter, uniform look as a brigade or even a battalion. The General looks to each company to adopt and

enforce its own “look”, or standards in general conformance with the Brigade/Division guidelines.

The absolute bottom line is this – No “mixed gray” melton wool jackets or pants, no Federal-issue blue kersey trousers, no brown/“butternut” melton wool, no un-shaped, or “hillbilly” hats. These things must go.

The battalion staff doesn’t have a lot of “selling” to do in urging these standards on the member units. There’s really no place to run, because the whole derved Division is going down this same path with the same standards. The Division standards are very nearly, line-for-line the same standards proposed by General Griffin early in 2004 for the Mississippi Valley Brigade.

With respect to the idea of “no place to run to,” Capt. Holloway asked about what other brigade options were available to the TMVI. One option is for the TMVI to withdraw from the MVB and become an independent battalion. This would impact us in that we would have a fair degree of uncertainty as to where we would be put at the Division event each year, and we would still be subject to the Division guidelines, which as noted, are the same as those of the MVB. The Colonel emphasized that there was no immediate plans or intent to pursue this option, but the best course at this time is to follow the path of least resistance and give the units the necessary time to settle down, work things out and develop the best way to implement these new guidelines.

How can the companies or battalion “respectfully disagree?” Response: This is what we have been doing all along, so far it’s not working, and there is not going to be a lot of “give” from the Confederate High Command. Too many of the general officers have hung their reputations on enforcing these guidelines for them to back off much from what they already have done.

The statement that has everyone of the commanders most upset is the division commander’s statement that he will take men wearing Federal sky blue trowsers out of the ranks and send them to go serve with the Federals at Corinth. The consensus among the company commanders is that we simply will not tolerate this, and it’s an all for one deal. If we have a guy that for some reason has to wear federal trowsers, and the CG’s yellow dogs try to throw him out of our ranks, the whole company goes with him. If one company out of the battalion goes, then the whole battalion will likely follow.

Per the meeting last week with General Griffin, the bottom line is that companies should establish their own authenticity guidelines based on documentation of their namesake’s impression at periods throughout the war, and adopt a by-company look within

the scope of the Brigade/Division guidelines. Companies will submit a copy of their guidelines to the Battalion staff for review, and to have on record if anyone higher up the chain of command questions a particular company. These should be completed and submitted to the staff at or before the Jefferson event in May. For the 6th Arkansas, our standards have already been turned in to the Battalion, and are posted on the Company web site for anyone to see.

Capt. Ezell distributed copies of a reference and resource CD that he has prepared for the members of his company to all attendees. The CD contained the guidelines for the 6th Arkansas, along with a set of reference and resource documents supporting and documenting those standards.

In response to questions from the company members about where to find uniforms at a reasonable cost to meet the new authenticity guidelines, the Battalion staff has arranged for the following deal with Galla Rock Mercantile (Sherry McCullah) for members of the 1st Arkansas and the TMVI Battalions. These offers are for the Confederate jean pants, and either a Columbus-style depot jacket, or one of the so-called “Arkansas frock coats.”

EVENTS/SCHEDULE:

The Battalion staff has gotten together to come with a number of ideas to help build or rebuild a sense of partnership between the various companies, and to try and boost numbers and attendance. The Colonel will arrange for some (pleasant) type of little surprise at each battalion event during the coming year. He is wanting to inspire a spirited, competitive nature between the companies, using such little tools as athletic (tug-of-war, town ball, etc.) competition, as well as a little socialist competition for the best-drilled company, etc. Winning companies will be formally recognized in some manner.

The Battalion will hold four max effort events in 2005, with the aim to get all member companies together at least once during the year. This year’s schedule looks pretty much the same as in past years: Pleasant Hill in April, Jefferson the first of May, Corinth (Division event) in October, and Old Washington the first weekend of November.

Capt. Ezell stated that the main problem that the members of the 6th Arkansas had brought forward was that the TMVI was in a deep rut as far as selecting events go... every single year we go to the same old events, with the only difference being wherever the Division decided to go – Pleasant Hill, Jefferson, and Old Washington. We were looking for something different, and were flat tired of the same old schedule every year. The general response was that there was not that

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141st Anniversary, David O. Dodd Memorial Service January 8, 2005



1st Sgt Steve Shore checks the firing line before the first volley.



Lining up the company before the ceremony at Mt. Holly. The Capitol Guards at left: Tom Ezell, Steve Shore, Mark Backus, George Davis, Jerry Simpson, David Sesser, Corey Platt, Ken Nations, Vernon Dutton, and Bob Black. Harvey Moore at far right.



They once called the Capitol Guards "the flower of Little Rock"... and these fellows lived up to that reputation at the '05 Dodd memorial. Jerry Simpson, David Sesser, Steve Shore, Ken Nations, and Bob Black after the captain took their roses away until after the service...



The highlight of these services, for John Q. Public anyway, is the three volleys rendered in honor at the end of the service, with the formal salute at the end.



The "Service of the Rose" at the end of the memorial service.



The flower children – Jerry Simpson, Steve Shore, Bob Black, and Corey Platt

TMVI Command & Staff Meeting

great a selection of events to choose from. Nearly all the regional units elected to attend Pleasant Hill as the largest event in Louisiana, and member companies had an investment in the Jefferson event.

Corinth was selected first as a max effort event, as it is also the Division's and Brigade's maximum effort event for the year. Registration for Corinth will open in early February, at \$12 per person until September 1. After that time, registration will go up to \$20.

Port Hudson was considered, and rejected because of the conflict with Pleasant Hill (the weekend before). As it stands, only two battalion units will be at Port Hudson, the 19th Louisiana and the 6th Arkansas.

Most all of the battalion companies will be at **Pleasant Hill**, so the Battalion will field there, and expects three new member companies to join up there for their trial event in preparation to applying for membership in the TMVI.

The Mississippi Valley Brigade has pulled out of the Tribbey, OK, event, and will be selecting **Jefferson** as a brigade event in order to support the TMVI as one of its member battalions. At the time of the meeting, the MVB would attend as Confederates with two battalions, with the 1st Arkansas Battalion attending as Federals, along with the 1st Battalion, Frontier Brigade (US). The scenario includes a parade downtown on Saturday morning as part of the town's annual homecoming festival, followed by a Federal occupation of the downtown area and an attack by the Confederates to drive the Yankees out. A dance will be held Saturday night at a nearby plantation house.

The Arkansas companies, having been to Jefferson a time or two, voted in a block against the event, as they will be attending the 1st Arkansas's event at **Marks' Mills** the weekend before Jefferson, and were not real enthused by their previous experiences with Jefferson. The Louisiana and Texas companies votes for it, with the result that Jefferson was named a max effort event at the battalion level; but the Arkansas companies will most likely be absent. The Battalion will represent the Louisiana Crescent Regiment at Jefferson.

Following a break for lunch, discussion was held on whether to move the Battalion's biennial elections from the Prairie Grove event in order to make them more fair... based on the poor attendance from Texas and Louisiana at the past couple of years. Suggestions were made to hold a battalion muster somewhere in January, or a different event, such as Pleasant Hill. No consensus or decision was made at this time, and the issue will be studied and revisited later this spring.

Some discussion was held on the idea presented by the Arkansas companies of

alternating the event schedules in order to relieve some of the monotony, such as Pleasant Hill one year, followed by Marks Mill or another event the following year. No consensus or decision was reached; with the selection of Pleasant Hill for this year and the Arkansas events being on an every-other-year basis, it will be 2007 before this can really be attempted.

The staff brought up the idea of making new guidons to be carried by the battalion general guides, to bear some representation of the make-up of the battalion. Suggestions for state emblems were the pelican of Louisiana, the lone star of Texas, and the bowie knife, or "Arkansas toothpick" for Arkansas. Combining these, the company commanders proposed to have a pelican perched on a star picking its teeth with a bowie knife. This was a little too "over the top" so each state contingent will make its own set of guidons, and the battalion will rotate carrying these at each event. The Arkansas guidons are scheduled to fly at Corinth, where the battalion is expected to portray Johnson's 15th Arkansas Infantry regiment; the Louisiana guidons at Jefferson, and the Texas guidons at Old Washington.

Other events that were considered, but turned down, included Marks' Mills in Arkansas (conflicted with Jefferson and Pleasant Hill, plus not sure if there was space for the battalion to camp); Tribbey, OK (little support from any units but the Texans), the Vicksburg Siege living history to be conducted at Vicksburg National Military Park in late June (19th LA and some from the 6th Arkansas will attend), the new little annual event at Raymond, MS, and the Battles around Bentonville (aka Cane Hill, which was deemed too far north).

Old Washington was selected on a tentative basis as the fourth and last battalion event on the first weekend in November, and will also be an event with the Red River Battalion and the Brigade staff. There have been a number of staff changes at Old Washington which should turn out for the better, so there should be an improvement there.

The Mississippi Valley Brigade will be doing a large-scale living history at Shiloh National Battlefield Park in April, 2006, which we should be looking forward too... provided that we can pry the rest of the Battalion away from Pleasant Hill on that weekend.

BATTALION GUIDELINES

The Battalion guidelines were reviewed and approved, with an amendment being made to provide that member companies should provide a written copy of their authenticity guidelines to the Battalion for record.

We went over the safety guidelines as

well, with a strong emphasis on keeping a lookout for any strangers or stragglers joining up with the companies after weapons inspection and unit drill has taken place.

COL Hunt announced that three Texas companies which have splintered from Jack King's Texas Brigade are in the process of petitioning for membership in the TMVI, which should add approximately 60 men to the rolls. Likewise, the 5th Louisiana and possibly the 11th Louisiana (Paul Gramling's company from Shreveport) are seeking to fall in with the battalion at Pleasant Hill.

SPECIAL ELECTION

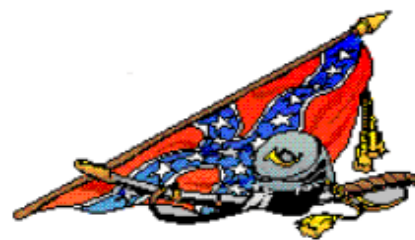
With the election of Ricky Hunt to the TMVI's Colonel position at Prairie Grove, the position of lieutenant colonel was left vacant. Toren Blanco has declined to run for another position on the Battalion staff, leaving the position open for nominations from the companies. With the floor opened for nominations, the following were nominated in this order:

- Gary Stephens – currently Capt. of the 12th Louisiana;
- Melvin Faris – currently Lt. in the 19th Louisiana;
- George Strawn – currently TMVI battalion adjutant
- Tom Ezell – currently Capt. of the 6th Arkansas.

The election will be held in the same manner as the Battalion's regular election, by a physical vote of the members present at the next battalion event. This will be on Saturday afternoon sometime at Jefferson, TX, and as at Prairie Grove, you will need to be there to vote.

The TMVI Battalion commander's sword is being shipped back from Tennessee to Adjutant Strawn, and the current intention is, upon receipt, to have it engraved with Colonel Gary Cannada's name, as well as the others who have commanded the TMVI – Randy Sinyard, Ron Steinfelds, Toren Blanco, and Ricky Hunt – and to continue this tradition as long as we have space on the sword. A formal change of command ceremony and passing of the battalion sword will be held at Jefferson, following the special election for Lt. Col.

There being no additional business, the meeting broke up at 3:30 p.m.



37th Illinois to hold 2005 Planning Meeting February 6th

Gentlemen of the 37th, we have scheduled a Company meeting for the 6th of February at 6:00 p.m. at Harvey Moore's house (24 Kingspark Drive in west Little Rock). We will be discussing the year's schedule, paying up of our dues that I think most of us have not paid. We will also be discussing the Association. Corporal W.J. Monagle will be leading the meeting.

1st Arkansas School of the Soldier February 26th

For those of you who would like a little more drill (and who wouldn't?), Capt. Kalkbrenner has advised me that Clan McGregor (e.g., the guys in the 1st Arkansas) will be holding a School of the Soldier at Camp White Sulphur Springs/White Sulphur Springs Cemetery, 8 miles southwest of Pine Bluff, on February 26, 2005, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. or so.

To get to White Sulphur Springs Cemetery you will need to go south out of Pine Bluff on U.S. Hwy 79 toward Rison. As you come into Pine Bluff from Little Rock on the four-lane, get off the 4-lane at Hwy 79 and turn right. Go south about 500 yards to the next red light at Watson Chapel School; turn right again (actually, it is a "Y" intersection). You will now be on Arkansas Highway 54. Continue South on Ark. 54 for about 8 miles. A green highway sign will tell you that you have reached Sulphur Springs. Continue about 1 mile farther; the highway will start to descend toward a creek. Before you get to the creek there will be a historical sign for the Confederate Cemetery on the right about 100 yards before you reach the bridge over the creek. Turn right onto Luckwood Road at the Historical sign go about 150 yards, the Cemetery will be on the left.

For more information, contact Mark at 870-247-2394 or e-mail CaptK1Ark@hotmail.com.

Hardcore in the Hills...

Pea Ridge National Battlefield Park will be hosting an authentic (hardcore) living history program during the anniversary weekend of the 1862 battle, on March 5-6, 2005. There will be opportunities to portray Federal troops (the Hardcracker Mess, which will be deployed in the area of the Pratt's Store tour stop; Arkansas Confederates (members of the old Dixie Guard, who will be hiding out in the woods adjacent to the Leetown battlefield), or Missouri State Guard (members of the Tater Mess and the Texas Ground Hornets, who will be hanging out around the Elkhorn Tavern. If you think you might be interested in attending, please contact Tom at (501) 961-1937 or 912-1047, who is busily re-knapping the flints for his old pumpkin slinging rocklock in order to go up there and play.

The Blue and the Gray for 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 12**, 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 in front of the Union Train Station by 12:30 or so to line up. This year's route is different, and will go straight east up Markham Street and President Clinton Avenue to the River Market. It will break up just past the Museum of Discovery on Clinton Avenue.

There will be a short program of "Irish music and dance" immediately following the parade, and I am informed that the microbrewery down there as well as the Underground Pub is still in operation for those with a penchant for a little more traditional Irish entertainment. And there are a number of other similar convivial establishments that may show pity for a footsore soldier.

Most members indicated that they'll be wearing the blue in honor of the Irish Brigade, but 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.

20th annual Pat Cleburne Memorial Service scheduled March 19 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 20th annual memorial service for Major General Patrick R. Cleburne at the Confederate section of Maple Hill Cemetery in Helena, Ark. on March 19, 2005. The ceremony will begin promptly at 12:30 p.m. and will last approximately 45 minutes. Period dress or Confederate uniform is encouraged.

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.

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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.

Other points of interest in the cemetery before you leave include the grave of MG Thomas C. Hindman (at the end of the drive from the main entrance to the cemetery) and that of BG James Tappan. Helena is a city rich with Civil War and Confederate history, however local racial problems have caused the city to ignore much of this, and the city is now best known for its annual blues festival (which is not to be missed, either). The Phillips County Library (623 Pecan St.) has Cleburne's *Book of Common Prayer* as well as a number of artifacts belonging to General Hindman. Be sure to visit the Delta Cultural Center for its exhibits, and for a map of the Civil War sites in the town.

142nd Anniversary Reenactment of the Siege of Port Hudson

April 2 - 3, 2005
Port Hudson State Historic Site
Zachary, Louisiana

Port Hudson State Historic Site and the 7th Louisiana Infantry, Company K, invites you to the 142nd Anniversary Reenactment of the Siege of Port Hudson.

Participation in the 142nd reenactment is by invitation only. Only those authentic infantry, artillery and cavalry units that are invited will be allowed to attend. All units and individuals must be pre-registered. Registration forms must be received by February 15, 2005. No walk-ons will be

allowed under any circumstances.

SCENARIO

This will be a living history and reenactment of the Siege of Port Hudson and the assaults of the Union army, which occurred in the spring and summer of 1863. These two scenarios will take place on the actual battlefield of Port Hudson.

Saturday morning will begin with the annual "memorial march" over the trails and ravines used 142 years ago. This march will culminate in the "reenactor only" tactical in the woods and ravines. Spectator battles scenarios will be the re-creation of the assaults of May 27th and June 14th, 1863. All units are expected to participate in all scenarios.

If you have a unique living history presentation that you would like to present, you are invited to do so. However, only those who submit a brief summary of your impression will be allowed to do so.

Throughout this event we would like to have reenactor camping to maintain authenticity. That means no modern camping items should be visible. This will allow for spectators and reenactors alike to view a scenario or campsite as it was.

Sunday morning will start with "Officer's Call" followed by mid-morning church services for those who wish to participate. Living History demonstrations are also encouraged at this time. Sunday afternoon will feature the second assault on the Confederate breastworks.

All reenactor units and their personnel as well as sutlers must be pre-registered before March 1, 2005. There will be no walk-ons allowed on the field. Sutlers that have not attended this event before are expected to get approval for their displays. Only Civil War era sutlers need apply for registration. Modern, buckskinning, Indian and frontier type sutlers will not be allowed.

This year identification badges will be issued. Reenactors, military and civilian, are expected to have their ID on them at all times. Failure to identify oneself with the proper event identification is grounds for removal from the event. Anyone violating this rule will be removed by the State Park's enforcement officers.

CAMPING & AMENITIES

There will be only two types of camping: primitive military camp and a semi-permanent winter quarters type camping. Civilian reenactors will be allowed to camp with their military unit or in a designated area near the museum. There will be no modern civilian campsites. The primitive camps are in the woods, one only a few yards from the regular Federal camp and one near the regular Confederate camp. Both of the primitive camps

are remote enough that you will feel the serenity of being to yourselves. The regular Federal campsite will be situated around the pond, while the Confederate campsite will be along the woodland, between the Visitor's Center and the Fort Desperate trail. Running water and restrooms will be available at the Visitor's Center 24 hours a day. There will be hay and firewood available. Those in the primitive camp will have access to all the amenities but will have to walk a bit further to access them. In addition, there will be a Saturday evening meal provided to all period-dressed reenactors.

OTHER INFORMATION

There will be sutlers on site and will be set up convenient to both camps. There is included a tentative schedule and map for directions to the event. There are no motels within at least ten miles of the Historic Site area and if you have dependents that need lodging, there are a number of motels off of I-10 and I-12 in Baton Rouge.

Out of town visitors should consider motels on the east and south sides of Baton Rouge. There are some smaller grocery-type stores nearby but you may wish to consider shopping in Baton Rouge for necessary supplies before attending.

The terrain is heavily wooded and very hilly with large ravines and gulches. You will get a true appreciation for what the Federal soldiers went through in the two large assaults on the works. As always, we are in need of Federals for this event. To make this event look and feel authentic, we need at least a 2 to 1 if not 3 to 1 advantage for the Federals. All units need to be prepared to galvanize.

Upon receipt of your unit registration, you will be mailed a second mailing or email that will confirm your registration. Remember that we need your registration form by March 1, 2003 so that we may properly prepare amenities.

Come on out and get into the trenches, the ravines and the hollows of Port Hudson. See why Nathaniel Banks never took it by assault. It will become very clear to you. It is not often that we, as reenactors, are given the opportunity of doing our thing on actual battlefields.

For additional information or questions;

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225-654-3775 or
1-888-677-3400 (toll free)
225-654-4413 (fax)
236 Hwy 61
Jackson, LA 70748
EMAIL: orthudson@crt.state.la.us

The Capitol Guards and Your Taxes

You may have heard some people talk about how they deducted expenses associated with Civil War reenacting off their taxes. You may have thought this was too good to be true. Well, it *is* true, and this article will serve as a basic introduction to why, and what expenses are deductible. Please keep in mind that each person's financial situation is different, and in some cases, your expenses will not be deductible or could be limited. You should consult your accountant or tax professional on just how these guidelines may apply in your situation.

Why Your Expenses Are Deductible

The Capitol Guards and the 37th Illinois are member organizations of the Central Arkansas Civil War Preservation Association (CACWPA), which is incorporated in the state of Arkansas and recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) corporation. This status allows the CACWPA to avoid taxation on the dues income it receives from its member units. Another benefit of this election is it allows those who are paid members of the CACWPA to deduct expenses associated with assisting the Association in accomplishing its charitable purpose – namely educating the public on the history of the Civil War.

Code Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code specifically allows a deduction for out-of-pocket *unreimbursed expenses* incurred in rendering service to a 501(c)(3) organization or the United States, a state, a local government, the District of Columbia or a US Possession. Unreimbursed expenses can be in the form of dues payments to a qualified organization, mileage to and from a CACWPA or other qualified event, and purchasing unique and required uniforms and equipment. As with all tax deductions, there are limitations as to what and how much you can deduct. This article is a short interpretation of the IRS regulations and how they apply to Civil War reenactors.

What Is Deductible?

- **Books and History Magazines.** They are deductible as they help educate the living historian in preparation for interpreting to the general public.

- **Donations to battlefield associations, preservation drives, etc.** Amounts given in cash to a qualified organization are 100% deductible as long as no consideration has been given for your gift. *Consideration* means that you did not receive a gift or token in return. If you donate \$100 to the XYZ preservation march and they give you a t-shirt commemorating your participation, you must

deduct the fair market value of the t-shirt from your donation.

- **Dues payments.** Dues paid to the CACWPA are tax-deductible.

- **Mileage, meals & travel expenses.** The 2004 rate for charitable miles is \$0.14 per mile. You must keep a log of miles traveled! This can be easily facilitated by the use of a travel logbook, available at most office supply stores. Keep all your receipts for meals and other travel expenses.

- **Uniforms.** Uniforms and clothing worn while reenacting are deductible. In regards to the deduction of uniforms, the IRS applies the same standard for living historians as they do to those who must wear a uniform to work. The uniform must be required and must not be suitable for everyday use. Suitable for everyday use is interpreted to mean, could this uniform be feasibly worn away from your job/volunteer site? Obviously, a military frock coat, shell jacket or lady's hoop dress would not. Items such as shoes and boots *could* feasibly be worn away from a living history, and therefore are NOT deductible. Just because one would never wear it outside of the scope of your volunteer work does not make it deductible. The IRS has long held that the classic white t-shirt worn by a painter is not deductible as a uniform expense because it *could* be worn away from his/her employment.

WHAT IS NOT DEDUCTIBLE

- **Antiques and Collectibles.** The purchase of original or collectible Civil War memorabilia for your private collection is not deductible.

- **Camping Equipment.** Most camping equipment used by the living historian is not deductible. The same rule for uniforms applies to your tents, cooking gear, camp furniture, etc. These items *could* feasibly be used away from a living history and are not required in order to perform the volunteer work.

- **Weapons.** Muskets, rifles, pistols, knives, etc. Are not deductible. Again, they fall under the exclusive usage rule. These items *could* be used outside the scope of your volunteer work and are therefore not deductible. Due to its expense, this deduction, or lack thereof, is one of the most hotly contested.

Recordkeeping

The internal revenue service requires written documentation of all expenses that are deducted from your income tax return. This holds true for cash, non-cash and out-of-pocket expenses. Written documentation can be in the form of:

- Receipts
- Cancelled checks or credit card statements
- Direct acknowledgment from the qualified organization that you performed a service on their behalf
- Event registration forms, tokens, ribbons, etc. Are important in that they document your attendance at a qualified event as well as bolster your documentation for the out-of-pocket expenses you have incurred.
- Car expense records must show the name of the organization you were serving and the date and exact miles each time you used your car for a charitable purpose.

Limitations

This section could be a whole book in itself. While Congress does generously allow a person to deduct cash, non-cash and out-of-pocket charitable contributions, there are limitations to these deductions. In short, you can only deduct up to 50% of your adjusted gross income as charitable contributions. This may be further limited to 30% or 20% of your adjusted gross income, depending on the type of contribution you give and the type of organization you give it to.

You must also itemize your deductions using a Form 1040 and Schedule A in order to take advantage of any deductions for charitable contributions. If you file a short form (1040A or 1040EZ) or do not have enough expenses to warrant itemizing your deductions, you cannot take the deduction. It is highly advisable to consult with your tax professional and see if these limitations apply in your individual financial situation.

In closing

Do not be afraid to take deductions for bona fide expenses incurred for the purpose of providing a charitable service to a qualified organization. Deductions for charitable contributions and services were enacted for a reason – to encourage folks to volunteer on behalf of qualified not-for-profit organizations such as the Central Arkansas Preservation Association. Serve them and your fellow man well.

This article was written with the assistance of the Department of the Treasury Publication 526 (Rev. December 2003) entitled Charitable Contributions. This document is available online at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p526/pdf>

Battle-Focused Training at the Company Level

Can we all agree that a poorly managed group of men carrying black powder weapons is a huge safety problem?

Can we all agree that the proper way to manage troops on the field is to display competency in drill?

Can we all agree that there are a minimum of drill maneuvers that ALL companies should be able to perform on the field to operate safely?

So, why don't events require an observed drill, under the watchful eye of an AIG, to prove the competency of the officers and the training of the men? Every unit performs the same maneuvers, so it is an even playing field. Any unit that cannot perform the required maneuvers to the satisfaction of the observing AIG doesn't take the field.

To tell the truth, the 1st Confederate Division is tackling this problem in concert with the more widely-announced (or lamented, depending on your point of view) enforcement of specific equipment and uniform standards. General Mike Moore has a very ambitious plan for the Division. His primary goal is to evolve the 1st CD into a more historically accurate representation of Western Confederates (and Federals when they wear the "blue uniforms"). He intends to accomplish this by motivating the division and its component unit commanders to improve in four areas: 1) Soldierly impression - to portray a more accurate physical impression of a Western Confederate in dress, weapons and equipment; 2) Camps - to more historically portray an army on campaign; 3) Drill - to have every unit that belongs to the ICD become proficient in the basics of Civil War infantry drill; 4) Flags - to accurately display the proper flags of the units portrayed at Division-sponsored events. General Moore and his staff will concentrate on making the scenarios at sponsored events accurate to the action being portrayed.

Since Franklin, we've seen the way the Division intends to tackle the first two items on the list, impressions and camps, now they are working to define a "playbook" to focus on the third item, proficiency in Civil War drill. In the middle of January, the Division staff quietly disseminated a set of drill tasks that every company, and every battalion within the 1st Division will be expected to be able to perform in order to take the field with the Division. And yes, there will be a test, or at least a supervised demonstration of these maneuvers at Division events.

The modern Army calls it "battle-focused training..." a phrase some may recognize from the November issue of the *Sentinel*. To play well (and win) on game day, a sports

team must practice [train] relentlessly on the basic skills of the sport, and then weld those basic skills into a set of well-rehearsed drills that will let them out-perform the team on the other side of the field. The modern armed forces make this a lifestyle – one secret to their successes is that, as prescribed from the days of the Romans, they maintain a training tempo such that their practices are hard-fought, bloodless battles, and the actual battles after that point become merely bloody exercises.

We don't do that in reenacting. Many companies (and some battalions) are well known for their aversion to drill, and when we take the field, it's a Keystone Kops mixture of simply lining up, advancing across an open field, and firing off volleys at the other team – in no way representative of much of anything that happened in the Civil War.

In battle-focused training, we focus on the primary mission of the unit – e.g. the mission of an infantry battalion is to close with and defeat or destroy an enemy in combat, or to seize and hold a particular piece of ground against all comers – and we divide that broad mission into a set of smaller tasks that the unit needs to be able to do in order to accomplish the larger task – for example, the battalion needs to be able to advance in line of battle, change directions of the line, and deliver a given intensity of fire on the enemy – and then divide those tasks into even smaller tasks that subordinate units and individual soldiers need to be able to do in order for the unit to work together to accomplish the larger, unit task. It's like building a wall, one brick at a time, or going back to the sports analogy, for a team to move the ball downfield, somebody has to block, somebody has to fake out the defenders, somebody has to snap, and somebody else has to take and maneuver with the ball. Company drill is no different, as each company does its part in order for the battalion

to move out, come into line of battle and engage the enemy in mock combat.

What the Army does is to look closely at these big tasks and all the little tasks that have to be done in order to get the big job done, identify what the key or critical ones are, and make those a priority for training and practice. These actions are known as *mission-essential tasks*, and the playlist derived from them is the *mission-essential task list*, or *METL* (pronounced "metal" or "mettle," depending on your spelling preferences. As a company, the Capitol Guards have toyed with this idea over the past two years, by holding some form of drill each quarter and working on a specific list of tasks at each session. It may not have been explained that way, but that's really what we've been doing. A copy of the Company METL is now included in the new *Capitol Guards Handbook* on the 2005 edition of the Resource CD, backed up by the *Capitol Guards Drill Manual* – a compilation of the 1861 revised edition of Hardee's *Tactics* used by the Arkansas troops during the War.

After close review, the Division list of Company drill tasks is a bit simpler than the one put together in our handbook, but is essentially the same. These are the tasks that we will work at each time we gather for drill in the months before Corinth, when we will probably be tested.

Below is the complete list of company drill which I was requested to create for the various companies of the First Confederate Division. Companies which can perform each of the commands in this list can perform each of the commands noted in the seemingly impossible list of battalion drill.

*Bvt. Capt. Silas Tackitt,
Assistant Inspector General, First Confederate Division*

1. Alignments

- a. In general
- b. Forming the company
- c. Forming lines for parade and battle
 - i. duties of officers and nco's in formations
 - ii. posting guides
 - iii. right (left) dress verses guide right (left)
 - iv. never gather on the line. Place markers and dress onto the line.

2. Facings

- a. without counting
- b. Doubling and undoubling files while on the march.



3. Wheels and Turns

- a. Wheels: fixed vs. moving pivots
- b. Wheels: by file right (left)
- c. Turns are the standard way of forming a battle line from column
- d. knowing guide of direction for all.

4. Obliques

5. Lines

- a. "By company into line"
- b. no backwards marching while retreating
 - i. about face
 - ii. rout to the rear
 - iii. fighting retreat
- c. "On the right by file into line"

6. Manual of Arms per Hardee '61

- a. position of parade rest
- b. present arms
- c. Right shoulder shift - the period method, not the reenactor method
- d. Stacking Arms

7. Firings per Hardee '61

- a. Know methods (by company, by file, by rank, and oblique left) while all members of company stand
- b. Load by the numbers
- c. Load while "on the move," and while laying and while kneeling
- d. Practice firings for speed
 - i. March; halt; fire; load; repeat
- e. Skirmish Drill: firings while advancing and while retreating

8. By the right (left) of company to the front (rear)

There's a different, and much more complex list of maneuvers that a 1st CD battalion must be able to perform, but that's a subject for a later article... let's master the Company stuff first, and then we'll be ready and able to do any of the Battalion tasks.

TAKING INITIATIVE TO BE A GREAT NCO!

by Jim Butler, Salt River Rifles

Okay, you've read Kautz and you know all the drill manuals and that may make you a good NCO. But, what does it take to be a **GREAT** NCO? Initiative, motivation and leadership will help you. Read these guidelines and I think your experience as an NCO will be more rewarding to you and more rewarding to your whole company or squad! They are written to the attention of the Sergeants, but corporals will also read what they are expected to know and do. Sergeants should utilize their 2nd Sergeant to delegate some or half of these duties listed below. But, the 1st Sergeant is ultimately responsible to the Commanding Officer (CO).

Rise & Shine: Know what time the CO wants the company up and when he wants his reports. Go over this with him the day before. All meetings with the CO should be held privately or with other NCOs only at your discretion. Use his time as your gauge on company duties. You need to be the first man up! I suggest getting up at Musicians Call (if one is blown).

Roll: Have all your men fall in (unless in the hospital) for roll call. You should try to have the men on-line by the last note of reveille. The men need to fall in with their coats (all buttons buttoned) and hats on and any other gear you order them to take. Have a corporal supply light if you need it. Be quick and take role. Have a total ready of present and of those that are not and why they are not for the CO. You and your corporals should request that they be quiet in the ranks. You should actually take roll three times a day: at Reveille, at Retreat and Tattoo. A bugler helps and so does knowing the basic calls.

Medical: Ask for any and record any medical conditions of the men (do this during first roll call or during check-in). Record what condition they have and any medications they take in your book. Watch out for the condition of your men (hydration, feet, hypothermia, sun stroke, poison ivy, insect bite, etc).

Counting Off: This is one of my pet peeves. It bugs me when the 1st Sergeant doesn't take the initiative to have his company counted off and aligned BEFORE the CO has to ask you. Don't let the men shout their number if the enemy is near (Outpost duty, battlefield, etc).

Paperwork: You will be asked by the CO to fill out certain forms. Please be sure you know at least the basics on how to fill it out. Ask your CO if you have any questions. Have the reports turned in as the CO directs, and on time. Also, it is critical that you carry a notebook and record the following in it:

- Full roster with the roll calls

marked on it.

- Medical conditions and medications.
- Guard Mount men and shifts.
- Men with damaged or dirty muskets.
- Ammunitions stores.
- List of Details and the corporals assigned to them.
- Anything else pertinent to you.

Drill: As stated above, I am assuming you know the drill (whatever your unit uses). This should include Manual of Arms, School of the Soldier, School of the Company, skirmish drill and guidelines for Picket and Guards. You should also know your position and placements as well as your corporals. Give any corrections in low undertones to those in your stead. The 1st Sergeant should really conduct at least some of the drill instruction.

Inspections: Don't make your CO have to make your company ready for inspection. This is a critical step in your role as an NCO. First, know how to inspect a weapon. If you don't, get some instruction now or from your CO prior to the event. Be sure not to yank the trigger to check a safety (half cock). This can break or damage the sear spring. Half-cock the weapon and hang the rifle on your thumb by its trigger. The sear should be able to support the weight of the rifle. You and your corporals should be sure no one is putting their finger on the trigger until the command 'AIM'. Also, the men's safeties should be on safe (half cock) at all times until the command 'AIM.' You need to also check the men's canteens for water, the cartridge boxes for rounds and tins, and bayonet scabbard tips. Men with unclean or damaged rifles should be put on a report for the CO.

Corporals: Have your corporals' duties set up as soon as possible. Spread the duties out over all the corporals. Assign each corporal a number and show him his position in your line. Remember that corporals watch over the details, but also help in equal share of the labors. Each corporal manages ¼ of the company (in a reenacting company, typically) and their assigned duties.

Duties: Here is a list of basic duties. Circumstances, location, setting can all influence other duties at your discretion. Duties should have the main goal of watching over the welfare of the men. The CO will likely tell you what duties he expects. Take initiative and don't have the CO have to tell you again.

- **Water detail:** You should expect your corporals to have all the men's canteens full at inspection. Also, they should inquire with

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The Captain's Tent

by Tom Ezell

As many times before, the Capitol Guards' 2005 campaign started off on a cloudy morning in Mt. Holly Cemetery for the perennial observation of the anniversary of the hanging of David O. Dodd. This made the 23rd straight year that the Arkansas re-enactors have gone out to Mt. Holly on this weekend, and looking back through my notes, it was the 8th one for me. Interestingly enough, there have been enough of them for me that they're all starting to run together in my memory, making it tough to remember what, if anything unique, happened at which one in what year, and even after only a couple of days' passage it's tough to say what sets this one apart from all the others. They were all cold, some colder than others; some were wet and some were sunny. All were at least a little fun though, if for nothing else other than the fellowship of our other like-minded parads who delight in wearing jean-wool and sniffing black powder. And in the end, that companionship, our little band of brotherhood, is what brings us out each time.

We had a total of 37 guys falling in with us for three clean & crisp volleys. About 50-60 other folks, spectators, straphangers, etc. - attended the service, and Channel 11 had a ver nice video on the 6 o'clock news. In the 6th Arkansas, we tallied an even dozen, with me Steve Shore, Bob Black, George Davis Harvey Moore, Ken Nations, Corey Platt David Sesser, Jerry Simpson, Matt Bond, an Mike Loum, serving as our designated "flower child." Mark & Kayla Kalkbrenner from the 1st Arkansas rounded out our numbers, and there were a few other friendly faces in the crowd.

2005 COMPANY PLANNING MEETING

After the memorial service, the Capitol Guards adjourned to our old haunts at the Pizza Hut, where the advance party were promptly ejected for being a rowdy Rebel rabble, I guess... anyway, we found hospitality, shelter, and even more reasonable sustenance at the China Garden next door.

The State of the Company after the '04 campaign season is pretty good. We've added new friends, and lost a few to other pastimes, Our average attendance at the Battalion max effort events this past year, discounting Jefferson, was 16... and none of the other companies in the TMVI can match that

consistent average over the past couple of years.

Company dues are due, and we made a start on getting those collected. At present, we have 27 names on the Company books, and can usually count on an additional 6 to 8 members from our friends in the 37th Illinois at specific events.

First Sergeant Shore reports a balance of \$ 195.00 in the Company Fund, with eight paid members for 2005: Tom Ezell, Steve Shore, Bob Black, George Davis, Robert Giles, Ken Nations, Corey Platt, Jerry Simpson. An additional \$30.00 came from the sale of gloves at Prairie Grove, and after paying for production, we got \$45.00 from the sale of Company hats at Prairie Grove and the Dodd event. In 2004, we spent \$120 to purchase a 15-gallon water keg for the Company, and \$80 for the Brigade rations at Franklin. An additional \$460 went to purchase an extra Enfield rifle and bayonet at the Franklin event — \$430 for the rifle, and \$30 for the bayonet.

Turning to the event schedule for 2005, we came up with the event list posted over on the facing page of this newsletter, with the maximum-effort events highlighted in bold. While it was looking rather plain at the first of the month, the year is shaping up rather nicely after all, with even a few somewhat local "hardcore" events popping up to add a little spice to things.

The next event in February is a living history at the MacArthur Museum to commemorate the seizure of the Arsenal by state forces in 1861. This is pretty much a trial run at attempting to host a larger, statewide event in 2007.

March will feature the St. Patrick's Day parade in Little Rock, in what we hope will be a joint event between the 6th Arkansas and the 37th Illinois. Optional events will be a hardcore living history up at Pea Ridge with members of the old Frontier Guard (March 5-6) and the perennial Cleburne Memorial Service over in Helena on March 19.

April will be a busy month, with the Capitol Guards' maximum efforts going to the Mississippi Valley Brigade's max effort event at Port Hudson State Historic Area, about 20 miles southeast of Baton Rouge, LA (April 1-2). The only TMVI units present will be the 6th Arkansas and the 19th Louisiana. The 19th LA does not do Federal, so they will be off elsewhere anyway. Registration must be determined and mailed in by the first of March, and I will be polling everyone in the coming weeks to see who's going and who's not.

The TMVI will hold its perennial max effort event at Pleasant Hill, LA the following weekend (April 9-10). While it's a battalion max effort event, the 6th Arkansas will not be fielding a company at this one. Event info for

anyone interested in a back-to-back trip to Louisiana is on the Company bulletin board in the Events folder.

Several of us will be attending a living history event at Shiloh National Military Park on April 8-9, a mostly authentic effort hosted by the Salt River Rifles. The impression is Federal, with a definite preference to Illinois state jackets or frock coats. If interested, give Tom a call, he plans to attend with his pals from Cleburnes.

April 23-24 will bring the long awaited second attempt at the Battle of Marks' Mills, at the state battlefield park 8 miles east of Fordyce. As the last time, the 6th Arkansas will be fielding a company of Federals, and this will be a good event to work hard on our skirmishing, as we will most likely be sorely outnumbered (5:1) again. We have been promised a little better camping site than the last time, but this is an event that you will want to get in shape for.

April 30 – May 1, the TMVI Battalion and the MVB will hold their second maximum effort event at Jefferson, TX. With the scheduling conflict for Marks' Mills, we will not be fielding a company at this event, either.

In May, Steve Shore suggested that we put in an appearance at the Arkansas State Muzzleloading Championships to be held at Berryville, AR on May 14-15. It sounded like a good idea, and was definitely something different from what we usually do, so this was enthusiastically adopted. Steve has gotten a list of potential practice dates so that we can go up to the range and practice/zero our weapons, and we'll be looking to add some practice time into the schedule at our February get-together at the Arsenal.

June is a quiet month as summertime settles into central Arkansas, and we have a Company drill tentatively scheduled for the 13th at Reed's Bridge. Another opportunity will be to take a small group down to Vicksburg National Battlefield Park to do a weekend creation of the Vicksburg Siege in the original trenches and fortifications in the south end of the Park. See Tom if you're interested, and check the August 2001 *Sentinel* to see what this was like the last time we tried it.

July and August are quiet months, too... with drill dates tentatively set at Reed's Bridge for a monthly get-together.

September will bring a return of gray jean wool with a max effort trip to Bloomfield, Missouri for a revival of the reenactments up there, and a visit to the original press where *The Stars & Stripes* was printed. The Missouri events we have attended in the past two years have been very, very good, and we expect this one to be an adventure as well.

The first weekend of October will be the Division event at Corinth, MS (October 1-2). The website for registration is expected to

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The Captain's Tent (Continued from Page 10)
 open in the next two weeks, and registration will be open until September 20. Details will be copied as they become available to the Company web site.

October 22-23 promises another good event, this time in the valley of Little Sugar Creek near Bentonville, about ten miles west of the Pea Ridge battlefield. This event has sort of an identity crisis, and is best known as "The Event Formerly Known as Cane Hill." It is held in the years opposite Prairie Grove, and promises to be the biggest event in Arkansas this year. We attended with the 37th Illinois in 2003 and had a grand old time. Details are a little sketchy at this point, but we will flesh things out as we get closer to the fall and see whether we can field a company here or not, and for which team.

The TMVI and MVB will hold their last max effort event of the year at Old Washington on the first weekend in November (Nov. 5-6). This will be the full-scale reenactment, which will also alternate in the odd years opposite Prairie Grove. Rumors are there's a new event coordinator at Old Washington, so relationships and communications with the park should be greatly improved in the coming year, especially with the Brigade staff to birddog things. We'll see...

Capt. Ezell briefly discussed the command change within the TMVI Battalion, and the upcoming commanders and staff meeting in Texarkana on January 22. The main concern expressed by the Company was the invariability and lack of variety in the Battalion's event scheduling, as well as the perception that the TMVI was becoming strictly a Texas, or Texas/Louisiana battalion. Capt. E. would bring these issues to the battalion meeting, and as a company we would "wait and see" to see if perceived improvements in the battalion have any substance before making any decision on a change in battalion affiliation.

TMVI Command & Staff Meeting.

As previously noted, the somewhat unexpected change of command in the TMVI Battalion caught most folks unprepared, and the Battalion staff held a planning meeting in Texarkana last weekend to work out a schedule and highlight "the Way Ahead" for the Battalion in the next couple of years.

All in all, I thought that the meeting went pretty well... much more harmoniously than I thought it would, and far more than the last one I attended in August 2001 as the newly elected CO-in-waiting. Colonel Hunt is making an earnest effort at trying to bring the Battalion back up to where it used to be, and is sincerely interested in trying to make this thing go.

Regrettably, the arguments on the lack of variety in events fell utterly flat and upon

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Coming Events

February 5, 2005 – Little Rock Arsenal living history, MacArthur Museum of Military History, MacArthur Park, Little Rock.

March 5-6, 2005 – Pea Ridge Living History, Pea Ridge National Battlefield, near Avoca, AR. Authentic, by invitation.

March 12, 2005 — St. Patrick's Day Parade, Union Train Station, Little Rock

March 19, 2005 – Cleburne Memorial Service, 12 noon, Maple Hill Cemetery, Helena, AR

April 1-3, 2005 — Siege of Port Hudson Re-enactment, Port Hudson State Historic Site, Zachary, LA (Federal impression)

April 8-9, 2005 – Shiloh Living History, Shiloh National Military Park. Sponsored by the Salt River Rifles, by invitation event. (Federal impression (8th Illinois)).

April 23-24, 2005 – Battle of Marks' Mills Re-Enactment, Fordyce, Ark. Sponsored by the 1st Arkansas. Federal impression (36th Iowa)

May 13-15, 2005— State Muzzleloading Championship Shoot, Berryville, AR. CS impression.

May 20, 2005 – Cabot Middle School (S) living history, Cabot, AR

June 11, 2005 – Company Drill, Reed's Bridge Battlefield Park, Jacksonville, AR

June 25-26, 2005 – Vicksburg Siege Living History, Vicksburg National Military Park, Vicksburg, MS.

June 16, 2005 – Company Drill, Reed's Bridge Battlefield Park, Jacksonville, AR

July 31, 2005 — N/SA Annual Planning Meeting, Corinth, MS

August 6-7, 2005 – Battle of Athens Reenactment/Living History, Athens, MO. Hosted by the Western Independent Grays

August 20, 2005 – Company Drill, Reed's Bridge Battlefield Park, Jacksonville, AR

September 10-11, 2005 – Bloomfield, MO Picket Post. Confederate impression.

September 17-18, 2005 – Arkansas Post National Memorial living history. Federal impressions

October 2-4, 2005 – Battle of Corinth Re-enactment, Corinth, MS. Sponsored by the North/South Alliance, N/SA, MVB, and TMVI maximum effort event. Confederate impression (Johnson's 15th Arkansas).

October 22-23, 2005 – "Battles Around Bentonville" reenactment, (The Event Formerly Known As Cane Hill) Bentonville, AR.

October 31, 2005 – Big Boo-Zeum Bash, MacArthur Museum, Little Rock, AR

November 5-7, 2005 – Civil War Weekend at Old Washington, Washington, AR. Confederate impression. MVB, TMVI Maximum effort event. CS Impression.

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.

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.

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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 Captain 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 Captain.

The Captain's Tent (Continued from Page 11)

deaf ears, so we still have the problem with the event schedule—they are very much attached to the same round of events over and over again, and don't see that there are any viable alternatives, at least that they are willing to travel to. Note also the serious intent to move the Battalion elections and biennial business meetings from their traditional location at the Prairie Grove event. I understand the concern about distance, and can live with that, but I am more concerned about the sharp reluctance to go anywhere in Arkansas other than Old Washington.

And yeah... the guys in the 9th Arkansas nominated me for the Lieutenant Colonel position on the Battalion staff. I don't think we have anything to worry about, and I'm not investing in some more gold braid and a couple pair of stars just yet. As you might have noted, there are three other guys running, and the election will be held at Jefferson in May... where derved few of the Arkansas boys will be in attendance (and voting). I do n't plan to be moving up anytime soon. I do look at this election, however, as a compass check on the direction the Battalion as a whole will be going in the next few years. It'll be an interesting race, what there is of it...

Being a Great NCO (Continued from Page 9)

their men often as to their hydration status and the level of water they have left in their canteens.

- **Wood detail:** You should expect the corporals of this detail to have gathered enough firewood for the circumstance and size of the company (i.e. more wood if it is cold, etc). If it is very wet out, look for a fallen, pine tree and cut out a piece of fat lighter from its center. This will aid in getting a fire started when it is damp out.

- **Fire detail:** You should expect your corporals on this duty to have built and started on fire for every 4-6 men. Less if in summer.

- **Mess detail:** Pick the great cooks for this detail. These men will perform preparation and cooking of the food (unless a commissary sergeant is dedicated to the task). The mess detail should also act as the ration detail as well. This means that they go to Ration Call and collect rations for their entire company.

- **Shelter detail:** This should be the corporals' first duty when the company stops for camp if the weather is inclement. The corporals should be expected to find appropriate ground within their area and gather any materials to build a shelter large enough for their men. Have more corporals work on this immediately if the weather is very bad.

- **Sapper/Engineer Detail:** If you are in trenches and they need to be improved for sleeping, warmth, etc, you should expect that your corporals will have improved them sufficiently with his detail. Your CO, you and the company should request that people bring digging tools if needed (set this up prior to the event).

- **Guard detail:** Your battalion staff officers may ask you for a detail for guard mount. Please then contact your CO immediately (unless he is not there). Comply with all battalion staff officers of your battalion. (See 'Guard Mount' below). Guards do not take orders from officers at that are not the Office of the Guard or the Officer of the Day... even if he is ordinarily their CO.

Dealing with your CO: Almost all dealings with your CO should be held privately. A good officer won't ball you out in front of the men, but he could do it in private! You are the mother of the company and the CO needs to trust that you will do these things without being micro-managed. In many cases, the 1st Sgt is the messmate of the CO and this works in campaign settings well. Also, you are the link from the enlisted men to the officers. If the CO must leave the company's vicinity, then you are in charge of the company and need to follow any special instructions left by the CO. The CO should never take part in the labor of a detail unless it is urgent that he do so.

Guard Mount: If you are on Guard Mount or Outpost you will work a 6-hour shift

on and 6 hours in reserve. You and the CO are to stay awake this entire 6 hour shift. You both work together and stay together unless the Sergeant of the Guard is called to a post or the CO commands it. You watch out for each other's welfare for this period and should report happenings from your posts as they come in from the corporal of the guard. Know how the guard is to be deployed and their posts. Keep written records of their positions and names and shifts (use a Guard Mount form if you can get one or make one).

You should expect your corporal of the guard to be sure his men know their passwords and special orders of their posts. You should expect that they run, and the report back on each call from a post. Please note them in your Guard Mount. If you have time, make a sketch of the terrain of the area and the enemies' posts. Send this report to the Officer of the Guard. Make sure your posts are kept to no fires or very small fires per post.

Know the difference between a Police Guard and a Picket or Outpost Guard.

Weapon smith: You need to have a set of cleaning tools with you at all times. You should have the proper tools for Enfields and Springfields. Have a couple of nipple picks at the ready for a fouled rifle. You should assign a corporal to instruct and who need it is the art of musket cleaning if required.

In Battle: NCOs should not only know their place in line, but also know where everyone else in their stead should be as well! Watching out for safety infractions is your first priority. Watch your men's footings during loading and firing. Give appropriate correction as needed in low tones. DO NOT ECHO COMMANDS! You all know this. Look out for any signs of dehydration or fatigue in your men. You should already have done the 'Medical' step above. Ask your CO who, if any, officers on staff are actually, medically trained (not just a reenactor). KNOW your units Safety Regulations and enforce them.

Skirmishing: You should make yourself the central guide for the line. The CO will be several paces behind the line or 80-120 paces behind the line if he has a bugler and has line of sight to most of his men. Thus, it helps to know the basic bugle calls. Please only correct when you need to and in the lowest tones possible. Your main goal is to keep alignment of the skirmish line and also keep men from rushing too far out of line to play 'Cowboys and Indians'. Obviously, you need to know the drill basics of skirmishing as well.

Does this seem like a lot to do? Well, you're right...it is! So, don't let anyone tell you that the 1st Sergeant is not the Mother Hen of his company! Have fun and do your company proud as one of their NCOs.