

The Sentinel



VOL.9, No. 6 – THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 6TH ARKANSAS INFANTRY, COMPANY A, C.S.A. – JUNE, 2005
LIVING HISTORIANS

[HTTP://WWW.GEOCITIES.COM/CAPITALGUARDS](http://www.geocities.com/capitalguards)

“Up, Guards, and At ‘Em!”

Yeah, Steve got pictures... Check out <http://community.webshots.com/album/372790777cxOXzp>.

Altogether, it was a very nice little event, and all seemed to be pretty pleased.

We had four folks show up in Mexican War gear to represent the “Little Rock Guards” of the 1840s, but as the photos show, we did a darned good job at it. Tom Ezell, Harvey Moore, Keith Peterson, Steve Shore, and Jerry Simpson turned out in a very presentable version of militia uniform. W.J. Monagle was a little late, but made it for the afternoon sessions.

The event was off to an early start, as I went over Friday evening at 6 p.m. to meet the folks coming in from out of state and make sure we had everything we needed laid out for the following day. It was a good bit of meet ‘n’ greet with Mike and Betty Bradley from Fort Gibson, OK, as well as a number of other folks from the Oklahoma Historical Society (the equivalent of the Department of Arkansas Heritage for those folks who live out in the wilds of the Indian Territory) who normally represent Company G of the 6th U.S. Infantry at the Territory’s frontier forts. We took a ride across the river on the newfangled Little Rock Trolley, and wound back up in the River Market for supper at the Flying Saucer tavern. I headed back out to the quartermaster depot around a dark, but apparently the Oklahoma boys had a pretty good time along the waterfront of our fair city.

Saturday was another early muster as I loaded the wagons, put some finishing touches on the uniforms, and headed for the State House. Harvey and I got there just on time, by which I mean early enough for doughnuts and coffee, but just in time so that we didn’t have to help move the cannon into position (some of the Oklahoma boys brought a full-scale Model 1841 bronze 6-pounder gun which we set up just inside the entrance to the State House lawn.

Our numbers had been reinforced, with the arrival of “Albert Pike,” (otherwise the director of the Honey Springs battlefield near Checotah, Oklahoma), and Scott McMahon and Steve Abolt of the 7th U.S. Infantry, the “Cotton Balers” of New Orleans fame. They brought along their garrison-sized flag, which was draped from the balcony on the front of the State House for a little extra patriotic color. (If you watched *The Alamo*



The Little Rock Guards pose at the Old State House with the reproduction of the colors carried by the Company through the Mexican War. The original flag is in the collection of the Old State House Museum. From left to right, Howard ___ of Honey Springs Battlefield State Park near Checotah, OK, who portrayed Albert Pike; and Guardsmen Steve Shore, Jerry Simpson, Tom Ezell, and Harvey Moore.

movie last year with Billy Bob Thornton as Davy Crockett, Scott and Steve, along with Alan Huffines were the fellows who set up and coached the reenactors in that movie.)

Steve and Jerry showed up about this time, and we sorted out the gear and got everyone fixed up, then took a little basic instruction on the manual of arms from Winfield Scott’s 1845 “Infantry Tactics.” Most everything was different, with the musket carried on the left side, and the loading drill now swapped for “Load in 12 Times” (Tom was packing an M1822 flintlock) and “Load in Ten Times” for the fellows who were carrying the newfangled M1842 percussion smoothbores. The manual of arms was a lot easier to learn than the ‘Lockstep’ method of marching, but we got enough down so as not to embarrass ourselves, then took a tour through the new exhibit, located upstairs on the right side of the legislative chambers of the State House.

One of the things I noted when we started this project way back in March was that there wasn’t much readily available on

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July Drill Set for Hattieville Range

The Capitol Guards will hold their July meeting and Company Drill at the Arkansas Muzzle Loading Association’s range complex near Hattieville, 10 miles east of Morrilton, Arkansas, on the weekend of July 16-17. Overnight camping areas are available.

The focus this month will be on the School of the Musket (firings, weapons safety, and maintenance, and the School of the Company drill outline set out for the 1st Confederate Division member units.

We’ll be setting up Friday evening, and will have the Company tents and mess section deployed for shelter and meals. Please get in touch with First Sergeant Steve Shore [(501) 985-0560, or e-mail spflyboy@hotmail.com] if you’re coming, and we’ll be ready for you!

If you’ve never been to the Hattieville range facility, you have a very pleasant surprise coming!

"Up Guards, and At 'Em" (Continued from Page 1)



Major Steve Abolt of the 7th U.S. Infantry, the "Cotton Balers" from the battle of New Orleans, served as master of ceremonies. Here, they set up the 7th's 28-star garrison flag from the Old State House balcony.

the Mexican War, and wound up finding most of my research stuff in the backwaters of eBay's used book market. The display that the State House staff has put together is very impressive, and is probably one of the largest assemblies of Mexican War artifacts anywhere at this point in time. They didn't have Santa Anna's wooden leg (captured by the Illinois volunteers at Cerro Gordo), but they do have Gideon Pillow's uniform jacket, Archibald Yell's saddle and a few other items, and the quill pen that President Polk used to sign the peace treaty that ended the War and bring Manifest Destiny to completion. Of particular interest is the original battle flag presented to Captain Pike and the Little Rock Guards

when they set off for the War, when they carried through the Northern Campaign and at the battles near Saltillo and Buena Vista, and then brought back home with them to Arkansas. It's impressive — with 28 hand-sewn stars forming the pattern ("a new constellation", they called it back then) of a larger star in the blue union. The flag is made from a large sheet of scarlet silk, with 2-inch white silk ribbons handsewn to form the six white stripes. This gives it an odd look to our modern eyes, with the red stripes twice the width of the white stripes, but it is a very striking flag. In the center of the stripes in an 18-inch applied square with an embroidered wreath of multicolored rose buds (Little Rock was long known as the "City of Roses," even into my lifetime, and the Capitol Guards were commonly referred to in the antebellum newspapers as "the flower of Little Rock") with the company's motto, "Up Guards, and At 'Em" painted in gold block letters in the center of the wreath. If you are a flag fan, this is an awesome flag.

The Museum commissioned a full-sized, full color reproduction of this flag, as well as an accompanying flag of the "Van Buren Avengers" for this weekend's celebration, as they re-enacted the presentation of the colors to the departing troops. We'll be able to use them in future living history events at the Museum featuring the Little Rock Guards, as well as the hands-on presentations the Museum does as part of its day-to-day activities. Check out the color photos we had taken with this banner...

Having gotten the drill down, we checked weapons, and were told that we would fire a National (28-gun) salute at the close of the flag ceremony. No problem... until we got through checking weapons and found that as a result of the heavy emphasis on live fire over the past two months, we'd done a good job at keeping the live ammo physically separated from the blanks—and all the musket caps were safely packed away with the live rounds back in the armory!! Me, I was packing the flintlock (with a grand total of 8 rounds of ammo) and didn't think about bringing caps. I found three caps in the living history box, and Steve found a partial tin stashed in his wagon, so we managed to scrape by—but it was

a close one, much to the amusement of the Oklahomans, who were all packing flintlocks. There were a few misfires, but we ultimately got all the rounds off, gave three cheers for Old Glory, and adjourned to the shade to stack arms and partake of the free barbecue and picnicked under the shade of the trees on the State House lawn.

We spent about an hour talking with the various tourists that walked by, then most of the troops had to depart for the seat of the War... I stayed on, and kept up with the demos for the rest of the afternoon, and visited for a spell with the Oklahoma folks, checking out what the antebellum reenacting scene was like out in the Territories. There was supper and an hour's break at 5 or 5:30, then they set up for the dance. The "Skirtlifters" out of Fayetteville was the band, and they were pretty good, in spite of having to compete with what we claimed to be was Mexican artillery, but was really the heavy, hip-hop rap & bass thumping of the folks celebrating "Juneteenth" down by the River Market. I even danced several sets with a couple of fair young ladies... it's been a while (since Ditch Bayou back in '99, I think) but it came back pretty quickly.

In the after-action comments, everyone seemed to have been pretty pleased with the event, and the Museum was very happy with the re-enactors' efforts to re-create both the appearance and the spirit of the boys who introduced Mexico to the concept and reality of Manifest Destiny. There will be several other events over the next year and a half featuring Captain Pike and the Little Rock Guards, so don't sell off your Mex War stuff on eBay or one of the web boards just yet. One of the next events will feature the Guards' experiences in Mexico, and another follow-up event will focus on the Guards return from and welcome home from the War. There will be some opportunities in the coming year to do some garrison-type events out at the frontier forts in Oklahoma (and a specific invite out to Fort Gibson). And for the guys who are looking for a road trip to burn a little powder, the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Palo Alto (TX), the first battle of the Mexican War, is coming up next spring... I've got a bit of a hankering to put a new rock in the old flintlock and give it a try...

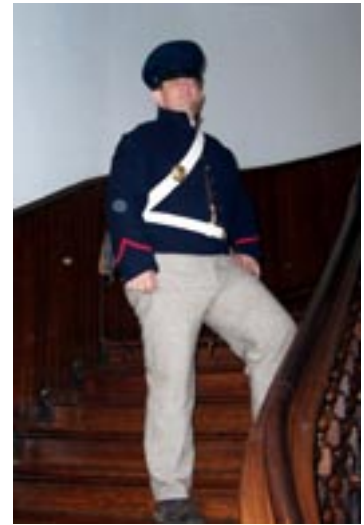


An even nicer effect in sepiaone...

"Try Us!" Old State House Mexican War Living History – June 18, 2005



Representing Captain Pike's Little Rock Guards were Tom Ezell, Steve Shore, Jerry Simpson, and Harvey Moore, here showing off their .69 cal pumpkin slingers and the Arkansas toothpicks.



This is pretty close to the look for the Little Rock Guards and their 1840s militia uniform, as described by the Arkansas Gazette.



The 6th (U.S.) Infantry boys from Oklahoma represented Capt. Solon Borland's company of Little Rock volunteers, shown here during the gun salute.



Scott McMahon of the 7th Infantry, and Tom Ezell of the Little Rock Guards



The original flag presented to the Little Rock Guards, and carried by the Company through the Mexican War and the Battle of Buena Vista.



The Old State House's reproduction of the Little Rock Guards' colors, handsewn in silk by Scott McMahon.

Come on Out for Corinth!

July is rapidly approaching, and while we enjoy the summer break from wearing wool, it's high time to get our stuff together for the Division event at Corinth, Mississippi on October 1-2.

Yeah, I know, this is only the middle of June and the derved event isn't until September... However the Confederate High Command is exercising itself in trying to keep the Confederate/Federal numbers somewhere close to equal this time, rather than the 4:1 ratio we enjoyed at Franklin last year. Thus the extra time to try and sift through the registration forms and separate the sheep from the goats early on.

So, I need to get a firm count on who is coming to Corinth in October. In short order, by the end of the first week in July, I need to collect your registration forms so as to get them in to the Brigade for the sheep sorting. The registration process is outlined below.

Our current plans are to attend this event as Confederates. Tentatively we will field as a company under the wing of the Elk River Battalion, Mississippi Valley Brigade. The Brigade will be holding a pre-event conference in Vicksburg, MS next weekend (July 2). I will be attending this on behalf of the Company, and I should have the final skinny on where we will be and how we get there after that time. Look for the bulk of the Corinth information to be in the July issue of the *Sentinel*.

The folks who have previously gotten in touch with me with their intent to attend Corinth are:

- Tom Ezell
- Steve Shore
- Ken Nations
- Corey Platt
- Tyson Savell
- Dave Sesser
- Jerry Simpson

NOT GOING:

- Todd Clampitt
- Robert Giles
- Lon Webster

I need to get a confirmation that folks are still interested (I still am!), as well as get a head count to see if we will indeed be able to field a company... If numbers are way low like this, we'll have to take some alternative action somehow... Please let me know NOT LATER THAN JUNE 30 if you're earnest about coming to Corinth so that I can make the appropriate arrangements for us at Vicksburg this weekend...

Corinth updates will be forthcoming in

the *Sentinel*, and notices will be posted to the Company bulletin board (linked from the web page at www.geocities.com/capitalguards/home.html) as they become available. That will be the best place to get event information between the newsletter issues.

CORINTH REGISTRATION PROCESS

Registration.

Fees will be:

- February 20 - September 1, 2005 = \$12.00
- September 1 - September 20, 2005 = \$20.00

Registration closes September 20, 2005.

Registration is by INDIVIDUAL, although they must be submitted through the FCD chain of command to ensure that all registering as Confederates are eligible members of the First Confederate Division. There will be no walk-ons, substitutions or refunds. Only those who are official members of FCD units or their affiliated units will be allowed to register as Confederate.

Make the registration checks out to: "The 1864 Tennessee Campaign, Inc."

1. Each INDIVIDUAL will go to the NSA web site (www.nsalliance.org), click on "Corinth" and go to the proper page to download a REGISTRATION FORM. This form must be complete with name, address, phone(s), email, company, battalion and brigade. Registration fee must accompany registration forms. Individuals will submit completed forms along with their registration fee to their COMPANY COMMANDER.

2. COMPANY COMMANDERS will be provided with a roster form (also downloadable from the NSA site) that will serve as a cover sheet for the individual forms from the company. It will list the number of and names of the men in the company, total number of men and total amount of money submitted. Company commanders are responsible for collecting the individual forms, checking that the information on the individual forms is correct and complete, collecting the money and forwarding all the individual forms and fees for the company to the BATTALION COMMANDER absolutely no later than July 25, 2005. If the company commander wants to write a single check to cover registration fees for all men in the company, that is acceptable.

3. BATTALION COMMANDERS will need to check the forms from their companies for accuracy and correct fee submission and add individual registration forms, cover sheet and correct registration fees for any battalion staff and submit the information for the entire battalion to the BRIGADE COMMANDER.

4. BRIGADE COMMANDERS will double check all information from their battalions, add individual registration forms, cover sheet and correct registration fees from brigade staff and submit to Division c/o Wayne Beauford (details will follow).

5. ALL BRIGADE REGISTRATION PACKAGES MUST ARRIVE AT DIVISION NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 2005 (Postmarked August 1, 2005). REGISTRATION FEE for additions to existing rosters will be \$20 after August 1, 2005. No UNIT registrations will be accepted after August 1, 2005.

6. ARTILLERY and CAVALRY participation will use the same methodology. ARTILLERY and CAVALRY commanders will have discretion on allowing participation based on First Confederate Division guidelines.

7. Any NEW UNITS wishing to join or affiliate with FCD member Battalions or Brigades must submit request no later than July 15, 2005 so that they may be discussed at the Division annual meeting in Corinth at the end of July.

8. CIVILIAN REGISTRATION will be done on an individual basis and the proper form will be available on the NSA web site.

This puts the initial responsibility on the company commanders to get their men registered. Collecting the registration fees and the necessary information is always easier on the local level. The company commanders are responsible for their friends' participation in the Corinth event.

BRIGADE and BATTALION COMMANDERS are free to adjust the submission dates as they see fit, but the completed forms and fees are due to Division from Brigades no later than August 1, 2005.

Fanning the Flames... Rumor Control on Corinth 2005

The upheaval in the ranks of the First Confederate Division (our April revolution wasn't unique to either the MVB or the TMVI) as well as a poorly presented PR plan for the Division's new authenticity standards led to a lot of cat-calling and other rumors flying back and forth. To try and settle some of the questions, the Division Headquarters has published the following in response to some of the most frequently asked questions about Corinth and what the Division plans to do there:

The Corinth event is going to be cancelled.

A: No, this couldn't be further from the

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Corinth 2005 (Continued from Page 4)

truth. The final Letter of Agreement between the NSA and the Corinth Area Tourism Promotion Council is in the process of being signed and should be in place by June 1, 2005. The event is in place and on track. For the first time the NSA has drafted a Letter of Agreement outlining the rights and responsibilities of the NSA and any of our event co-sponsors. This is something that should have been in place long ago, but wasn't. Only due to the diligent efforts of Generals Moore and Dolive do we now have a standard agreement that we can use for this and all future events in order to protect our rights and provide fiscal accountability.

I heard the the Corinth SCV (Sons of Confederate Veterans) wanted to cancel the event.

A: There were a lot of rumors and strange statements coming out of one of the Corinth SCV camps. That camp (Col. Wm. P. Rogers #321 SCV) was one of the "original" event sponsors, but as of now have determined that it is in their best interests to not be involved as an official sponsor or partner.

What is the money generated from the reenactment going to be used for?

A. First of all, the expenses of staging this event will be in the range of \$150,000+ and this is on the "inexpensive" side of the event production ledger. This is because of negligible land costs and the fact that not a great deal of underbrush, etc. needs to be cleared. The money raised from spectator ticket sales, parking and concessions will revert to the Corinth Area Tourism Promotion Council, the official "tourism" entity in Corinth. By their charter, they cannot keep the money for themselves. The proceeds after expenses will be given to civil war preservation projects in the greater Corinth area. Chief among this is major repair and restoration work on the famous Verandah House that served as residence and HQ for at least 8 Federal and Confederate generals during the civil war. This is all spelled out in the Letter of Agreement between the NSA and Corinth Tourism Council.

Yeah, but how can we be sure of that?

A. The Corinth Tourism Council is required to provide us with a certified statement by the end of the year on the disbursement of all the funds as well as the specific expenses incurred in staging the event. We will publish that information on the NSA web site.

How big is the site? I hear it's on the small side.

A. The site is about 600+ acres with another 300 acres available just north of the main site. This is slightly larger than the Perryville battlefield site. The site contains rolling hills, ponds, creeks, cleared land and some very nice wooded areas. The wooded areas are free from undergrowth and make

nice areas for campaign camping.

Why are the Confederate impression standards so tough for this event?

A. First of all, there have been no changes to the First Confederate Division impression standards. We are using the standards as posted on the First Confederate Division site for the past couple of years. The DIFFERENCE is that now the impression standards are going to be enforced. Although not 100% historically correct for the Corinth campaign, anyone who meets the regular FCD impression guidelines has nothing to worry about. You're good to go! For those who want to make an extra effort to develop a specific impression of a unit being portrayed at Corinth, we've posted that information on the "Corinth" section of the NSA site and encourage those that wish to do so. What we ARE doing is enforcing General Moore's order the Federal Sky Blue issue trousers not be worn by Confederate troops at this event. The reason: It is historically incorrect. There is no historical record of any Confederate Troops wearing Federal issue sky blue trousers during this campaign.

But I heard that the Confederates captured Federal uniforms at Iuka just a few weeks before and were therefore wearing Federal uniforms - including Federal Sky Blue Issue Trousers - at Corinth a few weeks later.

A. This has been cussed and discussed for months. We have studied virtually every record of what happened at Iuka - including official records of what the Confederates really captured (mostly foodstuffs and 600 pair of enlisted shoulder scales and 200 knapsacks), to descriptions of what CS troops were wearing when captured at Iuka just two days later (brown or butternut uniforms with black stripes on the trousers) to what the CS troops had been previously been issued and when... We will soon be posting much of this on the "Corinth" section of this site. We cannot use conjecture to assume anything regarding clothing, uniforms and equipment. Until someone comes forth with definitive evidence that CS troops were wearing Federal issue sky blue trousers, they are incorrect and will not be allowed at Corinth.

Yeah, but I have heard that some CS troops were issued sky-blue trousers.

A. Yes they were, and these are correct. There is a difference between the sky-blue or blue colored jean trousers issued to some CS troops and FEDERAL ISSUE SKY BLUE TROUSERS.

I heard that the CS Provost will be at the event site entrance inspecting for hand sewn buttonholes on jackets and shirts.

A. It's rumors like these that necessitate posts such as this. I don't have any idea where this one came from, but it couldn't be further from the truth. Yes, hand sewn button holes

are historically correct, and Yes, we'd eventually be thrilled if every man in the FCD had correct button holes - and correct uniforms and gear. BUT, no one is inspecting button holes - let alone the Division Provost - and no one is getting sent home because he has machine-sewn buttonholes.

Will there be inspections?

A. Most likely. And they will be done in your company, battalion and brigade by your officers. A few units may be inspected by the Division commander or the Division Acting Inspector General - but that is just part of regular army life.

What about camping? What are the camps going to be like?

A. Van Dorn / Price's Confederate army was on campaign. Our scenarios are going to mirror an army on campaign. There will not be any "death marches," but some units may find themselves moving camps during the event. There are excellent areas for both Federal and Confederate campaigners. The Federal Campaigners will be at a "remote" site about 3/4 mile from the main Federal camp - which is a garrison camp in the town of Corinth as per history. These campaigner Federals will portray the Federal troops coming into Corinth from outposts as the battle developed. They will "march to the guns." The Confederate camp will be on the "far side" of the site in order to replicate the CS army approaching Corinth. CS campaigners will be adjacent to the regular CS camp. ALL Confederates should consider "packing light" for this event. There is a sketch of the entire site on the "Corinth" section of the NSA site.

What can I read to study the Corinth Campaign?

A. There are few books or articles on the Battle of Corinth. The best is probably Peter Cozzen's "The Darkest Days of the War: The Battles of Iuka and Corinth" published by the University of North Carolina Press and available from Amazon, Borders, etc. *Blue&Gray Magazine* covered these battles in their Summer 2002 issue.

What is being done to get the Confederate and Federal numbers more equal?

The two opposing sides had about equal strength at the original Battle of Corinth (about 23,000 each). General Moore has ordered that only those units that are official members of or are officially affiliated with the First Confederate Division may participate as Confederate at Corinth. If you or your unit want to come to Corinth and are NOT a member of or affiliated with the First Confederate Division, we welcome your participation as Federal.

Historian, Novelist Shelby Foote Dies

By WOODY BAIRD, Associated Press Writer (June 28, 2005)

MEMPHIS, Tenn. - Novelist and historian Shelby Foote, whose Southern storyteller's touch inspired millions to read his multivolume work on the Civil War, has died. He was 88.

Foote died Monday night (June 27, 2005), his widow, Gwyn, said Tuesday.

Foote, a Mississippi native and longtime Memphis resident, wrote six novels but is best remembered for his three-volume, 3,000-page history of the Civil War and his appearance on the PBS series *The Civil War*.

He worked on the book for 20 years, using a flowing, narrative style that enabled readers to enjoy it like a historical novel.

"I can't conceive of writing it any other way," Foote once said. "Narrative history is the kind that comes closest to telling the truth. You can never get to the truth, but that's your goal."

That work landed Foote a leading role on Ken Burns' 11-hour Civil War documentary, first shown on the Public Broadcasting Service in 1990.

"He was a Southerner of great intellect who took up the issue of the Civil War as a writer with huge sanity and sympathy," said Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Richard Ford, a friend and fellow Mississippi native.

Foote's soft drawl and gentlemanly manner on the Burns film made him an instant celebrity, a role with which he was unaccustomed and, apparently, somewhat uncomfortable.

Foote attended the University of North Carolina for two years and served in World

War II, though he never saw combat.

Foote's first novel, "*Tournament*," was started before the war and published in 1949. Then came "*Follow Me Down*" in 1950, "*Love in a Dry Season*" in 1951, "*Shiloh*" in 1952 and "*Jordan County*" in 1954.

That same year, Random House asked him to write a one-volume history of the Civil War. He took the job, but it grew into a three-volume project finally finished in 1974.

In 1999, the Modern Library ranked Foote's "*The Civil War: A Narrative*" as No. 15 on its list of the century's 100 best English-language works of nonfiction.

Reading, he said, was as much a part of his work as writing.

After finishing his sixth novel, "*September, September*," in 1978, he took off three years to read.

Though hardly a recluse, Foote had long been known around Memphis as having little interest in parties and public gatherings. And he was often outspoken about his likes and dislikes.

"Most people, if the truth be told, are gigantic bores," he once said. "There's no need to subject yourself to that kind of thing."

Foote was born Nov. 7, 1916, in Greenville, a small Delta town with a literary bent. Walker Percy was a boyhood and lifelong friend, and Foote, as a young man, served as a "jackleg reporter" for Hodding Carter on the *Delta Star*. As a young man, he would also get to know William Faulkner.

During World War II, he was an Army captain of artillery until he lost his commission for using a military vehicle without authorization to visit a female friend and was discharged from the Army. He joined the Marines and was still stateside when the war ended.

"The Marines had a great time with me," he said. "They said if you used to be a captain, you might make a pretty good Marine."

He tried journalism again after World War II, signing on briefly with the Associated Press in its New York bureau.

"I think journalism is a good experience, having to turn in copy against deadline and everything else, but I don't think one should stay in it too long if what he wants to be is a serious writer," Foote said in a 1990 interview.

Early in his career, Foote took up the habit of writing by hand with an old-fashioned dipped pen, and he continued that practice throughout his life.

He kept bound volumes of his manuscripts, all written in a flowing hand, on a bookshelf in a homey

bedroom-study overlooking a small garden at his Memphis residence. Though facing a busy city street, the two-story house was almost hidden from view by trees and shrubs.

"If I were a wealthy man, I'd have someone on that gate," he said.

Foote said writing by hand helped him slow down to a manageable pace and was more personal than using a typewriter, though he often prepared a typed copy of his day's writing after it was finished.

Married three times, Foote has a daughter, Margaret Shelby, and a son, Huger Lee. He and Gwyn married in 1956, three years after he moved to Memphis.

Avoiding Some of Summer's Heat & Health Problems

Avoiding heat stroke/heat injury is not difficult but requires absolute and rigid adherence to certain rules or dos & don'ts. Years of experience in real world military field medicine (including time in the desert) have proven these out.

1. BE IN SHAPE! Reenacting involves running around, carrying loads, etc. If you are a TBG or have medical problems limit your activity to what you know you can do - if this means being a camp guard half of the weekend so be it.

2. ACCLIMATIZE: If you are going to be out a lot in the heat reenacting, try and spend plenty of time at home in the heat...go for walks in the heat of the day etc - start slowly to help build resistance. If going to a much hotter area, try to get there a few days early and get used to it BEFORE you run around in heavy marching order.

3. HYDRATE: WATER! WATER! WATER! Water is the best fluid to have. Sports drinks like Gatorade contain carbohydrates which act as osmotic diuretics, and unless you are running a marathon or haven't eaten for 2-3 days you don't need the calories. Likewise the electrolytes are not needed, especially with the salty diet we eat reenacting. Caffeinated drinks like coffee and tea are diuretics, and actually dry you out the more of them you drink - it's ok to drink coffee (I can't live without it) but take extra water to deal with this. Alcohol is another diuretic, and it also interferes with thermoregulation — be moderate and don't drink & exercise in the heat. The absolute worst stuff - soda pop. Contains tons of caffeine and sugar, a double diuretic whammy. Many of our younger reenactors go to the skimmers row and have a lot of pop and think they've "hydrated" - "Mister where's your mule?" - they've made things worse..watch out for the younger set.

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Don't count out small events! You never know who might just show up. Corporal Tom Ezell attended the Patrick Cleburne Society memorial in Helena on March 21, 1999 and is pictured here with his new friends, General Cleburne's great-great niece Jeanne Despujols, and Shelby Foote, author of *Shiloh* and the three volume history, *The Civil War: A Narrative*. Foote died this week at his home in Memphis.



The Captain's Tent

by Tom Ezell

It's a comparatively short newsletter compared to some of our previous offerings this year, but it's been a busy summer so far, and the writing & composition time that we've enjoyed just hasn't been available. So we've tried to cover the "hot" issues for this time of year, and will try to fill in the blank spaces once we have better information in the next issue.

Many, many thanks go out to the pards who took the time and effort to come out and support the Mexican War living history event at the Old State House this past month. It's opened a new window on things that we can do to commemorate the history of the original Capital Guards, and increases the awareness that these men weren't just a Civil War/Confederate thing... they played an even greater role in the history of Arkansas than they've ever really gotten credit for. There will be a few more opportunities to show folks that long before there was a Civil War, there were a group of patriots - the Capital Guards - who were staunch in the service of their city, state, and nation. And we stand the same to this day, nearly 170 years later!

The votes are in for the July event, and we'll be going up to Hattiesville for a weekend of training and fellowship. We'll work hard on weapons safety - and you'll have a chance to live-fire your musket if you wish - as well as trying to keep the rust of our drill procedures. Steve Shore is setting up the event, and it promises to be a very good time. We'll take account of the current heat wave, and things will be scheduled at a period (leisurely) pace.

At the end of July (weekend of July 30) we've been asked to hold a memorial service for two Confederate soldiers of the 33rd Arkansas down by Chidester, near Hope. I don't have the final details on this one (time, driving directions) just yet, but will pass those on as soon as it's available. We'll be extending invitations to our pards in the other Arkansas units to participate, and will be setting up car pools for the folks from the Little Rock area, as gas prices are still going up like gun powder.

Expect to see a few more requests like this one from time to time. While the SCV has pretty much embroiled itself over the past year in inflated egos, petty politics, and self-immolation, there's still good work to be done out here to commemorate the efforts of the Boys of 1861-1865, and honor their

Coming Events

July 2, 2005 - Mississippi Valley Brigade Reorganizational Conference. Battlefield Inn, Vicksburg, MS. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

July 9-10, 2005 - Pea Ridge National Military Park Living History, Pea Ridge, AR. Sponsored by the Union Rifles.

July 16-17, 2005 - Company Drill, AMLA Range facility, Hattiesville, AR.

July 30, 2005 - Confederate grave marker and dedication service for 2 veterans of the 33rd Arkansas, near Chidester (Poison Springs), AR

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

August 27, 2005 - Company Drill & Living History, Reed's Bridge Battlefield Park, Jacksonville, AR. (Anniversary date of the original battle)

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 maximum effort event. Confederate impression

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.

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 maximum effort event, please contact Steve Shore or Tom Ezell (6th Arkansas) or W.J. Monagle (37th Illinois) beforehand.

contributions to our country. After all, if we don't remember them, who will?

Mark Backus and a few other pards have brought up the idea of organizing a local camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, something like the Yankee equivalent of the SCV, but a group that still has a great deal of sponsorship from the U.S. Congress. I am a member-at-large already in the organization, as well as Mark, Steve, and a few others. We need five members (or eligible candidates for membership to charter a camp. Mark is a past Camp and Department commander from the Lone Star State, so we will likely be inviting folks for a get-together in July to explore the idea of something like this.

Our August event has moved to the last weekend of the month (August 27) to honor a request by the Reed's Bridge Preservation Society to have some sort of presentation there on the anniversary weekend of the battle.

So we moved July's event to Hattiesville so as not to hit the same spot two months in a row. Reed's Bridge will need both Confederate and Federal impressions, and will be a good opportunity to fine-tune our skills for the fall campaign season.

Well, the page is running short, as is the time if I want to get this out as a June newsletter! I hope to have happy news and a little better information for you in the July issue as to our status in the Confederate service, as well as for the upcoming events.

Until we meet again on the drill field or the battlefield, I again sincerely thank you for your contribution to our group, and wish you a pleasant and prosperous summer!!

your pard,

Tom Ezell

The 6th Regiment, Arkansas Volunteer Infantry, Co. A, the "Capitol Guards" is 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.

Pea Ridge Living History, July 9-10

Dear Friends:

This update is being sent to (1) members of the Union Rifles, (2) those from other unit/messes who are pre-registered for Pea Ridge, and (3) others who have expressed an interest in serving with our company at Corinth.

The numbers are looking very good for Pea Ridge. As of today, we have 34 men pre-registered to attend, and are still waiting on names and e-mail addresses from several more. Please check the attached roster and let me know if there are any corrections that need to be made. I will have the final update of the roster ready to send out early next week. If your name is not included, there's still time to "enlist." Just send me an e-mail telling me that you're planning to go. Please don't forget that forage caps are required for this impression. Let me know if you need help in this area.

As you will note from the press release I forwarded today from Mr. Steve Black, the Chief of Interpretation at the park, the public programs at Pea Ridge are scheduled only for Saturday, July 9th. I have done this so that we can have plenty of time to take a 2-3 mile hike and tour part of the battlefield early on Sunday morning, the 10th, and still be able to cut everyone loose no later than noon. I know that a number of you have long trips home, and would also like to have a little time to tour by car on your way.

Another word to the wise: DON'T FORGET THE BUG SPRAY! We'll be camping in a mowed area, and will remain on roads and trails all weekend; but the tick problem is still high. You should be fine if you spray yourself down well BEFORE putting on your uniform.

An informal meeting will be held between the unit/mess leaders on Saturday evening at which we'll discuss plans for Corinth, and also consider a proposal to make Company F a more-or-less permanent organization which will field for several regional events each year in addition to the regular AoP event. It's mode

of operation will be similar to that of the AoP, except on the company level, with "members" being maintained on a mailing list and simply "enlisting" for each event as it comes up. The rank structure would also be set on an event-by-event basis as needed per the number of participants expected to attend. Stay tuned for more details about this. If all goes as expected [i.e. the meeting doesn't end in a fist-fight!], we'll begin a regular e-mail newsletter for the organization after Pea Ridge. All who are on this list will automatically be included in the mailings.

The plans are getting underway for Corinth the first weekend in October. At this point, I can confirm that the Army of the Pacific (AoP) will be fielding as a single battalion and that Company F will be one of its companies. The guiding impression for the battalion will be the 7th Iowa Volunteer Infantry. As an exception to our normal practice, we will be doing Company "E" of that regiment rather than Company "F," the reason being that Ed Krogh has a relative who served in Co. E and we're adopting it for Ed's benefit, and that of his family.

I suppose that by now most of you have already heard of the death of the great Civil War historian, Shelby Foote, who passed away on Monday at the age of 88. Several of us in the Tulsa area had the opportunity to hear him speak last year when he was in town to receive a lifetime achievement award from the Tulsa City-County Library System. He was a unique individual, and one of the last of his "breed."

By now you have also most likely heard of the passing of Brian Pohanka, who died last week of cancer at the age of 50. Brian was a noted historian and reenactor, and co-founder of the 5th New York (Zouaves), one of the largest and most prestigious of eastern Federal infantry units. I had the honor to be personally acquainted with Brian, and always found him to be a fine gentleman.

Well, that's all for now. Don't forget to send me any changes needed to the attached roster. Please let me know right away if you wish to be added to it. Looking forward to seeing you all at Pea Ridge and/or Corinth, I remain,

Your friend for the Union,
Cal Kinzer

Beating the Heat (Continued from Page 6)

4. WATER BELONGS IN YOU, NOT YOUR CANTEEN: There are a fair number of recorded instances of men dying with water in their canteens they were "saving". Drink up early and often, if you get empty and no water is in sight take a hit and quit...hyperthermic brain damage is even worse (IMHO) than cardiac arrest. Officers/NCOs have your men empty their canteens into themselves COMPLETELY before battle at the last water point and fill up then, be sure to check canteens to ensure they were emptied and refilled.

5. IF YOU ARE THIRSTY, YOU ARE ALREADY AT LEAST 15% DEHYDRATED: True fact...so drink before you are thirsty and if you are already thirsty, drink to "overdo".

6. IF YOU ARE NOT URINATING ONCE EVERY 2 HRS OR SO, YOU ARE DEHYDRATED: Also, to the extent possible, check out the color of the flow - if it is dark yellow/orange it is highly concentrated and you're in trouble, urine in this situation should be clearish yellow - one manual says you should be able to read a newspaper through it.

7. IF YOU DON'T FEEL WELL, YOU'RE SICK: Remember that healthy, hardened 20-year-old soldiers DIED from heat illness/dehydration during the CW - for examples read about the march in the

oppressive heat from VA to PA by the AoP before Gettysburg. The minute you start to feel sick —STOP!!!

Officers & NCOs ENFORCE these rules, and all of us - ice is nice but water is a must...if its not adequate or where its needed fix the problem of stay off the field.

I have treated FAR too much preventable heat injury at reenactments, well above the levels that would be tolerated in the military.

