

The Sentinel



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Living Historians

<http://www.geocities.com/capital guards>

Dude, Where's my Monument?

If you have gone by the MacArthur Museum in MacArthur Park recently, and something looked “different,” you’re right. Our monument – at least the monument honoring Little Rock’s Capital Guards, is gone, leaving only the marble pedestal.

Exposed to all the elements and a few tornadoes over the past century, the statue had been vandalized on a couple occasions, and was suffering from what conservators call “bronze disease,” a type of accelerated corrosion.

Bob Marti and Marianne Russell of Russell-Marti Conservation Services came to Little Rock this month to transport the Capitol Guard monument back to its laboratory to begin conservation work.

The Capitol Guard monument was safely removed from its pedestal on March 4, where it rested for 93 years, and is in California (the town), Missouri for conservation and restoration. Following completion of this work, the statue will be returned to Little Rock and re-installed on its pedestal. Unveiling of the restored monument is scheduled for May 15, 2004.

The photographs at right show the monument being lowered to the ground, as well as two grandsons of the original Capitol Guards, MacArthur Museum Commissioner Bill Terry and Charles Lincoln, proudly standing beside the monument. Lincoln is the grandson of Charles Lincoln, who mustered in with the Capital Guards in 1861, and later became the regimental surgeon of the 6th Arkansas Infantry.

Conservation of the statue was contracted at \$35,000. The Museum still needs to raise approximately \$7,500 to cover conservation costs, so please dig a little bit into your “mad money,” it’s a very good cause. After all – if we, the present day Capitol Guards don’t care about preserving this memorial, why should anyone else?



If something appears to be missing from the old Arsenal building at MacArthur Park, you’re probably right...



At left, the Capital Guard statue is carefully removed from its pedestal before being packed for transport to the conservator in Missouri. At right, the grandsons of two members of the original Capitol Guards stand next to the statue after its return to solid ground.

Reed's Bridge Winter Drill - February 28th



George Davis on the commissary detail, checking the new mess kettle/Company coffee pot. It should be noticed that this is the small one!



Jim DeCann and Tyson Savell master the art of the "Kentucky Swing"... although now we know we're not supposed to call it that.



On the skirmish line... Tyson takes aim while Kenny reloads at "Fire and Load Lying."



Comrades in Battle: Paul Trotta, Ken Nations, Tyson Savell, and Jim Decann. By the end of the day they had gotten this "stack arms" business down pretty well.

Members of the Capitol Guards and their friends observed the opening of the 2004 campaign season with our winter drill at Reed's Bridge Battlefield Park on Highway 161 near Jacksonville on February 28th.

Turn-out was fairly good, with Guardsmenom Ezell, Steve Shore, George Davis, Robert Giles, Ken Nations, Tyson Savell, and Jerry Simpson, along with Jim DeCann of the 37th Illinois and Matt Newsome of the 1st Arkansas. Chuck Durnette of the Little Rock SCV camp dropped by for a visit, and was promptly handed a musket and pressed into the ranks to acquire a little taste of what it was like to be in the ranks.

Tom had brought out part of the set of camp kettles, and the small one was pressed into service for morning coffee. In honor of Mardi Gras the previous week, Tom also brought along a king cake to go along with the coffee. A Louisiana tradition, a king cake has a small token, usually a little plastic baby, hidden inside it. Whoever finds teh baby in his piece of cake is "king" for the day, (and is responsible for throwing the next king cake/Mardi Gras party). We don't know who got the baby; throwing that cake in amongst a band of hungry Rebels was like throwing raw meat to wolves, and it probably got eaten, as we worked our way down to no cake, and no baby, either.

The real reason we were there, though, was to brush up on drill, and the Captain started us at the front of Mr. Hardee's little manual for the school of the soldier, and steadily worked us toward the back. Manual of arms, facings, firings, stacking arms, marching, wheeling, turning, all flashed before us, and some of it caught on.

Noon brough lunch from the commissary section, as they dished up

ham, soft bread, apples, and coffee, and we polished off what was left of the cake.

The afternoon focused on the school of the Company and several key maneuvers, and a dose of skirmish drill. After a brief company meeting on event coming up through the remainder of the month, it was time to clean up and head for home.



See, that wasn't so hard, was it?

March 27 Marks "Park Day" at Reed's Bridge

With the assistance of the Civil War Preservation Trust, sites from the Civil War Discovery Trail recruit volunteers to help restore their local Civil War battlefields and parks. Restoration tasks can include mending fences, picking up trash, building trails, and painting signs. Park Day is a great idea for extra credit or community service hours! This year, Park Day will be held on March 27, 2004. The 2004 motto is, "Honor the Past...Preserve for the Future."

In coordination with the CWPT's efforts, the Reed's Bridge Preservation Society will observe Park Day at Reed's Bridge Battlefield Park on Highway 161 at the Bayou Meto Bridge this coming Saturday (March 27... what a coincidence!!). Efforts will be made to help clean the site up, pick up trash, and generally sprce things up.

Volunteers are requested to help with the park clean-up, as well as to provide living history & interpretation to any visitors who may drop by. For more information, call Tommy Dupree of the Reed's Bridge Preservation Society at (501) 833-0265.

Little Rock St. Patrick's Day Parade - March 13th



Survivors of the St. Patrick's Day mosey through downtown Little Rock: Harvey Moore, Jeffrey Stewart, Jerry Simpson, Marcus Dailey, Richard Stewart, Mike Loum, Bob Black, Robert Giles, Jim Briggs, W.J. Monagle, Steve Shore, Tom Ezell.



Steve Shore, Jim Briggs, Mike Loum, Jerry Simpson, Richard Stewart, and Jeffrey Stewart fill out the front rank



Steve Shore, Bob Black, Jim Briggs, Marcus Dailey, Mike Loum, Jerry Simpson, W.J. Monagle, Jeffrey Stewart, Harvey Moore



The South will rise again, you say? Not if we can help it!

The Capitol Guards and the 37th Illinois joined forces once again, this time to march in Little Rock's St. Patrick's Day Parade through the downtown area on March 13. Joining us for the little "mosey" were Bob Black, Jim Briggs, Tom Ezell, Robert Giles, Marcus Dailey, Mike Loum, Harvey Moore, W.J. Monagle, Jeffrey Stewart, Richard Stewart, Jerry Simpson, and Keith Peterson. Alan Daniel of the 37th Illinois joined us briefly in the assembly area, but didn't bring his uniform.

We marshaled in the parking lot of the Arkansas Arts Center shortly after noon; the parade route took us down 9th Street to Main, then on to 3rd Street, where we took a few side streets to avoid River Rail construction before finally winding up at the River Market. The "Irish Brigade" notwithstanding, parade organizers took note that we were Yankees for the event, and it was no coincidence that they put the Fire Department and their fire trucks two units behind us in the parade. Most of the spectators along the route had not anticipated the Yankees in the parade, and it was fun to watch their reaction.

At parade's end, it was starting to sprinkle rain, and we quickly found a convivial establishment offering "traditional Irish entertainment." The staff of the Underground Pub were at first surprised to be invaded by this armed gang who stacked arms and furled their colors in the middle of the bar, but we had quite a good time, parade, partnership, and all...



At the trail's end... The captain in search of some traditional Irish entertainment... or it is snakebite prevention?

Cleburne Memorial/Reburial of the Helena Casualties - March 20th

The Capitol Guards made the journey to Helena, Arkansas, on March 20 to pay respects to their "old" Division commander, Patrick Cleburne, on his birthday, as well as to pay homage to six unknown Arkansas Confederate who were killed in the July, 1864 battle at Helena. In seeming honor of the occasion, the weather proved to be perfect, one of those warm, "bluebird" days to welcome the coming of spring.

In attendance for the 6th Arkansas and 37th Illinois were Tom Ezell, Steve Shore, Mike Loum, Jim DeCann, David Sesser, George Davis, Sheldon and Kathie Gately, Harvey and Yvonne Moore, and Ken Nations.

More than 200 spectators and participants took part in the event, held in the Confederate section of Helena's old Maple Hill Cemetery. Of that number, there were 26 rifles fielded in the honor guards, and there was an equal number who, like me, elected to sit out the military formations and simply spectate.

The event was conducted under the direction of the Arkansas Sons of Confederate Veterans, and it quickly became apparent that time management is not one of their strong points. Reenactors were requested to be on site no later than 10:30 a.m., however the first event, the Cleburne memorial service, did not begin until 12:30 p.m. However, the spare time did provide for a lot of socializing, meeting with old friends and making new ones. Funerals are as much for the living to gather and remember as much for the dead being honored, and in this sense, the extra time was well-spent.

The Cleburne service proceeded as it always had, with formation of an honor guard, then welcoming speeches from the various heritage organizations in attendance, followed by a speech by Danny Honnoll, commander of the Arkansas SCV, on the life of General Cleburne. Flowers were laid on the General's monument, and three volleys of musketry were fired in his honor.

The funeral for the six Arkansas Confederates began half an hour later, with another set of welcoming speeches and a lecture on the battle of Helena by Dr. Bill Gurley, professor of pharmacy at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. With the opening ceremonies out of the way, the funeral procession was formed. Rev. Keenan Williams of the Confederate Guard led the way, followed by the honor guard, the coffin bearing the soldiers' remains, and a caparisoned horse. Steve Shore and Mike Loum of the Capitol Guards were selected to serve as pallbearers, the other members fell in with the honor guard.

The procession was short, but solemn, as the men were taken to what is hopefully their final resting place, and committed to the earth. Three volleys, spaced out to allow for cannon fire to participate, broke the stillness, the flag was folded, and the coffin gently lowered into the ground.

It's not often that we can actually take part in a funeral for actual Confederate soldiers. We are the last generation to have actually had contact with the Old Boys (stretching it for me... I was not quite 4 years old when the last surviving Civil War veteran died), and so this was



David Sesser and George Davis pull their tour with the honor guard



The funeral party: Rev. Keenan Williams of Hope, and pallbearers Terry Bandy of the Jonesboro SCV, Ron Siebert of the Wretched Mess, Andy Taylor of the Pine Bluff SCV, Anthony Rushing of the Confederate Guard, Steve Shore and Mike Loum of the 6th Arkansas.



Tom Ezell, Harvey Moore, and John Malloy take a break while waiting on the funeral service to begin.



quite a special event for many of us. There were more than a few warts here and there, but in the long run, I think we got the job done.

After the service, we furled our colors and headed back home, some reflecting on what they had just seen, or been a part of.

See ya next year... in Helena for the 20th Annual...



George Davis with the coffin containing the remains of 6 Arkansans killed at Helena on July 4, 1863.



Ken Nations at the graveside.



Steve Shore and Tom Ezell of the 6th Arkansas

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

The next event for the Capitol Guards will be the 140th anniversary reenactment of the battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, in DeSoto Parish, Louisiana.

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

The registration fee has been boosted from \$2 to \$5 per person, and where up until last year the event allowed folks to register as walk-ons, this year the official announcement was that everyone was supposed to be registered and have their \$5 fee paid no later than March 1st, one month in advance of the event. After the March 1 deadline had passed, the event organizers admitted this policy was a hoax, intended to keep out "scary" units and attendees, and that walk-on registration would indeed be allowed as it has been in years past.

The Capitol Guards will be falling in and serving with our parent unit, the Trans-Mississippi Volunteer Infantry (TMVI) battalion. The TMVI will be portraying Confederates on Saturday at Mansfield, and minus the Texas companies, will be portraying Federal troops on Sunday at Pleasant Hill. It looks to be a good event to kick off the new season for the TMVI, as of mid-March Colonel Blanco reported that 225 men had registered under the TMVI's colors for this event.

The event headquarters will be based at the Pleasant Hill site, along with all tented camping, the sutlers, food vendors, and reenactor parking.

Once you get to the event Friday evening, go first to Pleasant Hill (at the old dogtrot house) and sign in, or register. The 6th Arkansas registered 21 folks, so if

you let Tom know that you were coming, you should be taken care of, and need only sign in. If not pre-registered, you'll be charged \$5 when you sign in at the dogtrot house. There will be a shuttle bus from Pleasant Hill back up to Mansfield State Commemorative Area, where we will be camping Friday night. The Mansfield camp will be campaign style, and it is uncertain if there will be any food vendors up there... so bring enough in your haversack for Friday's supper, and Saturday breakfast and lunch. We will have one of the company mess kettles up there with us, so we'll at least have coffee... other meals will be a la haversack.

If you are coming in Saturday morning, come directly to Mansfield and report in to the Company so that we know you're there, and we'll get you settled in. Saturday morning will be occupied with Company (and maybe battalion) drill, as well as a tour of the Mansfield park and museum. We will not be participating in the parade down in Pleasant Hill on Saturday a.m., since we'll all be at Mansfield. You need to be at Mansfield SCA by at least 11:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Inspection for the afternoon battle scenario will commence at 11:30.

The Saturday battle will be at 1:00 p.m. at the Mansfield State Park. Following the close of this battle, we will account for everyone, and catch the shuttles down to Pleasant Hill. There will be some sort of afternoon skirmish down there around 4:00 p.m., but our role in that is currently unclear. The plan is to rest, clean weapons, and set up camp at Pleasant Hill. Supper on Saturday will be furnished by the event organizers at Pleasant Hill, probably red beans and rice, or jambalaya. The food vendors will also be available down by the Legion Hut, and then there's always your haversack.

The 1st Arkansas Battalion will be attending the event as Federals for the entire weekend, and a contingent from the Red River Battalion, as well as local independent units are expected to be there as well.

The TMVI (except for the Texans) will be in Federal blue for Sunday's battle at Pleasant Hill, scheduled for 2:00 p.m. As before, this will close out the event.

The Capitol Guards voted to attend

Mansfield/Pleasant Hill (Continued from Page 4)

Mansfield/Pleasant Hill as Federals during the Reed's Bridge meeting on February 28, primarily to hold down the amount of stuff we would have to haul down to Louisiana with us. That still stands, although Colonel Blanco has asked that you consider bringing a gray jacket with you for Saturday. Bringing the extra jacket is at your discretion, this is a campaign where a good Federal impression is also a far Confederate impression according to all the local historians.

Figuring on two, possibly three battle scenarios, bring between 80-100 cartridges with you... this should give you from 40-50 rounds per day, and we are very likely to burn through that much ammunition. Camping will be campaign style for the most part, though Bob and George may bring the Sibley down for Saturday night at Pleasant Hill. It gets chilly, even in Louisiana, at this time of year, so be sure you have your wool blanket and gum blanket with you.

At this point, it looks like we will have between 20-25 rifles in the Company, if everybody comes who said they were coming. That's an outstanding number, and a strong indication that the Arkansas boys are well on the way back from wherever we might have been.

Registration Information

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

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

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

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

Upon arriving on site all reenactors will come to Pleasant Hill and register at

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

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

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

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

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

We ask that all combatants be registered with a unit on the field. To participate you must be a member of a unit or a unit commander vouches for you. That commander will be responsible for your proficiency in drill. All troops will be inspected before each battle. This inspection will include weapons, uniforms and equipment. Please, remove all wristwatches and modern eyewear.

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

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

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

at 888-677-6267."

Event Schedule:

Friday

10:00 School Day

Saturday (At Mansfield)

8:30 Officer's call

8:30 All Vehicles must be removed from camps

10:00 Drill

10:00 Parade in Pleasant Hill

11:00 Ladies' Tea

11:30 Mandatory weapons inspection

1:00 Battle of Mansfield

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

7:00 Dance at Pleasant Hill

Sunday (at Pleasant Hill)

8:30 Officer's call

10:00 Church - NO DRILL

11:30 Drill

1:00 Inspection

2:00 Battle of Pleasant Hill

Explaining the Confederate Army's Pay Scale...

Tommy Logan was a typical son of the Emerald Isle who entered the Confederate Army at the first call for troops from Mississippi. Tommy was older than any of the other privates and had traveled nearly all over the States as a common laborer, mostly with his shovel or hod. Never was Tommy wanting in a reply to any question asked; he needed no time to "frame" his answer. The only besetting sin of this true man was his love for the jug. No kinder man ever lived.

In the early spring of 1862, General John B. Magruder issued an order that no intoxicants should be sold within the Confederate line nor sold or given away to any Confederate soldier. This being said, Gen. Magruder was himself a hard drinker.

A few days after this order Tommy was detailed as a guard at Gen. Magruder's headquarters, and when a conversation arose between the officers as to why the pay of the Confederate army was fixed at odd numbers, a private receiving \$11 per month, a sergeant \$17; and a general \$301, one of the aides to the General who knew Tommy said: "General Magruder, old Tommy Logan, the guard out there, may answer your question. He has a

ready answer to any question asked him.”
(Tommy is brought in, obviously inebriated.)

General Magruder said: “Sir, I see you have been drinking. Will you tell me where you got the whiskey?”

“O, Ginerol, I’m afraid you will put me in the guardhouse, and I think the damn Yankees are thinking of taking Fredericksburg, and I would hate to tell some of my good friends in town I did not fire a shot in their defense.”

“No,” said the General, “I will not punish you if you will tell where you got your whiskey.”

“Ah, Ginerol, that sounds so kind of you to say that it matters not where I got the whiskey; so I will tell you the God’s truth where I got the liquor.” *(Considerable “blarney” follows...he saw some horse, admired a fine one, etc, etc.)*

“On going around him I discovered a canteen hung to the saddle and, the devil take my curiosity, I smelt of the canteen and found about three drinks of good whiskey. My curiosity to taste was up, and I took a small drink. Ah! bad luck to whiskey. It made me want more, and I drank the entire contents of that canteen, not more than three fingers, though, you see.”

Here the General put in: “Well, here you are telling a long-winded story, and the one who owned the whiskey or horse you have not divulged... whose horse was the canteen on?”

“Ah! my kind Ginerol, I do not know the owner; but I have for the last six months seen you ridin’ that noble animal.”

When this came out the entire office force began to laugh, and one said: “General, Tommy is too much for you.” “But”, said the General, “he has not only got off for being drunk, but has gotten drunk on my whiskey!”

Tommy also offered an answer to the original question:

“Ah! Ginerol, that is aisy. I get \$10 a month for the work I do as a private and \$1 for the honor of being a soldier, and you get \$300 for the honor of being a general and \$1 for the work you do.”

I must now tell you that General Magruder never passed our company at any time on the march or in camp and saw Tommy that he did not raise his hat and salute the private who explained so fully the odd numbers that Congress fixed as the pay for its officers and soldiers of the line.

But I’ll bet he left Magruder’s whiskey alone from then on. A wise old man quits while he’s ahead.

The Reenactor Cartridge

by 1st Sgt. Steve Shore

During the War Between the States, soldiers were trained with blank cartridges before being allowed to shoot the real thing. This was done for safety purposes and the fact that lead bullets were costly to the military.

In today’s reenactment community we use blanks for safety purposes also. We understand the dangers of using the real thing and want everyone to come back to the next event. Why do our cartridges look exactly like the War Between the States blanks if we are acting out a real battle? Why do we go to the trouble to count stitches on uniforms, ensure the accouterments are exactly what they carried and weapons look the same...if we show everyone that our homemade cartridges are exactly like Civil War blanks?

White paper tubes are found on the internet and in almost every sutler’s tent. The average reenactor can also make his home made version by using newspaper, paper grocery bags, etc., which are also incorrect. But why? Why do we research everything except our most important item that has the capability to harm us. Black powder is an explosive, of which we carry approximately 2,400 grains of in our cartridge box. Some people carry more grains of black powder per cartridge because they like a louder bang during the heat of the battle.

I looked around the battlefield at Shiloh in 1997 and saw every type of paper tube scattered on the ground. It was my first event and seeing so many types... I wondered if an army that was issued ammunition... shouldn’t they have all looked the same? Then I wondered if spectators would ask themselves the same

question?

I’ve found that the brown paper you use to cover seams on sheet rock is cheap, about the same weight and easily found at hardware store as what they originally used. The actual military cartridge paper was coated with wax on one side similar to meat packing paper to prevent moisture from getting to the powder. If you are going to roll your cartridges yourself, use the same paper as everyone else in your unit. If you want to look like your really carrying ball ammunition, round off a dowel rod to look like the tip of a minie ball or round ball and tie the ends of your cartridges with kite string. Stuff a cotton ball inside the tube. Add your 60 grains of 3f black powder after the cotton ball and fold the tail over.

We will look more authentic if our ammunition looks the same. You’ll be able to show on-lookers your gear and ammunition with

the piece of mind that these look like the real thing and not a white paper blank.

A l w a y s remember: NEVER PLACE ANYTHING IN THE MUZZLE OF A LOADED MUSKET! That means stuffing paper into the muzzle to keep the rain out. We want to play safe, look

authentic and return home after a weekend with no injuries or Police Incident Reports! Roll on !!!



The Paper Lady cartridge tubes... cheap blanks?



Rolling blanks that look like original cartridges...



The Captain's Tent

by Tom Ezell

Whew, doggies...

March has been a bustling, busy month, at least on my end of things. I am looking forward to Pleasant Hill, if for nothing more than that we don't have any more events scheduled until Jefferson, in May, and maybe I can get caught up with a few projects.

Still, we've gotten a whole lot done for the Cause. The month kicked off on a good note with the drill session out at Reed's Bridge, where we not only knocked off some of the scales on the drill manual, but spent an enjoyable time just hanging out in the wonderful weather and visiting with each other. It was good to see Paul and Tyson again, and hopefully these fellows will get out to be with us a little more this season.

March 13 was another homely, but good little event with the St. Patrick's Day parade. I am not much on parades, but this one was fun, and the time we spent as a company down at the "Underground Pub" was even more fun. Many thanks to the anonymous Guardsman who sprang for the beer bill!

Another special touch was to have Jeffrey and Richard Stewart back in the ranks with us one more time. Jeffrey caught that Big Iron Bird with a one-way ticket to Iraq this past Monday (the 22nd), and is currently setting up in the assembly areas in Kuwait. After April 15, when postal service should be established to the 39th Brigade, please drop him a line at:

**SPC Jeffrey Stewart
Co. D, 3-153rd Infantry, 39th BCT
Camp Taji, Iraq
APO AE 09313.**

And lastly, the funeral over at Helena seems to have touched many of us. I was a little disappointed in all the extra stuff that the SCV stuck into the service... more like a Camp or RoundTable meeting than a memorial service, and there was enough wild stuff there to have formed a circus... bagpipers, galtroops, and many color variations on Confederate costumes... but in the end, we made a strong effort to remember, and to honor the men and

boys of 1861-1865. I hope they would have been pleased.

M/PH

The 140th Anniversary re-enactment of Mansfield/Pleasant Hill on April 2-4 will be our next max effort event, and our first battle reenactment of the season. This makes about five years straight that we've gone to Pleasant Hill every year, and we will most likely "give it a rest" next year, but this looks like a good one to close out the series with. We should have at least bits and pieces of 4 battalions on the small fields at these sites, so there will be a fair chance to "burn some powder" if you are so inclined.

Likewise, there's probably some of the better vendors coming out to have a presence here, whether they actually set up on Skinner's Row, or have an informal "blanket sale." If there's a particular empty space in your, ummm... "collection," this is a good opportunity to go shopping.

We should have some pretty good numbers at this event as well... I sent in 21 names for registrations, and while we have lost one or two, we have picked up some extra folks... Walk-on registrations will be accepted, so think about coming out to "play" with us.

As Full of It as a Schoolbook...

At the first of the year, Ken Nations put a question to me that was tough to answer. Conventional wisdom these days says that as Arkansas/Army of Tennessee Confederates, we ought to be drilling out of the most current, revised drill manual written and updated by BG William J. Hardee in the summer of 1861 - the 7th Edition published by S.H. Goetzel of Mobile, Alabama. That's true.

However, nobody reprints that particular manual... The only reprint has been a limited edition of the so-called *North Carolina Drill Manual*, and those have long been sold out. In answer to Kenny's challenge, I went looking for one of these Hardee's Revised Editions, and got a pretty fair education in the bargain.

Cutting to the chase, I found that the original revised Confederate Hardee's are selling for about \$3,200 apiece, and that was apparently for one volume!! I did come up with and acquire one of the North Carolina Drill Manual reprints, which is apparently the only available reprint of the Goetzel edition. It's a very plain little handbook, covering everything up from the School of the Soldier to brigade and division-level drill,

, but with no pictures describing anything, it's quite a mental exercise to wade through it. Acquired along with the NC Drill Manual was a used copy of one of the few biographies on W.J. Hardee, (N.B. Cheirs' *Old Reliable*) which was quite enjoyable in itself. It gives a whole new look at a seemingly colorless officer, who was documentably and consistently the best corps commander produced during the War.

To answer Kenny's question about where to find a copy of the revised Hardee's, there is still one copy of the Drill Manual for sale out there somewhere, but it's a tad expensive at \$75. (There were two, but I got the cheaper one.) In the next couple of weeks, I'll have an annotated copy available for the Capitol Guards, on a new updated reference CD... it's a little bit big to post on the web site (1.7 MB), although that is a possibility.

Now, does all this mean that the little inexpensive copies of Hardee's that we can buy at the nearly any sutler's are not authentic? *By no means!* When Hardee published his *Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics* on behalf of the U.S. War Department in the winter of 1854, the War Department did not copyright it. Hardee had a deal where he received 20 cents from the publisher, J.B. Lippincott & Co., for each copy sold. When war grew imminent in the spring of 1861, dozens of local printing houses published their own editions of Hardee's 1855 version, and these are by far more common in both circulation and surviving copies today. The revised Hardee's differs from the 1861 Revised/Goetzel edition in only three things: 1) the position of the musket at LOAD; 2) the manner of fixing the socket bayonet with the right hand, and 3) use of the so-called "Kentucky Swing" to stack arms. Everything else in the books is the same.

Drafts of the Revised Hardee's, Tom's Edition, have been floating around, and I hope to have a couple to give out at Pleasant Hill.

One thing that we will be doing this year while out in the field, is spending a little more time on acting like an army... starting with a short session on drill each morning. I'll do the first session or so, but then the "instructor" position will be rotated a bit, so's you can all get a little experience in the matter, hopefully preparing to move up and lead the next generation in this great hobby/obsession of ours.

Tom Ezell

News from the Eastern Front...

Greetings from LSA Anaconda, Balad Iraq!

It's been interesting to read all the e-mail. It stimulated me to start my own St Paddy's Day Parade.

I'm assigned to the 109th ASMB out of Iowa City, Iowa. For Yankees, they are very nice. They have trouble understanding my Southernese. There seems to be a lot of re-enactors here. There is a lot of interest in the Civil War. I guess my assignment here means I have galvanized.

I hope to be back sometime in March. Jay and I will need new uniforms. Jay now wears a 12 1/2 shoe. When we started with the 6th, I bought him a size 8. Jay can now carry a musket. His voice and height do not indicate he is only 12. I myself need a new uniform due to weight loss.

We are 9 hours ahead of you. My tent proudly displays the Mississippi State Flag. I'm trying to get Janet to send an Arkansas State Flag. I fly the Mississippi flag because I'm a member of the Mississippi Army National Guard. I tried to get Tom to send me a replica of the 6th to fly but it didn't work out.

I was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on January 23rd, but I love being a private with the 6th.

It's 03:30 in the morning here. The reason I'm awake is the Commander and the First SGT (My Roommates) are watching the Super Bowl in the TOC. The assignment here is not too bad. I believe in the mission! Things are so primitive. You begin to miss things like ice boxes, mirrors and sinks not to mention bathrooms and showers. A treat is a Diet Coke in the afternoon if they have them.

All for now. I just wanted you to know that soldiers from the 6TH Arkansas, Co. A are in the field once again supporting what they feel is right. God Bless.

Please feel free to share with those that might care. Wishing to be a Private once again....

your pard;

LTC Tom Turpin

Coming Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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