

The Sentinel



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Living Historians

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

It's Coming Back...

The MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History will be hosting the unveiling and re-dedication of the Capital Guards monument in Little Rock's MacArthur Park at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 15, 2004. As part of the event, the 6th Arkansas Re-enactors will be holding a number of living history activities at the Museum beginning at 12:00 p.m. the same day.

While I haven't seen the final agenda yet, it looks as though the event will parallel the original dedication service held in May, 1911 (see original *Gazette* articles on page 2) with remarks from several descendants of the original Capital Guards, as well as a short history of the company and its role in the War for Southern Independence.

Members who plan to take part in the 6th Arkansas's living history program should strive to arrive at the park between 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., we need to be ready to roll at 12 noon. We will have a display set up on the weaponry used by the 6th Arkansas as well as the styles of uniforms and other personal equipment of the Confederate soldier. We will have a recruiting table set up in case someone is interested in signing on to our merry little band. If attendance is good enough, we will hold a muster formation and formally swear the troops into state and Confederate service as they did back in May, 1861.

Uniform, in order of preference, is 1) grey jean frock coat (the "Arkansas frock," if you have one); 2) "Columbus Depot" pattern shell jacket, or 3) grey jean shell jacket. Trowsers should be Confederate pattern of gray, brown, or blue jeans. (Federal blue kersey trowsers are strongly discouraged.) Grey jean kepi (preferred) or civilian slouch hat. Musket, cartridge and cap box, waist belt, bayonet, and scabbard, canteen and haversack of Confederate pattern.

Following the rededication ceremony, at ~3 p.m., the Capitol Guards will hold a Company meeting to cover any needed mid-year adjustments in the year's schedule, and to discuss our participation in the upcoming 140th Franklin event in October.



"How High's the Water, Cap'n?"

The Jefferson Hometown Pilgrimage

The TMVI Battalion's second event of the year was a set of battle demonstrations scheduled to complement the annual "hometown pilgrimage" at Jefferson, Texas, on May 1-2. Pre-registration was very light on the part of the Capitol Guards, but not having been to this event before, I loaded up the wagon, cranked up the Dixie Chicks, and headed southwest for the Lone Star State. I had a very pleasant drive, and pulled into the event site, a pecan orchard about three miles southeast of the town, at 7:00 p.m., and found Paul Trotta and Mike Loum almost immediately.

Reporting in at Battalion HQs, we were assigned a camping spot on the left end of the battalion area, so we started getting set up. The three of us from the 6th Arkansas turned out to be the entire Arkansas contingent for the event... Mark Kalkbrenner of the 1st

Arkansas turned up about an hour after dark, but none of the troops, and no one from the 9th Arkansas. The rest of the battalion was made up with a strong showing from the 12th and 19th Texas, a handful of men from the 3rd Louisiana, and maybe a dozen from the 19th Louisiana in full campaign mode. There were half a dozen guys from the 10th Arkansas of Huckabee's battalion, and a fairly strong showing of the artillery.

There were no sutlers, no food vendors or anything like that on site... save for water, wood, and straw, all amenities were to be found back in town. We set up a couple of common tents, changed into suitable Confederate attire, and stashed the wagons across the road in the assigned parking area. The next order was to get a fire going, and after building a cozy little fire, we passed the rest of the evening very comfortably swapping stories and visiting with the

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MONUMENT TO THE CAPITAL GUARDS Company A, 6th Regiment Arkansas Infantry, C.S.A.

Little Rock, Arkansas
BY W.G. HUTTON
Commander, Robert C. Newton Camp,
U.S.C.V.

The movement to erect this monument originated at a gathering of some of the members of the Robert C. Newton Camp, U.S.C.V., whose fathers were members of the Capital Guards of Little Rock, which later became Company A of the 6th Regiment Arkansas Infantry. There are many descendants of the members of this company residing in Little Rock, where the company was organized, as well as throughout the State, and it was thought a fitting tribute to the memory of these gallant soldiers, and would be an appropriate feature during the general reunion of the Confederate Veterans, to be held in Little Rock May 16, 17, and 18, 1911.

Many citizens of the city proposed to follow the example of other citizens by assisting in the erection of a monument which would be at all times an ornament to the city and an object of interest to its many visitors.

The monument was designed by Mr. Rudolph Schwarz, an eminent sculptor and artist, who studied for many years in Vienna and Berlin, and who had designed numerous beautiful Confederate monuments in various parts of the South, and who executed all the sculpture in the famous soldiers' and sailors' monument at Indianapolis, Indiana. The contract for the erection of the monument was given to the Muldoon Monument Company, of Louisville, Kentucky.

The monument represents a typical Confederate soldier, standing at guard, seven feet high, placed on a beautiful white (Barre) granite pedestal, fourteen feet high, all being artistically executed.

The words, "LEST WE FORGET" appear at the top of the pedestal.

On the die of the pedestal is the following inscription:

*"To the Memory of the
CAPITAL GUARDS
Company A, 6th Arkansas Infantry
CLEBURNE'S DIVISION
1861 - 1865"*

*"When his division defended, no odds
could break its lines; when it attacked, no
numbers resisted its onslaught" - Gen.*

Wm. J. Hardee"

The forgoing quotation is from General Hardee's report to the War Department after the fatal battle of Franklin, Tenn., referring to the death of General Patrick R. Cleburne.

At the base of the die is the following:
*"Erected by friends and relatives of the
Capital Guards and by the citizens of Little
Rock, under the auspices of the Robert C.
Newton Camp, United Sons of Confederate
Veterans.*

May 15th, 1911"

At the back of the monument is cut the full roster of the company, as originally mustered into service in 1861.

The monument will be erected in the historic City Park on the exact spot where the Company formed, fifty years ago, before leaving Little Rock.

From the Arkansas Gazette, May 18, 1911:

SHAFT TO CAPITAL GUARDS UNVEILED

**Monument in City Park Is Dedicated
to the Memory of the "Flower of Little
Rock"**

SHOWER OF 20,000 ROSES

**Blossoms Fall When Young Ladies
Pull Ribbons That Reveal Memorial to
the Throng**

On the same spot in the City park where the Capital Guards, the flower of Little Rock, assembled nearly 50 years ago to go forth to battle in the cause of the Confederacy, the daughter of one captain of the company and the granddaughter of another yesterday morning pulled the ribbons that unveiled a handsome monument to their memory. There followed a shower of 20,000 roses, which were gathered and distributed by little flower girls to the thousands of Confederate veterans assembled.

Three survivors of the celebrated Capital Guards, a number of distinguished Confederate veterans in uniform and hundreds of Little Rock society people, including many of the relatives and friends of the Guards, witnessed the impressive ceremony.

The monument was presented by the Robert C. Newton Camp, United Sons of Confederate Veterans, relatives and friends of the Guard and citizens of Little Rock, under the auspices of the Robert C. Newton Camp, some of the members of

which had relatives in the famous company.

Inscription on Monument

It is inscribed to the memory of the Capital Guards, Company A, Sixth Arkansas Infantry, 1861-1865, and bears the following quotation from the official report of Gen. Hardee concerning Cleburne's division, of which this company was a part: *"When his division defended, no odds could break its lines; when it attacked, no numbers resisted its onslaught."*

Five members of this company now survive, three of whom were on the platform. Gathered on the platform also were many distinguished visitors, including Capt. Irving A. Buck, adjutant general on Cleburne's staff and author of *"Cleburne and His Command,"* and Capt. G.A. Williams, chief of Gen. Govan's staff of the Govan's Arkansas brigade of Cleburne's division; Gen. R.G. Shaver and his staff; Mrs. W.J. Behan, president of the Confederate States Memorial Association; Mrs. T.J. Latham, president of the Tennessee Daughters of the Confederacy; Col. Joseph Reeves of Camden, past Commander-in-chief of the United Sons of Confederate Veterans; Thomas M. Owen of Alabama and Clarence J. Owens of Washington, W.M. Pritchard, newly-elected commander; Adj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, grandson of the "Wizard of the Saddle," and the entire official staff U.S.C.V. and ladies. In addition, Mayor Taylor, W.G. Hutton, commander of the Robert C. Newton camp; members of the Robert C. Newton camp and many well-known society women and girls.

Judge Ratcliffe Presides

Judge W.C. Ratcliffe, first lieutenant of the Capital Guards when it was mustered out of service, acted as master of ceremonies, and made a stirring speech, in which he recalled the events of a half century ago, and named the five surviving members. "We were gay then - all gay," said Judge Ratcliffe. "We did not appreciate what was before us. I remember one good lady who bade us good-bye and cheered us to battle, Mrs. Gordon N. Peay, wife of the captain of the company. This good lady is not here today, but her beautiful granddaughter, Miss Helen Peay, is here to assist in these unveiling ceremonies."

Dr. Charles R. Hyde offered prayer, declaring that, "We are proud of the legacy of the heroic deeds of those who died for us, and with loving hearts dedicate this monument today, 'Lest We

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Jefferson (Continued from Page 1)

other folks wandering by. Things quietened down around 11:00 p.m. or so, and we turned in, hoping that Friday's bluebird weather would hold out in spite of the Weather Channel's dire warnings.

But it was not to be so... Rain & thunderstorms set in with a vengeance about 12:30 a.m., with a hasty evacuation of our Louisiana neighbors to their wagons, and continued steadily for the rest of the night and off and on all day Saturday—dumping about

2 ½ inches of rain by the next morning. Bringing the tents proved to be the Right Thing To Do after all. I had brought my old army cot, a small camp table, and my new red-and-yellow painted floorcloth, and so had a right homey little place, so the rain on the top of the tent was sort of comforting. I was still awakened about every half hour or so by thunder, lightning, or highway/railroad traffic, but still enjoyed one of the more

comfortable evenings in the field that I can remember for awhile. (This farb stuff ain't bad for a change of pace every now and then...)

I rolled out at 6:00 a.m., with the rain still pelting down and virtually no activity going on in the camp. I had set up on a little high spot under a pecan tree, Paul and Mike's tent was on the "company street" and by first light, our former camp fire and firewood stash was pretty much underwater as the little grove rapidly took on the appearance of a swamp. There was no reveille, though I got up and checked on Mike & Paul, and went to see if anything was stirring at Battalion. It wasn't; most were staying under shelter and waiting to see what the weather would do. The rising water flooded Mike and Paul by 8:00 a.m., and we moved their gear into my headquarters tent.

We went back into town to forage for breakfast, since our fire and wood stash were under water by this time, and a check of the haversacks found only hardtack and coffee left over from the past couple of events. Jefferson turned out to be a beautiful little old town, though the weather had most everything buttoned up there on this soggy Saturday morning. We found the Plantation Restaurant over on Highway 59, and

enjoyed the breakfast buffet & the waitresses, and were well-entertained by the steady stream of locals trooping in

We got back to camp at 9:00 to find the 10:00 a.m. parade was cancelled... and there were no other scheduled activities until the 4:00 p.m. battle. We sat around for awhile and visited with some of the other folks... then the 4 p.m. battle was cancelled, and there were no activities until 1 p.m. the next day. We hung on for awhile longer, as a few more showers swept through, and spent some time visiting with the guys in the 10th Arkansas.

Around 1:30 or 2:00 the battalion staff announced the dinner would be in town as well, and they would try to have a 4 p.m. skirmish through the streets down there. As a new shower kicked up, we decided to cut our losses and pack it in. Mike's & Paul's tent was flooded out, and the creek was by now rising under the back end of mine, too. Larry

had not made it in, but we figured he was keeping an eye on the weather, too... So we all tore down and loaded up, and headed back into town for a late lunch at the Riverport Barbecue joint (pretty good eats, btw... we certainly were well fed down there, though not exactly by the event...) Just before the start of the 4 p.m. skirmish, it started raining again, so we got in the wagons and headed home. It rained off and on most of the way back, too.

So, Jefferson turned out to be about 400+ miles on \$1.75 gas to go down there, not a single cap busted nor battle fought nor parade walked... but we had a pretty good time just socializing and commiserating about the weather, and telling the old Wilson's Creek stories...

For the intrepid folks who stuck it out, it did get better. Battalion Sergeant Major Preston Ware reported it as follows:

Then it rained...and rained some more.

Friday night we set up the tents under "threatening" skies. By dark, flashes of lightning were criss-crossing the horizon. Most folks woke up to a torrent of water falling on their canvas roofs and a stream of water running into their beds from under the walls. The morning light revealed a lot of "soggy bottoms" and wet wool... and the rain was



A BAPTIST.

*still fallin'. Drills and meetings were abandoned and most everybody went in Jefferson for breakfast and antiques. That afternoon along about 4:00 a skirmish developed in Jefferson along the old riverfront. The Yanks debarked from a troop transport near the bridge. The Confederate forces under the intrepid Lt. Col. Hunt, promptly attacked. The secesh plan called for a frontal assault to hold the Union in place while a company of Rebs hiding on the side streets of Jefferson, would plow into the Union left flank and roll them up. Well, the Rebs ran out and hit the Yanks with a volley, sure-enough. But... the sneaky Yanks had a detached company as well that suddenly and very **unexpectedly appeared in the REBEL REAR!!!** The Blue-bellies fired into our backs from about 15 yards away!! Ultimately, the Union was pushed back to the river by the remaining Rebs and forced to **regret their "defiling of Southern soil"!** ...and then we all went to the saloon where they fed us some of the best dang ribs, brisket and beans this feller has ever had! Then we danced to the old time music of "Time Was" band. Several "notables" enjoyed the refreshments to the point they lost feeling in their face. **"I cant feel my face...can you?"***

*On Sunday we went into town and learned a couple of new "arms positions". They were **SECURE ARMS...** opps no its **REVERSE ARMS** and **REST ON ARMS**. When the re-creation of the "sending off to war" ceremony began in front of the old church...we marched in at Reverse arms then halted and went to Rest on Arms for the "speechifying". After the ceremony the TMVI held a remembrance to our fallen comrade... Col Canada. Then we marched in to the streets of Jefferson and fired 3 sharp volleys to applause of the townfolks.*

*The 1:00 battle was **very loud** due to the use of 2 days worth of ground charges in this one fight! A huge cannonade started the tussle with mud and water flying everywhere from the numerous "near-misses". Finally the Yanks came out and marched opposite our rail fence breastworks. We gave 'em a taste of hot Rebel lead from several well placed Battalion volleys. This accurate fire decimated their ranks...they fell like flies. At the Lt Cols command, every soldier leapt over the fence and landed in the "charge bayonet" position. When the **CHARGE!!!** command was given, the boys in grey splashed across the soggy battlefield with determined faces and a wild yell! The Union boys held their ground for only a few seconds until they were forced to surrender...unconditionally.*

Jefferson started off with a "wet fizzle" but ended up with a loud bang! It was a great family event and a time to share with friends...we had a goood time!

Capital Guards Monument - 1911 (Continued from Page 2)

Forget. While we raise a monument we thank God for something that is more enduring, which is a people's love. God of our Fathers, help us to celebrate the heroism of our sires as long as time endures."

Rev. P.C. Fletcher Speaks

Rev. P.C. Fletcher, pastor of the Winfield Memorial Church was introduced and made an address, which was loudly cheered. "It has been truly said," Mr. Fletcher stated, "that commercialism does not represent the wealth of a nation, but that it is represented by the character of its great men. Arkansas will not be known by its red apples and cotton, but by the enduring names of her great citizens. God forbid that we should ever forget the achievements of the old South, which wielded the destiny of this nation 200 years, which gave us our first president and gave us the Declaration of Independence. Ladies and gentlemen, the old South was the land of bravery, chivalry, romance, blue blood, cotton, corn, negroes, and watermelons. Alas, there were too many negroes and not enough watermelons. The only difference in the North and South now is the difference between hot biscuits and cold lightbread. We are living today, thanks God, under one flag, in peace and prosperity."

Fay Hempstead, poet laureate of Freemasonry, then read a poem entitled "At Camp Shaver," in which high tribute was paid to the Capital Guards. After the recitation of the poem, there was an address by Captain Irving A. Buck of Front Royal, Va., adjutant general on Cleburne's staff, in which he spoke in splendid terms of the valor and courage of the Arkansas Division and the private soldier, following which came the unveiling ceremonies.

Monument is Unveiled

Miss Mary Fletcher, daughter of Col. John G. Fletcher, once captain of the Guards, stood at the east side of the monument, holding a blue ribbon, while Miss Helen Frances Peay, granddaughter of Gordon N. Peay, first captain of the Guards, stood on the south side, beside her father, Gordon N. Peay, holding a white ribbon. At a signal from Judge Ratcliffe, repeated to the young ladies by Charles Taylor, herald of the R.C. Newton camp, Misses Fletcher and Peay pulled the ribbons while the band played "Dixie" and the old veterans assembled shouted at the tops of their voices. The screen fell away, with a shower of roses, the tall granite shaft stood revealed.

Young society women of the city, including Misses Juliette Kettering, Margaret Niemayer, Nell Davidson, Frances Van Frank, Virginia Ferguson, Louise Stevenson, Annette Brown, Mary Hammett, Lilia Holmes, Joyce Manning, Flossie Jones, Elizabeth McCarthy and Nanette Ellison, appointed as maids, laid armfuls of flowers on the base of the monument, which were taken up and distributed among the veterans outside the roses, who scrambled over each other to receive the decorations. The flower girls were: Lucy Marion Reeves, Rebecca Davis, Louise Buerkle, Martha Barnett, Dorothy Niemayer, Alice Niemayer, Irma Tucker, Katherine Butler, Lucy Fly, and Frances Vogler. While this was being done, the Robert C. Newton camp drum and bugle corps played and was awarded a great ovation.

Speech of Presentation

Judge Ratcliffe, in a short speech, then presented the monument to the city of Little Rock, and Mayor Charles Taylor accepted it on behalf of the city. Mayor Taylor then introduced Miss Katherine Bankman, queen of the Robert C. Newton camp, and her maid of honor, Miss Margaret Niemayer, and escorted them to the base of the monument where they placed wreaths of pure white roses.

The funeral dirges before the unveiling and "Dixie" were rendered by the University of Arkansas band. The work of preparing the monument for the ceremonies, including the decoration with roses, was by the Monument Committee, Fred Hotze, chairman, and W.B. Pletz.

Former TMVI Commander Laid to Rest

by Preston Ware

On April 26th Col. Gary Cannada was buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth with full military honors. The somber procession was led by a bagpiper, then drums beating a slow march, a color Guard, followed by Gary's beloved 19th Texas who marched with muskets at the "reverse arms" position. The flag of the 19th was furled by a black ribbon called a "weeper", each left arm had a black ribbon as well. Behind them, marched staff members of the TMVI followed by the pallbearers with the casket.

Upon reaching the grave site the 19th filed in on the left and fronted toward the coffin. During the short service they were commanded to the "rest on arms" position. (barrel on the left brogan toe, hands clasped over the butt of the musket with bowed head resting on hands). A Southern song (*The Wearing of the Grey*) was sang by former members of the 19th and Col. Cannada's SCV camp. In the distance, *Taps* sounded out clear and mournful in the April afternoon. Then... *attention company...LOAD! Ready! Aimmm! FIRE!...* Three times crisp, sharp volleys rang out in perfect unison from the seven rifles. Mourners with black veils gave each one of the military a perfect yellow rose. Slowly and somberly the military filed by and placed the roses on the wooden coffin covered by a "stainless banner". Then Captains Ricky Hunt and Barney Hillburn folded the coffin flag and presented it to Mrs Sherry Cannada.

Upon Captain Hunt and former Captain Hilburn retaking their positions, the piper began to play "Dixie". He slowly approached the grave, lowered to a

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Members of the 19th Texas provide an honor guard for the funeral of former TMVI Colonel Gary Cannada at Oakwood Cemetery, Fort Worth, TX on April 26.



A final salute for Colonel Cannada... peace to his ashes.

Col. Cannada (Continued from Page 4)

kneeling position and then rose and marched away. The ceremony ended with the notes of "Dixie" getting fainter and fainter in the distance.

Colonel Cannada would have been proud... and I think he is. All involved did a wonderful job. Lt Col Hunt did a great job of putting the ceremony all together with help from his friends and family. Thanks to Tom Ezell for the details on military ceremony. Thanks to all who took the time and effort to send an old friend off the way he deserved!

Cabot Middle School Living History; May 21

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

Depending on turnout by our members, we will have three stations, one for the Confederate soldier, one for the Union soldier, and one where students will be taught the basics of Civil War drill. If we have enough reenactors show up, a fourth station will be set up to concentrate on the muskets and other weaponry. In addition, Georganne Sisco from the Old State House will be present to give demonstrations and to talk about women and the war. Buddy Baker, a Civil War relics collector from Beebe, will be present with his array of weapons, and my Rick Polston will be here to talk to the kids about the variety of flags used during the War.

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

If you're interested in participating, contact Tom Ezell (912-1047) for directions and additional details. We will meet at Cabot Middle School (south) between 7:30 and 7:45 a.m., and will be setting up around the period cabin located in front of the school. This has always been an enjoyable event, has done a great deal for community support and battlefield preservation, and we hope to see you there!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Federal uniform requirements are:

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

Additional information on the event and portrayal is available on the event website at: <http://www.westernindependentgrays.org/PMILL2004/index.htm>. Battlefield website: <http://www.geocities.com/esmereldah/pickettsmillpg.html>. Contact: John Cleaveland, jcleaveland@earthlink.net, (706) 769-0541, or Coley Adair, cadair8064@aol.com.

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

Going Under the Knife...

Shaving with a straight razor

by Keith Bartsch

Let's take a look at an aspect of our impression that most of us never consider. I'm speaking specifically of the "tonorial" side of things. We are all aware that men in mid-nineteenth America often wore facial hair. These styles involved mustaches, Van Dyke's (goatee's in modern parlance), beards of various lengths and sideburns ranging from ordinary styles to the voluminous muttonchop or "burnside" style. Frankly, soldiers in the field often sported facial hair because it was simply easier than shaving. Despite the challenges of shaving in the field, many men did so as evidenced by period images of clean shaven troops. In fact, a statistical analysis of all existing images of soldiers from the period concluded that well over half were completely clean-shaven - particularly the enlisted men.

Let's look a little closer at the manly process of shaving. My goal here is to encourage you to give straight-razor shaving a try. You just might enjoy it once you get the hang of it. You'll acquire a new facet to your impression and I promise, you'll never have a closer shave. Shaving, regardless of the blade system involved is essentially scraping hair off the face. Fortunately, by our period, it had evolved to a very high level compared to some of the "systems" employed by men in previous centuries. In fact, many anthropologists believe the whole concept of face shaving evolved out of martial considerations. They have opined that shaving caught on when it became evident the bearded cavemen were often trounced by shaven cavemen. In fights, beards made a convenient handhold for the beardless ones, and many a bearded caveman's skull was then conveniently bashed in by his clean shaven opponent.

Enough ancient history. Let's get to it. As stated, shaving was pretty well completely evolved by the mid-nineteenth century. The only significant remaining developments were safety razors around 1910, and electric razors in the 1920's.

With all that as background, Civil War soldiers who shaved probably didn't shave every day, but an interval of every two or three days would still serve to

keep beards at bay and could probably be accomplished unless the unit was actively campaigning and moving extraordinarily frequently and quickly. We



The Camp Barber

also know many simply chose to sit for a man in the unit who was handy with a razor and be shaved versus taking on the task himself. Let's look at what's required to shave yourself the way "they" did.

You'll need a razor, strop, a mug or cup in which to make lather, shaving soap, a shaving brush, and a mirror. I recommend you purchase a quality razor. They are usually available at knife shops also known as "cutlery" stores. Razors are available with handles made from natural materials which are completely authentic in appearance with the exception of some modern markings on the blade itself. Your call whether you wish to try to buff these out. Razors can also be purchased on line. You should probably expect to spend \$40 - \$50 on a good razor, which isn't much since with care, you'll be able to use it the rest of your life.

I'd avoid the cheap Pakistani razors carried by some sutlers. They are fine for display purposes, but I wouldn't try to shave with them. Also, I'd be careful about trying to use that antique razor you may have in your collection. The edge is critical and if it has ever been "dinged" or

slightly misaligned, it can cut your face to ribbons. Its very difficult to straighten the edge of a razor that has been dropped or otherwise abused in this way. You can check for trueness of the edge by running your thumbnail lightly along the cutting edge and if it doesn't feel perfectly straight, don't even try to use it.

Now that you've settled on a razor, you'll need to strop it. This is nothing more than a fine realigning of the edge by a leather strap which is all the sharpening you'll need for months at a time. More about sharpening or "honing" later. Simply hang your strop (about \$25.00 tops) at a convenient spot about waist level, extend it and hold it firmly, then strop your razor 8 - 10 strokes. You can even use the flesh side of your waist belt for this purpose. Stropping must be done a particular way to be effective. Holding the open razor at a 90 degree angle to the strop, one simply lays the side of the blade down on the strop, and pulls the razor across the strop's surface. This is done by ensuring the back of the razor and

its cutting edge are BOTH always in contact with the strop. Pull with the BACK EDGE of the razor leading, and the cutting edge trailing. At the end of the stroke, simply flip the blade over, rolling it over keeping the back always in contact with the strop and pull the other direction.

Again, with the back leading and edge trailing. Repeat this 8 - 10 times and you should be fine. Razors come from the factory shaving sharp and the stropping is all you'll need to do for quite some time.

Now its time to lather up. First, wash your face with soap and water. Then, simply employ a decent quality shaving soap available lots of places and a little hot water if you have it. "Williams" still makes a good shaving soap product, and it can be found at places like "Eckerds" and "CVS" drug stores. The stuff sells for about \$1.50 and a single cake lasts about a month if used every day. You can use ordinary "bar" soap like "Ivory" in a pinch. *Don't* use aerosol shaving cream. It's not "slick" enough to work with this shaving method. Take your shaving brush, dampen the bristles, and with a stirring motion whip up a thick lather

Straight Razors (Continued from Page 6)

from the soap cake which you have placed in any mug or even your tin cup. Apply this liberally to your face. The lather performs two functions. First, it softens your beard as the hairs absorb the moisture. Secondly, the lather acts as a lubricant to allow the razor to move smoothly across your face. Let it sit on your face a minute or two before you begin shaving to give the lather time to help soften your beard.

Now its time to begin shaving. Open the razor with the handle about 270 degrees from the blade. Grasp the blade firmly but employ a light touch when you begin. With the blade at an angle no more than about 30 degrees from the plane formed by your face, begin to shave. Remember, you are essentially "scraping" off the whiskers, not "slicing" them away. **TAKE YOUR TIME.** With practice, you'll become adept, and your speed will improve, but don't get in a hurry in the beginning.

Start with the sides of your face, then move to your neck, and conclude with your chin. You can use your free hand to help pull the skin of your face taught which helps a lot. Always shave with the grain. Going against the direction the hair grows almost guarantees you'll cut yourself. If you find you need to go over a place more than once, feel free. You can also reapply lather in areas you didn't get close enough to suit on the first pass. It takes practice, but after a couple weeks you'll get the hang of it and nicks will be no more evident than shaving with a safety razor or disposable. You can deal with small nicks with a styptic pencil or block of alum (alum is more authentic) which instantly stops the bleeding. While I understand this may not be completely illustrative of the straight razor shaving process, if you still have questions, check around in your community. You can usually find a barber, particularly one over 60 who's still plying his trade, who can demonstrate good technique. I must also stress, even though this should be obvious, you **MUST** use a mirror and

adequate light to do this safely. You can do it by candlelight, but you can't do it without a mirror unless you have a death wish. As an aside, the scene from the movie *Glory* where Denzel Washington's character was shaving his head using his reflection on the bottom of a tin cup is pure balderdash.

When finished with your shaving session, carefully dry your razor and strop it again. Never put it away wet, as we know "rust ruins razors!" When completely dry, you can wipe it down with a bit of oil, or even fat, to help prevent rust as well, but be careful to wipe the thin film of oil or grease from the blade before you use it again.

Finally, at some point, stropping alone won't result in a keen enough edge anymore. Depending on the thickness of your beard, that is probably thirty shaves or so. At that point, you'll need to hone your razor. Either, return to the place where you bought it and ask them to hone it for you, or, with a good quality whetstone, reverse the stropping procedure and carefully hone the edge. Honing is properly done by placing the razor down on the stone then lightly "push" the razor, this time edge first, across the length of the stone. At the end of the stroke, roll the razor over, all the while keeping the back of the razor in contact with the stone, and push the other side of the edge the length of the stone. Repeat a few times. Your razor should be shaving sharp again in about ten strokes. Light touch! Overdoing it can ruin the razor.

If you're game, try it. Practice at home, then take it to the field. I think you'll enjoy learning, and as I said at the outset, once you become accomplished, you'll never have a closer shave and won't be buying those expensive disposable shaving cartridges anymore. With practice, you'll be able to safely shave your face, in under ten minutes from start to finish — which is a little bit longer than doing it with a modern disposable razor and a can of aerosol shaving cream, but far more rewarding!

and with a variety of facial hair from scruffy beards to several days' stubble. For reenactors, your modern military haircut is a good representation, long, flowing locks are definitely way out of line.

On campaign, the soldiers rarely shaved, and took on a definitely scruffy look. Diaries, letters, and period photographs indicate that they got rid of the extra hair on return to a more settled lifestyle.

LITTLE ROCK
DAILY STATE JOURNAL,
February 1, 1862, p. 2, c. 4

Lines Addressed to the 6th Arkansas Regiment.

God bless the Sixth Arkansas boys,
O bless that noble band,
Who've sacrificed their homes and joys,
To fight for Dixie's land.

In their distant homes they've left,
Perhaps, kind parents dear,
Or sweet young sisters now bereft,
Of brothers loved and near.

And to cheer each noble heart,
Which fear or faltering never knew,
Kentucky's daughters will act their part,
Of sisters fond and true.

Be brave, be firm be bold,
Wave your glorious flag on high,
And beneath each graceful fold,
Swear to conquer or to die.

Go meet the invader of our land,
With a firm and fearless heart,
And let each member of this band—
Act like a warrior his part.

Swear upon the South's own altar,
You'll never to the tyrant's band,
Never, never, never, falter
But bravely fight on to the end.

And when the strife of war is o'er,
And from our soil the foe is driven,
pray that then we meet once more,
If not on Earth, O, then in Heaven!

And should one of this noble band,
Fall, pierced by a deadly shot,
By the daughters of our own dear land,
He'll never be forgot!

And should death claim one as his prize,
We'll vigil 'round his sick bed keep,
We'll watch beside him till he dies,
And then for him—we will weep!

Sinley Namrreh Yvel.
Head Quarters, 6th Ark. Reg.,
Near Bowling Green, Jan. 13, 1862.

Just like today's armed forces, both the Confederate and U.S. armies had specific standards for haircuts and facial hair:

"1536. The hair to be short; the beard to be worn at the pleasure of the individual; but, when worn, to be kept short and neatly trimmed." (Regulations for the Army of the Confederate States, 1863 ed.)

In practice, contemporary photographs show soldiers on both sides to be wearing their hair extremely short,

“Oh, I Wish I was in de Land ob Cotton...”

King Cotton in antebellum Arkansas

Statistically, if you lived in Arkansas in 1860, you would probably have been a farmer, or a farm laborer. Given the numbers of first-person ‘farmers’ in the ranks, the concept of “life on the farm” is therefore particularly important. While Little Rock was very much an urban community by local standards, just outside the city limits was the domain of the planter and the yeoman farmer.

Though most farmers in Arkansas depended on corn and hog production to survive, many across the state grew cotton. It is a crop synonymous with the South, but many of us know very little about it since the boll weevil came and people stopped growing it as much. As a Southern soldier, it will greatly enhance your understanding of the times to know a little bit about cotton, and the farming practices of the time. Even if you don’t claim to have been a farmer “back home,” the Southern economy revolved around agriculture and King Cotton.

There were two types of cotton grown in the United States before the War, “upland” which was grown here in the Mid-South, and “Sea Island” which was grown along the Atlantic coast from the Sea Islands of South Carolina and Georgia to Florida and along the Texas coast (the U.S. Patent Office Agriculture Report for 1856 shows that it was shipped from Galveston). Upland is a short staple cotton having fibers about 1 1/4 inches long. Sea Island cotton is much longer stapled having fibers about 3 inches long, and is also comparatively easy to separate from the seeds. “Staple” refers to the length of the individual fibers. Cotton did not really catch on as a cash crop until Mr. Whitney’s “cotton engine” came into wide use to separate the fiber from the seeds and bolls. Sea Island cotton, because of its long staple, commanded a higher price than upland cotton. However, its range was limited and so I will concentrate on growing upland cotton.

The range of upland cotton extended from southside Virginia across the country to Texas. This range included the “Bootheel” of Missouri. This range was not established by some government regulation, but by Nature, as cotton is a tropical plant. So, we can see that the plant was grown only in the Confederacy with the exception of Missouri. While it would appear that Kentucky, Kansas, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Oklahoma (Indian Territory), New Mexico, Arizona,



and California could grow the plant it must be remembered that there was no pump irrigation in those days (that eliminated California, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Kansas, and Utah) and the Appalachian Mountains protect our state and Virginia from the cold (eliminating all others). Incidentally, California, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona are all cotton producing states today, in fact California is the number 2 cotton producer. Irrigation of cotton land along the Rio Grande in Texas allowed the boll weevil to enter this country in the 1890’s, so there was no boll weevil here during or before the War between the States.

As Arkansans, we should concern ourselves with cotton production in Arkansas, so here are some facts. The largest cotton producing counties in Arkansas were Chicot & Phillips on the Mississippi River. Arkansas and Jefferson on the Arkansas River, Union & Clark on the Ouachita River, and Lafayette, Sevier and Hempstead on the Red River. (Access to the rivers was important, as farmers relied on steamboats and flatboats to transport their crop to the major markets in Memphis and New Orleans.) Most of the other counties in the state produced some cotton with the exception of those in the far northwestern counties. Probably this was grown by small farmers to earn money to pay taxes and other expenses that could not be bartered.

And, as Arkansas was a state where slavery was legal, a significant part of the state’s agricultural community was

deeply involved in the practice of chattel slavery. Simply stated, Arkansas citizens sought to buy and to hire Negro slaves for one reason—because of the work they could do. And work they did in Arkansas: on the large plantations along the Mississippi and the other rivers of the state, on the hundreds of small farms scattered throughout every county, in the towns, on the rivers, in the forests—everywhere.

By far the majority of Arkansas slaves lived and worked in the rural areas of the state, little more than one in thirty being found in the towns even at the height of development of slavery in 1860. Of the approximately 107,000 slaves living in the rural areas in that year, about 51,000 were on what may be considered “plantations” as distinguished from “farms.” A reasonable criterion for distinguishing between plantations and farms in Arkansas is that, in general, plantations were those agricultural enterprises with twenty-five or more slaves on which overseers were employed.

Virtually all of the larger plantations were located in the southern and eastern counties of the state, especially in the last decade of slavery in Arkansas. The one usual exception to the southeastern group was Hempstead County in the southwest, which, because of its location along the Red River, resembled the southeastern counties much more than it did the others of its own geographical section.

Production of cotton was the primary concern of the owners of the large plantations, and thus the activity in which the great majority of plantation slaves were engaged. Arkansas was the sixth-ranking state in the production of cotton in 1860, with 367,393 bales. Since Arkansas ranked only twelfth in number of slaves, it is evident that cotton production was somewhat more important in the state than in the average Southern state. Much of that increasing importance had come in the previous ten years; in 1850 only 65,344 bales had been grown, at a time when the slave population of the State was 47,100. Cotton production multiplied almost six times in ten years, while during the same period the slave population was only a little more than doubling. This marked increase was caused by the very rapid rate at which the fertile and highly productive lowlands were being brought into cultivation, and also by the fact that

...de Land ob Cotton (Continued from Page 8)

the greatest growth in size of individual slaveholdings was shown on the larger plantations, which were devoted more exclusively to cotton and produced it more efficiently than smaller units. In virtually all instances, counties which led in cotton production also ranked high in the number of large plantations.

Planting cotton was a year-round industry, with the months from November to January employed in clearing timber and brush from "new ground," those fields just being brought into cultivation. A short pause was taken around the Christmas and New Year holiday season, otherwise work went on.

Before the Arkansas lands could be planted to cotton, clearing of the dense virgin timber and undergrowth was necessary, and in this strenuous activity slaves played an important part. Few indeed were the planters who did not continually bring more and more land into cultivation. As late as 1860 only a small percentage of the total acreage in farms within the state was considered "improved": 1,983,313 acres as compared to 7,590,393 acres unimproved. The same general proportion of cleared to un-cleared land may be noted in information available about individual plantations. For example, Council Bend Plantation, near Helena, had only a hundred of 747 acres cleared in 1848, and of the 1,040 acres on Jenifer Farm, also near Helena, only 200 acres were in cultivation in 1850. In season, the thirty-nine slaves at Jenifer labored at cultivation of cotton and operation of the plantation gin, but during the winter months they cleared additional acres and "deadened" others for future clearing.

A vivid and informative account of the process of hewing cotton fields from the virgin Arkansas woodlands was written by Henry M. Stanley, later a member of Co. E, 6th Arkansas, and famous as an African explorer, who visited the Saline County plantation of a Major Ingham in 1860. The Ingham domain was large, but still "mostly a pine forest, in the midst of which some few score black men had cleared a large space for planting." The numerous Ingham slaves were principally employed in clearing more of the pine forest for future planting of cotton, although there were several house slaves, who "curtsied and bobbed joyfully" to their master when he returned from New Orleans with Stanley as his guest.

Divided into work gangs, the slaves attacked the forest wall with vigor early each morning. On the edge of the clearing

one gang felled trees with axes. Another gang chopped the timber into logs small enough to be moved, and still another rolled the logs to the blazing fire in the center of the clearing. Members of each gang chanted and sang lustily at their work and vied with other gangs in contests of speed and stamina. "They appeared to enjoy it," commented Stanley, "and the atmosphere, laden with the scent of burning resin, the roaring fires, the dance of the lively flames, the excitement of the gangs while holding on, with grim resolve and honor bound, to the bearing spikes, had a real fascination for me."

Even after the forests had been cleared and the resulting "new ground" had been planted to cotton, constant additional work was necessary. Periodically fields had to be "scrubbed." Sprouts had to be cut. Stumps had to be burned. Years elapsed before the frontier cotton field was smooth and unbroken.

The year-round nature of cotton growing is illustrated thoroughly by entries in the diary of John Brown, a Princeton (Dallas County) cotton grower whose classification lay on the boundary between farmer and planter. The number of slaves he owned varied between twenty and twenty-five, and in some years he employed an overseer, while at other times he supervised the slaves himself. His diary entries provide excellent insight into the problems and duties involved in producing the "white gold" of the South.

On January 25, 1853, Brown wrote, "All hands at the new ground... rolling logs." And a few days later, "I have Steven [a slave] grubbing but he does little of it. My present clearing is the first which I have grubbed at this place." Bad weather during the first of February kept his slaves out of the fields and required Brown to use them at other necessary tasks around the



Slaves picking cotton near Augusta, GA in 1860. Note the baskets used to hold the picked lint.

farm, but by the middle of the month one plow was at work in the new ground, while most of the other men worked at getting the cotton gin in operating order. Of this process, Brown wrote: "As usual, we have patched up the screws so that we can make some bales by putting a band around the part that was cracked by the negroes putting oxen to it in my absence. Gin starts again." The cotton being ginned was the last of the previous season's production.

Work resumed in the new ground toward the end of February. The men plowed, and the women pulled up the old cotton stalks. Cotton land was prepared (bedded or "fixed") from late February until planting time depending on soil moisture as wet land did not bed well. Fertilizers such as manures and Peruvian guano were applied at this time.

Cotton was planted in the spring from the end of April to the middle of May, earlier in the upland fields than in the "bottoms," since the lower areas required longer to dry out sufficiently after the winter rains. Timing was important, as late-planted cotton does not have time to ripen before the first frost. Cotton, which is in the same plant family with okra, will keep producing bolls until frost kills it, just as okra bears until frost kills it. In fact, in areas where cotton is grown that do not experience frost, the plant will grow for several years and the stalk will get 4-6 inches in diameter.

The key factor in planting cotton is soil temperature. The ground must be consistently warm enough to allow the seeds to germinate. The old farmer's terms that I learned it by was that when the colored women that you see fishing along all the bayou banks quit sitting on their bait buckets or stools and sit on the ground, then it's warm enough to plant cotton (and okra, too!) In the Arkansas and Mississippi delta, this is usually the last week of April or the first two weeks of May. The earlier you can get the crop in the ground when conditions are right, the better.

Seeds (saved from the previous crop) were planted in a furrow about 1/2 to one inch deep at a rate of about 9-15 pounds per acre. This gave about 8-12 plants per foot. These were subsequently chopped out so that only 1-2 plants per foot remained to grow. At the same time, weeds were hoed out, the entire task being known as "chopping cotton."

The crop was ploughed incessantly. Every time it rained the soil around the plant was scratched lightly. Weeds were chopped out with a hoe. I have heard of

Continued on Page 11...



The Captain's Tent

by Tom Ezell

Summer is fast approaching, and with it a whirlwind of events seeking our services in one way or another. Of course, the prime event for May will be the return and re-dedication of the Capitol Guards monument next Saturday (May 15), and I strongly urge you all, as well as our friends and former members, to come out and take part... we may not have the opportunity to do this again for another 90 years!

A BAND OF BROTHERS

I've been asked to give a short talk on the Capitol Guards and their role in the War as part of the ceremony, and was honored to be able to share a role that, at the original ceremony, was filled by MG Pat Cleburne's adjutant, former CS Captain Irving Buck. Since I got interested in the Capitol Guards and the 6th Arkansas a little more than seven years ago, I've visited many of the battlefields and other sites associated with the 6th... seeking, somehow, to take a few steps in their shoes, to share in some manner part of what they must have seen. I'm still missing a few battlefields (noticeably Shiloh), but in others, it's been a revealing experience in trailing the Capital Guards through Little Rock to Fort Smith, to Perryville, Triune, Murfreesboro, Tullahoma, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Ringgold, Tunnel Hill, Resaca, the Dead Angle along the Kennesaw line, Jonesboro, and Franklin. On Memorial Day weekend I'll be visiting another site where the 6th (& 7th) fought, the "Hell Hole" at Pickett's Mill, near Dallas, GA.

In walking the ground and studying the accounts of the struggles at these places, it's clear that these men clearly saw the raw face of war, and its horrors. It's important to note that of the 134 men who took the oath of allegiance at the Little Rock Arsenal on that May afternoon in 1861, fewer than two dozen made it back to Little Rock.

Of those survivors, tougher than woodpecker lips, they all settled down to find a place to live out the rest of their lives in peace, and selfless service to their community. Two of them, Captains

Gordon Peay and John G. Fletcher, became at different times, the Mayor of Little Rock. Private Peter Hotze teamed with Captain Fletcher to form a major cotton mercantile, with branch offices in New York. Dr. Charles Lincoln became a respected physician. First sergeant John Zimmerman rebuilt his pre-war business, and lies today in Mt. Holly cemetery only a few rows away from the grave of David O. Dodd.

Fifty years after they took the oath on the Arsenal's parade ground, only 5 of the original 134 were still alive, and three of them were on hand to see their monument unveiled. "We were gay then - all gay," said one, a former lieutenant. "We did not appreciate what was before us." The men of the Capitol Guards grew much wiser over the next few years, and serve as a clean example of the values that today's Army holds dear and strives to emulate -- loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. They served in what was probably the premier brigade of the entire Confederate Army - east or west - and those who survived returned home to rebuild their communities as solid citizens. We can all take a lesson from them these days.

Come on out on May 15, and help us pay homage to a thoroughly Southern band of brothers.

MID-YEAR MEETING

After the monument dedication, we'll gather around for a brief Company meeting to assess where we are in meeting our goals for the year, and to make any needed mid-course corrections.

Our formal spring schedule will wrap up with the monument rededication, and the next max effort events on our calendar will be the back-to-back events at Pilot Knob and 140th Franklin. We'll be going as Federals to Pilot Knob in company with the 37th Illinois, and this should be a good, fun event. Franklin is the Division max effort event, and we will need to make some decisions as we start thumping the tub to get folks signed up. Franklin will be a campaign event, where most of the 1st Confederate Division will be maneuvering and staying "in the field" from late Friday night until Sunday morning, working together as a military unit on a 24-hour basis. The TMVI Battalion leadership, on the other hand, has elected to stay in the fixed, tented base camp around the Rippavilla plantation house for the weekend. As a company, we have the option of campaigning in the field during the event to get the "full

experience" of the Franklin campaign... much as we did at Raymond in 1998, or "commuting" (marching) back and forth and extra mile-and-a-half twice per day to and from the tented camp. My personal preference, is to do Franklin as a campaign event all the way, moving out Friday night and staying "tactical" until the stand-down on Sunday morning, where we'll have all Sunday morning to visit the sutlers, see the sights, and eat something that didn't come out of your haversack before we re-form to fight the final "battle of Nashville" at Sunday noon.

Still, others may have different opinions, and whatever we do, we'll do as a company. We have several options on the campaign side, as well as a few admin restrictions imposed by the Division for safety's sake, and I'll go over these at Saturday's meeting. Saturday, as you may guess, will be the first big push to get folks committed to and signed up for the Franklin event. Either way, it's going to be a great little big event!

ON OTHER FRONTS

During our usual summer hiatus, there are a few more events that are well worth considering. First, of course, is the event at Pickett's Mill, GA, if you're interested in a scenario on original ground from the Atlanta Campaign of 1864. I'm going, if you think you'd like to take a walk on the wild side, let me know, and we can get you kitted out and a ride out to the Hell Hole.

The 37th Illinois is busy coordinating participation in the state's Memorial Day service out at Little Rock National Cemetery on May 31. Stand by for late-breaking news via e-mail.

In July (10-11) we'll be putting together a company of Federals to go up and support the Massard Prairie event at Fort Smith, which has a good bit of promise to it. More details to follow in next month's *Sentinel*.

The first weekend in August will see a return to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, as members of the Frontier Guard assist the National Park Service in commemorating the anniversary of the first major battle west of the Mississippi.

All together, there's plenty of quality events to help beat out the summer doldrums... I hope to see y'all at a few of them.

Your Pard,

Tom Ezell

...de Land ob Cotton *(Continued from Page 9)*

no insect treatment save removal of insects such as stink bugs and worms such as boll worms by hand until the 1920s when people dragged molasses soaked rags through the field to fight the boll weevil. (By the way, this didn't work.)

By about July 4 the first blooms appeared. Cotton flowers are white for one day and then turn red and then purple before fall off the square. The square is the name of the fruiting growth on cotton. It is described by its size such as pinhead square, and so forth. For each bloom a boll will form. It takes approximately 60 days for the boll to grow to maturity. It then cracks open, exposing the white fibers.

The bolls ripen and open at different rates, which means that you need to pick the field several times in order to get as much cotton as possible from the crop. Thus you hear about the First Picking, Second picking, and so on. Picking time can start as early as late August if you got the crop planted early, but usually is in full swing by Labor Day and lasts on through October and November, and sometimes even into early December if the weather remains dry enough.

By mid-September the harvest would be in full swing, and pickers worked in the fields long hours dragging long sacks over their shoulders gathering the crop. A man could pick about 150-250 pounds a day however, some picked much more and could get upwards of 500 pounds. Wait, I know you are thinking, "that's a bale a day, haven't I heard a song somewhere?" It took about 1,200 pounds of picked cotton and seed to make a 500 pound bale of ginned cotton.

In hand picking, the cotton was pulled from the boll and placed in a woven basket, or in later years, a long, narrow canvas sack which is dragged up and down the row behind you. When the bag is full, it is taken to the end of the row and weighed (specifically if your farm hands are being paid based on the amount of cotton they pick), and then emptied into some sort of holding container. In the 1850s/1860s, this was most commonly a "cotton pen", a corncrib-sized hut mounted on skids that was dragged from one place to another by mule power. (Most contemporary images from the antebellum and Civil War years show the use of baskets, the "cotton sacks" stem mostly from the post-war sharecropping years, and were in use here in Arkansas at least through the late 1960s.)

Picking continues as long as the bolls are opening and the dry weather holds out. In the last trip through the fields, it

Coming Events

May 15, 2004 – Rededication of the Capital Guards Monument, MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History, MacArthur Park, Little Rock. Show time is 12:00 p.m.; deidcation begins at 2:00 p.m. (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.*

was common to pull the last remaining bolls husk and all, to squeeze the last little bit out of the crop. The cotton was weighed in the field and then carried to the gin.

A "good yield" of cotton was considered to be between 1 ½ to 2 bales of ginned cotton per acre.

The cotton fibers entangle the seeds and have to be removed by the gin. The ginner would remove the seeds from the fibers and pack the cotton in 500-pound bales. The seed could be sold to the ginner who ground it into feed, and this helped defray ginning costs. Some however,

was saved for seed for the next crop.

The ginned cotton was graded based on color and quality and then it could be sold or warehoused or stored at home until sale. Cotton was not perishable and stored easily, which helped make it a profitable crop.

Growing a crop of cotton was long, hot, tiresome work but it helped pay the taxes and bills for many Arkansas farm families. In the New Orleans market, the price of cotton in the decade between 1850 and 1860 varied from a low of 7.4 cents per pound in 1851 to a high of 12.4 cents in 1856. The average price over the decade

Continued on Page 12...

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

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

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

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

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

de Land ob Cotton (Continued from Page 11)

was 11.2 cents per pound. Selling a bale of cotton weighing 450 pounds would thus yield, on an average, \$50.40.

To get their crops to market, most planters and large farmers employed a "factor." Factors were agents, typically based in the larger cities such as St. Louis, Memphis, or New Orleans, who offered a full array of financial and commercial services for their planter clients. Acting as brokers or seller's agents, factors received and sold shipments of crops and other commodities such as rice, corn, cane, and tobacco, where they then found the best price for that product, either in the United States or in Europe, and placed the proceeds of the sale into an account that the planter maintained with the factor. Since there were no banks in Arkansas during the 1850s, factors provided a primary source of cash, credit, and other financial services for the state.

With the income from the sale of a crop in hand or forthcoming, the factor served as both banker and furnishing merchant to their clients, holding deposits, honoring drafts (checks), loaning money, and providing supplies

that ranged from imported European furniture to cheap shoes for slaves, or even slaves themselves. For these services, factors received a commission, typically 2% of the revenue generated by the sale of a planter's crops.¹

Aside from selling the crops, factors would pay bills incurred against a planter's account, honor drafts or checks written against the account, or extend loans for planting the new year's crops.

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