

The Sentinel



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LIVING HISTORIANS

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

Are You Primed for Prairie Grove?

The biennial “Battle of Prairie Grove” will be held at Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park on December 1-3, 2006. Event-wise, it’s been a slow year for most of us, but this promises to be a big one to make up for it!

This year’s Prairie Grove will be very different, since the members of the 6th Arkansas will be joining our friends in the 37th Illinois and the Boys in Blue. While we’ve galvanized regularly over the past couple of years, this is the first time we’ve done it for Prairie Grove. (I swapped sides for one of the Sunday morning fights way back in 1998 and darned near got lynched for it, and since that time have adhered strictly to my Southern loyalties at least as far as this particular event has been concerned ;-)

Plans at this time are to fall in with friends from the Frontier Brigade, with whom we served at Pilot Knob and Port Hudson, so there will be a few friendly faces in the battalion. I plan to bring Ol’ Glory, our U.S. battle flag, and we’ll have the Company Sibley tent (with its original heater) and the mess equipment along. Coffee should be available from the Company mess throughout the event, and if there’s sufficient interest, we can provide a period company meal for Saturday evening.

Current plans are to fall in and fight with our old friends from the 1st Battalion, but that may be subject to change once we get there. Look for the Company colors, and rally there...

Being on the Union side does have a few advantages, since the Frontier Brigade provides a few amenities not readily available in the rather spartan Southern service... It’s my understanding that “Miss Tula’s” tavern will be on site in the brigade support area, and likewise you won’t have to traverse the entire park to get to the sutlers’ area or divine services. [*“Miss Tula’s,” btw, is a field tavern & period honky tonk that often travels with the Frontier Brigade and sets up on the back side of the federal camp at Prairie Grove. I’ve always been a Reb, so have never really been in there, but have heard good things about it... And, come to think of it, we met Ms. Tula (& her tavern) at the Mexican War event at the Old State House last weekend, and it’s everything that we heard about. Friday night at Prairie Grove, they’re even expecting a visit from St. Nicholas!*]

Otherwise, logistic support and the general



Andy Thomas’ 1998 print “The Bayonet or Retreat” captures the stand of the 37th Illinois Infantry along the crest of the Borden House Hill at Prairie Grove on December 7, 1862.

scheme of things at Prairie Grove promise to be very much the same as in previous years. Rumour has it that the Frontier Brigade will do its best to field two full battalions against the Rebel horde, and they will try to better replicate some of the tactics used in 1862 by engaging one battalion against the Rebel position on Borden House Hill, which will be repulsed, and then bring in the second battalion to reinforce and stabilize the position.

Look for a busy, fighting weekend, since as Yankees we will definitely be going up against superior numbers at least. In planning on how many cartridges to roll and bring, I’d act like I owned stock in GOEX! We’ve always been a hard-fighting bunch when we wore the blue, so let’s plan on driving the Secessionists plum out of business.

It’s been a long hard year for most of us, and I’m greatly looking forward to smelling a little burnt powder on the breeze... Hope to see y’all on the field up in the Ozarks!

PRAIRIE GROVE EVENT DETAILS

Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park welcomes all invited units and their members to this year’s event. Individual registration starts at Noon, Friday, December 1, and goes through midnight at the Latta Barn. As in 2004, the Park will charge a \$5 registration/parking fee for each re-enactor.

Late arrivals can register Saturday morning at the Latta Barn between 7 and 8 a.m. Everyone who wants to participate must register.

Straw for bedding will be issued at 1/3 of a bale per person. Firewood will be conveniently located near each camp. Please take just what you need and do not hoard it. Water will also be readily available. Everyone will provide their own food for man and beast, as well as gunpowder.

Uniforms and accoutrements must be authentic in style and material. Weapons should be accurate with infantry carrying military issue black powder rifles or muskets; cavalry armed with carbines, shotguns, and/or revolvers.

Artillery will be original or full-scale reproductions only. Swords and sabers will be carried by officers, NCOs, and mounted cavalry only. All camps will remain authentic throughout the event, including after dark. No

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Arkansas Post Encampment - "Camp Freeze-Out" January 21-22nd, 2006



This was just too good a picture not to show off a little bit... W.J., Harvey, George Lieber, Tom Ezell, and Dave Sesser in camp at Arkansas Post.



W.J. sprouts a new (and very period) look for the new campaign season



Here's the scene as Bob Hutcheson (behind the camera) auditions for the 2006 Darwin Awards, with Dave Sesser and Mark Kalkbrenner looking on. Steve Shore is the potential axe man.

Way back before the Grinch visited the *Sentinel's* publishing plant last December, and before the press of events canceled out much of our press time, we had a pretty good time down at the Arkansas Post State Museum, just south of Gillette. Steve came up with some very nice group photographs that were well worth hanging on to and preserving in an issue of *The Sentinel*. This is an annual event usually held around the Robert E. Lee/Martin Luther King weekend, and is a good way to get started on the new year's campaign. We'll be doing this one again in 2007, probably from the Confederate perspective this time.



W.J. Monagle, Harvey Moore, George Lieber, David Sesser, and Tom Ezell

“The Rackensackers Return” to the Old State House November 18th, 2006



The Old State House draped in mourning for Colonel Archibald Yell of the Arkansas Volunteer Cavalry, who fell valiantly at the battle of Buena Vista



Little Rock Guards Jerry Simpson (far left) and Steve Shore (far right) pose with members of the State House staff and members of the 6th U.S. Infantry, Mexican War re-enactors from Fort Gibson, in the Indian Territory.



Tom Ezell and Jerry Simpson stand the honor guard by the coffin of Colonel Yell.

On Saturday, November 17, The Old State House Museum held the last of three living history events focusing on Arkansas’s role in the 1846-1847 Mexican War, welcoming home the Arkansas troops returning home from their service with Zachary Taylor in northern Mexico. Tom Ezell, Steve Shore, and Jerry Simpson of the Capitol Guards became the “Little Rock Guards” of 1847, forerunner to the Civil War’s Capital Guards, alongside members of the 6th U.S. Infantry re-enactors from Oklahoma and members of the Old State Houae staff. The event marked the end of the State House’s colossal exhibit on the Mexican War, “Try Us! - Arkansas’s Role in the War with Mexico,” which opened in June 2005.

This was a very nice living history, with a good chance to meet with folks who do a Mexican War impression on a regular basis, as well as to meet and interact with members of the public. Special demonstrations included welcoming speeches from public figures in the war, a duel between political rivals Albert Pike and John S. Roane over the portrayal of Roane’s activities in Mexico and especially at Buena Vista, and a period wedding ceremony. Throughout the day, a coffin representing the remains of former Governor and Arkansas regimental commander Archibald Yell lay in state in the State House, with a funeral procession held at the end of the day to close out the event.

Steve Shore remarked, “You missed a very good event in Little Rock this past Saturday. American troops returning from Mexico talked with visitors and fired their muskets in celebration.

“The Old State House fed us breakfast and a Mexican Lunch while holding a duel, watching a wedding and carrying the casket of Mister Yell to the riverboat. We finished up around 3:20 p.m. and I still had time to head to the deer woods.

Overall, it was one of the better events (in my opinion) at the Old State House.”

“Try Us!”, the museum’s Mexican War exhibit, will be open through December 31 of this year, when it will be replaced by an exhibit on quilts. This is the largest existing exhibit of Mexican War relics anywhere in th eworld at this time, so if you haven’t seen it yet, it’s well worth a visit to the State House to see!

Messing with Your Musket...

Former (1993 to 1998) *Watchdog* Associate Editor Geoff Walden recently published an updated, online version of his Enfield monograph, *The Enfield in the Civil War: Authenticizing Your Reproduction Enfield*. A condensed version first appeared as an article in *The Watchdog* back in 1993, and was reprinted in *The Hardcracker Handbook* as well as a previous edition of *The Sentinel*. Walden's research began in the early 1980s and has been an ongoing project with updates in 1987, 1995 and most recently May 2006. When first published, Walden established a baseline on the subject of "de-farbing" Enfields. The best part of Walden's update is the photographs—detailed views of original Enfield rifle-musket design elements. The web site is <http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/Quarters/1864/enf/enfauth.htm>.

For those interested in the update of Geoff's classic monograph, we think you will also enjoy the newly published *The Civil War Musket: A Handbook for Historical Accuracy—Lock, Stock and Barrel*. Readers will find that Barry's book goes well beyond Walden's work. In addition to the section on the P-53 Enfield, it also includes material on the US Model 1855, 1861 and 1863 rifle-muskets, the Model 1816/22 and 1842 smoothbore muskets and the Model 1841 Percussion Rifle. There is material on slings, an updated cone replacement chart and material on firing live rounds by Bill Adams. Joe Bilby recently wrote in *Civil War News* that *The Civil War Musket: A Handbook for Historical Accuracy* is, a "... 'must have' for the Civil War enactor interested in making his reproduction rifle musket as accurate a representation of an original Civil War gun as possible."

The Sentinel's editor recently received a copy of this new book upon his return from the Mexican War, and was fascinated by the breadth of material it offers on Civil War infantry weapons... both from their historical standpoint, and from dealing with them in our modern context. I highly recommend it, and will have my copy available for perusal at Prairie Grove, if anyone is interested.

Barry, Craig L., *The Civil War Musket: A Handbook for Historical Accuracy -- Lock, Stock, and Barrel*. The Watchdog Quarterly, Inc., Warren, MI, 2006. ISBN-0-9742201-2-4. 8 1/2 x 11 inches, perfect-bound soft cover, 156 pages. \$27.95 plus shipping (\$2.07 media mail). Available from <http://www.watchdogreview.com>.

Cadet Gray and Butternut Brown: Notes on Confederate Uniforms

Primary sources are the best place to start with any research project. The author, Thomas Arliskas, has started with contemporary accounts of Confederate uniform descriptions from newspapers, letters and diaries. He has divided the appearance description and supply information into early, middle and late war periods. There are a significant number of soldier photographs to support this well-written analysis.

Uniforms the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of Tennessee are represented. The following is an apt summary of the author's research:

A Confederate private's appearance changed month-to-month, winter-to-winter and circumstance-to-circumstance. Each company or individual had their own story to tell, their own trials in keeping properly clothed. Some did better than others, usually through the hard work of their quartermaster officers or state governments and some boasted they never took a piece of clothing from the Confederate government, trusting folks back home, or what was found on the battlefield.

After reading – no, studying – this book, you will learn that uniforms ranged from bearskin suits to gray and brown homespun, and from blue slave cloth to fine English imported wool. These hundred pages provide an excellent foundation for a better understanding of

Confederate uniforms, than most other books on the subject. This book is essential for anyone interested in improving their Confederate impression.

After reading *Cadet Gray and Butternut Brown*, I was most impressed by its collection of uniform descriptions by eyewitnesses, e.g., other Civil War soldiers. By no means does it replace some of the older literature on the Confederate clothing system – for example, Les Jensen's 3-part series in the 1989 *Military Collector and Historian* or his later work, *Johnny Reb*, but it serves to provide greater illumination, and to place previous works on such minutia into better focus and context. I got my copy from Amazon.com, which turned to be shipped directly from the author with a very nice little dedication in the flyleaf. If you're fascinated by Confederate culture and history, as I am, you'll really like this book.

Arliskas, Thomas M. *Cadet Gray and Butternut Brown: Notes on Confederate Uniforms*. Gettysburg: Thomas Publications, 2006. ISBN-157747-1229. 8 1/2 x 11 inches, perfect bound soft cover, 100 pages Over fifty illustrations and a full color cover \$16.95 plus shipping. Thomas Publications, PO BOX 3032, Gettysburg, PA 17325 and <http://www.thomaspublication.com>.

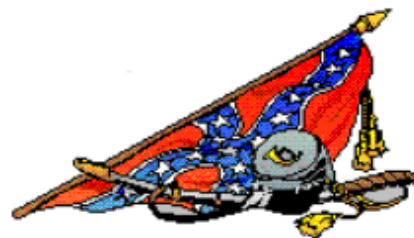
Remembering Arkansas Confederates and the 1911 Little Rock Veterans Reunion.

Yet another recent book, this time with a much more local interest and flavor, came out in September with the long-awaited description and photographs of the 50th Anniversary reunion of the United Confederate Veterans here in Little Rock -- the largest ever gathering of the Boys in Gray since Appomattox and Greensboro. Ray and Stevan G. Hanley has collected a surprisingly expansive collection of images, both from the War and the various veterans organizations in the state after the war. There's not a lot of text here outside the captions for the photographs, but the ability to look into the faces of the original Boys in Gray - even fifty years later - is well worthwhile to try and capture that intangible spark that made the Boys of '61-'65 one of America's greatest generations.

If there's a drawback to this book, it's that they probably use too many photographs of modern-day reenactors right alongside those of the original veterans. I can fathom the authors' intent to tie the original veterans to the present-day descendants' organizations, but in my personal opinion, the subject matter on the original veterans is sufficient to carry the book by itself. (And yes, I found my picture in there a time or two as well).

That aside, *Remembering Arkansas Confederates* makes a valuable addition to your Civil War library for what it covers best ... that Johnny Reb eventually came home from The War and took up a new life in what would prove to be a new world, and it documents both the good and occasionally the ugly manner in which a mostly grateful state acknowledged their service and sacrifices.

Hanley, Ray and Sten G. Hanley, *Remembering Arkansas Confederates and the 1911 Little Rock Veterans Reunion*. Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 2006. 6 1/2 x 9 1/4 inches, perfect bound soft cover, 128 pages of black & white photographic images. \$19.95 plus shipping from Amazon.com.



COLONEL COLT'S REVOLVING RIFLE IN THE CIVIL WAR

by John D. McAulay & Michael D. Humphries

Though eclipsed by other repeaters - such as the Henry and Spencer - the rifle version of Col. Samuel Colt's percussion revolver saw field service with Yankee forces throughout America's bloodiest conflict.

Before the start of the American Civil War in 1861, the U.S. Army had acquired relatively few breechloading rifles as the .58-cal. muzzleloading rifle-musket was the standard arm of the infantry, while the Sharps carbine was the major arm of the cavalry. There were only two breechloading designs in U.S. arsenals before the war, the obsolete Hall and the Colt Model 1855 revolving rifle.

First manufactured in 1856, the side-hammer, cap-and-ball Colt Model 1855 rifle operated on similar principles to Col. Samuel Colt's revolving handguns. In 1857, 100 Colt rifles were purchased and sent to the U.S. troops for field service. The prewar .44-caliber rifles were six-shot repeaters, while the wartime-procurement guns were .56-cal. five-shots. The barrel length of the U.S. Army Colt rifles ranged from 31 5/16" to 37 1/2", and the full-length fore-end was attached to the barrel by two barrel bands. The rear sight was graduated up to 600 yards, and the topstraps of the .56-cal., wartime-made guns were stamped, "COL, COLT HARTFORD CT. U.S.A." The cylinders were fluted, and the rifle took either the angular or saber bayonet. Prior to 1861, the Army had taken delivery of more than 700 Model 1855 Colts.

Civil War Field Service 1861-1862

In May 1861, a company of the 8th Massachusetts Infantry was issued Colt revolving rifles while serving in and around Washington, D.C. Later in 1861, pickets of the 12th Kentucky Infantry skirmished with Confederate cavalry at Mill Springs, Ky. The pickets, armed with Colt rifles, killed four rebels with eight shots at 300 yards.

At the end of January 1862, Washington Arsenal took delivery of 1,000 .56-cal. Colt Model 1855 revolving rifles with 37 1/2" barrels, and they were issued to Berdan's 1st and 2nd U.S. Sharpshooters (U.S.S.S.). When the sharpshooters were informed of the matter, the men rioted. They had been promised Sharps target rifles, and they wanted the Sharps - no other arm would do. Berdan had to place a guard around his headquarters until the excitement subsided. One man of the 2nd Sharpshooters was so dissatisfied he marched off to war with a Springfield rifle-musket. The sharpshooters left for the front with the Colts and some individual target rifles. The 1st U.S.S.S. used its Colts in the siege at Yorktown against Rebel artillery batteries, while the 2nd U.S.S.S. fought against Confederate infantry and artillery at Falmouth, Va. The Colts were exchanged for the promised Sharps by early June, and, in August 1862, the Washington Arsenal had 445 of Berdan's Colts in storage.

Of local historical interest, the flank companies (A and K) of the 37th Illinois Infantry were armed with Colt's revolving rifles, while the remainder of the companies were armed with conventional muskets. In the regiment's first major combat, in Morgan's Woods at the battle of Pea Ridge on May 7, 1862, the regiment was ambushed in heavy timber. The Greyhounds immediately opened fire, as Henry Ketzle of Company A remembered, "...Underbrush being very thick we couldn't see much but smoke and fire, but we dropped to the ground and let them have it as fast as we could pull trigger with our five shooters... we threw the throttle valve wide open and 'let 'er go Gallagher.'" Cos. A and K retained their Colt's revolvers at least until they veteranized in 1864, as an 1864 ordnance return still shows 69 Colt's rifles on hand and in use.

Model 1855 Colt revolving rifles went mostly to Union cavalry in 1862, including the 2nd Michigan Cavalry commanded by Col. Phillip H. Sheridan. On July 1, 1862, near Booneville, Miss., the 2nd Michigan's pickets were attacked by Confederate cavalry led by Brig. Gen. James R. Chalmers. In the fight, Sheridan used his 160 cavalrymen with their revolving rifles to hold the advance of Chalmers' cavalry while he attacked them in the rear and on the left flank. This forced the Confederates to retreat. The Yankee riflemen waited until the charging Southerners were within 25 to 30 yards before opening up with their Colts, and the U.S. cavalrymen were pressed so close that they were forced to use the butts of their Colts in hand-to-hand encounters to beat back the attack.

A second cavalry regiment in the Booneville action was the 2nd Iowa. It is not likely that it was issued Colts in this battle, but by December it listed 333 Colt rifles. The 2nd Iowa was part of the advance cavalry forced attacked near Coffeetown, Miss., on December 5, and it dismounted the four companies armed with Colts and kept its two saber companies mounted. When the attackers came within 20 yds., the men volley fired with their Colts, and the cavalrymen fired three rounds before they were outflanked and were forced to retreat to a second defensive position and repeat the process. They were again outflanked and had to retreat to a third position when night ended the battle. The number of casualties was not stated, but the rifle companies with Colts suffered five of its seven officers wounded.

Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans, commanding the Union forces around Corinth, Miss., was greatly concerned about the lack of small arms for his cavalry. To totally arm three of his regiments, he requested 824 Colt revolving rifles, and on October 28, 1862, the Colt factory delivered 824 to the Army. The Colts sent to Rosecrans' units were issued as follows: 294 to the 3rd Michigan Cavalry, 30 to the 2nd Iowa;



The Model 1855 Colt Revolving Rifle. The rifle was .56 caliber, and the cylinder held five shots. The Model 1856 could be fired as fast as the shooter could thumb back the hammer and aim at his next target. Reloading took some time, as each cylinder had to be recharged in the same manner as the Colt revolver handguns. For sheer firepower in a short time, the Colt Rifle was a formidable weapon in gaining fire superiority over an enemy armed with single-shot muskets or shotguns.

and 500 to 7th Kansas. A month later, the Ordnance Department ordered 1,600 more Colt revolving rifles for Rosecrans' cavalry.

On the last day of the year, one company of the 2nd Indiana Cavalry was on courier duty between Nashville and LaGrange, Tenn. At 3 p.m., they were attacked by Rebel cavalry with one lieutenant and 13 men captured. In addition to the 14 men taken prisoner, the Confederates seized 15 horses, 10 mules, two wagons with company property, 15 Colt revolvers and 11 Colt revolving rifles. At the end of the year, only 13 regiments reported Colt revolving rifles in inventory for a total of about 2,400 rifles.

Field Service 1863

One of the largest issues of Colt revolving rifles in 1863 went to the 21st Ohio Infantry. On May 28, 1863, the regiment turned in its 350 Enfield rifle-muskets for a like quantity of .56-cal., five-shot Colts. The 21st's rifles had been previously issued to Berdan's Sharpshooters and were equipped with 37 1/2" barrels. These "hand-me-down" rifles played a major role in the 21st's part in the stubborn Union defense at Chickamauga on September 20. The 21st went into battle with 22 officers and 517 men; 347 were armed with Colts and 170 with Enfields.

At about noon, shortly after they broke through the Union lines, Maj. Gen. James Longstreet's infantry struck the 21st Ohio but was driven back. The Confederates skirmished with the 21st, and, at 2 p.m., a second attack was again forced back. After that, a lack of ammunition started to become a major concern. The cartridge boxes of the dead and wounded – as well as those in the nearby hospital – were scoured for additional ammunition. At 5 p.m. a third attack came within 20 yards of success before it, too, was repulsed. The 21st was now down to only one round per man with no hope of resupply. It was relieved by the 2nd Minnesota Infantry and sent to the right of the Union lines. At dark, the 21st was attacked by four Confederate infantry regiments and had to surrender because the men were totally out of ammunition. In the battle, the 21st lost 167 of its Colts, and its casualties were 28 killed, 84 wounded and 131 captured. The 21st had expended 43,550 rounds – or about 85 rounds per man. At the end of the battle, the 21st Ohio inventory of small arms by company was as follows:

Brig. Gen. Sheridan commanded the 3rd Division, 20th Army Corps, at Chickamauga, and four of Sheridan's infantry regiments – 22nd and 51st Illinois, 15th Missouri and the 21st Michigan – were partially armed with Colt revolving rifles. The 21st Michigan was near Rosecrans' Headquarters at the Widow Glenn's house at the time of Longstreet's breakthrough. The men were moved about 400 yds. from the house and became the extreme right of the Union lines. The men of Company A, armed with Colt revolving rifles, were placed on the right flank to protect it. The enemy made two attempts to get around them and were successful on their second try. Company A held the line for over an hour before being outflanked and forced back. A few days after the battle, the four regiments listed the following quantities of Colt rifles on hand: 21st Michigan, 17; 15th Missouri, 44; 22nd Illinois, 7; and the 51st Illinois, 5.

During that period, several reports were received from the field on the effectiveness of the various small arms in the hands of the troops. Col. Thomas B. Herrick of the 7th Kansas Cavalry felt the Colt rifle was very delicate and liable to get out of repair from the manner of carrying it slung over a cavalryman's shoulder. At the time, December 1863, the 7th had 198 Colt rifles. Maj. S.C. Scranton's 2nd Michigan Cavalry had 271 Colt rifles in November, and he also believed the Colt was a frail arm. The 2nd Indiana Cavalry had one company armed with 27 Colt rifles, and the 2nd's Maj. David A. Briggs stated, "I would respectfully support that although the Colt rifles are a very good arm in time of action, they are difficult to keep in order specially [sic] during rainy weather."

In the fall of 1863, the U.S. Army had more than 2,700 Colt rifles in service, with 700 in infantry regiments. The largest numbers were in



Cylinder, hammer, and trigger assembly of the Model 1855 Revolving Rifle



Closeup view of the front of the cylinder, showing the similarity of the rifle to the Colt revolver. Like the revolvers, the M1855 was sometimes subject to chain-firing, and the gap between the cylinder and the barrel often made it uncomfortable for the shooter who tried to rest the forearm in his left hand in the traditional firing stance.

the 21st Ohio, 166; 37th Illinois, 67; 12th Kentucky, 58; 26th Kentucky, 119; 34th Kentucky, 57; 2nd Minnesota, 13; 15th Missouri, 44; 21 Michigan, 17; and 7th U.S. Regulars, 14. The cavalry had more than 2,000 Colt rifles with the largest numbers in the following: the 1st Colorado, 143; 9th Illinois, 142; 2nd Iowa, 302; 7th Kansas, 83; 2nd Ohio, 93; 2nd Michigan, 266; 3rd Michigan, 382; 4th Michigan, 155; 1st Missouri, 399; and 3rd Missouri State Militia Cavalry, 61.

Field Service 1864-1865

During the early days of 1864, many Union regiments re-enlisted and were given veteran furloughs. They would turn in their arms before going on leave and often, upon returning, be issued different ones. In this manner, cavalry regiments, such as the 2nd and 3rd Michigan, were issued Spencer carbines (2nd) and Starr carbines (for the 3rd) to replace their Colt rifles. One cavalry regiment mainly armed with the Colt revolving rifles (357) during the first half of the year was the 9th Illinois Cavalry. The 9th had received its Colt rifles in April 1863. The historian of the 9th states that the Colt was a very effective arm but did have one serious drawback. When the rifle was being discharged, it would shoot splinters of lead into the left wrist and hand of the person firing it.

At Brice's Crossroads, Miss., on June 10, 1864, the Union cavalry and infantry were soundly defeated by Forrest's Confederate forces. A force of 140 men from the 9th Illinois Cavalry armed with Colt revolving rifles was used as advanced skirmishers placed behind logs and trees. On the third attack by Forrest's men, and after hand-to-hand fighting, the Union cavalry line was forced to give way. The infantry, being several miles behind the cavalry, came up as the cavalry was being forced back, and was able to hold the line for a short time before they, too, gave way. Over the next two days, in the rain and mud, the 9th Illinois was used to cover the retreating column's rear. They would take

up a position, hold it as long as possible and then fall back to a new position and then repeat the process all over again. The Union suffered more than 2,200 casualties, of which 1,600 were prisoners.

The 21st Ohio, which had so gallantly fought at Chickamauga, was directed to turn in its Colts for Enfields of Springfield. By summer, the 21st Ohio had no Colt rifles. By June 1864, the number of Colt revolving rifles listed in field service had decreased to about 1,300 rifles.

In Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign from May 4 to September 8, 1864, five regiments listed a few Colt rifles. In the Army of the Cumberland commanded by George Thomas, the 3rd and 7th Kentucky Cavalries and the 42nd and 73rd Illinois Infantries were armed with a combined total of about 100 Colt rifles. During the campaign, the Army of the Cumberland expended 10,760 Colt rifle cartridges. The Army of Ohio, led by John Schofield, expended 5,000 Colt cartridges during the campaign. In June, the 12th Kentucky Infantry of Schofield's command had 112 Colt rifles, plus Springfield rifle-muskets. In Sherman's march to capture Atlanta, between May 4 and September 8, 1864, the 200 Colt rifles in the two commands (Thomas'

and Schofield's) fired only 15,760 Colt rifle cartridges.

The 3rd Massachusetts Heavy Artillery was formed in August 1864 for duty in the nation's capital. The unit was part of the force that reinforced the Washington defenses, performed garrison duty north of the Potomac River, and was issued 120 Colt revolving rifles, plus Springfield rifle-muskets. One cavalry regiment with Colt rifles in early 1865 was the 1st Mississippi (U.S.) Mounted Rifles. The Mounted Rifles was part of Grierson's Raid against the Mobile and Ohio Railroad in January 1865. After returning from the raid, Capt. C. Bowman stated that all 168 Colt rifles of the 1st Mississippi Mounted Rifles were unserviceable, and the Colts were turned in for Sharps carbines.

At war's end, 305 Colt rifles were taken home. In the period after the war, they were sent into storage, since their useful military life had come to an end. As of May 1866, the St. Louis Arsenal reflected 105 serviceable Colt rifles on hand, plus an additional 885 rifles in need of repair—an ignominious end for a rifle that saw service from the beginning to the end of the War Between the States.

Coming Events

As of the time the *Sentinel* went to press, the following events had been scheduled, or at least proposed as candidates for the 2007 campaign calendar. If you are aware of an additional or different event, please contact Tom or Steve and we'll add it to the list for consideration. We'll discuss next year's events at Prairie Grove, and vote on our schedule for next year at the first Company meeting in January.

January 6, 2007. David O. Dodd memorial service, Mt. Holly Cemetery, Broadway & I-630, Little Rock. 12 noon.

January 12-14, 2007. Arkansas Post living history. Arkansas Post State Museum, on Highway 165 7 miles south of Gillette, AR

March 2-4, 2007. The Immortal 600 living history. Fort Pulaski National Historic Site, Savannah, GA. Hardcore, immersive event, sponsored by the Wool Hat Boys.

March 14-18, 2007. "Banks' Grand Retreat" week-long campaign event, also known as the "Red River Campaign III."

March 16-18, 2007. 145th Anniversary re-enactment, Battle of Shiloh, Michey, TN.

March 17, 2007. Little Rock Irish Parade, Markham Street and River Market, Little Rock.

March 23-25, 2007. Battle of Port Hudson Re-enactment, Port Hudson State Commemorative Area, Zachary, LA.

March 24, 2007. Annual Gen'l Patrick Cleburne Memorial Service, Maple Hill Confederate Cemetery, Helena, AR. 12 noon.

April 7, 2007. Confederate Flag Day observance, Arkansas State Capitol grounds, Little Little Rock.

April 13-15, 2007. Battle of Pleasant Hill battle re-enactment, Pleasant Hill, LA.

April 13-15, 2007. 145th Anniversary Shiloh Living History, Shiloh National Battlefield Park, Shiloh, TN.

April 27-29, 2007. Battle of Marks Mill re-enactment, Marks Mill Battlefield State Park, near Fordyce, AR.

May 4-6, 2007. Annual Homecoming and Civil War Weekend, Jefferson, TX.

June 8-10, 2007. Vicksburg Living History, Vicksburg National Battlefield Park, Vicksburg, MS. Sponsored by the Western Independent Grays.

June 8-10, 2007. "Battlefire" Civil War Weekend, Tribbey, OK.

June 29-July 1, 2007. Kennesaw Mountain Living History, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Kennesaw, GA.

September 8-9, 2007 (PROPOSED/TENTATIVE) Battle of Little Rock re-enactment or living history (new event)

September 14-16, 2007 145th Anniversary Reenactment, Battle of Antietam, Sharpsburg, MD. (national event)

September 21-23, 2007. Battle of Cabin Creek re-enactment, Oklahoma.

September 21-23, 2007. Battle of Fort Davidson re-enactment, Pilot Knob, MO

September 28-30, 2007. Battle of Mill Springs re-enactment, Somerset, KY. North/South Alliance Maximum Effort Event.

October 12-14, 2007. Battle of Columbus-Belmont re-enactment, Columbus, KY

October 12-14, 2007. White Sulphur Springs living history & Confederate memorial services, Sulphur Springs, AR

October 27-28, 2007. Civil War Weekend, Degray Lake State Park, near Bismarck, AR.

November 2-4, 2007. Civil War Weekend & Battle Demonstrations, Old Washington State Park, Washington, AR.

November 2-4, 2007. Battle of Pea Ridge re-enactment (formerly "Cane Hill"/"Battles Around Bentonville"), Bentonville, AR.

The 6th Regiment, Arkansas Volunteer Infantry, Co. A, the "Capitol Guards" is dedicated to the faithful and historically accurate portrayal of a unit of Confederate infantry in the War Between the States in 1861-1865.

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

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Visit us on the Internet at <http://www.geocities.com/capitalguards/>

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

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

Prairie Grove (Cont. from page 1)

radios, telephones, televisions, tape or CD players will be allowed in camp.

Everyone will completely hide any modern items from the view of the public and their fellow campers. Thus, all vehicles should be unpacked and parked in the reenactor parking area no later than 8 a.m. Saturday morning. No vehicles are allowed in the camps until after the battle demonstration Sunday afternoon without permission from the park staff. Anyone not complying with these rules will be asked to leave and not invited back.

Concessions will be provided by the Prairie Grove Boy Scout Troop 48, which will sell a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, bacon, and coffee, and a lunch of barbecue pork sandwiches with baked beans, potato chips, and soft drinks. The Prairie Grove chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will sell Krispy Kreme doughnuts as well as lunch items.

There will be a \$3 fee for spectator parking, otherwise the event is free.

If any problems arise, contact Park Superintendent Ed Smith, who will be on duty throughout the event.

PRAIRIE GROVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Saturday, December 2, 2004

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. — Officers meeting in the Latta Barn
9 a.m. until Noon — Civil War camps open to the public
9 a.m. until 11 a.m. — Print and book signings in Hindman Hall
10 a.m. — Guided tours of the Confederate and Union camps.
1 p.m. Battle demonstration near the Borden House
2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Civil War camps open to the public
2:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. Print and book signings in Hindman Hall
3 p.m. — Guided tours of the Confederate and Union camps.
5:30 p.m. until the cows come home... Social at the Latta Barn.

Sunday, December 3, 2004

9 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. Officers' meeting in the Latta Barn
9 a.m. until Noon Civil War camps open to the public
9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Book signings in Hindman Hall 10 a.m. Church service in the log church.
10 a.m. — Guided tours of the Confederate and Union camps.
1 p.m. Battle demonstration near the Borden House

Both Days

8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Hindman Hall open to the public and participants with exhibits, audiovisual programs, diorama, gift shop, and bookstore.
All Day Sutlers' Row open along the historic stone wall. Prairie Grove Band Boosters' and Prairie Grove Masonic Lodge concession stands will be open.

The Colonel was out in the woods one fine evening, and noticed several soldiers dodging him and apparently wishing to be unobserved. Massa Geems (the enlisted men's nickname for their colonel) thought something was going on wrong, so after going a circuitous route he approached the same spot... unseen. He discovered to his astonishment two female individuals (of the sable hue) in petticoats and crinoline. Well, these two young women were carrying on a lucrative trade and the Colonel stood and watched long enough to satisfy his curiosity, when he dodged and caught a fellow by the arm just going to camp through the bushes.

We Drank From the Same Canteen...

There are bonds of all sorts in this world of ours,
Fetters of friendship and ties of flowers
And true lovers' knots I ween,
The girl and the boy are bound by a kiss,
But there's never a bond, old friend, like this -
We have drank from the same canteen.

It was sometimes water, and sometimes milk,
And sometimes applejack fine as silk.
But whatever the tipples has been,
We shared it together in bane or bliss.
And I warm to you friend, when I think of this,
We have drank from the same canteen.

The rich and the great sit down to dine,
And they quaff to each other in sparkling wine,
From glasses of crystal and green.
But I guess in their golden potations they miss
The worth of regard to be found in this -
We have drank from the same canteen.

We have shared our blankets and tents together,
And have marched and fought in all kinds of weather,
And hungry and full we have been;
Had days of battle and days of rest;
But this memory I cling to and love the best -
We have drank from the same canteen.

For when wounded I lay on the outer slope,
With my blood flowing fast and but little to hope,
Upon which my faint spirit could lean,
Oh, then I remember you crawled to my side,
And, bleeding so fast it seemed both must have died,
We drank from the same canteen.
— Private Miles O'Reilly

"Well, sir," said the Colonel, "Where have you been and what have you been doing?"

The soldier stammered a little, but with remarkable presence of mind replied, "Why you see, Colonel, I have got a bad cold and have been out here to get some Sassafras Root to cure it."

"Ah," replied the Colonel; "Sassafras Root indeed! I have never heard it called by that name before! Report yourself to the officer of the sword."

The next morning, the story leaked out, for on the Guard Report of prisoners was the fellow's name, charged with *Hunting for Sassafras Root*. The fellow has ever since been named Sassafras.
(October, 1863, 2nd Maryland Infantry)