

# The Sentinel



Vol. 8, No. 9 – The Newsletter of the 6th Arkansas Infantry, Company A, C.S.A. – September, 2004

Living Historians

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

## *“Forward, men, forward!!...”*

### Mississippi Valley Brigade — Last minute info for 140th Franklin

Gentlemen,

There has been a slight change in plans for the march on Friday at Franklin. The Chief of Police has nixed our idea of departing at 3:00 pm due to traffic concerns at that hour. An alternate plan was provided but I do not feel that it was practical or beneficial to what we are trying to accomplish for the weekend. We will now depart Oak Lawn at 6:00 pm. The disadvantage, of course, to us leaving later is that we will lose some daylight for pioneer detail. We will have to make do with fires, torches and lanterns. Leaving later does provide some other advantages however. First, it allows more men time to arrive. Second, we will use this time to issue rations rather than waiting to get to Spring Hill. This will free up valuable wagon space for other necessary items...such as candle lanterns! So here is a break down of the changes:

1. **We will leave Oak Lawn at 6:00 p.m. (This means you need to plan your travel so as to arrive at the event site NO LATER THAN 5:00 p.m., FRIDAY AFTERNOON, if possible.)**

2. We will issue rations previous to our departure and give the men time to cook them up.

3. We will form the Entire (All Battalions) Brigade at 5:15pm for roll call and weapons inspections.

4. At this point I do not plan to participate in the tactical unless ordered to do so. I would rather use this time to prepare to march.

Also, there was a misunderstanding concerning the camp of the “dead and wounded” Saturday night. This camp will be established at a point near the old cemetery for the duration of the night. Those staying in static camp may return to that location if they choose.

YOS,

Gen. Griffin



### Reminder — Pilot Knob Event is THIS WEEKEND, SEPT. 25-26th

This is one of those Missouri State Parks events that only comes around once every three years. We skipped the last one in 2001 in order to support the 7th Arkansas folks up at Hardy. Steve Shore, Tyson Savell, Paul Trotta, and Ken Nations went up there on their own and had a grand old time. At this point, it looks like we should have ten folks with us... more than enough for a good time, especially with a long road trip to Franklin looming up at us the following week.

I plan to leave out from Little Rock on Friday around noon; so this should put me into camp around 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. Friday night. I will have a limited amount of loaner gear with me, based on those who contacted me before the event concerning loaner box gear. I'll also bring the Co. coffee pot. There will not be a ration issue at Pilot Knob, so you'll need to bring something to eat, or rely on their having some food vendors on-site.

On Saturday afternoon around 5:00 p.m., Ken's parents will host us at their

home for a barbecue supper. I'm informed that this alone will be worth the drive up to Missouri!!

This event replicates one of the battles during Sterling Price's 1864 Missouri Raid, where the Confederates attempted to surround and capture a Union garrison in order to take the supplies and ammunition stored inside the fort. As with all other Sterling Price enterprises, the Confederates' attacks were piecemeal and poorly managed, and the regiment of Yankees inside the fort were not only able to hold off two assaults, but slipped out of the fort and escaped in the dead of night, and blew up all the ammunition— leaving the Rebels holding only an empty bag and a long casualty list.

The event is held at the original fort, whose earthworks are still standing. The Federal forces will be camping inside the fort. We elected to go to this one as Federals, and will link up with our pards from the 37th Illinois and the Frontier Brigade's 2nd (northern) Battalion. This is one that we haven't been to in a long, long while, and has great potential for a good time. Pilot Knob is Ken Nations' home

*Continued on Page 3...*



# The Captain's Tent

by Tom Ezell

Our editorial this issue ties in to some degree with "THE DRILL FIELD" and is primarily aimed at officers and non-commissioned officers. I mentioned above the weaving line with officers cursing the men for not following conflicting commands. There are many good officers out there, but still too often I see those in leadership positions yelling at the men, often to hide their own incompetence. Approach the men like a 7th grade geometry class rather than a gang of unruly convicts. Scott's *Abstract of Infantry Tactics* at the beginning of his *School Of The Company* points out:

446. Steadiness and calmness being the essential requisites in him who commands, and those who execute, the instructor will exemplify these in his own person.

Twenty five years later Lt. Colonel Hardee mentions at the beginning of his *School Of The Company*:

7. Composure, or presence of mind, in him who commands, and in those who obey, being the first means of order in a body of troops, the instructor will labor to habituate the company to this essential quality, and will himself give the example.

In short, a few minutes' proper instruction in how to wheel or the principles of dress will go much further than hours of bellowing "straighten that line" at a bunch of sweating men each of whom thinks you're talking to someone else. A major prerequisite for this to happen is for officers and non-commissioned officers to know their jobs, and know the drill. A sergeant should easily be one of the absolute best privates in the unit, a captain should be able to do every job in the company as good or better than any man under him. Every man should be preparing himself to perform the duties of the position next above him. Either study your craft or step aside for someone that takes it seriously. Set the example — instruct the men and lead them, don't try to drive them.

### 140th Franklin

... is closing in pretty fast, and the next time we meet will be on the battlefields of middle Tennessee. If at all possible, you need to time your travel so as to make it out to the event site before 4:00 p.m. Friday. The Brigade will be forming up to march out at around 5:00

p.m., so getting there at 4 is cutting it pretty darned close. Count on about a 5 1/2-hour drive from Little Rock to Franklin, maybe a little more depending on traffic and any lengthy pit stops. We will have a convoy forming up to drive out together, and we will meet in the parking lot at McDonald's at the Lonoke exit at 7:30 a.m. Friday morning. So far it looks like we'll have at least three vehicle loads, the more, the merrier.

Registration numbers are looking pretty good, too... If everyone we have registered shows up, we should field between 17 to 20 folks... which would be an excellent turnout.

Be sure to bring the pass that you got in the mail with your registration packet... that will be key to a speedy entrance into the site. I'll have our registration forms and receipts in case the clowns from the CWC try to give you any static, and I've been assured we'll be able to make a substitution on site if need be. So put on your war paint, and we'll be ready to drive the Yankees into the Ohio River. Maybe the rest of the Division will help ;-)

### PACKING LIST:

- Rifle-musket, with bayonet
- Columbus Depot or other gray jean jacket (I will have some spares in the loaner box. We want to try for a semi-uniformed look)
- jean trowsers (I'll have some spares, but if you're one of those skinny guys, a limited number of Federal pants is tolerable)
- slouch hat
- shirt
- socks (plus at least one spare pair)
- shoes (remember an extra lace or two)
- suspenders
- underwear of choice; preferably drawers
- waist belt, with cap box and bayonet scabbard
- cartridge box
- 150 rounds of cartridges, plus enough caps to shoot them (Steve will have cartridges for sale at the wagon park)
- musket cleaning tools (at least a wiper, combination tool, vent pick, and patches)
- Haversack
- Canteen
- plate or canteen half
- utensils - something to eat with.
- a good, sharp pocketknife
- cup
- Knapsack (can use blanket roll)
- gum blanket or ground cloth
- wool blanket
- several small poke sacks for rations, plus one to hold personal items like a comb, toothbrush, any medication, etc. etc.
- at least one general utility rag for washing, pot-holding, and whatever.
- bar of soap
- small roll of toilet paper (one of those little camper rolls from Wal-Mart is excellent)

Rations will be issued by the Brigade on Friday afternoon. These will be "as issued," so you'll need to be prepared to cook them when we get a chance. The best deal will be to divide off into little mess groups, or our "comrades and arms," pitch in together, and share the kitchen work. One fellow carries a frying pan, for example, another carries a coffee boiler. I'll bring one of the company mess kettles for coffee if someone wants to carry it. The Company will supplement the brigade ration with an issue of coffee and sugar.

### COMMAND & SIGNAL: Chain of Command for Franklin:

When you get to the event, be sure to look for the MISSISSIPPI VALLEY BRIGADE, or GRIFFIN'S BRIGADE. That's the key thing.

Our chain of command for the weekend will be a little screwy. We will be marching out Friday afternoon and spending Friday night and Saturday night with the ELK RIVER BATTALION, Colonel Kevin Gray. We will be spending the daylight hours Saturday and Sunday with the TRANS-MISSISSIPPI VOLUNTEER INFANTRY battalion (TMVI), Colonel Toren Blanco. The TMVI will stay in the base camp Friday night and go back there Saturday night while we stay in the field. They will "commute" back out to the field bivouac early each morning to rejoin us.

### Company leadership:

- Captain: Tom Ezell
- 1st/Orderly Sergeant: Steve Shore
- 2nd Sergeant/left guide: Tyson Savell
- 1st Corporal: Ken Nations
- 2nd Corporal: David Sesser

We will have fatigue and picket details; where possible these will be handled by platoon or squad on a revolving basis to ensure fairness of assignments and to be sure that no one squad or section gets dumped on, but everyone does their fair share.

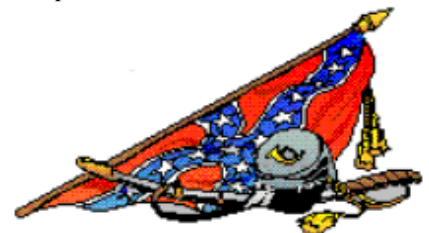
I'll be in the convoy leaving out Friday morning at 7:30 from Lonoke, my cell phone number is (501)912-1047 if something comes up...

I look forward to taking the field with you again at Franklin!!!

Your most obedient servant;

Tom Ezell

Capt., Co. A, 6th Arkansas Volunteers



## Getting Into the Franklin Event:

Pleased be advised that when you arrive at the parking lot area of either the Federal or the Confederate army, you will be required to follow these guidelines.

For those who pre-registered before September 20 (e.g., all the folks from the Capitol Guards and several from the 37th), you should have received a registration packet in the mail this week or last week. In there is a pass with a gold seal embossed on it.

When you pull into the event area, you will have to show your pass with the gold seal on it, all persons in the vehicle must have a pass with the gold seal. This will be done while you are in your vehicle.

Sign the waiver form, you will then be handed a medallion that you will need to keep with you at all times. This medallion will allow you to get into your camp site, also there will be spot checks done inside the area to insure everyone has been cleared. No medallion on you, you could be removed from the site.

If you arrive at the area and have no paper work, you will be directed to a registration tent, it will be very close to where you have pulled in at. You will then give the person there your name, it will be checked against the master list, and you will have to show a photo ID.

Once this has been done you will receive a pass with the gold seal on it. You will then be given your medallion that allows you into the camp site and parking lots.

We are hoping that we can run you through the gates very fast; to help us do this, please do not ask where so and so battalion or brigade is camped at. If you are Confederate you will pass through another gate where there will be people there that can answer this and point you in the right direction as to where your camp site is.

This is not 100% fool proof, but it is a start. Be patient and work with those that are manning the gates, and check points.



The Drill Field:

## Why Does The Battle Line Weave Like A Drunken Bicycle ?

I would say there were very few of us that haven't, at some point, been in a battle line weaving back and forth twenty or thirty yards with officers cursing from both ends to "give right!-give right!" "give left!-give left!". At some events I've seen entire platoons get popped out of line by pressure from both sides and the ranks stack up several deep. Even regularly-drilled units have problems keeping wheels straight or moving any great distance in line without bows and bends. It looks like the drill manuals would have addressed this, wouldn't they?

One quick fix is a better understanding of the concepts of *dress* and *guide* by the private. In most company and battalion maneuvers, the officer will indicate the guide but it will greatly aid the enlisted man to have a basic knowledge of the guide and it is vital to orderliness that he know what to do with that knowledge. Generally, for a single company marching in line of battle (LOB) the guide is right. Marching by the right flank the guide is left - your former LOB; marching by the left flank the guide is right - your former LOB; when the company fronts it should be on the same original line and the guide becomes right. Generally, for a battalion in LOB the guide is center, towards the colors - the right wings guides left, the left wing guides right. Marching by the flank is the same as the company. Breaking by the right or left into column the guide is left or right respectively, towards the direction of the former LOB. By the right or left of companies to the rear into column the guide is left or right respectively on the former LOB. For a line of skirmishers the guide will be habitually in the centre.

So what do I do about it once I know the direction of the guide ? Most of the major manuals appear to be the same, this is from 1855 HARDEE'S, School Of The Soldier, Part III, Lesson II:

327. The instructor will observe, in marching to the front, that the men touch lightly the elbow towards the side of the guide; that they do not open out the left elbow, nor the right arm; that they yield to pressure coming from the side of the guide, and resist that coming from the opposite side; that they recover by insensible degrees the slight touch of the elbow, if lost; that they maintain the head direct to the front, no matter on which side the guide may be; and if found before or behind the alignment, that the man in fault corrects himself by shortening or lengthening the step, by degrees almost insensible.

Yield to pressure from the side of the guide - resist pressure from the opposite side-

there's no weaving back and forth. *Touch lightly the elbow of the man towards the guide, don't worry about the other side. If the elbow drifts away drift with it, if it pushes towards you yield.*

The bigger problem and the one more difficult to correct is the fact that most of us never learned to march correctly. The new recruit is given a crash course on the manual of arms, how to fire, facings, etc. Marching instructions are pretty much along the line of 'start with the left foot'. How many units are training recruits to take 28" paces at 110 per minute ? Is this really important? Scott's *Abstract Of Tactics*, School Of The Soldier, Part I, Lesson IV, says it's the "true means of preserving the alignment":

163. When the principles of the step are shown to three or four men at a time, accurate dressing need not be required, as that might divide their attention ; besides, **when they have acquired the habit of taking the cadenced step, they will have learnt the true means of preserving the alignment.**

1855 Hardee, School Of The Battalion, Part V, Article I :

616. If, in the exercises of detail, or courses of elementary instruction, the officers, sergeants, corporals, and men, have not been well confirmed in the principles of the position under arms, as well as in the length and cadence of the step, the march of the battalion in line will be floating, unsteady, and disunited.

A line of battle with the men all marching the same length step at the same rate and all following the same rules about the guide should march in a straighter line than a line of battle that does not consider these principles.

Here lies the other secret to marching in a straight line — taking the proper pace. Most of the time when the line of battle moves forward, about half to two-thirds of the troops in the line are taking tiny, mincing "baby steps"... barely placing one foot in front of the toes of the other. The correct pace at the quickstep or the route step is **28 inches**. If you were ever in marching band back in college or high school, you might remember the hours we spent going up and down the football field, learning to match our pace to the yard lines so that every five yards, everyone in the band took exactly 8 ("8 to 5") or 6 ("6 to 5") steps, we all did it in step, and we could match that pace instinctively, with or without the yard lines, even while we were playing music or whatever else.

A 28-inch pace means that inside a 5-yard stretch, you would take 6.42 steps, basically the old "6 to 5" marching pace that you should

**Pilot Knob** (Continued from page 1...)

town, and Ken has agreed to show us all the good places.

**Pilot Knob Event Info:**

**REGISTRATION** – Non-Missouri Civil War Reenactor’s Association (MCWRA) participants (those who have not paid MCWRA dues for 2004) must pre-register by Aug. 1 to get their names on the insurance policy. A \$5 per person fee will be charged upon arrival to pay for insurance coverage. MCWRA members already have insurance coverage. In essence, you will be a member of the MCWRA for the weekend. Remember: *YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OR PAY THIS FEE ON-SITE TO PARTICIPATE.*

**BASIC GUIDELINES** – This event is specifically designed for the serious, authentic living historian. All participants, whether members or not, must operate under the rank structure of the MCWRA. MCWRA safety rules will be strictly enforced. An officer’s meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday mornings in the auditorium of the visitor’s center. Attendance at the officer’s meeting is mandatory for all unit commanders to cover scenarios and safety. At this meeting safety rules will be provided to each unit commander. Unit commanders are responsible for ensuring that every single participant in their unit is familiar with these safety rules. To protect reenactors and spectators, violators of ANY safety rules MAY be removed immediately from Fort Davidson State Historic Site.

In order to provide the most professional and meaningful experience for the visiting public and your fellow reenactors, please make sure you can justify what you bring to the event. Authenticity guidelines are attached to help you tailor your impression to look as much like those who fought at Pilot Knob as possible. It goes without saying that modern eyeglasses, wristwatches, penny-roll cartridges, Zouave rifles, aluminum or graniteware cooking gear, and modern jewelry are not authentic.

Expect the military camps to be set up in regimental fashion and be run in an orderly manner. For logistical reasons, there will be one civilian, or “refugee” camp, located between the military camps. This will be subdivided North and South.

Arrival may begin on the Thursday before the re-enactment. Late arrivals on Friday are asked to be as quiet and courteous as possible when setting up. On Saturday night, quiet hours will be in effect in camp from midnight until reveille. If you must party late, do it out of hearing of the camps. Though both camps will have a full-time provost, all participants are expected to act in such a manner as to be a credit to themselves and their uniforms.

**WEATHER AND INSECTS** – Summer weather breaks in September. Daytime temperatures run to 90 degrees. Nights can be cool, going to the low 40s. It has been known to rain as well, but then that is historically correct. Insects have never been a problem, but you can expect a few mosquitoes. There also will be ticks if you hike in the woods.

**CAMPING** – All camping will be in the authentic Union, Confederate or refugee camping. You are encouraged to bring your own poles and stakes with you. Due to space limitation, there is no modern camping area. The best we can do is to allow you to stay with your vehicles in the reenactors’ parking area, but this area is graveled and not suitable for tents.

**PARKING** – There is ample parking for reenactors approximately 300 yards from the campsites.

**REGISTRATION** – Please check in on arrival. A registration table will be kept open until 8 a.m. on Saturday at the gate off Industrial Drive. You may pick up directions and schedules at check-in.

If you arrive after 8 a.m. Saturday, you must go to the Turner Brigade camp to register. Rations and musket cap issues will be made based upon registration. Registration is restricted to 750 participants. All caps, foodstuffs, and/or bounties distributed to reenactors are supplied through gifts by private contributors.

**AMENITIES** – There will be no daily issue of food at this re-enactment. At registration, a package will be available for each reenactor which should have some coffee, fruit and other storable food items. While these will not suffice for as full meals, they will provide some sustenance over the weekend. For those who can’t or won’t cook, there are restaurants and food concessions nearby.

Additionally, straw, firewood, water, sanitary facilities and good hay will be provided. Infantry will receive through private donation musket caps and cavalry will receive #11 pistol caps.

**FOR THE FAMILY** – Besides the many activities available in Pilot Knob, there is much to see and do in the area. Just a few miles from Pilot Knob are Elephant Rocks, Taum Sauk Mountain and Johnson’s Shut-Ins state parks. You may swim at Johnson’s Shut-Ins in spectacular surroundings, you can hike a short trail that takes you through a herd of giant granite “elephants” at Elephant Rocks, or you can visit the highest point in the state and see some spectacular scenic views at Taum Sauk Mountain State Park. All three places are great for kids and adults.

**UNIFORM GUIDELINES**

**U.S. Infantry:** The 14th Iowa is described as

having black hats and Springfield rifles. There are also references to shelter halves. Beyond that we speculate. Mixed uniforms are common in photos of late-war western troops. For that reason, we will not require exact uniformity of dress among individuals other than the following: three-band weapon, standard leather gear, sky-blue trousers, brogans, blanket roll and a black hat in good condition. Those participants with a frock coat and Hardee hat are encouraged to wear them. Please limit hat decorations to the cord and bugle, though undecorated hats are possibly more authentic. Pistols should only be carried by officers and the color sergeant.

**CONCERT AND BALL** – Saturday night a concert and ball will be held. Ladies and gentlemen should bring appropriate attire for a period ball. More information and schedule updates may be posted periodically at [www.arcadiavalley.biz/Reenactment/reenactment.html](http://www.arcadiavalley.biz/Reenactment/reenactment.html) or [www.mostateparks.com/ftdavidson.htm](http://www.mostateparks.com/ftdavidson.htm)

**Directions to Pilot Knob:**

From North Little Rock, AR, take I-40 to the U.S. Highway 67/167 interchange near McCain Mall. Merge onto US-67 N via exit number 143B toward MEMPHIS. Go 122 miles to WALNUT RIDGE.

Turn LEFT onto US-67 BR/US-412/W MAIN ST. Continue to follow US-67 BR. US-67 BR becomes US-67 N. Follow this for 129 miles to FREDERICKTOWN, Missouri.

Take the MO-72 ramp toward FREDERICKTOWN/ARCADIA. Turn LEFT onto MO-72/US-67 BR. Continue to follow MO-72 for 18 miles to ARCADIA. Turn LEFT onto MO-21/VETERANS MEMORIAL HWY. Go 2 miles to PILOT KNOB, the historic park and event site will be on your right.

Total distance from NLR to Pilot Knob is 276 miles; estimated driving time is five and a half hours. (Source: MapQuest.com)

**Housing:** Standard issue for Federal infantry in 1864 was the shelter half, one per soldier, which were combined to make 2- or 3-man “dog tents.” Shelter halves & dog tents are the preferred tentage for this event, if you have one, please bring it. Officers fared little better – Captains and lieutenants were simply issued two shelter halves, and used the dog tents just like the troops. We’ll set up a company “street” or area with shelter halves.

For the “Motel Militia,” the Fort Davidson Inn is a motel located directly across the street from the event site. You might also check in Pilot Knob, Ironton and Caledonia for B&Bs. Other than that, Farmington (15 miles away) is probably your best bet to find a hotel or motel room.

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

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

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

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

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

## Did you know that the Capitol Guards have a web site?

Looking for a copy of one of last year's newsletters? Did you miss this month's newsletter? Need a copy of Hardee's drill manual? Are you wondering what the duties of the quartermaster sergeant, the corporal of the guard, or a sergeant of police are? What did the 6th Arkansas do at Pickett's Mill in 1864? What battlefields were they on, and what does it look like today? Strangely enough, you can find all that, and more, on the Capitol Guards' web site at <http://www.geocities.com/capitalguards/>.

Not only that, but there is a bulletin board, too, where you can find the most recently available updates on what's going on in reenacting and living history in Arkansas.

## Coming Events

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.

### TENTATIVE LIST -- 2005 EVENTS

January 8, 2005 – David O. Dodd Memorial Service, 12:00 p.m., Mt. Holly Cemetery, Little Rock.

March 26, 2005 – Confederate Flag Day, State Capitol grounds, Little Rock.

March 26-27 — Siege of Port Hudson Re-enactment, Port Hudson SCA, Zachary, LA

April 1-3, 2005 – Shiloh Living History, Shiloh National Military Park. Sponsored by the Salt River Rifles (Federal impression).

April 23-24, 2005 – Battle of Marks' Mills Re-Enactment, Fordyce, Ark. Sponsored by the 1st Arkansas.

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

October 1-2, 2005 – Battle of Corinth Re-enactment, Corinth, MS. Sponsored by the North/South Alliance

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

### The Drill Field (Continued from Page 3)

remember from high school band. Get out on a football field (preferably when practice or a game isn't going on) and give this a try, until you can match six steps between each pair of yardlines. Remember that — that's how you should be stepping out when marching in the line of battle.