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# The UNION STANDARD

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July-August 2004

Vol. 12, no 7

## *The Newsletter of the 1<sup>st</sup> United States Infantry, The Regulars*

This month we have something a little different on tap. For those who don't read/get/care about e-mails on August 21<sup>st</sup> we're having a strictly social event. You won't want to miss an evening with the ladies (that's your lady, they won't be provided like the rations are) at the Gaylord Texan. The genesis of this was Brad Walsh back at January's drill. He suggested a social event and as in all military organizations got the job of planning it. After a few false starts we finally decided to go for some place new and make it a real evening out for the wives. Remember these are the same people who issue the kitchen passes so it behooves us all to pay them back a bit.

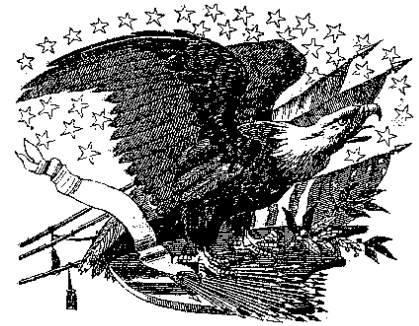
September's drill will be a joint activity with the 9<sup>th</sup> Texas. You old timers will remember there was a time when we worked pretty closely with these guys. Some of us on the board have been working with their leadership on ways we could re-establish some of the friendships that we got away from in the past few years. They are having one of their "muster training weekends" on Sept 11<sup>th</sup>. We are planning on joining them for battalion level drill on Saturday. Of course I daresay that there will be a few hardy souls going out with them on Friday night. While the emphasis will be on battalion drill (we could have six companies) we will spend some time on company drill to start with. This drill will be specifically tailored to what we need at Franklin.

Speaking of Franklin, information is starting to filter down to us after the big NSA meeting at the end of last month (see article inside). So far it looks like we have about 30

men registered. Leaving out the guys who will be on staff and we're right on the borderline of having two good companies. I would like to see 32 rifles in attendance. This just happens to be the Frontier Brigade minimum for a standing company. A few more registrants and we'll be in there. So much for **our** numbers. At Franklin we will be joined by some Regulars from back east. *Sykes Regulars* will be falling in with us. Right now they expect about 10 guys but they might bring more. There also is the possibility that some members from the new regular unit at the Air Force Academy (*1<sup>st</sup> US, Co B*) will be joining us. They still have to work the details about getting the time off and transportation - not to mention putting their kit together - but a few of them would go a long way to lowering the average age of us in the ranks. Wouldn't it be great if we could put together three companies of regulars at Franklin. The right wing of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion! Now that would be a sight. If we have a few more sign up, Sykes brings enough, and a few of the Academy boys can make it, it will happen.

*God bless the  
Regulars,*

Don Gross



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### September Drill - Fort Parker, Mexia Texas

Follow I-45 South from Dallas Take the TX-14 exit towards MEXIA/RICHLAND, exit #219A The park is located, 7 miles south of Mexia or 6 miles north of Groesbeck on State Highway 14; entrance is on Park Road 28.

# 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Calendar

2004

## SEPTEMBER

**10-11** Drill with the 9<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry –  
Fort Parker, Mexia, Texas

**25<sup>th</sup>** Arlington Historical Society dedication  
Knapp Heritage Park.

## OCTOBER

**1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>** Franklin TN, 1<sup>st</sup> Federal Division  
NATIONAL EVENT

*Note: **Bold** are scheduled maximum effort events.  
Italicized dates are available events or recruiting  
activities.*

## OCP – July 4<sup>th</sup> 2004



by 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Prendergast

Well, the second annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Lamb roast and lay-about drill has come and gone again for another year. Those of you who couldn't make it missed what can only be described as a stationary feast. It could be that McFuddy might have gone a little wild with the provisions, but it's summer time and there's plenty of foraging to be had (not to mention the money the bugger won from me in the card game three days before). What was wanting of course was the traditional 'company stores' but being as we were trying to present the best possible image to the civilians of the city it's probably just as well. You know how the officers do like their drink

and a 1<sup>st</sup> Sgts job is hard enough putting up with their unreasonable requests for drilling, marching and other officer like behaviors without them tipping the bottle back to fire up their desire to have us charge the rebs to remind them *exactly* who's independence we were celebrating that day.

As a result we had to make due with coffee and apple juice (no, not even hard cider could be had!) It is a certainty that McFuddy *must have* had some rotgut stashed away somewhere, but it never made it's presence known that day. On the menu was – Roast lamb, fresh beef steak, chilled corn salad, garlic stuffed olives, sautéed red cabbage, chilled cucumber and apple salad, corn on the cob, and peach and cherry pie.

Those attending were, Ron Myers, Scott Harris, Rob Burrige (who's birthday it was I might add!), Don Gross, John Bowen, Kevin Doughtie, Art Ogle, Blair Rudy and Brad Walsh.

McFuddy showed up long enough to drop off the provisions and then mumbled something about 'going to Chicago' when a constable happened to start strolling in our direction. Rob B. is also to be credited with coming up with an ingenious scheme for allowing us to get the lamb closer to the fire for cooking. Unlike the Christmas Goose (which has become legend at Old City Park) the lamb only required minor touching up in the skillet, which was handled by that goose mangling bog Irishman Kevin Doughtie (and I have the tintype to prove it was *him* that mangled that goose too!)

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## Recruiting Post

by George Hansen

Mike Beard has coordinated a recruiting and living history venture in Arlington on Saturday, September 25. The Arlington Historical Society will dedicate the Knapp Heritage Park, which will feature two middle 19th century log houses. Even though this event is one week before Franklin, do consider attending this important, half-day recruiting opportunity. Plan on arriving around 9:00 am as the festivities will last until the early afternoon. Last minute Franklin topics will surely be discussed.

Knapp Heritage Park is located at 201 Front Street on the corner of Front and Pecan.

Directions are:

From I-30 – south on Collins St. to Division, go west to Center St., go south to Front Street, turn left (west).

From I-20 – due to probable road closures from I-20 it is best to take 360 north to Division, go west to Center St., go south to Front Street, turn left (west).

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## First Federal Division Franklin Update

August 10, 2004

Headquarters,  
First Federal Division

Gentlemen,

The North-South Alliance meeting is now over, and the Franklin planning pace increases. During the weekend of the Alliance meeting we accomplished putting a couple of future events on the calendar and I was able to walk the Franklin site, complete with trenches, with the Brigade Commanders and Division staff. Overall it was a very positive experience.

During the Sunday morning site visit I presented the Brigade Commanders a menu of options including where they wished to camp their brigades, their preferences for the scenarios, and what they would like to see accomplished for their commands.

Based on those conversations I am now working with General Moore and completing the scenarios. I can tell you there is no shortage of trenches, as can my predecessor Chuck Warnick. He had the classic response of "Oh \$#!, My G..D" when he saw the array of trenches representing the Franklin battlefield. When the Spring Hill and Nashville works are included, the total trenches extend well over a mile.

Brigade Commanders were also made aware of the tight schedule for Saturday. The 1st Federal Division will be spread throughout the site and I am challenging the officers and men to share the responsibility of making our plans work. I will be up front with everyone; me nor my staff can make this happen without the help and cooperation of every soldier wearing blue. Colonels' dal Bello, Prater, Heitman, and Crowder along with Major Zimmer

and Essex all gave valuable input on behalf of the constituent Brigades and branches. Captain Kessler, Colonel Draper, Major Steinback presented plans as to how best address the remaining issues.

The major concern that remains is the route into the site. It has changed from the original point due to Emergency access and Tennessee State Guard needs. Our Provost is working with the site coordinator to revise the plans and we will soon be getting word out on both this and the NSA website, and to Brigade Commanders with the change in route and where the new registration point will be. Also, look for Division Flyers in regard to the Henry company, additional equipment needs, and further briefings later this week. The other point of concern is period transportation. We may be extremely limited in this area.

One very positive outcome from the NSA meeting is that we have two future events on the calendar and a third one under review. During Oct 1 - 3, 2005 the NSA is planning for the battle of Corinth in far north Mississippi. In 2007 it was decided to support the Battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky. These are done deals and the NSA will have full say into how these events are organized. We are already looking for land off site to stage a campaign march for the Corinth event. Batteries Williams and Robinette are also in planning. A 2006 event will be announced upon confirmation of the site and that adequate resources are in place.

I do want to thank the people mentioned above along with other representatives that attended the NSA event. I would also like to thank Jim Dedman of the Cumberland Guard for attending the meeting and sharing his perspective with us. The last action taken was the decision to hold the 2005 NSA meeting in Memphis. It will be held in late July and a site visit to the Corinth field will take place on Sunday.

Once again, Franklin dominates my reenacting life. We will continue to move forward to make this the best possible experience. Everyone's input is still welcome, but the day will soon arrive when we will be on the field and it will be time to turn words into action. I remain...

YOS,  
Mark

Mark Dolive  
Commanding,  
1st Federal Division

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# Dispatch from Brigade HQ (Franklin News)

Headquarters Frontier Brigade  
August 8, 2004

Gentlemen of the Frontier Brigade,

On the weekend of August 2 & 3 the writer and Capt. Jeff Walsh, AAG met with other members of the Frontier Brigade & NSA for the NSA Conference held in Brentwood, Tenn. The NSA website will contain a report on the recent conference. On Sunday we visited the battle sites for the Battle of Franklin.

ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION REGARDING THE EVENT WILL BE POSTED AND UPDATED AT [www.battleoffranklin.com](http://www.battleoffranklin.com)

## REVIEW OF SITE:

There are plans to have a stationery Federal camp a short distance from the parking area. As I saw the site the parking will not be visible from our camp.

## BRING ROUNDS:

Since there are many battle scenarios planned it would be advisable for each man to bring at least 300 rounds.

## BATTLES:

There will be an unscripted battle at 2:00 PM on FRIDAY. NO TRAFFIC allowed in or out during that battle. We were also advised that NO TRAFFIC allowed on site after 11:00 PM FRIDAY.

There will be 1 battle Friday, 2 battles Sat. & 1 battle Sunday.

We will receive marching orders around 6:30 AM SAT. The first battle will take place on the actual battlefield. The land is privately owned and has been sold for development. This will be the FINAL BATTLE on this hallowed ground!

I opted to be in a stationery camp on Friday in order that the Frontier Brigade would have an easy access area to gather and prepare for the weekend. At this time we do not have a wagon for supplies and therefore will have to return to our camp to resupply. We are on the march most of Saturday.

The first battle on Saturday is a non-spectator event. The land is flat with gently rolling hills. All prep

work has been done and water supplies have been planned out.

We must be prepared to be away from camp most of the day on Saturday which will require a Quartermaster to protect our supplies.

The march Saturday morning is approximately 2.5 miles but plenty of time is allowed and we will more than likely go right into battle at the end of the march. We will be marching to the sound of gunfire. The march will take place on a stretch of highway since it is the only access to the site. The highway will be closed and protected by authorities. No vehicles allowed in this area other than those approved by command to haul artillery or other items to the area.

TRAVEL LIGHT to make things easier. I plan to sleep on the ground and live out of my haversack. Pray for good weather!

## CIVILIANS IN CAMP:

In accordance with Commander Dolive's orders -- All civilians will be required to obtain passes from Division to enter the military camp.

## REGISTRATION:

At the end of July the Frontier Brigade had 212 registered. The registration deadline has been extended to SEPT. 15 at \$15.00/person.

I urge anyone who has not registered to do so immediately. I usually take a projected number of those registered and deduct approximately 20% as no shows due to a variety of reasons.

## TRENCH WARFARE:

There will be some trench warfare and the trenches have been dug but we will need to make them more secure so bring a shovel.

## GUARD DUTY:

There will be guard duty assigned to protect perimeters of camp.

## CONCERNS:

I urge anyone who has concerns about the long day on Saturday to make them known to command and arrangements will be made to ensure no one is injured or exhausted. Safety is a first concern and the well-being of the troops is first and foremost.

I REQUEST THAT ANY QUESTIONS,  
COMMENTS OR CONCERNS BE BROUGHT TO  
MY ATTENTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO I  
MAY ACT UPON THEM WITH HASTE.

stanprater@aol.com

**ARRIVAL:**

Some Frontier Brigade staff will arrive on Wed. to secure our camp. I plan to arrive Thurs. afternoon. I would like to have an estimation when Brigade Commanders and Company Commanders will be arriving. Please send that information to me at your earliest convenience.

**SANITARY COMMISSION:**

Dr. Stroud and the Sanitary Commission will be on site in the Federal camp to provide aid and comfort to the Brigade troops. We always appreciate their good work.

**PREPARE & PROMOTE:**

The event organizers are very excited about the trenches and the overall event. It will be an honor and a privilege to walk the ground that the original troops walk upon. I found it humbling just to stand and gaze upon it during our visit. It is sad that this piece of history will soon be bulldozed and developed but we do our best to save what we can but unfortunately cannot save it all.

Encourage your troops to get prepared and be ready for a great event and a history making battle on the

actual site beside the other battles to be fought that weekend.

FORWARD, FORWARD.....TO FRANKLIN  
WHERE THE FRONTIER EAGLE WILL SOAR  
ONCE MORE

TRAVEL SAFE & GODSPEED. SEE YOU IN  
OCTOBER if not before.

S.D. Prater, Colonel  
Frontier Brigade



**\*\*\*\*\*Election year!\*\*\*\*\***

Okay, it's NOT an election year, but it is an important year for those who are considering (or even those who up until THIS instant haven't considered) a run for "office" in the 1<sup>st</sup>.

Unlike the national elections (let's see, there are how many candidates running in the Democratic Party? Three? - John C. Breckinridge, Stephen R. Douglas, and John Bell., and one Republican - Abraham Lincoln) there isn't a primary for our elections. Our "campaign" season really IS our campaign season, or the previous two seasons, depending on what office you're considering.

Since we hold elections early in every 3<sup>rd</sup> year, usually at a muster event, your participation at events over the previous two years will qualify you for candidacy, in addition to your command experience.

We've included the table for Rank Standards in the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. in this newsletter.

In case you wondered how SOME people got to be where they are (*he could only be talking about himself...McFuddy*) in the company, these are the qualifications:

	<b>Minimum Time In Service</b>	<b>Previous 2 Years' Participation</b>	<b>Prerequisite Knowledge</b>	<b>Additional Duty Knowledge</b>	<b>Additional Expectations</b>
<b>Recruit</b>	None	None	None	None	Participation and learning for advancement to Private.
<b>Pvt</b>	3 months as Recruit	4 Drills plus 1 Area event plus 1 Regional or National event	Manual of Arms Facings Firing	School of the Soldier	Participation at 50% of scheduled events.
<b>Cpl</b>	6 months as Private	5 Drills plus 3 Area events plus 1 Regional or National event	School of the Soldier	Lead fatigue details, fill in for Sergeants as needed. Guard Mount	Squad telephone contact and board member. Participation at 60% of scheduled events.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Sgt</b>	6 months as Corporal or 3 years as Private	Participation at 70% of scheduled events	NCO School or 1 year as Corporal	School of the Company Guard Mount Lead School of the Soldier drill	Platoon telephone contact and board member. Participation at 70% of scheduled events.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sgt</b>	6 months as Sergeant or 2 years as Corporal or 5 years as Private	Participation at 75% of scheduled events	School of the Company or 2 years as Sergeant	Lead Company drill Take command in the field as needed	Company telephone contact and board member. Disseminate company information, supervise junior NCO's, keep company records. Participation at 75% of scheduled events.
<b>Junior Officer (1<sup>st</sup> Lt)</b>	4 years as NCO	Participation at 80% of scheduled events	2 years as 1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sergeant	Company command School of the Battalion	Company telephone contact and board member. Represent and command regiment as required. Participation at 80% of scheduled events.
<b>Senior Officer (Cpt)</b>	2 years as Junior Officer	Participation at 80% of scheduled events	Complete knowledge of Regimental and Battalion functions	Regimental command	Regimental telephone contact and board member. Represent regiment at higher organizational levels. Participation at 80% of scheduled events.
<b>Board Member "At Large"</b>	1 year as Private or Civilian				Attend board meetings and perform duties as assigned.

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## SEPTEMBER DRILL

On September 11 will be joining with the 9<sup>th</sup> Texas at Fort Parker, located just south of Corsicana. This is our prep fro Franklin. Our main purpose is to get in some good battalion drill. Although the 9<sup>th</sup> uses Hardee's and we use Casey's the differences for battalion maneuvers is negligible. I know we're good at battalion evolutions and this is an opportunity to shine.

The other reason we're doing this is to re-establish ties with the 9<sup>th</sup>. Over the past few year we've done less and less with the 9<sup>th</sup> – our primary opponents on the field of battle. This is an opportunity to rekindle old friendships and make new ones.

This distance is a little longer than normal for a drill – but no more than going to Beaumont or Gainsville for most guys depending on where you are in the metroplex. Expect the start time to be a little later than normal and running to mid afternoon. Details will be available in next month's newsletter. The 9<sup>th</sup> will be going down there on

Friday. If you're planning on spending the night please let Alan know – we'll organize rations etc.

**Henry Shooters.** Bring your Henry to drill. It will be the last opportunity to ops check ammunition supplies prior to Franklin.

**Directions from Dallas:**

Take I-45 South to the Richland Chambers exit (Hwy 14) and go south. Continue south on Hwy 14 until you reach Mexia. Go through Mexia and travel approximately seven miles. The entrance to Fort Parker is on the right on Park Rd 35. The fort is approximately 1-1/2 miles down Park Rd 35.

**Directions from Fort Worth:**

Take 287 South in Arlington to I-45 South at Ennis. I just drove this road and its not a bad trip, dual Hwy most of the way. At I-45 follow directions as above.

**Directions from Waco:**

Take Hwy 31/ Hwy 84 east. Exit the Mexia/Fairfield cutoff (Hwy 84 east). Once in Mexia, turn right at the first traffic light (this will put you on Hwy 14 south). Leave Mexia and travel approximately seven miles. The entrance to Fort Parker is on the right on Park Rd 35. The fort is approximately 1-1/2 miles down Park Rd 35.

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**Good News from a pard (a note from Steve Hardy)**

Greetings and salutations.

I have been running around like the proverbial headless chicken the last several weeks, and with little hope for change anytime soon. We have made two trips to Arkansas to visit with my wife's parents.....illness and their 50th wedding anniversary. Will be making more trips on follow-up care as her mom has been diagnosed with lymphoma. Her doctor says it is treatable with chemotherapy and should go into remission. Still, she has had other tangent problems secondary to the lymphoma.

I am still working in our dispatch department with the fire department. Have cleared probation and now eligible for overtime. Working 9 Ranger games this month....yeah. Football starts up again and the new "paid" sports trainer, and the head coach, have asked me to come out of retirement to be on the sidelines again. I was honored. The new trainer used to be the assistant trainer with the Rangers before John Hart changed staffs

Oh yeah, we are about to embark on a semi-extensive (expensive) home remodel. Mainly replacing original things that are broke. Like the A/C, kitchen cabinets, old carpet, flooring that the old a/c ruined by leaking. Keep us in your prayers.....ha.

Healthwise my ear and face are getting better and better. The nerves in my ear continue to regenerate and are less sensitive than before. I still have some tan-looking discoloration to the left side of my face from the radiation. I still have to wear sunscreen and wear a wide-brimmed hat when mowing, etc.

I so miss being out with you guys and wish I was going to be in town for the big shindig at Gaylord, but will be visiting my grandfather on his birthday that weekend. He has had two strokes this year and is struggling with his balance worse than ever. He is close to 88 years old and realistically may only live another year. I hope he makes it through till Ryan's college graduation next May. Speaking of which, I will be going to see him swim at his university in November. 12+ years of competitive swimming, and I have never seen him swim other than on vacation.

With everything going on in our immediate and extended families I know that my retirement from the hobby was timed right, but I still miss it. And I am looking hard at the calendar of events to see when I can come out to say howdy. I still have not sold any of my stuff, and have things to deliver to someone that are donated to the 1st. I wil email Kip to arrange a time and place.

Lots to do today, so I'll close. Send my regards to all at Gaylord and the next event.....

Steve

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***1<sup>st</sup> US Updates for 140<sup>th</sup> Franklin***

You'll find lots of information on Franklin in this newsletter. This is where the 1<sup>st</sup> stands right now on our planning. We'll be fighting on parts of the original battlefield. Trenches are dug, to

be improved by us. The amount of pre event work done is impressive! Those who were at Franklin last time will agree that the battle sites were good – this time they’re even better, especially for the Franklin scenario where the cornfeds have a long attack against our earthworks.

**Size:**

Right now we have about 30 guys registered. That puts us borderline for two companies. We need a few more bodies to ensure two companies of the 1<sup>st</sup>. *Syke’s Regulars* are supposed to fall in with us. They are bringing anywhere from 8 to 20 guys from back east. The plan right now is to form integrated companies on the field. In addition to mixing A and D you just might find yourself next to a Sykes. We may also have a few guys from the Air Force Academy. There is a possibility that we can have three companies of the battalion as regulars. That would be an opportunity to shine.

**Information Flow:**

Please e-mail Don Gross ([don-gorec@charter.net](mailto:don-gorec@charter.net)) if/when you’ve registered. Include if you’ve gotten confirmation on your registration, you’re bringing your Henry, and if you’re attached to HHQ. Remember, registration is by individuals. This is the first time registration at a large event has been held this way. The only downside is the management of forces at the company level. We need your help to plan rations and transportation.

**Transportation:**

Franklin is about a 12 hour drive from here. We encourage guys to pool their travel (always helps to get more men there). Some are planning on renting vans for group travel. When we did this for Perryville the costs were less than \$100 per person. If you’re interested in carpooling let John Bowen ([jbowlstus@comcast.net](mailto:jbowlstus@comcast.net)) know so we can match guys up on departure times/locations. Don Gross is looking for 3 or 4 riders who can depart on Thursday to arrive Friday morning, returning in time for work on Monday.

**Registration:**

Registration has been extended till September 15<sup>th</sup>. You can register on line at [www.battleoffranklin.com/soldierregistration.html](http://www.battleoffranklin.com/soldierregistration.html).

**Camping:**

Frontier Brigade is in the static Federal Camp. Dog tents are preferred. We could be laid out in streets or bivouac style depending on room available. Rations will be provided (naturally).

**Rounds and Equipment:**

There are four battles; Friday afternoon, two on Saturday, and Sunday. Forty rounds per battle is a good planning number but the Franklin scenario, when we are in trenches, could be pretty heavy so plan accordingly. Kip is making Henry rounds which are available for purchase. We would like to do an ammunition re-issue. Your rounds should be packaged properly with your name on them to be boxed up. The unit has about 100 packages of rounds for purchase in an emergency. We will be improving the trenches for the Franklin scenario so tools will be in order. Tools should be period correct and we will mark them.

**Additional Information:**

Check out [www.nsalliance.org/](http://www.nsalliance.org/) for more information. This site has a message boards as well as links to the First Federal Division site and the Battle of Franklin site. There are good pictures of the site, trenches, and route in and out. Maps can also be found here.

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**Brother Brockman calls all good Union men to ARMS!!!!**

My principal has requested that I try and pull together another Civil War day for the school this year.

A possible date would be could be established for March, April or May.

Last time we had 20 some-odd people and I think all had a good time.

I'd like to do the same this year, if at all possible.

It would be from about 10 am until about 3 pm.

I'd like to portray a basic infantry camp, period

tentage, cooking and food, drill, dance, weapons (yes, we can take our guns to my school), flags and anything else of a period nature anyone might want to do.

If anyone would be interested in helping let Rick know, for as he says, “feedback would be nice so I can actually start planning!”

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## Shelter Halves

*By Steve Hanson, Sykes Regulars*

### Part I Introduction

First, we need an overview of “regulation” so we can deviate from there to what can be accepted as “correct”. Each man was issued one shelter half, a single upright pole in two pieces that fitted together, a rope approximately 55 inches long, and four wooden tent pegs. That was one man’s load. Two men buttoned their shelter halves together, each put his two pole halves together, one in front and one in back, and each tied his rope to the top of the pole and secured it to the ground with one of his tent pegs. Then each staked one side of the tent to the ground with his remaining three tent pegs. There was no ridge pole. The tension of the two ropes on the uprights held the center taught. Regulations state that leather gear is not to be hung on the ends of tents - and this is why. In regulation construction, the peak corners of the tent are not strong enough to support all of a man’s leather gear, and would not support his rifle leaning up against it either. Because not very many of these uprights and tent pegs survived field use at the time to exist today, it must be assumed that either they broke easily, were used for kindling on cold rainy nights, or were thrown away because they could be easily replaced with available field material. We are all familiar with the field-material alternative because all of our tents are constructed with them: two uprights notched at the top to hold a ridge pole and six pegs to stick in the ground. This construction dispenses with the ropes that would stretch into the company street under regulation construction. As it turns out, because limited space usually prevents our company streets from being the regulation width of 5 paces (11-2/3 feet or almost 4 yards), those ropes would be in the way of any company formation on the street, and would be a constant tripping hazard at all times. Plus, the added strength of this construction allows us to hang our gear and lean our rifles on the ends (even against regulation).

One of the biggest problems we have to overcome today is that various sutlers align the buttons and buttonholes differently, so tents from one manufacturer often will not button together with those of another. As a result, and possibly other personal factors, we have to come to the unrealistic alternative of each man carrying an entire tent, already buttoned together and rolled around the uprights and ridge pole, which are both usually much bigger than necessary. Then, because we don’t have to lug this house on our backs as did the Civil War soldier, we tend toward railroad spikes or bent pig-iron as tent stakes - neither of which a soldier would tolerate having to carry in his pack. Today the unnecessary weight is not a factor because we don’t have to carry it. Also, unless a railroad yard or blacksmith shop was nearby, from which these things could be “liberated”, neither would be available as a field expedient the great majority of the time. So, metal tent stakes are incorrect on all counts at all times.

As for the canvas itself, first of all, no metal grommets! The only metal on your shelter half should be the buttons. On all four corners and on both long edges (on the center seam), there should be a 4 1/2-inch-square reinforcement patch. Within the patch should be two stitched round holes. Through these holes should pass a 3/8-inch rope 8 inches long and tied in a loop with a square knot, the loose ends of which are cut as short as possible without the knot coming untied. So, without metal grommets and without metal tent pegs, the incorrect practice of sticking the tent peg directly through the grommet is already eliminated.

(To Be Continued.....)

**Newsletter contributions** - E-Mail/Mailing submissions to **The Union Standard** – [d1stus@gte.net](mailto:d1stus@gte.net) or C/O Alan Prendergast, 1403 Barclay Drive, Carrollton Texas, 75007

**Newsletter** – contact George Hansen if you did not receive your newsletter, [beast1st@attbi.com](mailto:beast1st@attbi.com) or (972) 529-5349.

**Address/Telephone changes** – any mailing/e-mail address changes or telephone number changes should be submitted to John Bowen, [jbowen1stus@comcast.net](mailto:jbowen1stus@comcast.net) or (972) 539-6167.

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## **Texas Tinworks**

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KNOWN TO MANKIND"

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**Gregg Benefiel, proprietor**  
sutler motto:

**"A 'Free Press' is a vital to any liberty-loving  
nation."**

## **FRAZER BROTHERS**

**The Official Sutler of the**

**1st U.S. Infantry**

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## **The Union Standard**

*Newsletter of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry*

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