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# The UNION STANDARD

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February, 2001

Vol. 9, no 2

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

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## *The Major's Dispatch*

February is here and there are 3 things on the Calendar. The Official February event is the Camp of Instruction at Fort Richardson. I expect to see all of you who were at drill, plus the folks who couldn't make it. On February 17<sup>th</sup> you can go to San Antonio and join your pardas at Twigg's Surrender, where the original 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. was involved or attend a Cartridge Rolling Party in the DFW area.

There is a lot of ground covered in this issue concerning upcoming events. Your leadership tries to schedule one event a month, but with recruiting needs and other exciting events we do add to the calendar. However, there remains that ONE official event where we want at least two companies to turn out. In February that is the Camp of Instruction and in March our Battalion Muster. So make plans now for those two, and help out where possible on the rest of the calendar.

See you in the field,

*Mark*

## Camp of Instruction

February Drill is at Fort Richardson in Jacksboro, Texas

*Time: 9a.m. until 12:30 p.m.*

February 9 and 10

The Barracks will open for those arriving Friday at noon. For those coming Saturday please be there by 9 a.m. We have an exciting day planned. The unit will provide lunch.

For those coming Friday night, bring appropriate bedding, cots maybe needed if there is an overflow.

Bring Light Marching Order for Saturday and 60 rounds. If you don't have the ammunition, please don't let that stop you from coming out.

**Directions:** To reach the park, travel 1/2 mile south of Jacksboro on US Highway 281

## SCHOOL FOR THE LADIES

The ladies of the Red River Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry will be hosting a School for the Civil War Lady on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> 2001 at Fort Richardson, Jacksboro, Texas. Open to any Lady, 12 years of age and older, of the Red River Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry and 1<sup>st</sup> US Infantry with experience, with no experience and those wishing to become involved in the Reenacting hobby. Fee for the school will be \$10.00 per person to cover teaching material and food. Meals will be provided for Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast.

The men of the Red River Battalion will be in attendance at Fort Richardson for their annual School of the Soldier and we ask that during both schools that there be no interaction between the ladies and men by order of Battalion Staff. The ladies will have the use of the Fort Richardson hospital to stay in so you will need to provide your own cot, bedding and personal articles. Period wardrobe is a must. However new members who have not obtained their wardrobe are exempt from this requirement. Please bring a plate, utensils, cup, and teacup (we will have afternoon tea) for your self.

Arrival will be Friday evening with classes starting Saturday morning through Sunday at noon. There will be lectures and hands on teaching of such things as sewing a period wardrobe, setting up your tent, hair, hats, 1860 etiquette etc.

For those interested please send \$10.00 to Cindy Stuart 2809 London Lane, Flower Mound, Texas 75028. For any questions please call Cindy at 972-539-0141. Deadline for registration is March 15, 2001. Depending on interest we may be required to ask some ladies with tents to stay outside the hospital.

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## Raymond Registration Deadline!!!!!!!!!!!!

Dues for Raymond is now \$10 if postmarked on/before March 1<sup>st</sup>. It is imperative your money be sent to George Hansen by Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> in order to adhere to the deadline. Dues are increased to \$15 after March 1<sup>st</sup> and anyone wishing to register after April 1<sup>st</sup> must pay on-site if the 6,000 person limit has not been reached.

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

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## 2001

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### FEBRUARY

9 - 10      Camp of Instruction      Fort Richardson, Texas  
Barracks open Friday night, 9 a.m. start time on Saturday

17      Twigg's Surrender      San Antonio, Texas  
8:30 a.m., A day long event of Living History in the Alamo Plaza

### MARCH

3-4      Celtic Festival Recruiting      Fair Park, Dallas

16-18      1st Battalion Muster      Honey Springs, OK

**UNIT ELECTIONS**

24-25      Cross Timbers Tactical      Gainesville, TX

### APRIL

20-22      Kaufman Reenactment      Kaufman, TX

### MAY

3-6      Vicksburg Campaign II      Raymond, Mississippi  
**Official Frontier Brigade Event**

19 – 20      Grapevine "Muster & Recruiting"      Grapevine, TX

### JUNE

9      Drill      TBA

### JULY

4      4th of July Parade      Arlington, TX

### AUGUST

Live Fire      Mansfield, TX

### SEPTEMBER

22-23      Cabin Creek Reenactment      Cabin Creek, OK  
*Official Frontier Brigade Event*

### OCTOBER

13      Drill      TBA

### NOVEMBER

17      Plantation Liendo Reenactment      Houston area, TX  
1<sup>st</sup> US Winter Soiree      Point Winfrey, Dallas, TX

### DECEMBER

Drill      TBA

*The above are subject to change. Not all events are Maximum effort.*

*For more information contact [Regimental Headquarters](#)*

## Adjutant's CALL

Be advised that if you have not paid your dues by the end of February you run the risk of not receiving another newsletter, nor will you be included on the 2001 roster. Again, the annual \$25 cost is applicable to individuals/families. An Associate membership fee is available at \$15, but you will not be included on the official roll and voting privileges are denied.

Please make your check payable to **NTRS**, not the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. "Any check payable to anything other than the NTRS will be returned, as our bank will only accept items payable to NTRS." Ok, for those making fun of me at the last drill this is the last time I am saying this, "You may include the \$10 Battalion Muster and Raymond Re-enactment fees with your annual dues." Please use the 2001 Dues form located elsewhere in the newsletter. This form serves a valuable tracking device to me, so please use it.

The e-mail address list is included elsewhere in the newsletter. Please immediately notify me if changes are needed, as well as any mailing address or phone corrections.

Please note the Winter Soiree article. The dance will soon be upon us and your assistance is needed in order to make it successful. Please consider arriving early to help with setup and preparations. The 1999 dance was an outstanding hit and the NTRS intends to improve upon that success. Your attendance and/or help will make that possible.

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*"Dear Father and Mother, You say you were much interested in viewing the returned regimental*

*colors as they are now arranged at the State House. I suppose we have one set there. Those that we have here now are tattered and torn. The national flag was struck in the staff and shattered by a bullet, but we have it splintered up. The ball struck between the color bearer's hands as he held it. The other (state) flag was all stained with blood of a man who was struck by a shell and thrown against it. You speak of some flags that are quite whole and clean, and emblazoned all over in large gilt letters, giving the names of the battles they have been engaged in. I suppose they must belong to the pet regiments, those that have been encamped about Newbern and some other favorite localities. I never saw such flags in all my tramps – nor heard of them before."*

*Diary of Warren H. Freeman, 13<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts, USA, February 1, 1864, Mitchell's Station, Va.*

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## 2001 Winter Soiree

The NTRS Winter Soiree is scheduled November 17, 2001, at Winfrey Point in Dallas. Liz Brockman will help coordinate the event and volunteers to assist her are needed. You may contact Liz at (817) 498-4824.

Winfrey Point on White Rock Lake was a big hit for the last dance and its reservation had to be made a year in advance in order to secure the facility. Just like the last time, each attendee is asked to bring a covered dish, as meat dishes and drinks will be provided. Start now to help your spouse/guest acquire period clothing for this formal occasion, but modern-day dress is perfectly acceptable.

More soiree information is forthcoming later this year.

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## REGIMENTAL NOTES

HQ is sad to report that Pvt. **Chris Rahn** has relocated to St. Louis, but glad to announce he is now a member of Co. E, 1<sup>st</sup> MO Engineers, Turner Brigade. His unit will do recon work at Raymond, so we will have a chance to visit with him. Chris' career enhancement led him back to his home state, the land where God vacations – Missouri! Chris shall be missed for his excellent camaraderie and impeccable performance on the field. We are sorry to see his departure, but glad that he is "back home."

**Co. A** is taking double canister hits as of late as Pvt. **Brook Thomas** is leaving for Austin. Brook's wife has a new job opportunity and he is able to retain employment with his current employer. Rumor has it that Brook owes money to those in Co A as well as D, so the muster will be your last chance to collect from him. Note he has new brogans!

HQ announces **Recruit Gene Fogerty** has been promoted to Private and is now a member of Co. A. Sad, he seems like such a young innocent lad. Hopefully, the Irish thugs in A will 'let him be' at the Muster - on St. Patty's Day.

Pvt. **Mike Phineas** saw the Elephant at Prairie Grove and not once did he show the Secesh his backside unless ordered to do so. His grit was ever dutiful and complaints were nary heard. He shall make a fine soldier and his stead can be counted upon in battle.

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## Lessons from Lincoln

*When he was asked to handle a matter personally rather than delegating it to one of his cabinet members, Lincoln defended his cabinet members by comparing them to fighting dogs:*

“A man in his neighborhood had a small bullterrier that could whip all the dogs of the neighborhood. The owner of a large dog which the terrier had whipped asked the owner of the terrier how it happened that the terrier whipped every dog he encountered. ‘That,’ said the owner of the terrier, ‘is no mystery to me. Your dog and other dogs get half through a fight before they are ready. Now, my dog is always mad!’”

### USSC to VA

After several attempts from civic-minded groups dedicated to ensuring responsible care for wartime sick and wounded, President Lincoln’s fear that such groups would be “a fifth wheel to the coach” gave way to the U.S. Sanitary Commission.

From the beginning of the war up to its disbandment in May 1866, the commission collected almost \$5 million in private donations and \$15 million worth of supplies.

Eleven branch offices throughout the North raised an additional \$2 million. “Sanitary Fairs” sponsored by the commission in major cities contributed another \$2.7 million.

The commission also organized 7,000 “aid societies” throughout the North, effectively bringing many women in the North into the war effort. USSC helped veterans secure their bounties, get back pay and apply for pensions after the war. Katharine Prescott

Wormeley, a commission activist and author of *The Other Side of War*, called the commission “the great artery which bears the people’s love to the people’s army.” Professor Allan Nevins called the commission “the great philanthropic organization which did so much to save lives and alleviate agony during the four years of the conflict.”

An 1865 commission report stated: “Too much cannot be any possibility be done for the men who have become disabled in the war. To do all we may for their comfort, we shall never half repay them for the sacrifices they have made or half balance our debt of gratitude.”

At the request of the commission, Boston philanthropist Stephen Perkins conducted an investigation into European system of care for disabled veterans. His inquiry led to the proposal that compensation should be paid to every permanently disabled veteran. He also advocated “industrial villages” for disabled veterans so they could use their time constructively. His recommendations became the basis for the present-day Veterans Administration medical system.

## Kaufman Reenactment

### *Adjutant Reporting*

A local 2001 re-enactment of particular interest is the Kaufman Re-enactment, April 20-22. The event organizers insist that each re-enactor personally pre-register. Individual registration can be done by mail, phone or e-mail. Note the enclosed registration form and info. Kathey Kelley Hunt says a short two-minute call to her is all it will take to

register. Her number is (972) 962-3890.

A 1.5-mile, downtown parade ending in a cemetery ceremony will take place Saturday at 4:30 pm. Kathey needs to know those who are interested so that adequate transportation is available to and from the parade and ceremony. If you cannot physically march in the parade, then your presence during the cemetery service is requested. Those who contact Kathey by Feb. 15 will have their name printed in the ceremony program; hence, the 15<sup>th</sup> is her printer deadline.

US Congressman Ralph Hall, Texas State Legislators, local dignitaries and others will honor over 100 Union and Confederate veterans buried in the Kaufman Cemetery. The program will make a nice keepsake, so please register no later than Feb. 15.

So far 700 re-enactors have registered and the interest and response have far exceeded Kathey’s expectations. Kevin Keim and the 12<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry are the re-enacting coordinators. Kathey says next year’s plans are to move the site to a 2,000-acre farm where a campaign event is strongly being considered. Kathey is a history writer by trade and she has co-authored Forney Country and The Lord’s Big Garden, which is a history of Kaufman’s first 50 years. A 10-year project by Kathey has cumulated in a history of the 12<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry, which her great grandfather was a member. Former Gov. George Bush appointed Kathey as President of Cemetery Preservation in Kaufman County.

I think it is important for you to know that the Kaufman organizers have a sincere interest in our past and the event has the financial and moral

support of the whole community. Volunteers have been turned away due to excessive numbers. Kaufman businessmen have asked to donate period clothing to participate in the battles. This has the potential to be the best re-enactment yet within the metroplex.

Remember, if you want to take part in the re-enactment then it is your duty to register ASAP. Kathey is expecting your response by Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>.

### CARTRIDGE ROLLING

February 10<sup>th</sup>

Address: 7505 Chapel Ave Fort Worth. Tel. 560-7042

Directions:

30W past downtown FW. Exit 7B, HWY 183 GO south to second stop light, Spur 580, Go right (west), Take second left, Ramona. Chapel Ave is 1 block south. On the corner of Chapel and Ramona. Park in front. *Please contact Don Gross if you are coming.*

## OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC ROSTER

### *Of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry*

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\* New or recently changed

# The Finer Points of Skirmishing

By Don Gross

## Part 1, Deployment

We've all seen and done skirmish drill but, the typical Frontier Battalion company doesn't have the number of men, NCOs, nor officers to do it by the book. Although companies were formed with 100 men, by the time they saw action there were rarely that many and as the war progressed the companies got smaller and smaller. At a well-attended event the 1<sup>st</sup> can field two reenacting companies. If we were to combine these companies in the field we would have sufficient numbers to accurately portray a mid-war size company.

For this article we will assume that the company strength is 40 rifles with a complete compliment of officers and NCOs. The company is divided into two platoons and each platoon is divided into two sections. The Captain makes sure that the men know who is the center file of each platoon and section. When a company acts as skirmishers it will provide its own reserve, typically the first platoon will deploy and the second will act as the reserve. The reserve is placed 100 paces behind the center of the skirmishers. Their purpose is to fill vacant places, supply cartridges, relieve the fatigued, and serve as the rallying point. Figure 1 shows the basic company formation in line. Four sections of eight or twelve men; a Captain, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant (ovals); and five Sergeants (squares) all numbered appropriately.

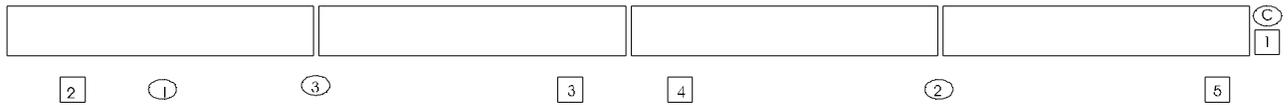


Fig 1

To deploy for skirmish the Captain commands: 1. *First platoon, as skirmishers*; 2. *On the left (right, center) file, take interval*; 3. *(Double quick), MARCH*. At the first command, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenants place themselves behind the centers of their respective sections in the first platoon). The 5<sup>th</sup> Sgt. goes to the front center of the platoon and will move between the two sections as soon as movement begins. The 4<sup>th</sup> Sgt. moves to the left flank of the platoon. (Figure 2)

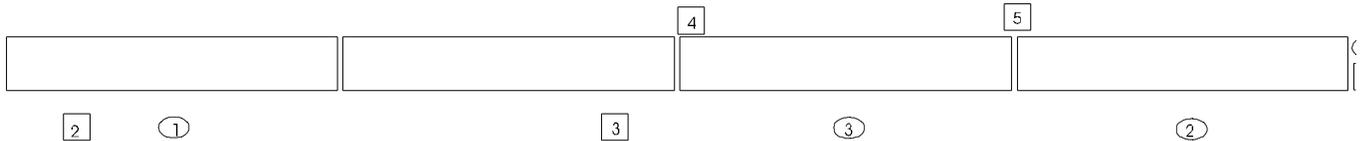


Fig 2

The 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant moves to the center of the second platoon and commands: *Second platoon backward, MARCH*. The second platoon moves three paces to the rear to unmask the first platoon. When the 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant **HALTS** the platoon, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sgt. covers the left flank and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sgt. the right flank. (Figure 3)

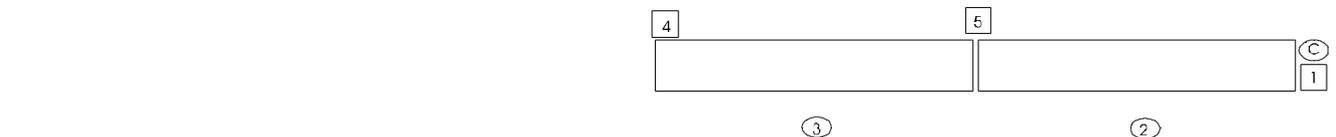


Fig 3

While the second platoon is moving out of the way the Captain indicates to the 4<sup>th</sup> Sgt. the point to direct his march. Since the deployment is made by the left file the guide is left.

A note on command pacing: As you can see a lot is happening between the first and second commands. The Lieutenants move, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sgts. have to move from their positions as file closers to in front, the second platoon has to move out of the way and the 4<sup>th</sup> Sgt. finds out where he is going. It gives the men plenty of time to review in their minds what's coming up.

At the command **MARCH**, the left group of four, led by the 4<sup>th</sup> Sgt. will move towards the point established by the Captain. The other groups move diagonally forward and to the right at the double quick. (Figure 4) Each group of four should end up 20 paces from the group on its left. As each group gets even with the left group they march to the front at the quick step. (Figure 5)

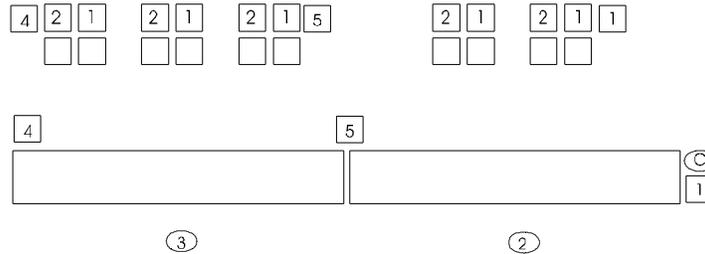


Fig 4

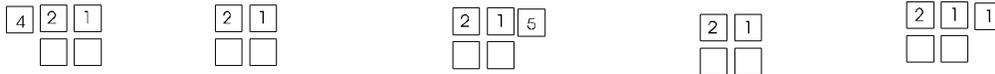


Fig 5

When the left guide reaches the designated point the Captain **HALTS** the line. The men deploy at five paces from each other. The front rank #2 man stands fast, the rear #2 moving five paces to his left. The front rank #1 moves ten paces to the right and the rear rank #1 fills the gap. From now on the men work in pairs, #1s together and #2s together. (Figure 6)

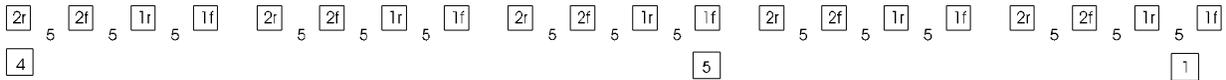


Fig 6

Once the line is established the left, right, and center NCOs place themselves 10 paces behind the line. After correcting any irregularities, the chiefs of sections (Lieutenants) move to 25-35 paces behind the centers of their sections. The Captain should be 80 paces behind the center of the platoon. (Figure 7)

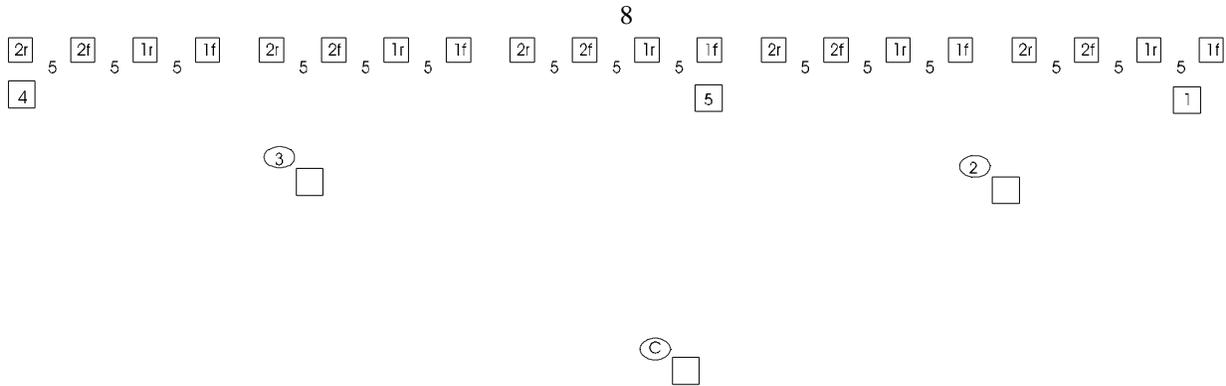


Fig 7

As the first platoon is deploying the 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant faces his platoon about and moves it to a point 150 paces behind the center of the line, maintaining this distance as the line advances or retreats

If the deployment is made on the right file the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. is the guide on the right and the men take spacing to the left. The 5<sup>th</sup> Sgt. is the guide if deploying on the center file. In this case the first section takes spacing to the right and the second section takes spacing to the left.

Part two will cover deploying by the flank and general considerations for firing, advancing, and maintaining the interval.

## On the Line

by David J. Murphy

### Reenacting Commands

In the past column I wrote about one of the more common “reenacting command” where the rear rank is ordered to step up with the right foot and “fill the hole” when firing. There are other “reenacting commands” that are commonly heard on the field for which I will give the proper period commands.

I am of the opinion that “reenacting commands” are the outgrowth of a commander’s or NCO’s lack of willingness to study the manuals (which tend to be dry), or the attitude that “this is the way we always do it,” or “this is how I was taught.” When standing in front of a company or battalion as a commander the men look up to you for leadership, and trust in the knowledge that you “know your stuff.” It comes with the territory when you wear shoulder boards or chevrons that you must know the commands and teach them properly. The same authenticity standards that are striven for in uniforms, food and weapons need be imparted to a proper knowledge of the tactics manual.

Working on your musket, uniform and equipment is understandably more enjoyable than studying period tactic manuals, but giving improper or “reenacting commands” is as unauthentic as wearing polyester and ruins an otherwise fine impression. I’m sure a lot have heard the following commands given at reenactments and obeyed, assuming them to be proper.

“**Load and hold**” – this is a favorite with no foundation in the manuals. You hear this from company commanders, usually after several volleys have been fired, in response to the battalion commander ordering a cease fire, either in preparation for a movement or different firing command.

After firing by battalion, wing, company or rank, the last command is “load,” whereupon the men load their weapons and come to the position of “ready” waiting for the next firing command or the order to “shoulder arms” in preparation of moving. If the company is firing by file the command is “cease fire.”

The men who have fired will load their weapons and come to the position of “shoulder arms.” If in the position of “aim,” the weapon will be half-cocked, and placed at “shoulder arms.” All those in the position of “ready” and waiting to

fire will immediately go to “shoulder arms.”

The manuals are very specific about the proper sequence of commands to be given. When you want the men to load and hold their fire, one needs only order “load” (“cease fire” when firing by file). It’s written into the tactics that the fire will be held until further orders, there is no need to use a bogus command. *Casey’s Tactics, School of the Soldier, #268 to 298.*

“**Fire at will**” – another favorite that is given by company commanders, usually after a battle is fairly joined. No such command exists anywhere in the drill manuals. The proper command, and the one actually used predominantly in Civil War combat, was “fire by file.”

The firing commences with the right file of each company at the same time and continues down to the left, *Casey’s Tactics, School of the Soldier, #55 to 57.* After the first fire each man will load and fire his weapon individually without orders, or regulating the fire with his file mate. The fire can also commence on the right file of each platoon within a company to increase the volume of fire, *Casey’s Tactics, School of the Battalion, #55 to 56.*

The fire by file being that which is most frequently used against an enemy, it is highly important that it be rendered perfectly familiar to the troops. The instructor will, therefore, give it almost exclusive preference..." Casey's Tactics, School of the Company, #67.

The command for rapid independent fire ("the fire by file") is already contained in the manual. Let's not continue using a "made up" command.

"Prepare to halt" – this is one heard from company commanders or 1st sergeants, who then follow it up with "halt." No such preparatory command exists. When wishing to halt a line or column, the proper command to be given is "Squad or Company – Halt," Casey's Tactics, School of the Soldier, #369 and School of the Company, #99.

To halt a battalion in column the proper command is "Column – Halt," Casey's Tactics, School of the Battalion, #286. If the battalion is marching in line of battle the command to halt it is "Battalion – Halt," Casey's Tactics, School of the Battalion, #361.

Regardless of what position the musket is being carried while marching " at the command halt, the men will bring their pieces to the position of shoulder arms. This rule is general," Casey's Tactics, School of the Soldier, #361.

"Dress the line down!" or "Dress towards the colors!" – These are commands usually given by the file closers to the men in the ranks after the company begins taking casualties. It obviously started as someone's idea of the right way to keep the ranks dressed and aligned while filling the holes created by "casualties."

This was not how casualties were replaced in a company during actual combat. It should be kept in mind that each company needs to maintain a fixed space within a regimental front, while the regiment, in turn, needs to maintain its space within a battalion front, to insure the integrity of the battle line.

If the lines are dressed towards the colors or a flank as casualties are taken, the front will continue to shrink, with the result that openings

in the line between companies and battalions will develop. The object is to maintain the front so gaps do not open between commands.

The proper and authentic way to replace casualties while still maintaining a company front comes from Scott's Tactics: "Files having been formed, as often as a front... rank man falls or steps out of his rank, he will be immediately replaced, for the time, by his coverer in the next rank." #16.

Let's work towards riding the hobby of "reenacting commands." Study the manual. Everyone will experience a more rewarding and satisfying experience, from commander to private, with the knowledge the proper commands are being given and obeyed.

David J. Murphy is a 20-year reenactor who portrays a western infantryman and officer and particularly enjoys campaign-style events. He is a lieutenant colonel in the Frontier Battalion, and private in the 2nd Wisconsin, Co. E, of the Iron Brigade.

## ELECTIONS 2001

Unit elections will be held this March 16th the Spring Muster at Honey Springs, Oklahoma. All positions & ranks are open. Nominations are made by the Election Committee and based upon service over the last two years, plus positions held in previous years. The Election Committee which consist of Mark Dolive, Kevin Doughtie, & Rick Brockman. All members are nominated for the positions they qualify for unless they request their name removed from the nomination list. Currently R. Brockman, K. Doughtie, and B. Fuhrman have asked to have their name removed PROXY votes are allowed, however the form below is the only acceptable form. It must be presented to the Election Committee Chair on, or before the election is open.

### NTRS/1st U.S. 2001 ELECTION PROXY VOTE

I, \_\_\_\_\_ release my Proxy to:  
\_\_\_\_\_, Company \_\_\_\_\_

This proxy may be used for all Regimental Ballots and for Company \_\_\_\_\_ Ballots.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# NTRS

## DUES & EVENT REGISTRATION FORM

<i>FEE TYPE</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i># of people</i>	<i>Totals</i>
NTRS Dues			\$25
Muster Fees	\$10 x	_____	= \$ _____
Raymond Fees	\$10 x	_____	= \$ _____
Unit manual	\$5		\$ _____
<b>TOTAL \$</b>			_____

**NTRS Member Name(s)**

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Muster Attendees \_\_\_\_\_  
 Feb. 24-25, Honey Springs, OK

Raymond Attendees \_\_\_\_\_  
 May 3-5, Raymond, MS

Make check payable to **NTRS** and mail this form to:

George Hansen  
 3407 Palmtree Dr.  
 McKinney, TX 75070

Remember, Check or money order should be made out to  
**NTRS**

## **CAMP OF INSTRUCTION**

February 9 and 10  
An official 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. event  
Fort Richardson  
Jacksboro, Texas

*Fun & Frolic Start at 9 a.m. Saturday  
morning for the latecomers.*

## **TWIGG'S SURRENDER**

February 17  
ALAMO PLAZA  
San Antonio, Texas

*Site where elements of the original  
1<sup>st</sup> U.S. participated in the great  
giveaway.*

## **The Union Standard**

*Newsletter of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry*  
4604 Angelina Way  
Fort Worth, TX 76137  
*M Dolive, editor*