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# The UNION STANDARD

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May, 2001

Vol. 9, no 5

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

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## ***Dispatch from the Board:***

In accordance with the by-laws and state requirements for a 501-3(c) corporation, corporate officers were elected from the board members at this past quarterly board meeting. The corporate officers for the next two years are: Don Gross, President; Kip Bassett, Vice President; John Bowen, Secretary; and George Hansen, Treasurer. The 1<sup>st</sup> US is incorporated in the State of Texas as a non-profit educational organization under the name *North Texas Reenactment Society*.

Thanks to all the men who made Kaufman. This was the only local event planned for this year and as such was important for recruiting. In this Kaufman was a success by any standard. We got several good prospects and three new members actually joined. Thanks to Clark for the living history and all the men who helped set up the hospitality tent. We were promised to be located at the center of action and we were not for the crowds, but for dinner and the dance! Oh well, we'll know better for next time.

Raymond (May 3-7) is here. By the latest registration numbers the johnnies have us two to one, and about six to one in artillery. Sounds like even odds to me. The most important item is well taken care of – the food. By this time next week we'll know who won (and more importantly who lost) the great hardtack bake off. Be prepared for soldiery duties we haven't done before. If ever there were an event where you brought 200+ rounds this is it. Bring your extra rounds fully wrapped for storage in the ammo box. All food is provided. Bring only what you can carry in your knapsack or in a bedroll but include three pairs of socks. We have a few registered slots open so if you want to go at the last minute let your company commander know.

Grapevine is a prime recruiting opportunity. The city is paying us \$750.00 for our presence

and we intend to put on a good show. The 1<sup>st</sup> Sgts will coordinate attendance, but we need to have approximately 20 men there at all open hours. You don't have to be there for the entire weekend. For the spectators we will have some fun scenarios and company drill, as well as new recruit drill.

On to Raymond!

## **RAYMOND**

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>**

Immediately contact your 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt should last minute plans now allow you to attend Raymond. Bring 200+ rounds. Foodstuffs will be supplied, but you must contact your 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt.

Directions:

Exit Hwy 18 from I-20 and go south – Hwy 18 is 10 miles west of Jackson, MS. Registration is 10 miles from I-20.

For last minute Raymond information visit:

[www.nsalliance.org/vburg](http://www.nsalliance.org/vburg)

## **GRAPEVINE**

**May 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>**

Maximum Effort: Two-day recruiting and living history event. Expect 90,000 spectators both days. 20 men are needed each day and Civilians are encouraged to fully support.

Directions:

Take Hwys. 121/114 to Grapevine from either Dallas or Fort Worth. Those coming from the mid-cities (Arlington, etc.) may take Hwy. 360 north to 121. Take the "Main Street, South" exit off Hwy.121 and go north.

# 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Calendar 2001

## MAY

3-6 Vicksburg Campaign II Raymond, Mississippi

### **Official Frontier Brigade Event**

Maximum Effort

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

Maximum Effort Saturday 10-closing Sunday 11-6

## JUNE

9 Drill Arlington, Veterans Park

## JULY

4 4th of July Parade Arlington, TX

## AUGUST

Live Fire Mansfield, TX

## SEPTEMBER

29-30 Cabin Creek Reenactment Cabin Creek, OK

### **Official Frontier Brigade Event - NOTE DATE CHANGE!!!**

## OCTOBER

13 Drill TBA

## NOVEMBER

Plantation Liendo Reenactment Houston area, TX

17 1<sup>st</sup> US Winter Soiree Winfrey Point, Dallas, TX

## DECEMBER

Drill TBA

*The above are subject to change.*

**Three cheers for our latest recruits in the ranks!**

**David Hewell**

**Matt Ownings**

**They enlisted as a result of the recent Irish Festival.**

*Diary of Warren H. Freeman, 13<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts, USA, May 18, 1863, Fitz-Hugh Mansion, Va.*  
Dear Father, Our papers speak about the prisoners we take as looking half-starved, ragged, etc. Now I could never see this. Those that I saw, and I should think there were 2,000 of them, were fully equal in looks and conditions to the average of our men; they say we can never subdue them, that they will fight till there is not a man left. Their gray uniforms give them a kind of dirty appearance, and they nearly all wore felt hats, but some of them had on a very neat and handsome uniforms. They lost heavily in the late battles, especially in officers, the most prominent of whom was Stonewall Jackson.

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### **Lessons from Lincoln**

After hearing a comment that the two leading political parties frequently seemed to reverse their platforms so much that they began sounding like their rival, Lincoln responded:

“I remember once being much amused at seeing two partially intoxicated men engage in a fight with their greatcoats on, which, after a long and rather harmless contest, ended in each having fought himself *out* of his own coat, and *into* that of the other’s.”

## Grapevine's "*Main Street Days*" Festival

or "How can the members of the 1st U.S. get their pictures in the paper?"  
submitted by Clark Kirby

It is mid 1865 and the great war of the rebellion is over. Texas had been the only Confederate state that was never successfully invaded. The 1st U.S. Infantry, sent as occupation troops, march into Texas and set up a supply depot at a rail junction just south of the village of Grapevine. The citizens are starving and there is no government except what the military command provides. Although most of the citizens are saddened by news of the defeat of the Confederacy and are alarmed at the appearance of Federal troops, many are glad the troops have arrived to protect them from the frequent Indian raids. But, some of the local "hot heads" vow to "whip the Yankees!"

Now, zoom back to the present. The 1st U.S. Infantry has been hired by the Grapevine Convention and Visitor's Bureau (GC&VB) to perform living history at Grapevine's annual spring festival, "Main Street Days". It is Grapevine's second largest festival, drawing about 92,000 paying spectators last year and is dedicated to celebrating the city's proud frontier heritage. The city was founded in 1844 and its downtown area has many buildings dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The proceeds from Grapevine's two annual festivals fund ongoing restoration projects in their Heritage District, near downtown. Grapevine is centrally located, being at the north end of D/FW Airport and is only 21 miles northwest of Dallas and 19 miles northeast of Fort Worth. Major State Highways 114 and 121 serve the area.

The 1st U.S. will set up it's camp next to the main south gate, at the historic Tarantula Train Station (the restored 1901 Cotton Belt Depot). Barrels, boxes, and supplies of all kinds will be needed in order to create a Federal Supply Depot. The wagons will be parked here, next to the "Depot". The "Hospitality Tent" will be set up on the parking lot nearby and will be used to house educational displays with a civil war theme. This tent will also be the focal point of an ambitious living history program aimed at education of the public. Every member of the 1st U.S. is urged to become involved, either by leading a seminar topic on a subject of their choice, or to aid someone else. There will be something for everyone! The unit coordinator for this event is Clark Kirby. He is looking for members to step forward with suggestions as to seminar topics to present to the public. The Tarantula Train operation was bought by the city of Grapevine, last year, and the 1896 steam locomotive has been refurbished and put back into service. Twice a day, it will arrive and depart the rail station, next to our camp. Scenarios involving this train's movements will be planned. All military members are urged to set up a tent and to camp, period style, for the entire weekend.

There will, no doubt, be many new members and recent prospects, gleaned from our last few recruiting efforts, in attendance at Grapevine. Let's facilitate their participation by making available all your spare uniform and equipment to them. Contact your 1st Sgt. to offer your help. Also, there will be strong attempts made to lure members of the public to join in on the drilling, the sampling of period foodstuffs, and other living history type activities. Expect intensive one on one spectator contact. All those who can perform in "first person" are encouraged to do so. Since this will be our last scheduled recruiting event for this year, it is imperative that a maximum effort is made to recruit, and living history efforts will be geared to this goal. We will be the ONLY civil war reenactment group at Main Street Days. The unit is earning \$750 for our performances. This amount may be increased greatly for next year, dependent upon your and my performance this year. Every effort will be made to insure that the 1st U.S. will add to it's reputation as the best living history military unit in Texas by offering a quality presence and providing educational opportunities that will enhance Grapevine's festival goals. Over the entire weekend, 90,000 to 100,000 paying spectators will pass by our camp. If we do it right, they will all be in our camp (!!).

Now, for more particulars: The dates are Friday, May 18th through Sunday, May 20th. We need to set up and be finished before the gates open at 6:00pm that Friday. We will be open 6:00pm to 11:30pm Friday,

10:00am to 11:30pm Saturday, and 11:00am to 6:00pm on Sunday. To get to the grounds (a six block stretch of Main Street, closed to traffic), take Hwys. 121/114 to Grapevine from either Dallas or Fort Worth. Those coming from the mid-cities (Arlington, etc.) may take Hwy. 360 north to 121. Take the "Main Street, South" exit off Hwy.121 and go north. Reference Fort Worth Mapsco page 27. The area where we will set up is next to the railroad tracks, a part of the "Heritage Center" grounds which includes the train station. Everyone who helps to set up, on Friday, will be given a pass to do so. Contact Clark to volunteer. All 1st U.S. members in uniform, including civilians in period clothing, once the festival is open, will be admitted to festival grounds for free. Those family members who dress in modern clothing will have to pay the \$5 adult ticket price per person, \$1 for ages 6-12 (or pay \$12 for all the family members). This helps if you have more than two children! This will be a full blown festival, with musical entertainment on various stages, carnival rides & games at the north end of the downtown area, and gunfighter, mountain man, Indian (Native American, not from India) and other historical reenactment groups, most commercial in nature, selling recordings, videos, goods, etc.

Since this event will be "...almost as good as Granbury!" in Mark Dolive's words as parroted by Benefiel at Kaufman, **every member is encouraged to attend and have fun!** Since our impression that weekend is one where the unit is occupying a rail junction, all "superfluous impedimenta" that you can bring is welcome, as long as it is period correct. No one will have to drill if he does not wish to do so. You can eat corny dogs and funnel cakes, down the street, to your hearts delight or drink campfire coffee and eat hardtack, in camp, if you wish. There will be something for everyone, kids, wife, and all. Main Street Days is two weekends AFTER Raymond II and a week after Mother's Day weekend, the third weekend in May. And, as our wagon master, Bob Fuhrmann says, "*Let's all pull together, guys!*" Quite a lot is riding on this event.

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WHAT, NO MAJOR?

Gentlemen,

Let me write a few lines to explain, to those who were not at the Muster, why we have no Major. In my mind there are three reasons. The first reason why, after being elected per the by-laws, I resigned was that no one, and I mean no one could replace Mark or his influence on the 1<sup>st</sup> US. The second reason is that given our present situation of being able to field only 2 small companies, the Military purpose of a Major was not needed. During those rare times when we are alone on a field, i.e. Kaufman, we have 2 field grade officers from our Battalion, Gregg Benefiel and Mark Dolive. Operationally, we don't need a Major since Gregg is one already and Mark is our Colonel. The third reason we do not have a Major is that our Major does not represent us as a unit. Think about it, on the field our Company Commanders represent our members. Administratively, the "board" represents us. Decisions such as where we go and where we spend our time and funds are not made by the Major, they are made by the Board. All three reasons are important and unless things change, expect more committees and calls for you to step to the plate. See you in the line.

YMOS,  
KIP, high private, 1<sup>st</sup> US

## CONDOLENCES

The NTRS extends heartfelt condolences to the following members and their families:

Bob Fuhrman who recently lost his mother.

George Renfro as his father passed away.

And, please keep Beck Martin's father in your prayers for his speedy recovery.

## Expense Reduction

The newsletter is now automatically delivered to those with e-mail addresses. If you have e-mail with attachment capability, the newsletter arrives by e-mail 3 to 5 days before it is mailed. You can save the Unit some money by requesting that the newsletter not be mailed to you. This will reduce our overall printing and postage expenses. Contact George Hansen to participate. The newsletter will always be available by mail should you later decide to have it delivered that way. Those with e-mail will always electronically receive the newsletter.

## New Assignments

Civilian Chris Uebel will soon transfer to Korea in order to accept a recent Army reassignment. Musician Derek Uebel, her son, will go live with his father, Mike Uebel, in Virginia. The Uebel family has been active NTRS members since early 1999. Chris and young Derek live in Abilene yet followed the 1<sup>st</sup> to such events like Mansfield, Bellmead, the musters, and Memorial Day ceremonies at Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney. Chris always greeted the 1<sup>st</sup> with ice as the troops left the battlefield in the sweltering heat. Derek has vastly improved his drum skills in the past few years and is a valuable asset to the Brigade musician corps. The NRTS wishes the Uebel family well in their future endeavors and they will be missed.

## Memorial Day in McKinney

The 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. will again participate in a Memorial Day celebration at Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney. Please arrive no later than 9:15 a.m. if you would like to participate, as the remembrance ceremony starts at 10:00.

Afterwards, the Living History committee will conduct presentations for the crowd. Although it is not required, you are asked to either help with these demonstrations, or assist the Recruiting Committee by distributing brochures.

This is a formal, dress-parade ceremony, so white gloves are mandatory – black tie/cravat and white shirt preferred. Either sack coats/forage caps or frocks/Hardees are acceptable.

The presence of Civilians, as always, is especially appreciated. Several ladies are needed to help with the living history talks. The subject material is whatever you wish, but it might be interesting “to convey the hardships you have suffered during the ‘War’ years.” As like with the military, the planned activities for the Civilians are optional. Everyone should contact Clark Kirby if you would like to help with the living history presentations.

Please note that Harry McKillop, who is the cemetery board president, will again feature a luncheon for us at his house after the ceremony. Directions to Harry's house are available at the ceremony. Harry's train collection and setup is one of the finest in north Texas and his residence is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a Texas Historic Landmark.

Directions: Pecan Grove Cemetery  
From Dallas: North on Hwy. 75 – take the Hwy. 5 exit in McKinney (Exit #38) and go east (right) approximately 2 miles to Pecan Grove Cemetery. The cemetery entrance is on the right.

From Ft. Worth: East on Hwy. 121 – 121 turns into Hwy. 5 past the Hwy. 121 & Hwy. 75 intersection. Proceed east on Hwy. 5 and Pecan Grove Cemetery is approximately 2 miles on the right.

## Boy Scout Show

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2001, at the Market Hall Arena in Dallas, the Boy Scouts of America will be having one of the largest scout shows in the area. The 1<sup>st</sup> US will have a living history/recruiting presence there to teach and to raise interest in our hobby. If you would like to be a part of this effort (and volunteers are sorely needed!), please contact Steve Sanders, either at (817) 763-4529 or at [lordgron@hotmail.com](mailto:lordgron@hotmail.com). We will be using our recently acquired experience in campaigning to present a unit on the march. We'll set up dog tents, have a small fire to cook rations and boil coffee, and I guarantee NO DRILLING!! Come on out and help put on a show that these kids will never forget!

### HARGISMS

“Back to the Ballroom”

Deacon was surprised when the abscess on his foot ruptured. Not that there had been any pain, of course. He'd "sorta lost touch" with his ground pounders long ago. No it was the smell. It brought forth the memory of his hospital days in the "Ballroom." In happier days, the big room in a commandeered manse had hosted hops and such like fests. But with the war came other entertainments.

The medical arts were practiced in a miasmic atmosphere dominated by the stench of "laudable pus" with olfactory undercurrents of human decay, sickness, pain and fear. He found it passing strange that the nose could take a feller back so forcefully into his past. But then, generally, he found life to be a mysterious undertaking.

### Civil War Military Terms

Abatis: entrenchment of felled trees, with their branches sharpened to present a wall of pointed stakes.

Approaches: Trenches by which besiegers approach a fortified place; they are opposed by counter-approaches.

Bastion: A work at one of the angles of a fortification, consisting of two faces and two flanks.

## Hardtack Competition in Full Swing!

For all of you going to Raymond, you are in for a real treat when it comes time to getting your rations! Each night (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) there will be a real commissary issue of hardtack, dried fruit and dried meat! As a part of that ration, you will be getting five biscuits of hardtack per day. Several of our members (or their spouses) have entered a hardtack competition to make sure that there are enough of those pesky worm castles to go around. The following are in the competition:

Keith Brazile  
Kip (Marilyn) Bassett  
Clark Kirby  
John Schultz  
Gregg (Nikki) Benefiel  
Steve Hardy  
Steve Sanders

Each will be making their own “special” version of “tooth cracker” and they will be randomly given out in numbered packets. If you are going to Raymond, take special note of the numbers on the packets you receive because in a future issue of the newsletter there will be a ballot to vote for the winners! The categories will include:

- Most Authentic
- Best Tasting
- Hardtack I Never Want to See at Another Reenactment

You might even want to trade around to make sure that you get to sample everyone's recipe. So, get ready! Here comes the Soldier Bread!!

Berm: A narrow space between parapet and ditch.

Chevaux-De-Frise: Square beams, 6 to 9 feet long, from which pointed stakes project at right angles; used to stop breaches, etc.

Fascines: Bound bundles of long twigs used for fortifications, etc.

Parapet: A barrier of earth to intercept the fire of an enemy.

## *Escape from the South*

In case any of our Union comrade in arms should happen to find themselves in the hands of those who started the current unpleasantness, they might be able to bluff their way out and meander back to our lines by unitizing some of the following colloquialisms:

1. Well, butter my butt and call me a biscuit.
2. It's been hotter'n a goat's butt in a pepper patch.
3. He fell out of the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down.
4. Have a cup of coffee, it's already been 'saucered and blowed.
5. It's so dry; the trees are bribing the dogs.
6. My cow died last night so I don't need your bull.
7. Don't pee down my back and tell me it's raining.
8. This is gooder'n grits.
9. Busier than a cat covering crap on a marble floor.
10. If things get any better, I may have to hire somebody to help me enjoy it.
11. If things were any better, I would have to be twins to enjoy it.
12. Somebody dun left the barn door open on that family.

### **Springfield Accuracy**

submitted by Keith Brazile

In regard to accuracy of the 1861/1863 Springfield Muskets, the following is declared as found to be accurate. Taken from the original specifications, patents and contracts from 1860 to 1866. This information is to be found in The Rifled Musket by Claude E. Fuller.

This book covers the Springfield muskets and carbines including contract variations in great detail. It also details all firearms purchased during the period 1860 to 1866 by maker, quantity, and price as delivered. Extensive drawings and photographs of original muskets, sights and mechanisms are given.

From Part II of the book is the following.

“Contract Muskets must have the following:”

- Caliber .58
- Bullet 500gr
- Powder Musket 60gr (rifle powder found to be unsuitable)

“Accuracy:”

Able to hit a man on horseback at 600 yards

“Power to penetrate:”

Four inches of pine at 1000 yards

“10 Shots:”

- 4 inch bull at 100 yards
- 9 inch bull at 200 yards
- 11 inch bull at 333 yards
- 18 1/2 inch bull at 400 yards
- 27 inch bull at 500 yards

The above tests were conducted by the Department of the Army using ordinary soldiers detailed to test fire muskets at targets, and are such that contract arms are equal to those produced at the arsenals. The book, The Sharps, also has much of this same information in the first chapters of the book. These two books are references that most of us have handy, how about a few of you "ole vets" out there with even more references filling some of the gaps?

### **Notes from ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

By Carl Sandburg

#### **Lincoln Anecdotes:**

1. As a captain during the Black Hawk war (1832)... He himself was a beginner in drill regulations, and once couldn't think of the order that would get two platoons endwise, two by two, for passing through a gate. So he commanded, "This company is dismissed for two minutes, when it will fall in again on the other side of the gate." Pg 29
2. On being a soldier...In those days Lincoln had seen deep into the heart of the American volunteer soldier, why men go to war, march in mud, sleep in rain on cold ground, eat pork raw when it can't be boiled, and kill when the killing is good. On a later day an observer was to say he saw Lincoln's eyes misty in his mention of the American volunteer soldier. Pg 32
3. "If you make a bad bargain, hug it the tighter. Pg 108
4. "Every man must skin his own skunk." Pg108
5. an Irishman and his new boots: "I shall niver git 'em on till I wear 'em a day or two, and stretch 'em a little." Pg 98

## **Infantry\infanterie, fr. foot soldier, soldiers trained, armed and equipped to fight on foot (per Webster's)**

*by Carl Stang*

Going for a walk May 3-6? The infantry is the backbone of the army, but the army of the Civil War moved on its feet. To keep you up with the action, I offer some tips for those making a campaign style event for the first time that will keep you comfortably on your feet and a part of the fun. And for those who have made a campaign style event before, perhaps the following will serve as a little reminder. Though this year Raymond somewhat tame as campaign style events go, these tips can prove useful at just about any event.

At large or small re-enactment events the feet can sometimes get tested for endurance. Raymond isn't what I would call a real aggressive campaign style event, but we will most likely do more walking than at a normal re-enacting event. So your feet will be put to heavy use. If those Brogans don't fit snug on your feet, blisters are going to form. Here is some insight on keeping the re-enacting infantryman on his feet and in the thick of things. You don't want to miss out on the fun and sights by pulling up lame and sitting around guarding the fire pits while the battle is raging. This isn't really going to be an option at Raymond because there will not be stationary campsites. We will be an army on the move. There will be a new campsite every night. You have to walk on your own two feet or get thrown in the wimp wagon (if you see me in the wagon it will be because of my bad knees, not my feet!). So keep those feet in good shape and keep on the campaign trail. General Grant would be proud!

Be honest with yourself. Do those brogans fit well? You want them to fit so that there is a minimal of movement of your feet inside your brogues. Too tight or too loose can pose a problem. If they are too tight, well, they are too tight and not much can be done except wearing thinner socks. Your feet are probably going to get pinched and stressed. If they are too loose, you can add a pair of socks. I personally wear two pairs of thick wool socks. I used to wear a pair of cotton socks under a pair of wool socks, but I found that the cotton socks have a tendency to hold moisture (perspiration) against your feet and exacerbate rubbing. The wool socks wick away moisture keeping the foot-sock interface a little dryer and less likely to irritate your feet. This has worked well with me in past campaign and static events. You want your feet to be snug in your shoes. If your feet are sliding around inside, you are probably going to get blisters and getting blisters will slow you down and perhaps send you home early. I can't impress upon you enough how important foot care is on a campaign event. Baby those feet and keep them happy!

It is always a good idea to have stuffed away in your haversack some medicinal and foot-care supplies. I keep a medicine bag with aspirin/Advil, antihistamines (Benadryl in case I get a bee sting), sun screen (I have a small glass bottle with a cork in it that looks very period), tweezers and nail clippers. I always keep a big roll of adhesive tape and a package of moleskin in my bag. At the first sense of a hot spot developing on any part of my feet, I take advantage of the next rest stop (the army on the move usually marches for 50 and rests for 10 minutes) to tape up the hot spot to alleviate the rubbing. I'll use the moleskin and adhesive tape to work on any blister that has formed or popped. At the end of the Red River campaign event, the heels of my feet and the balls of my feet were covered with adhesive tape. We were in the field for a week, but my feet held up (just barely). I saw several guy's feet that were so bloodied from abuse that they had to just call it quits after just a day or two of marching. Let's face it, we don't spend a whole lot of time on our feet these days so your feet aren't ready for hard marching. Also, don't keep your medicine bag in your knapsack or blanket roll. Keep it in your haversack so you can get to it quickly. My medicine bag is made of cotton pillow ticking with a drawstring sewn in. All my first aid supplies are kept all in one place. You might want to throw some Band-Aids into your bag too.

Some other pointers for a successful campaign event... if you are carrying a knapsack, keep your poncho in between the two halves so that if it starts raining one of your pards can quickly pull it out for you. If you keep it inside your knapsack you are going to be half soaked before you are able to get the thing out

and over your head. Also, when on the march and the order is given to halt followed by the command "rest", get off your feet. Sit or lay down (out of the poison ivy). This ten minutes of relief is very invigorating. Don't spend the ten minutes standing around, give your body a break and get off your feet.

Pack very lightly. 25 pounds should be plenty. Make it lighter if you can. Don't carry with you big frying pans, lanterns and such. Keep to the basics. I do all my cooking in my cup and eat with a spoon. I don't need any more cooking utensils than that.

I usually have three pairs of wool socks with me. Two pairs are being worn on my feet and the third are folded over and placed under my sack coat on my shoulders where my knapsack straps are going to rub. Have your housewife in good order. Have plenty of thread, swatches of cloth, extra buttons and a couple of needles. There isn't much dignity going into battle with your crotch ripped out flashing a hip level white flag, or if your braces are flopping about in the breeze as your pants fall to your ankles. If you are out on flanking or picket duty, something might get torn. Be prepared.

Talcum or foot powder can be helpful not only for your feet but also in case you start rubbing your crotch raw. A small jar of Vaseline can also be a big help. These can all go in your medicine bag. For those who like to snack during the day, period non-perishable foods that fit this bill of fare include raisins, dried apples or apricots or peanuts. Block chocolate for those with a sweet tooth. Of course the old favorite hard tack will keep you from getting long in the tooth. Jerky works fine too. There are other foods. Use your imagination, but be period. Pack it in wax paper (brown preferably) or cotton bags.

You may want to pack some insect repellent. I didn't have a tick problem at the previous Raymond event but if we move through high grass and woods, ticks could be common. Spray the openings of your clothing (ankles, waste, neck and wrists) well. Small concentrated pump bottles are less visually intrusive (farby) to others. And most important of all, don't forget to pack a roll of TP. Don't assume there will be well stocked port-a-sinks near by. You might get the scours in mid-march and have to beat a hasty retreat into the woods.

Campaign events can be very satisfying. They are more work, but afterwards, the re-enactor comes away with a feeling that they have really been there. Really walked a mile in their shoes. It's a chance to leave those farbisms at home and really live the life of the Civil War soldier. One of the more memorable occurrences while on the Red River event was when one day our company was assigned to the rear guard and minding the trains (wagons). The head of the column came upon a delaying action set up by the retreating Confederates. We were on a narrow dirt road in deep piney woods. We could hear the action picking up in intensity as more and more troops and artillery were being brought up to be thrown into the fray. I can remember the mixture of emotions as we listened with great anticipation for the order to come for us to move forward and join in. It finally came, but just as we got there, the action was over. What brought it to a close was that a member of the cavalry had his horse roll over on him. Sometimes re-enacting can be very real. As the column finally began to move forward again our company was refilling our canteens at a house. Sitting on the front porch was a lady who had taken in the entire battle as it unfolded in her front yard and beyond. She made the comment that if she had known what was going to happen this day, she would have kept the kids home from school to see it all! It just made me think that this is often what happened during the war. Battles overwhelmed people's property and just happened when and where it happened. That's the fun of a campaign event, anything can happen. Anytime, anywhere. Let's go have some fun!

PS: I'm not sure of the total origin of the word: infantry, but it is derived from the French word *infant* (young person) and the Latin word *infan or infans*. I would suppose that since the typical foot soldier was usually fairly young, the term was tied to *infant*. Certain members in the unit often times demonstrate the true origins of term *infantry*! Women's clothing, indeed! Remember. Pack light!

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