
The UNION STANDARD

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The Newsletter of the 1st United States Infantry, The Regulars

Dispatch from the Board

Gentlemen,

Let the season begin; the campaign season, that is. Reenacting weather is with us again and we can all look forward to new adventures with our comrades at Cabin Creek, Liendo, and Old City Park Candlelight. What's more, we have a great new 'kettle of fish' who will be joining us in the field this year thanks largely to the efforts of two of our most tireless men; Clark and Conway. No doubt, without Clark's living history efforts at Grapevine, Six Flags, and the 'Civil War' show, our ranks would surely be thinning. Conway's phone calls and recruiting skills make sure the ones Clark hook, don't get away. And they're all first class men, not a 'beast' among them! Guys, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Next, I have a confession to make...even as 1st Sgt, I have not truthfully been able to fully experience that magic moment when all thoughts of the modern world disappear and I am transported back 140 years. I can look at the awesome lines of blue and gray at an Antietam or Gettysburg and appreciate the scope of a battle and the feeling of insignificance a common soldier must have felt; but I cannot feel it in my heart. I can listen to my aching muscles and feet after a Towson mud

march and can imagine how much the worse our ancestors felt after four years of intolerable conditions; but I know I will be safe and warm at home in two or three days. I read of the unimaginable hardships of soldiers North and South and wonder what it was that gave them the motivation and fortitude to endure such prolonged misery. Although the circumstances are completely different, on Sept 11th, I caught a glimpse of that motivation and shared the horrors of what befell our country then as now. I shared the southern soldiers' burning desire to repel an invader. I shared the northern soldiers' contempt for someone who would so selfishly desecrate the Union and Constitution. Old wounds have healed and we are the stronger for it. New wounds will heal with the salve of justice and again, we will be stronger for it. When once again, we don that blue wool, I will do so with a new understanding and with a renewed spirit of celebrating our nation's proud history. I look forward to sharing that new spirit, that magic moment of joining that long blue line.

Y.M.O.S.

John Bowen

Many Thanks

Gentlemen of the 1st U.S.,

I have been remiss in thanking all of you for the wonderful gift certificate you gave to Christie and I. More than that I want to thank my friends in the First for the gift of allowing me to lead you during the past 8 years. I have been struggling for to find adequate words for what that experience has meant and given to me. To be honest I miss the duties and responsibilities of leading the 1st and feel a certain emptiness.

And while I cannot find the right words to express my feelings, I do feel it time to recognize what the First has done for me. The memories given me will always be foremost and there are a lot of these memories to cherish. I have the memories of Wilson's Creek (twice), Perryville, Cloutierville, too many Prairie Groves, Antietam, Franklin/Nashville, Belmont, Memphis, Pleasant Hill/s, Mount Holly, Old Washingtons, Raymond, Pea Ridge, Shiloh(yes, it's still raining), Murfreesboro, Gettysburg, Wilderness, the Louisville tactical, and assorted Weatherfords, Granburys, Belmeads, Ola Padreda(that's going way back), and Pioneer Days to keep me company.

But better than that I have those friendships that have been made the past years that I would not trade anything for. And yes, I still have the honor to lead you as your battalion commander, so there remain good memories to be made. Once again Christie and I thank you and we intend to put the certificate to good use.

I remain...

Your most Obdn't Svt.,

Mark

1st U.S. Calendar

2001

NOVEMBER

16-18 Plantation Liendo Reenactment Houston
area, TX (immersion scenario's and "normal"
scenarios)

DECEMBER

1 Drill/Candlelight Dallas

(In true tradition, we will print all the events that is fit to print....as soon as we gets holt of 'em.....I'd say you can reliably look for the upcoming 2002 events in the next issue...or my name ain't Alloysius T. McFuddy)

Roster Additions

At the Roll Call of this issue roster additions are:
Scott Johansen
Please make Scott feel welcome when you meet up with him.

Fall Events Reminders

Liendo will be campaign style and a full time scenario. In addition to the public battles we will maintain an output scenario around the clock.. From all accounts by a certain musician/private/lieutenant/major this is going to be really interesting for those who choose to do the campaign/immersion style scenario. Course it will be interesting for those who go and do the battles too I suspect, but I think preparing positions with "alacrity", gobbling pickets, standing REAL sentry until the clock strikes 12:00 AM (at which point you can turn into a pumpkin or do your sleeping soldier impersonation until ohdark:30) and keeping a watchful eye on Johnny Reb's deployments will prove highly entertaining. This one sounds like a must do to me.

Revisiting the Gettysburg Address

After the unimaginable events of Sept 11th, each one of us has tried to find solace, whether it be with family, church, at work or school. It is in times like these that we as a nation look for the voices of the past to find our way though this terrible ordeal. Lincoln's Gettysburg address ranks among the greatest presidential speeches even written. If we read it again, and put it into today's context, I think you will agree, it is as true today as it was in 1863. (John Bowen)

Fourscore and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation- or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated- can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We are met to dedicate a portion of it as the final resting place of those who have given their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow, this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our power to add or to detract.

The world will very little note nor long remember what we say here; but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated, here, to the unfinished work that they have thus far so nobly carried on. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us; that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave their last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation shall, under God, have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln

First U.S. Wins 1st Place Trophy, Again!

The week of September 3rd, almost two months after the Arlington 4th of July Parade, the parade coordinator, Clark Kirby, got a call from the president of the host organization asking whether he knew that the 1st U.S. had won an award. Clark informed him that he was not aware and had not even thought about it. Clark was unable to attend the July 4th awards ceremony the afternoon after the parade due to a living history display being manned at Six Flags that same day. Well, Clark was informed that the 1st U.S. won 1st Place in their category, Non-commercial Unique and that the trophy needed to be picked up, which Clark did posthaste. The trophy is now resting next to the last two year's 1st place parade awards, at Clark's home. So, congratulations to all those who helped make the parade a success. Special thanks go to wagon master Bob Fuhrman, unit drummer Carl Stang, Jim Kirkendall, who borrowed and transported the necessary flags, and all the men in the ranks who made our unit shine!

TOP MUSKET

I would like to apologize for the delay of this article, the last month has been a zoo in the airline business and my writing has been as late as some of our flights.

On the 11th of August, 29 brave souls came out to our annual visit to the Arlington Sportsman's Club for some live shooting. The day was to be a hot one so we tried to begin early with rifle inspections and sighting in. Ted Cross had prepared over 400 rounds of live cartridges for purchase and every single one was used. I know that Ted spent many hours casting the bullets and rolling the rounds to be as authentic as possible.

The object of the day is first to be safe, then to have fun. Ultimately, however, there is some competition for "THE CUP". The 1st US "CUP"

began when the 1st dominated the open shoot at Fort Sill OK. For 3 years, shooters from the 1st US dominated every competition at the Infantry class at the yearly artillery shoot. The CUP represented a challenge to any unit that thought it could outshoot our team of 4. The artillery guys soon tired of the Infantry and banished it from competing. So the CUP has been given to the top shooter at every year's live fire. Last year's defending champ, Gregg Benefiel, would be defending his title.

This year would include 5 separate events. The first event was the infamous 4-minute drill. A target is placed at 25 yards with 2 scoring zones, 10 points and 5 points. The competitor must load and fire so as to hit the target as many times as possible in 4 minutes. Aiming is important, since 2 shots fired may be fast, but if into the 5 ring, 1 shot into the 10 ring counts as much. This is much more difficult than with blanks since you have to aim. This year, again, Gregg won with 9 shots, with 2 in the 5 ring for a total of 80 points. Keith Brazile, and Steve Hardy were close with 8 shots each. Jim Kirkendall and John Bowen both shot well with 7 shots each. Everyone did very well with the average of 6 shots on target.

The next 4 events were at small targets at 25, 50, 75, and 100 yards. These targets were not easy, some being as small as clay pigeons. The last, at 100 yards, was 5 shots at targets that are 5"x8". When all the smoke cleared, and there was a lot, a new champion was given the "CUP". Keith Brazile is the top gun until next August, when he will defend his title. Don Gates was 2nd and Gregg Benefiel came in a very close 3rd. Rounding out the top 6 were Jim Kirkendall, Steve Hardy and John Bowen.

I hope everyone at the shoot had a good time, learned a little about the difficulty of firing these weapons. If you would like to practice some before next year, the Arlington Sportsman's Club has a musket match on the 1st Sunday of every month that is open to everyone. Have fun, be safe, and keep your powder dry.

YMOS,
KIP BASSETT

Recruiting Update

by Conway Barton

Scott Johansen joined the ranks of the 1st US after a recruiting meeting at John Bowen's house on September 15th. Scott's wife is from Kentucky and he is extremely excited about doing Perryville next year. Scott should join us for drill at Granbury. A special thanks to John Bowen for hosting this meeting and Brad Walsh for his assistance.

The unit once again put its best foot forward at Six Flags Over Texas as we recruited and provided an outstanding Living History presentation (Thanks, Clark!) over Labor Day weekend. Twenty one men signed our prospect sheet, and five of these men want to continue to learn about our hobby by being notified of upcoming events.

Hopefully, some of them will join our ranks in the future. Let's all get geared up for a big recruiting effort at Granbury. (Last weekend. Ed) Historically we recruit well at this event (Greg Fett and Clark Kirby are prime examples). I can use your help at the recruiting booth. Please coordinate with your captain in order to help out as much as you can. We have a lot of great recruiters in the unit.

Here is your chance to shine!

(These people must be Regulars...all this talk about shining.....)

1st U.S. Member First on the Scene to Solve the Recent Botulism Scare

(By C. Alan Kirby taken from reports of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram)

On the evening of Saturday, August 25th, an African American group in Sanger, Texas ate chili dogs at a church gathering. About the same time, a family in Fort Worth ate one of their favorite meals, chili with cheese and jalapenos. A few days later, eight persons were in the hospital, some in critical condition on respirators. State and federal health authorities have now confirmed

the illness as botulism poisoning. Botulism poisoning is a fairly rare health issue with only an average of 110 cases per year nationwide. This bacteria-caused illness can be fatal if not properly treated. The botulism bacteria is common and lives in the soil. Only when food is contaminated with this bacteria does it cause a problem. When conditions are favorable, the bacteria grow in the food and produce a toxin, that when ingested, causes vomiting, diarrhea, slurred speech, lethargy, blurred or double vision, and respiratory paralysis. Symptoms occur within a window of six hours to ten days after ingestion. The bacteria grow after the food is contaminated in processing and the food is later handled, stored, or cooked incorrectly.

At first, no one knew how the two groups were connected. Only that they both had symptoms of botulism poisoning. Later, after some investigation, it was determined that all the people had eaten one of two types of frozen chili products bought at a food salvage grocery store in Fort Worth. The store has been declared a serious threat to human life and ordered closed indefinitely by State health officials.

The Sunday, Sept. 9th Ft. Worth Star-Telegram had a large ad, taken by the store, declaring it's regrets and to inform it's customers that it has closed itself until the problem can be rectified.

New 1st U.S. member, Brad Walsh, is an epidemiologist serving with the Texas Dept. of Health and lives in Arlington. He was the first official on the scene at the Denton hospital where the first patients with botulism symptoms were being treated. Brad was quoted extensively in the Star-Telegram. The article pointed out that Brad spent long hours not only interviewing patients but running to D/FW airport to pick up antitoxin from Los Angeles, Miami, and from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta. Brad continued with the case with aid from federal authorities from the CDC and from his own agency team, arriving from Austin. They later determined that the two food processing plants that packaged the chili were not the problem. It appears that the chili may have been improperly stored at the retail food salvage store, since the store has been closed. All during the week of Sept. 3rd, public service announcements from the media warned the populace about the dangers of eating the two brands of chili. Fortunately, as of Saturday, Sept. 8th, no new cases of botulism poisoning have been reported.

(And still some people grumble about the Company A Mess. As the photo on our web site asks....more soup

anyone?)

Help Save Civil War Battlefields
by C. Alan Kirby

Many of you may not realize that the final efforts to save endangered civil war battlefields is taking place right now. You may be surprised to discover that most of the battlefield land is privately owned and, of course, not part of a National Military Park (NMP). Much of the land is related to the lesser known civil war battles, but some of the land is adjacent to well known NMP's, such as Gettysburg. Since most of this land is now being sought by developers upon which to build shopping centers and housing developments, it will not be long before this land is "gone forever". If this land can be bought, now, it will be preserved for future generations. If it is not, then the land will be changed forever, not only by being developed (buildings, roads, parking lots, etc.) but that this development usually means cutting down all the native trees and grading the land for "better suitability" (drainage, etc.). One of the threatened battlefields is near Raymond, Mississippi, a place that our unit visited just last May. Almost none of that battlefield land is publicly held for preservation and the city of Jackson is quickly expanding in that direction.

The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) is a non profit organization that is dedicated to preserving all the remaining battlefield land. They have had some major successes but do not have unlimited funds. They need more help. They are in the process, now, of putting together a new program where reenactors can do more than just make a donation. This effort will be a living history program that will be nationwide in scope. When this program is initiated at the end of this year, all teachers in the country will have a list of civil war reenactors, in their area, on which to draw. The reenactors will be listed as those who are available at no charge to teach our children civil war history. The CWPT wants all of you to know that being on this list will not obligate you for

any classroom visit. If you give your name to CWPT and you are then contacted by a teacher, it will be up to you to accept. Since the 1st U.S. already has a living history program, this CWPT effort will give us more opportunities and coverage. I can see no conflict in working with this organization. I expect that the CWPT will send each volunteer a batch of brochures to give to the students and to explain the meaning of lost battlefields to them. So, if you are interested, please contact Jennifer Lind at "jlind@civilwar.org" or at (800) 298-7878 (x-207)

Official Notice
Change to by-laws

In accordance with Article VII, Amendments the following has been approved by a voice vote of unit members present at the Cabin Creek reenactment.

Article II, Organization; Paragraph D. Board of Directors. Add the following sub-paragraph 6.

No single elected position will be held for more than two consecutive terms by any individual. By vote of a majority of the membership prior to the next election, this provision may be waived if there are no volunteers and/or qualified individuals.

Reminder

Newsletter contributions, E-Mail/Mailing submissions to **The Union Standard** – D1stus@gte.net or C/O Alan Prendergast, 1403 Barclay Drive, Carrollton Texas, 75007 (please help out by using Times New Roman font if available on your machine....)

Newsletter – contact George Hansen if you did not receive your newsletter, beast1st@home.com or (972) 529-5349.

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