
The UNION STANDARD

January 2010

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

From the Desk:

Members of the 1st US

As I write this and look back at 2009, it is tempting to look back at events and friends come and gone over the years. This exercise reminds me, however, that there is little time for such reflection as we speed toward a critical time in the future – the 150th anniversary cycle. Obviously, our focus will be on Wilson's Creek in 2011 where the 1st plays an important role. In order to be ready, we must begin to prepare now on two fronts.

First, I am hopeful that interest in the hobby will increase as we enter the 150th cycle. If that holds true, we will need to place extra effort on recruiting and retention to bolster our numbers. I challenge each of you to commit to attending as many events as possible in 2010 and to go to Missouri in 2011. I ask those of you who know men who have not been out with us in a while to reach out to our old friends, talk up Wilson's Creek, and try to bring men back. Furthermore, each of us can act as an ambassador for the hobby and spread the word to people that might be interested in joining us. If we each bring in only one new recruit, our numbers double. This is an attainable goal – let each of us strive to achieve it.

Second, and particularly important as our ranks grow, we must continue to improve our impression. Our drill, our uniforms, and our equipment should distinguish and differentiate us as Regulars and show that we are truly "First Among Equals". Your commissioned and non-commissioned officers will be working extra hard to ensure that our execution of drill, both on the parade ground and in battle, is as good as possible. We need your help, both in working on your own impression and in passing your knowledge on to others. Experienced men have been teaching recruits for centuries – let us continue this noble tradition.

We march forward into an exciting time for students of history, particularly so for those of us who try to bring it to life. I believe that we can rekindle a little of the "Spirit of '61" if we put forward an extra measure of effort. Talking up the hobby and the study of the Civil War is interesting to those who don't participate and rejuvenating to those who do. Go forth and do your part to help us prepare for the future.

YMOS

Capt. Brook Thomas, USA

1st U.S. Calendar (tentative)

2010

January

16th Drill and Event Discussion. 9:30am, Farmers Branch Historical Park

February

6th – 7th Battalion Muster, Fort Washita, Indian Territory

13th Twigg's Surrender, The Alamo, San Antonio

March

27th – 28th Port Hudson, Louisiana

April

Drill TBD

May

8th Texas Forts Muster, Fort Worth Stockyards

August

1st US Social (TBD)

September

TBD Cabin Creek Indian Territory

October

Drill TBD

November

5th – 7th Twin Rivers Campaign, Memphis TN

December

4th – 5th Prairie Grove Arkansas

*Note: **Bold** are scheduled maximum effort events. Italicized dates are available events or recruiting activities. **See website for full event calendar***

Inspection of Arms Guideline

by George Hansen

The last few outings I've noticed some confusion during Inspection of Arms regarding fixing the bayonet first or drawing the rammer, along with presenting the rifle for inspection.

Casey's clearly states the **bayonet goes on first**

followed by the rammer being placed entirely into the barrel, head of the rammer going in first. The rifle is then returned to the order arms position until ... "The instructor will then inspect in succession the piece of each recruit, in

passing along the front of the rank. Each, as the instructor reaches him, will raise smartly his piece with his right hand, seize it with the left between the lower band and guide sight, the lock

to the front, the left hand at the height of the chin, the piece opposite the left eye; the instructor will take it with the right hand at the handle, and, after inspecting it, will return it to the recruit, who will receive it back with the right hand, and replace it in the position of ordered arms."

Now note returning the bayonet, rammer and when to do so.... "When the instructor shall have passed him, each recruit will retake the position prescribed at the command *inspection*, return the rammer, *unfix the bayonet*, and resume

the position of ordered arms." Note: If in Battalion formation then the bayonet remains fixed until ordered to "unfix bayonet."

So, as a guideline the below are simple points to remember during Inspection of Arms:

- Bayonet on first, off last.
- Present the rifle with lock to the front with the left hand between lower band and guide sight, left hand at left eye level.
- Take the rifle back with the right hand.
- Return the rammer *as soon as* the instructor passes you - bayonet only if in company formation.

Drill January, 16th 2010

Pards,

Hot off the wire from Captain Thomas. Please get this on your calendar and make plans to attend.

1st US Regiment of Infantry is ordered to appear for drill and 2010 events discussion on Saturday, January 16, 2010 at 9:30 A.M. at the Farmers Branch Historical Park. We will conclude around noon.

This all important first of the year drill will prepare us for the Brigade Muster February 6 & 7th. I will send out detailed directions to the drill following my return to post in early January.

2540 Farmers Branch Lane
Farmers Branch, TX 75234-6214

See you in the Ranks
Blair Rudy, Orderly Sergeant
1st US Infantry



The Battle of Mansfield, also known as the Battle of Sabine Crossroads or Pleasant Grove, on April 8, 1864, in De Soto Parish, Louisiana, was the first major clash of the Union Army's Red River Campaign during the American Civil War. The battle was a decisive Confederate victory which eventually led to the defeat of General Banks' Red River campaign and the Federal evacuation at Grand Encore.

Prelude

Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks's Union contingent ascended the Red River to within 25 miles of the Texas border, but lost contact with the accompanying gunboat fleet, due to low water conditions and the army following an established road that turned inland away from the river. Maj. Gen. Richard Taylor, in command of the Confederate forces, along with his subordinates Brig. Gen. Thomas Green and Maj. Gen. Camille de Polignac, determined to make a stand near Mansfield against the direct orders of his more cautious superior, Maj. Gen. E. Kirby Smith, the commander of all Confederate forces west of the

The Battle

Green's cavalry harassed the Union vanguard as they advanced. Confederate forces attacked the disorganized Federals and decisively routed them. Both pursuit and reinforcement were hampered by the Union wagon train's blockage of the narrow road, which fell into Confederate hands. Banks, despite displaying great personal bravery in attempting to rally his troops, was revealed once again to be a military incompetent.

When darkness and stiffening Union resistance ended pursuit, the Union had suffered the loss of many supplies which included 20 cannons, 150 wagons and around 1,000 horses killed or captured, and the Federal force was demoralized. The Confederates, however, were consumed with hope that the entire Union expedition could be destroyed. A large number of Union prisoners of war were sent by the Confederates to Camp Ford, a prison camp in Texas.



2nd Sgt. Beck Martin visited this site on 12/29/2009



CSA General Alfred Mouton Memorial

The Union Standard

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