
The UNION STANDARD

May 2002

Vol. 10, no 5

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

From the Board:

The outing at Ft. McKavett proved to be an interesting and a fun-filled event. John Schultz presented the Ft. McKavett idea to the Board last fall and his observations were dead on, as the fort was superb and authentic to the point that "it was, indeed, 1859... Thanks, John." Don Gross and I were pleased how the barracks were kept fit for inspection at all times and how everyone interacted with the public. And, I felt great pride when I read the Ft. McKavett staff report about the 1st US' stay at their facility. This is located elsewhere in the newsletter. Do yourself a favor and read it. Many thanks to Don Gates for performing the QM duties, as the food was wonderful if not unusual, to Co. D that is – blood oranges, smoked hams, sourdough bread. Gratitude is also extended to Tony Durant and Brad Walsh for helping Don with the exemplary food preparation. Extensive skirmish drill was accomplished both days and expect this activity at one of the Cross Timbers battles. Look for the 1st to again make the Ft. McKavett trek.

An Outpost scenario will be conducted at Gainesville, so bring only what you can carry; i.e., knapsack or bedroll. Food for Saturday should only be what you can fit into your haversack. At Liendo's outpost I brought jerky, dry cured bacon, dried fruit, and nuts, as this was a sufficient one-day rations; much to my surprise. Find a partner if you

wish to pitch a shelter tent – one shelter half each. If the weather is ok, then shelter is purely optional. All of this and more will be discussed at Bellmead. Note Lt. Col. Benefiel's Cross Timbers article.

See Clark Kirby's postings for his Living History activities. Don't forget that he'll need your help for LH demos at Bellmead. Remember that Saturday at Bellmead, May 18th, is a maximum effort event. Sunday is not and attendance is optional. Bellmead information and directions are discussed elsewhere.

After Cross Timbers our activities slacken for the summer with a NCO school in July and a Live Fire in August. Expect a summer weekend recruiting/LH duty at Six Flags as like last summer. It's never too early to plan traveling arrangements for the October Perryville Reenactment. Discuss with your pards either car pooling or renting vans. The event registration fee is \$10 and collection commences next month. Due to holiday and vacation schedules look for the June issue to be mailed after Cross Timbers. The next 30 days are a busy period for us with different things for all, so have fun.

God Bless the Regulars,

George Hansen

Post From Ft. McKavett

Sirs and Madams;

I have the honor to offer the following report on the activities at Fort McKavett on the weekend of 13-14 April. Advance party from the 1st US Infantry arrived on post at around noon on Friday and it immediately be came apparent that this was, indeed, a unit of Regulars. The early arrival and

professional approach to the tasks at hand removed any burden on staff and volunteers, which an event run by a less professional organization might have imposed.

Those of you who love the Fort would have been amazed at the transformation which occurred upon the arrival of the entire unit. They numbered 26 strong, completely filling every bunk available

(Continued on Page 5)

1st U.S. Calendar

2002

MAY	
18-19	Bellmead
JUNE	
1-2	Cross Timbers (Gainesville)
JULY	
	NCO school (Date TBD)
AUGUST	
	Live fire (Date TBD)
SEPTEMBER	
13	Drill or outpost Tactical
OCTOBER	
4-6	Perryville (far far away!)
NOVEMBER	
11	Veterans Day Parade
DECEMBER	
6-8	Prairie Grove Reenactment, Arkansas)

Recruiting Article

by Conway Barton

The Irish Festival was very good to us! Please welcome into our ranks **Patrick Shaw** who joined up right after our March drill at Old City Park. Patrick is almost 16 and has always been a Civil War enthusiast. He is a well-built lad and picked up drill, loading and firing rather smartly. He plans to be with us to stem the Rebel tide at Bellmead. More good news! **Parker Brown** and **Warren Spiker** also attended our March drill, and both have indicated they are coming to Bellmead with their enlistment papers. These two fine young men looked very comfortable drilling and firing, plus they enjoyed the camaraderie with the veterans of the unit.

Ask Parker about his Roman Legionnaire uniform and equipment. Do Roman reenactors 'elevate' swords at close range? Please give these three men a hardy Fist US welcome at

Bellmead.

Guys, we have four recruiting events coming up in the next three months. The Boy Scout show on May 11th, (this has been cancelled due to a lack of volunteers...Ed.) Bellmead on May 18th, Cross Timbers in Gainesville on June 1-2, and Six Flags Over Texas on July 6-7. Please help when and where you can. Together we will succeed in finding new people who can't wait to get into our wonderful hobby.

Support Your Local Army Recruiter (and the living history fellers too...)

Despite the fact that many of our recruiting locales do NOT provide me the opportunity to be abused by Guinness beer distributors, recruiting is still a subject near and dear to my heart. Some of the recruiting fellers have been at it for quite a while, and the newer lads have been fine support. And then there's your man Clark Kirby who has been improving the unit's Living History display over the years to the point where even if those who stop by aren't going to sign up, they don't walk away unimpressed. Living History and Recruiting tend to blend in an almost seamless fashion. I hope you've heard a bit on Living History but perhaps you've not thought about the "recruiting" aspect of the unit. In fact you may think that it's some sort of special branch of the Army and that we get better training (for we surely don't get no extra pay). You yourself are probably a victim, ...err... beneficiary of the enticements of the recruiting sergeant. But tis'nt a special branch at all. Rather it's fellows like me (God help the Army) and YOU that staff the recruiting booths. ALL ARE WELCOME to recruit, and ALL ARE NEEDED. It's an opportunity to "get a wool fix", to display all that hardware you acquired, and for those who can't make an event, a chance to practice the hobby on a smaller scale. So don't be shy lads, God hates a coward they say. Take up the call and help swell the ranks (I'm running out of fresh fish for cards...).

YOS Aloysius McFuddy

Bellmead Reenactment

May 17-19

If you have not yet registered by e-mail with George Hansen for this event, then you may still register on-line at www.bellmead.com (hopefully, it won't be too late).

Bellmead has been declared as a "drive-by event;" meaning, Saturday is a maximum effort, whereas Sunday's attendance is optional. Drill on Saturday starts at 10:15 am. Most 1st US members will probably spend Friday evening at the re-enactment site and stay for Saturday's battle, which starts at 2:00. Dinner Saturday night is BBQ with all the trimmings as provided by the event organizers. The host amply supplies foodstuffs for all other meals to be prepared over a campfire. Sunday's battle is at 1:00 pm. Shower facilities are available. See Clark Kirby to assist with living history demos.

The Earle-Harrison House and the City of Bellmead is sponsoring a Ladies Tea session on Saturday, the 18th. Buses leave the reenactment site to the Earle-Harrison House on the hour starting at 9:30 and the last bus returns at 1:00 pm. Tea and crumpets are served in a gazebo and three, separate one-hour discussions start at 10:00 o'clock. The lecture is "Mid-Nineteenth Century Southern Homespun Dresses" as conducted by Ms. Vicki Betts, who is a professional librarian at the Univ. of Texas at Tyler.

Schedule of Events

Friday, May 17th

12:00 pm Registration begins

Saturday, May 18th

7:00 am Reveille/Vehicles removed from Camp

9:00 am Living History in camp sites begins

9:30 am Officers' Call

9:30 am First bus leaves for Ladies Tea

9:35 am **DRILL**

10:00 am Ladies Tea at Earle-Johnson House

2:00 pm Battle for Lake Bellmead

3:00 pm Military Surgeons demonstrations

5:00 pm Strike the Colors

5:30 pm BBQ meal served to reenactors

8:00 pm Dance

Sunday, May 19th

7:00 am Reveille

9:00 am Living History begins

9:30 am Officer's Call

10:30 am Church service

1:00 pm Battle

2:00 pm Military Surgeons demonstrations

3:30 pm Close camp

Directions: Bellmead Reenactment

I-35 just north of Loop 340 on the northbound service road in Bellmead, TX.

CROSTIMBERS (June 1 & 2)

Headquarters, 1st Battalion

3rd. Bde. (Frontier)

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion:

It's very rare when we get to do a good-sized, Federal multi-battalion event within the borders of the State of Texas. This is such an occasion. This will be, in the words of famed Haitian strongman Gen. Marc D'olive, a "modified campaign" event. We will be in a static camp on Friday nite, May 31, and after Sat. morning formation by the Brigade Commander Gen. D'olive (no relation), along with King's galvanized Federal Battalion, will be going into action. All vehicular matter of unknown origin will need to be out of the static area by 8:00 am. The static camp will be on the south side of the battlefield, and once we go into action on Saturday we'll head north and return to the south Sunday afternoon.

Since this is a field event, set in the summer of 1864, shelter halves or other appropriate campaign shelter will be used for the duration of the event. Plan on eating out of your haversack after breaking camp Sat. & Sunday morning. We plan on being re-supplied ammunition and rations (submitted by the individual companies for re-issue) by the Brigade QM wagon at some point Sat. afternoon/evening, depending on enemy action. All pioneer/engineer implements (bring them - we will need them) will be surrendered to the QM Fri. nite for delivery when we go into outpost Sat. afternoon. 1st

Battalion will be deployed in outpost, screening the rest of the Bde. from the enemy until relieved or ordered to march. Realistically, the outpost scenario will be "live" until midnight and will resume @ 6:00 am Sunday morning. Therefore it is imperative that lights are extinguished and quiet in the camp be enforced Fri. night starting @ 10:00 pm. Overall length of the "campaign" will be less than 4 miles total for the weekend.

The land on which we will campaign will be undulating prairie broken by wooded draws and streams which makes for very interesting scenarios. There will be spectator battles on Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon under the leadership of Gen. Dolive, as well as "random occurrences" on the march to and from such battles. Bring your company's ammunition in marked boxes as they will also be surrendered to the Bde QM. Uniform for the event will be mid-1864 campaign as follows:

- a.. forage or slouch/hardee hat
- b.. fatigue blouse
- c.. lt. blue kerseys
- d.. Enfields/Springfields/Henry repeating rifles
- e.. knapsack or blanket roll
- f.. 80 rds./man
- g.. appropriately worn accoutrements (i.e. no canteens at the knees)

This event has good potential and the scenarios are quite intriguing. On top of that, throw outpost into the mix and this event should not disappoint.

I remain, Sirs, your most humble and ob't. servant,

G. Benefiel, Lt. Colonel Cmdg.
1st Batt., 3rd Bde.,
1st Div., Army of the Frontier

Directions: Cross Timbers Reenactment, Gainesville, TX:

I-35 north of Gainesville, take #501 exit – FM 1202. Proceed west about 2.3 miles, turn right across a cattle guard as this road leads to site, which is about 1/2 mile. Look for signs. For more information call Bob Fuhrmann, (940) 665-0660.

Memorial Day – McKinney

The 1st U.S. is again asked to participate in a Memorial Day celebration, May 27th, at Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney. Contact George Hansen if wish to attend at (972) 529-5349, or beast1st@attbi.com. Arrive no later than 9:15 a.m. if you would like to participate, as the remembrance ceremony starts at 10:00. 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.

Please note that Harry McKillop, who is the cemetery board president, will again feature a luncheon afterwards at his house. 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.

Chris Foote At Annapolis

Chris (son of Jeff Foote) is doing very well at the academy, he survived plebe summer with only a minor head wound and has become a minor legend among some of the upperclassmen. In December he took up cycling and now is on the Navy cycling team. Although his outlook on academy life has become somewhat tarnished, he still maintains that the only way he'll leave Annapolis is at graduation or kicking and screaming as they drag him through the bilge gate.

(Three cheers for Uncle Sam's Web Feet!!!!)

Post from Ft. McKavett (cont. page 1)

Barracks Number 4. An early morning inspection by Captain Cobb and myself found both North and South bays of the barracks teeming with soldierly activity, the bunks already professionally made, and equipment displayed. This was a rare glimpse into what these barracks may have looked like 143 years ago when this unit was last assigned to the post. John took over 200 digital pictures, many of which will be posted to the website soon.

These gentlemen were also very interested in Fort McKavett and eagerly took up the opportunities given for walking tours offered them at various times during the weekend. The kinds of questions, which come from informed minds with a genuine interest in the subject abounded during these tours, and all seemed genuinely impressed with the grounds and buildings and the history surrounding them.

During the day Saturday the unit drilled and conducted skirmish training, which completed the picture of an active post. During these drills, not only were the barracks full of the soldiers equipment and impedimenta, but guard mounts were posted and the parade ground was alive with activity. I personally was very impressed with the manner in which Guard Mount was conducted and the interaction engaged in between the Guard and Visitors. Visitors who spoke with the gentlemen who walked their post with impressive military precision had no doubt that they were talking to a soldier from Fort McKavett's past, and walked away feeling as if they had visited an actual Frontier Fort during the late 1850's to 1860's. This was some of the best First Person Living History I have witnessed in my 13 years engaged in the activity. That the Visitors of this past weekend must have been supremely impressed (as were we), can be evidenced by the larger than normal total for cash donations made at the Visitor's Center upon their departure. Donations are the lifeblood of Fort McKavett, as you all know, and I am pleased to note that First US also made a very generous donation, on top of their excellent presentation and professional conduct.

The troops were invited to partake in the traditional entertainment at OQ #10 on Saturday evening. (I must say here in an aside, that it was

gratifying to have a new group of victims for John's and my anecdotes of Fort McKavett "history") The troops not only took us up on the offer, but arrived at Quarters with their voices lifted in the songs of soldiers. I now know a bit of what it must have been like of an evening at the Fort as the enlisted men serenaded Officer's Row. We managed to crowd the entire group into OQ #10 where anecdotes were swapped (theirs better than ours, I might add, but those of you who have attended these "entertainments" already know that). Only the arrival of a fast moving thunderstorm ended the festivities, the men needing to rush back to barracks so as not to be caught in the rain for several hours.

Sunday brought more of the same Military activity, along with a church service. One of the unit's members took the extraordinary initiative to contact the church on Park grounds and secured permission for its use. Such initiative should give all of you an idea of the professionalism and attitude towards this hobby, as well as to life in general, shared by these fine men.

Sadly, I was not able to observe most of the activities on Sunday, as I had many chores to do in closing up OQ #9 for the summer. The morning hours were relatively quiet however, and as I went about my tasks I could hear the voices of the Sergeants and Officers issuing commands in the distance and, at certain points, even the rhythmic tramping of feet on the march, much the same as the original occupant of that building might have done. As I was engaged in activities, which might have been common with the original occupant, the experience was moving. Personally, I'd like to say that these men gave me a fine gift indeed. Having had the experiences these men were able to give me should make it a bit easier for me familiarize visitors with the flavor of the lives of the Officers of the post....if I can only find the words.

As one might deduce from this missive, the 1st US has already been invited back to the Fort, and for those of us who interacted with them this weekend, the time between now and then will be too long. In a very short while, many of these men will become members of this list, and as they join, I'll inform you all so that you can give them the kind of cordial welcome that is a

characteristic of the folks who love the Fort. These fellows were very impressed with the Fort that they found, and I can only hope that they found the welcome we gave them equal to the joy that they gave us in return.

Kent Vining
AKA Charles Delevan Viele
C Company, 10th US Cavalry, 1877

Living History Schedule

By Clark Kirby

Friday, May 3rd

Mansfield's Cross Timbers Intermediate School is looking for one or more of our members who can spend a morning teaching the Union side of the Civil War to it's 600 fifth graders. The students will be split up into eight "stations".

Tuesday Evening, May 14th

Clark & Patty Kirby are presenting "A Union Soldier From Texas" at Arlington's downtown public library for the Arlington Genealogy Society. If you are interested in attending as a spectator or as a participant, contact Clark now. A donation to our unit treasury is anticipated from our hosts.

Saturday & Sunday, May 18th-19th

The bi-annual reenactment at Bellmead, Texas promises to be the largest "local" civil war reenactment on our calendar. Some surprises will be in store for those who did not attend the living history session held earlier in the month.

Saturday & Sunday, June 1st-2nd

The Gainesville "Cross Timbers Campaign" is heavily advertising "living historians" at their upcoming event. I think that Camp Tours can be held, giving the spectators of this fertile new location, a taste of a Union Army encampment. What do you think?

Saturday & Sunday, July 6th-7th

The unit has been invited to stage an encampment at Six Flags Over Texas any weekend before August 12th. Only two civil war groups have been invited to do so. (the 12th Texas Inf. and us) The unit leadership has selected the July 4th weekend for our appearance and Six Flags is holding that weekend for us. It is hoped that there will be enough interest from unit membership to do one or more additional weekends. Plans include living history marches throughout the park, stopping at prearranged areas to give talks/firing demos. Though recruiting will be the main goal, unit members will benefit from attending. Six Flags will offer two free passes, for use at a later date, each day a member attends. This is in addition to the free passes for family members (in modern clothing) and himself on the day of attendance. Also, free ice and cold water will be provided to us. Unit members and their families will be allowed to eat at the employee cantina, saving a great deal of money on food and beverages. All that is asked is that you show up in uniform and "do the officers' bidding". The encampment will not be at either of the locations the 1st U.S. used last year, but at a new site near the creek. Talk going around is that our unit will invite the 9th Texas Infantry to join us in "the blue suit", in order to obtain critical mass.

Mid-July Weekend TBA:

There is a call out for Union soldiers for an IMAX film about the "CSS Hunley" to be shot around the Palestine/Rusk, Texas area. Oh, boy, standing around all day in July heat and East Texas humidity while the director gets his cameras set just so. But, if you see yourself as an actor, here is your chance. The word is that only "authentics" may apply. Of course, that includes most of our unit membership. Powder, three meals, plus \$100 per day is offered to those accepted. If you are interested, call Mr. Marvin Schroeder at (830) 997-0017. The battle of Shiloh will be recreated and the Texas State Railroad will be used to transport the "Hunley".

Frontier Brigade News

Dear Members,

I would like to announce the results of the special election that has just concluded. Major Phil Sample of the 2nd Battalion has been elected as the new commander of the Frontier Brigade and will assume command effective April 20th, 2002. Please take an opportunity to congratulate Phil when you can and show your support to him and the Frontier Brigade.

Thanks to those who participated in the process, your voice was heard.

Special thanks go out to Col. Mark Dolive who led the Brigade through this interim period and best wishes in his new upcoming role as Vice Commander, 1st Federal Division. (Soon to be Commander)

I remain,

Yr. Obedient Servant,

Don Kessler
Maj., AAG/CofS
US Frontier Brigade

**

ATTENTION TO ORDERS

HEADQUARTERS
3rd Brigade, 1st Federal Division
Department of the Frontier
April 20, 2002

General Order 2002-1

1. The undersigned, Phil Sample, hereby assumes the title of Colonel and position as commander of the US Frontier Brigade, effective April 20th, 2002. (Reference USFB Circ. 1-2002, February 5th, 2002)

2. The Colonel would like to take this opportunity to thank Col. Mark Dolive for serving as interim commander and for his long, dedicated service

to the Frontier Brigade and to wish him well in his new role as 1st Federal Division vice commander.

3. Lt. Bob Fuhrman is relieved as ADC in the Frontier Brigade and is transferred to the personal staff of Col. Mark Dolive as ADC.

4. Lt. Col. Prater is directed to recommend one individual from the 2nd Battalion to fill the wing commander position in the 2nd Battalion. This individual, once approved by the Brigade commander, will also fall under the preview of paragraph 2, Special Order 2000-2.

BY ORDER

Phil Sample
Colonel, Commanding
3rd Brigade (Frontier Brigade)
1st Federal Division

D. Kessler
Maj., AAG

OFFICIAL
Col. Sample
Col. Dolive
Lt. Col. Prater
Lt. Col. Benefiel
Maj. Hodges
Maj. Kidd
Maj. Tillman
Maj. Mabry
Capt. Hodges
Capt. Johnson
Capt. Daley
Capt. Burdine
Capt. Stull
Capt. Barfield
Lt. Ojeman
Lt. Gellasch
Lt. Bassett
Lt. Van Loenen
Lt. Collier
Lt. Fuhrman
Sgt. LaRue

Tick Tock

by Brad Walsh

A couple of your pards who attended Ft. McKavett can brag that they went through one of the true afflictions of the 1860's—tick bites. With all the firing prone, squatting in the cactus, reloading on your back, and other joys of skirmish drill, we did put ourselves at some risk of picking up ticks. At least two of us became lunch.

Mine found its way to a hard-to-reach spot on the back of my leg, and I didn't discover it for a week. If any of the rest of you brought home a passenger from Menard County, or if you should pick one up tromping through the brush defending the Union, you should know that there are a couple of tick borne diseases you should watch for:

Lyme Disease may or may not cause fever, headache or other symptoms. But there's one very distinctive symptom common to most Lyme Disease cases—a red rash around the site of the tick attachment will begin to spread, and after a few days, the center of the rash will return to normal, while the reddened ring continues to expand. We're not talking about a doughnut or a bullseye, but still the red rash is more or less circular, surrounding a patch of normal skin. This symptom, called Erythema Migrans (EM), will be the only clue that you have gotten Lyme Disease from your little friend. Now, most tick bites will get red, and sometimes itchy. But watch for that widening rash with central clearing. Lyme disease is easily treated once it's diagnosed, but neglecting it for a year or more can lead to a chronic infection that can cause damage to nerves, the skin or the heart. Watch for the EM lesion within 3 weeks of the tick bite. There is a vaccine for Lyme Disease, if you're inclined.

Much more rare than Lyme Disease is a serious infection called Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. RMSF can be a serious infection, with fever, a measles-like rash, headache, lack of energy, and other symptoms. This disease can be very hard for your doctor to pin down, unless they know about the tick bite. Only a few cases of RMSF

occur in Texas each year, so it's not likely to be you. The disease is treatable and never fatal, if the doc can get the right diagnosis.

(as an aside, yours truly caught Lyme disease back in 2000 when we did Wilson's Creek. The rash symptom was classic and developed a week to the day after I removed the little Secesh sympathizer. I'm TOLD that Texas ticks are less virulent in the Lyme department than their Missouri border trash cousins. But if you develop a red rash with a white (normal) center, head to your doctor at the quickstep. Trust me, it's not a rash you'll miss unless it's on the back of your head. It was dead center on my lower back just above the trouser line, and, as I recall, itched just a bit and was slightly "warm" to the touch. But I had no fever, or other symptoms that I noticed....Ed.)

“Two Classmates – George B. McClellan and Stonewall Jackson; A Study In Success and Failure.”

Noted author John C. Waugh will talk about the two most famous members of the West Point class of 1846 at the Sons of Union Veterans meeting on May 30th in Hurst. Mr. Waugh will compare the two renowned generals while cadets at West Point, follow them to the Mexican War, into civilian life, and back under arms again in the Civil War. The talk will wrap up with a discussion of what makes a great general and how these two compared and measured up, and why.

First US members and their spouses are welcomed to attend this free session, but seating is limited and you must reserve a seat by contacting George Hansen, beast1st@attbi.com, or call (972) 529-5349. John Waugh has written [The Class of 1846; Reflecting Lincoln](#); and his third full-scale work, [Surviving the Confederacy](#), will be published this September. Mr. Waugh will also autograph your books written by him and some of his works will be available for sale.

Diary of David Layne

Fredericksburg, Va., May 17th, 1864 (Lane is caring for casualties, this time from the Battle of the Wilderness). "The morning of the eighth of May dawned bright and beautiful. Ten o'clock came, and with it the Rebels. But, thank God, they are not guerillas, a regiment of Stewart's cavalry, commanded by General Chambers. They file around us. A Major visits every tent, takes the name, regiment and description of every man – an officer follows and administers an oath by which we bind ourselves not to take up arms for, or assist or aid, the Government of the United States in its war with the Confederacy until duly exchanged, and we are paroled "prisoners of war." We were treated with the utmost courtesy by officers and men. In the afternoon of the same day we beheld with joy a train of ambulances coming in, under a flag of truce, to our relief. We reached Fredericksburg about 11 o'clock that night.... We are awaiting transportation to parole camp at Annapolis. How soon we go I cannot tell. I hope we may be exchanged soon. It annoys me exceedingly to be a prisoner, even with our own lines.

– David Layne, USA

.....

1st Platoon, As Skirmishers.... On the Right File, Take Intervals MARCH!

If you lads didn't hear this command enough at Ft. McKavett then here's a bit more, from the writings of one of the real genuine articles. Private Wilbur Fisk, 2nd Vermont Infantry Regiment, April 3rd, 1862. (**Hard Marching Every Day**, University of Kansas Press

"Skirmishers were thrown out each side of the road as soon as we passed our line of pickets. The position of a skirmisher is anything but enviable. They deploy something in this way: For instance, if we are to deploy five paces apart the first man marches within five paces of the road and the next man within five paces of him and ten paces from the road, and do on, stretching out sometimes as far as a whole

regiment will reach. To march across fields, over fences, ditches, bogholes, creeks, and through swamps and almost impenetrable thickets with a heavy knapsack strapped to one's back, besides his haversack containing two days rations, a canteen of water, equipments with forty rounds of cartridges and withal carrying a loaded gun, bayonet fixed, is no easy task. The skirmisher is the first to meet the enemy and receive his fire."

Packs on, and bayonets fixed, though as I recall my Casey's the bayonet ought to be in the scabbard...

**Article 32, Instruction for Skirmishers
Light troops will carry their bayonets habitually in the scabbard, and this rule applies equally to the skirmishers and the reserve; Whenever bayonets are required to be fixed, a particular signal will be given.**

Ah...I recall correctly...but then I'm not THERE am I, and HE IS...As for the packs, these boys were advancing and were going to need them, but I'd hate to load on my back with my pack on as outlined in Casey's! Still, we'll need them at Cross Timbers lads...be prepared!

REMINDERS

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@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, bowen01@dellepro.com or (972) 539-6167.

Our new web site is:

1stusinfantry.com.

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