
The UNION STANDARD

September 2002

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

Dispatch from the Board

Summer is finally over and it's close when those blue coats will again feel warm and cuddly. The weather at Perryville should be ideal and as a native Missourian I'm looking forward to the trees with their red and golden leaves. The 1st US will bivouac in the fixed Federal camp and Don Gates will supply rations. Contact Don Gross if you didn't register by August 31st, but can now attend. Substitutions will be allowed. Our own Gregg Benefiel had a key role planning the Perryville battle scenarios so look for the action to have plenty of movement. Not only will we participate on the actual battlefield, but "the most divine re-enactment of all times" is here! At least that's what Gregg has been spouting for the last 10 years, as the last occurrence was 1992. Finally, some of us will get to experience reenacting nirvana. Lastly, Perryville marks the official turnover of the 1st Federal Division's top job. Mark Dolive will assume the Brig. General rank and thus marks his reign. The 1st US is proud to have one of its own elected to this prestigious position and we look forward to serving under his command at national events. "Three cheers for the General!"

Kip Bassett and Ted Cross did their usual fine performance by hosting the annual Live Fire. The Cleburne facility got outstanding reviews due to its size, the abundant shade and the 200+ yds. range. It

is hoped this site will be selected next year. Clark Kirby won the black powder competition and takes possession of the coveted Live Fire Trophy until next summer. And, many thanks to Keith Brazile by engraving the previous winners' names on the trophy. Maybe someone can document how this trophy came about?

The next drill is Sept. 14 in Duncanville – see the below for directions. After the drill we will discuss the remaining year's events. Other than Perryville, there is a Veterans Day parade in Ft. Worth and in December is my favorite regional re-enactment, Prairie Grove. "Actual battlefield, campsite amongst period buildings, cold weather." Yes, it's a jewel. Sept. 14 post drill meeting will also encompass information concerning the upcoming Board elections. Those who are new to the unit, well, every two years is when the officers and NCO's are elected. We will discuss general requirements for each position and inquire who is interested serving on the Board. "New blood" is needed and if you have not previously held rank, or would like to again, then seriously think about such service. If you want to contribute mightily to the 1st, then holding rank is a good start.

God Bless The Regulars!

George Hansen

DRILL

September 14th

9:00 am

Camp El Har, Duncanville

From I-20 in Duncanville: Exit Cedar Ridge Dr. Go north on Cedar Ridge for approximately 1/2 mile. Take the first LEFT, which is Red Bird Lane and follow the road past Camp Wisdom Boy Scout camp. The road will make a sharp right - the street name changes to Kiwanis Rd. After you drive over 5 speed bumps, the entrance to Camp El Har is on the right.

1st U.S. Calendar

2002

SEPTEMBER

14 Drill, Duncanville

OCTOBER

4-6 Perryville, KY

NOVEMBER

11 Veterans Day Parade

DECEMBER

6-8 Prairie Grove Reenactment, Arkansas

Civil War Account of Pvt. William Clark Hosack, 1843-1927

Courtesy of Conway Barton

May 30, 1864, the day on which the time of our Regiment expired, we fought the battle of Bethesda Church, when I, with others, were taken prisoner. That evening the 11th Pa. Reserves, our regiment, started for home, while I started for rebel prison, where I was held until March 1865.

We were in Libby Prison 11 days, then were shipped to Andersonville, Ga., landing there June 16, 1864. This was a stockade consisting of about ten acres with the sky for a roof. Some had small tents, others had blankets over a pole, but thousands had nothing and lay on the bare ground. The suffering there was horrible from hunger, disease, starvation, and death. It is a miracle that we didn't all die.

Some of our prisoners were very bad men. They went by the name of "Raiders", and would steal and murder for money. The other prisoners formed a police force and arrested a bunch of 'Raiders', and organized a court, as many prisoners were lawyers. We tried these 'Raiders' in camp and convicted six of murder. They were sentenced to hang. A scaffold was erected within the camp, and they were hung, I saw them drop, all at the same time. One man's rope broke and he fell to the ground. Another rope was gotten and they hung him again. It was a sad sight, but their crimes were so great, they rightly suffered the penalty of the law.

We drew rations each day except the Fourth of July, when

we got nothing. One day we would get corn meal, next day rice or mush, then corn bread. Each would not make one good meal a day. For a time we drew spoiled bacon. I boiled some in a quart tin to get the fat in the soup. I took out the meat but before I put it in the meal, I skimmed off what worms were floating on the surface. One day I saw a dog in camp. The next day I saw it's head and hide in a filthy swamp. Another day I saw a comrade roasting the dog's head on a fire on the ground, expecting to pick some meat off the bones.

In February 1865 the Confederates started to parole men whose service was up. I was released in March and went by ship to Annapolis, Md. Many men died on the way. I was sick and had to spend some time at the hospital in Annapolis. When I recovered I started for home. I rapped on my mother's back door, and then opened it myself. For a few moments no one knew me. Finally my sister said "It's Will!" I can say no more. You can imagine the rest.

- C. Barton's note: After the war, William Hosack became a doctor in 1874. He married Emma Bruce in 1872 and they had five children, 2 died at birth, one died at age four, the other two survived. Dr. Hosack was elected to the Pennsylvania legislature in 1892 and served one term. He retired for practicing medicine in Indiana County, Pa. in 1904, and died in 1927. I am acquainted with Tom Hosack, who provided me with this fascinating account of William Hosack's Civil War service.

Brooks Wester Middle School Dedicated

submitted by Don Gross

On Sunday, August 25, 2002 the renovated Brooks Wester Middle School was dedicated. A small company of the First attended the naming ceremony including those who were in the color guard. Brooks was a member of the 1st US (as well as the 9th TX). Christie Dolive, the daughter of Brooks, and Mark's wife, spoke at this ceremony. She related many things about her father, but ended her talk with her feelings that she has always believed that the Lord opens a window when a door is shut. When her father was murdered, now almost three years ago, a door to her world was slammed shut. Last Sunday, she said, a window was opened. For those of us who have never experienced the sting of losing a close family member, it is difficult to understand what Christie has suffered through. May God continue to watch over her and ease her pain.

Borrowed 1st US Equipment

Those who have any loaned 1st US gear are asked to urgently return the items at the Sept. 14th drill. These items include rifles, coats, leathers, canteens, etc. New members attending Perryville will need this equipment. If you have loaned equipment and cannot make the drill, then immediately contact one of the below to make arrangements to return the gear. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Alan Prendergast (972) 492-1031

Steve Sanders (817) 246-8996

George Hansen (972) 529-5349

Don Gross (817) 921-5462

Camp Seventeenth Michigan, near Petersburg, Va., Sept. 18th, 1864.

Today is general inspection of arms... The regiment musters 120 guns. It was a sad sight, to me, to see this little band of tried heroes march out and rally on their torn and battered colors. I thought of the hundreds who had given up their lives ...; of others undergoing torture more cruel than death in Rebel prisons... then I thought of my wife's last letter, in which she said: "... the majority of people here are not over-fastidious as to the means used to bring about peace." I would like to tell it so that all of our friends might hear ..., that we, the soldiers in the army, hold contempt for the man who would accept peace on any other terms than submission to law. We have fought too long, have suffered too much; too many precious lives have been lost, to falter now. The Rebels themselves acknowledge all their hopes are based on a divided North; they are straining every nerve to hold out until after the fall elections, hoping their friends may triumph.

— David Lane, USA

Lessons From Lincoln

Decisiveness

A gentleman from Virginia advised the president to surrender Forts Sumter and Pickens and all government property in the Southern states.

Lincoln, however, wouldn't hear of it:

"Do you remember the fable of the lion and the woodman's daughter? Well, Aesop wrote that a lion was very much in love with a woodman's daughter. The fair maid referred him to her father. The lion applied for the girl. The father replied: "Your teeth are too long." The lion

went to a dentist and had them extracted.

Returning, he asked for his bride. "No," said the woodman, "your claws are too long." Going back to the dentist, he had them drawn. Then he returned to claim his bride, and the woodman, seeing that he was unarmed, beat out his brains. "May it not so be with me, if I give up all that is asked?"

.....

"Plywood Infantry to the Front!"

Report from the live fire...

High Pvt A. McFuddy

Well! Another opportunity to test our mettle has come and gone. Not to mention testing our marksmanship and our government issued "excuse generator, self contained, portable". Let me state clearly that the problems I had with that so called Springfield "Rifle" were all caused by the quality of the ammunition (short skirted mini ball) rather than the quality of the rifleman! After the war I'm going to become a "Range" Locksmith. My job will be to put keyholes in doors at 25 yards. Seems that was what my rifle was most inclined to do. Course people are going to have to be less finicky about WHERE the keyhole is in the door... Now exactly WHY they forced the rifle on us is beyond me...at 25 and 50 yards the old smoothbore was blowing holes pretty much right where they were wanted. Kip Bassett proved the worth of Buck & Ball rounds at 25 yards, and I imagine the damage at greater ranges would be nearly the same. Not to mention the EASE with which that old smoothbore loads. The rounds practically seat themselves! No wrestling with the rammer after a few rounds.

One of the most memorable things about this live fire was the first volley we fired at long range targets. Our traditional opponents, the "18th Plywood Cutout Rifles" (two of whom can do credible impressions of the 1st's First Sergeants by the way) were deployed at the 200 yard backstop with a dirt road about 30 feet to their front. The volley kicked up the dust shy of the road, and if 10 out of the 12 rounds fired didn't bounce through the dirt, I'll eat 'em for breakfast. Now that didn't mean some of them cutout boys wouldn't have ended up on the cutting table, because a bouncing round moving in a forward direction usually keeps going that way. At least one bounced shoulder high, and several others would have inflicted some considerable damage on the legs of our adversaries. However, that ain't what we meant to do...at least it ain't what I was after, and I doubt anyone else was thinking in terms of getting them on

the ricochet just to prove their superior marksmanship. I'm sure a veteran regiment opposing us would have chuckled (them that wasn't rolling around with holes in 'em...) and then let loose with a return volley that would have perforated our livers, lights, and lungs.

Three live rounds a minute, for a sustained period, is quite an accomplishment gentleman. I can see it being done with the old pumpkin slinger, but with the rifle musket, it would take some serious practice. That's a formidable rate of speed, really, and of course the vision of Mathew Brodrick standing beside you popping his pistol in your ear and shouting "faster!", is one that EASILY comes to mind while you're fumbling with the cap or trying to squeeze the ball out of the cartridge wrapper.

Another striking feature of the black powder rounds of course is the speed (or lack thereof) that they move at. I'm sure those boys long ago would have been astounded at the velocity of a modern round. Anyone who hasn't live fired his black powder weapon is in for a surprise firing at a 200-yard target. All the sounds are distinct, the report from the rifle, the tearing paper sound of the round and the sharp "thawk" it makes when it hits the target down range. I honestly think you have time to start reloading before you know whether or not your last round is going to hit the target. Firing the modern rifles afterwards really makes you appreciate the difference. Of course about the only thing you hear is the rifle going off, and the puff of dirt down range less than an eye blink later.

At any rate, if you haven't ever done a live fire with us, make your plan to come out next year and give it try, you'll learn things about your weapon, and yourself, that you will never quite get at a reenactment.

Perryville Update

by Don Gross

The battle of Perryville is October 4-6, 2002. We have 27 members of the First (plus four on staff) register so we will be forming a single company. Rations will be provided and Don Gates is already hard at work planning a fine menu for your dining pleasure and gathering supplies.

Early October is perfect campaign weather and shelter halves are the preferred tentage. The parking area is relatively close to our camp but by packing light is a simple matter to walk out on Sunday

afternoon. The Federal camping area is on a hill against a tree line. This looks a whole lot better than the cornfed site, which is in some rather unpleasant looking woods.

I had an advance look at the scenarios. In no small part to our own Gregg Benefiel, who had a hand in their development, we're in for some interesting battles. There are three battles: Saturday at sunrise, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday afternoon. On at least one of these the Brigade will be out front deployed as skirmishers, fall back (routed actually) and then re-join the fight at another part of the line.

Participants should strive to arrive around noon on Friday. All activities take part on the actual battlefield. Updates will be sent electronically.

Those who did not register by August 31st but would now like to attend the event should immediately contact me, or George Hansen. Since the registration process is officially closed, substitutions are allowed. This means that if you are registered but cannot attend, then notify us ASAP so that a replacement go can in your place. Your attention to this detail is appreciated.

For Sale/Wanted

A new section in the newsletter will be dedicated to selling reenacting gear, clothing and equipment. Those who wish to purchase used stuff may also place an ad. It is hoped Civilians will utilize this service. Just forward an e-mail or a letter to the Editor and as like with classified ads, keep it short and to the point. If using e-mail then mandatory font usage is Times New Roman, size 12. The Editor reserves the right to make abbreviations and appropriate changes. The only way this new feature will survive is if you use it.

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 or e-mail address changes or telephone number changes should be submitted to John Bowen, bowen01@dellepro.com or (972) 539-6167

Battle of Perryville 2002 - Daily Schedule

Thursday - September 3rd

Afternoon

12 o'clock Troops arrival in Camp - Officers and NCO assist troops into camp
 5 o'clock Dinner
 7-1/2 o'clock Officer Call at Division
 7-3/4 o'clock Flag Lowered at sundown
 10 o'clock Extinguish Lights:

Friday - September 4th

Morning

6 o'clock First Call
 6-1/2 o'clock Reveille, Roll Call
 7 o'clock Breakfast
 7-1/2 o'clock Flag raising at Sunrise
 Orders to Orderly Sergeants
 8 o'clock 2nd Formation – Fatigues Duty
 Camp open (Assist troops into Camp)
 Post Guard mount
 8-1/4 o'clock Adjutants Call: Morning Reports to Division
 9 o'clock Drill call: School of the soldier etc.
 11 o'clock Troops form for Preservation March
 12 noon Lunch, Troops transported to Preservation March Site

Afternoon

1 o'clock Brigade Drill
 2 o'clock Preservation March begins
 4-1/2 o'clock Preservation march return to camp
 6 o'clock Dinner
 7-1/2 o'clock Officers call at Division
 10 o'clock Extinguish lights: Drum taps

Saturday - September 5th

Morning

5 o'clock First Call
 5-1/4 o'clock Reveille
 5-1/2 o'clock Breakfast
 5-3/4 o'clock Orders to Orderly Sergeants
 6 o'clock Adjutants Call: Morning Reports to Division, including safety reports; Sick Call
 6-1/4 o'clock Move out of camps
 7 o'clock Sunrise battle – Donelson's Attack
 9 o'clock Battle over return to Lines and Camp – Brigade
 Commanders' discretion for free time, drill &etc.
 10 o'clock Civilian requests for assistance – Division QM
 12 noon Lunch

Afternoon

1 o'clock Fatigue Duty, Spot-check safety inspections
 1:45 pm Move out of camps
 2 o'clock Form Division- Safety Inspections forms to Headquarters
 3 o'clock Maney's Attack
 5 o'clock Return to Camp and lines
 6 o'clock Dinner
 7 o'clock Division Staff call
 7-1/2 o'clock Meeting at Division HQ – Hail and Farewell (All Officers welcome)
 8-3/4 o'clock Guard Mount and picket duty
 11-1/2 o'clock Extinguish lights

Sunday – September 6th

Morning

6 o'clock First Call
 6-1/2 o'clock Reveille
 6-3/4 o'clock Breakfast
 7-1/4 o'clock Sick Call
 8 o'clock 2nd Formation – Fatigues Duty and Safety Inspections
 8-1/4 o'clock Morning Reports to Division; Post Guard Mount
 8-3/4 o'clock Church Call
 9 o'clock Divine Services
 • Protestant - Ed Tent
 • Catholic - TBD
 • Articles of War read non-church goers
 11 o'clock Form Division for Change of Command, Review
 11-1/4 o'clock Move out
 11-1/2 o'clock Change of Command

Afternoon

12-1/2 o'clock Return to Camp and lines
 1 o'clock Safety inspection reports to Division. Form Division for Battle
 1-1/2 o'clock Move out
 2 o'clock Battle - McCook Sinkhole
 3-1/2 o'clock Return to camp
 4 o'clock Break Camp – *camps open to vehicle traffic*

What did you do BEFORE the war father?

Now there's a question the young never seem to ask. Once the war is over generally men go BACK to what they did. That would be for those who's past doesn't involve already being IN the Army for an extended period prior to the outbreak of the late lamentable hostilities. Like a good story, part of what we do is to take a page out of the life of an individual in the 1860's. That individual didn't spring fully formed from the soil of the North when the Confederacy opened fire on Ft. Sumter in 1861. He or she, has a background, a history, and a "memory" of a life that begins before the war. Part of an impression of a real person is your memory not only of the time you are portraying, but of the time that came BEFORE.

The remarkable thing about the period we reenact is that many of us "old timers", and even a few of the younger lads, would have seen a transition in lifestyle no less revolutionary than, say the change that the micro processor has had on our modern day life. My kids, for example, will never know what it was like NOT to have a PC, or a hand calculator. So too with an individual born in the 1840's for example. By the 1860's the Industrial Revolution (much to the misfortune of our overwhelmed southern enemy) is an established fact. Steam engines have (or will in rural areas) rapidly replaced the more pastoral "water wheel" technology that many of us would have grown up with. Many of us would have grown up with sights, sounds, and crafts that are quickly becoming or have become, a way of the past by 1861.

Firstly, toss out your current paradigm for living.... These people did NOT live in a disposable society. They made, used, and RE-USED everything in some way shape or form. The rags from your clothing were used to produce paper; the pewter plate of your grandmam's that you broke might be melted down and recast as something else. Something as trivial today to us as LEAD, was valuable because until the Erie Canal opens in 1825 lead was actually scarce in the eastern United States. The animal fat from dinner will be saved to make candles and soap. I can STILL remember my tightfisted Yankee grandparents saving it in cans for Lord only knows what purpose! (we're talking the 1960's here guys....). You aren't wearing Nikes so when the sole wears out on your brogans, they're going back to the cobblers (and THAT hasn't changed has it...).

As you grew up in this time period you should be able to "remember" the way it was before Mr. Tweed replaced that waterwheel he had with a steam system down at the lumber mill, or at the textile mill, or at the local grain mill.

If you come from a small town, you probably got to see things done "the old fashioned way". If you come from a city and /or are young enough, maybe you NEVER saw some of the professions I'm going to mention.

The old foggy types amongst us, growing up in the midst of the revolutionary changes in production, moving from the east to the western frontier, and, many being old army mules, probably have seen everything done every way possible during our travels. The fellows who got a free "Mexican vacation" have seen even more, and probably yet another set of ways for doing things.

The most obvious profession, blacksmith, is left out not due to lack of respect, but because that particular profession is probably such a backbone for industrial society it's almost the same as saying "we have to breath air". Without the blacksmith, I doubt little else could have been accomplished by way of the industrial revolution.

There are different kinds of work to be done. There's country work, town work, group work, and even in the old style methods, there's factory work. There is also "bespoke" work, which is essentially custom work done for individuals by a craftsman. This method was far more frequent than "off the shelf" work. Given that things were hand crafted it's not a stretch to understand why.

For this time around, I'm going to talk about Country work and Town work.

This is rural America, villages, rather than cities, and of course what you'd be more likely to find the closer you got to the "frontier". Obviously people outside of cities require housing, storage, clothing, etc. The professions that you might see more readily in smaller towns are – **Cooper** (barrels, pails, kegs, washtubs...), the "**White**" **cooper** (military drums, grain measures, sieves, boxes, fireplace bellows), **Housewright** (modern "balloon" construction, light timbers nailed together, wasn't introduced until the 1840's and this is such a "forgotten" craft that my spellchecker refuses to admit I've spelt it properly....). The housewright is the fellow responsible for those old well constructed houses so

many of us admire. With his array of hand tools, he built them to last using hand hewn beams and mortise and tenon (another word my spellchecker doesn't know...) joins to hold them together. The **Sawyers** who were the fellows largely put out of business by the introduction of the circular saw (a'la Snyderly Whiplash and the girl tied to the log) around 1814. These fellows used those huge two man hand saws you can still see in museums, one man (the pitman) standing down in a pit pulling down alternating with the other man on the top. Given the amount of sawdust the pitman got to play in, I doubt he was unhappy to see new technology come along. However, in areas where there wasn't a nearby sawmill, I rather expect you might still have encountered "John Pitman" and "Tom Sawyer" at their trade. The **Joiner** is the fellow who did wood work... from cabinets, wainscoting, and chests to "modern" sash windows for your house. The **Miller** is who grinds the grain. New Englanders are reminded of these fellows constantly even today as you drive through smaller towns and see the runner or bedder of an old granite mill wheel set up as a monument somewhere in town, generally where the old mill was. The **Tanners** and **Curriers** being invaluable since leather is such a useful item. The smells of a tannery wouldn't have been foreign to you. Though you might have wished they were. Tanners did the bulk of the major practical leather preparation, and the Currier does work on finer leather like kid gloves. There's the **Fuller** who handles the process by which woolen cloth has the grease removed and the fiber compacted. You have possibly heard of "fuller's earth" which is special clay used in the grease removal process. They also are the period's "dry cleaners" using fuller's earth, ox gall or egg whites to remove grease spots from wool. Then there are "itinerant" workers, the traveling **Shoemaker** or "cordwainer", the **Cobbler** (shoe repairman, also called a "botcher"). Another name for our cordwaining friend, by the way is "cat whipper". The **Weaver** who travels from place to place weaving cloth that country farmers might make from linen (flax). Weavers would combine two fibers, wool and linen, to make "linsey-woolsey" cloth.

The **Tailor**, of course, sometimes followed on the heels of a weaver, for obvious reasons. The **Chandler**, who made candles and soap from the fat that thrifty rural wives would accumulate, and the **Tinker**, that traveling professional that even up until the late 19th century is plying his trade, repairing tin wear such as basins or ladles. If you've heard of the expression "Tinker's Dam" it isn't the tinker cursing that's being referred to. It's the "dam" he makes

around the spot on the article he's repairing to keep the patching material (tin/lead solder) in place till it sets. Usually the dam was of a soft clay.

If you think about many of these professions, like shoemaker, or weaver, it makes sense they would GO to where the business, and material, was since the demand for their services in rural areas is likely to preclude them making a solid living at the job sitting in one place. How many pairs of shoes do you suppose a community of 200 people are going to need in a single year, especially considering some of their children are going around barefoot? By modern throwaway standards that evil cobbler is going around "repairing" shoes and cutting into the shoemakers business, and the tinker is fixing things that should obviously be tossed out in Thursday's trash. The old saw "use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without" didn't originate in modern times, of that you may be certain.

Town work – in many cases, we can find equivalent jobs for these today, they are in fact essentially the same jobs as they were then: The Barber, the Baker, the Inn Keeper, the Apothecary, the Hatmaker (Hatter), the Eyeglass seller, the Cutler, or the Tobacconist. The Tabacconist actually ground his own snuff then.

A fascinating profession that has been replaced by plastic and glass items is the Hornsmith. You've heard of horn combs, and horn rim glasses or buttons of course. It turns out that horn can be molded and made into things like spoons. Perhaps you've even heard someone swear an oath "by the great Horn spoon!". The process the hornsmith goes through to turn an actual steer horn, or tortoise shell into a comb is rather neat. It involves boiling the horn or shell and pressing it into sheets before actually making it onto a useful article. Maybe your grandpappy has a "lanthorn" lantern, which is how they made them before the glass industry got well established in America. Lanthorn lanterns are made of very thin strips of translucent polished horn where a modern lantern's glass would be.

In the next issue, I'll cover "Bespoke" work, "group" work and the early pre industrial revolution manufactories.

Those of you interested in spending around \$20.00 can get a copy of the book I'm using for source material. It's a great book called "Colonial Craftsmen and the beginnings of American Industry" by Edwin Tunis. Barnes and Noble carries it. While it is obviously PRE period for the Civil war, *so are many of the men who fought in the war!*

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