
The UNION STANDARD

February 2008

Vol.16, no 2

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

Battalion Muster, Fort Washita, Feb. 8th – 10th

Gentlemen

It appears as though the coming months may bring further calamity to our beloved country as secessionists rally to the cause of the slavocrats of South Carolina and her sister rebels. As of this moment the good people of Texas have not fallen completely under the sway of these snake charmers and miscreant hooligans, but the rumors have been heard in towns throughout the territory that soon this last corner of the land of 'Dixie' will fall prey to this lure of supposed freedom as well.

As you all know General Twiggs in San Antonio has been liberally plying Washington City with requests for the best manner in which to deal with this potential, but I fear I stray not too far from the mark, or into insubordinate territory, when I say to you that that place has as many vipers in it's bosom as that nest which you may find in Charleston. As in other military posts throughout the South I fear we too may be betrayed by those who are secretly in league with Succession's Cause and are tying the hands of otherwise good men, who ready and willing to do that which must be done to rid our fair land of this traitorous plague. If only Andrew Jackson were President I would not have to write such things.

Nevertheless we must do our part, continuing with our duty and maintaining good order and relations with these good people whom it is our task to protect for so long as our officers and President will. I expect all of you, each and every man, to maintain good order and discipline and respect for the local population and their possessions. I feel confident that soon this situation shall be resolved here in Texas and God willing it will be for the cause of right. Surely there are reasonable, practical, and above all, patriotic men to be found here in the Texas who will not do this evil thing and will refuse to deliver this territory into the arms of Slaveocracy. Once we have secured our positions, and sorted out our friends from our foes we should be able to bring the traitors to heel and put an end to their misguided dreams of two countries on but one continent. I tell you there cannot be two here living here in harmony and Destiny has made it so that this shall be but one nation from the Atlantic shore to the Pacific.

For those of you have not 'seen the elephant' I would say you can expect to see a swelling in the ranks of the Army, and I would expect there will be militia units raised for some period of time, hopefully longer than a paltry 90 days, and together these forces for justice will quickly put down any resistance and will pour out the flowing waters of calm and order and Union to douse the fires of rebellion so foolishly ignited by reckless men across the South. Given the circumstance I can see no other course but that we must plan for a short effort to crush this insurrection and with that in mind the Major has ordered the Battalion to proceed to assemble at Fort Washita on the 9th proximo (no doubt instant by the time you

receive this posting). Units further west are already on the move to take over responsibilities for the districts under your observation and control.

Proceed with all due haste to Washita and from there expect to hear shortly that we are ordered to crush this rebellious crew, for our God and Country.

I remain

YMOS

Cpt P Branigan,
Co. D 1st US Commanding

Okay, enough fun with period writing. Feb 8th through the 10th we're having the annual muster at Washita – meals will be provided as always for the usual nominal fee. I hear it's going to be different this year, but of details, I have none. I do have a bit of BAD news that extends across future re-enactments, and that is that our laundress and cook has informed me that Oatmeal for breakies didn't come into fashion until AFTER the war, so, if we're looking for accuracy, we're eating CORN MEAL MUSH. I know that will please some officers and enlisted men, but not many (personally I think CMM mixed with some brown sugar and fruit cake is quite good). For you other guys who have not fallen sway to the charms of CMM we'll perhaps have to pretend you're the leading edge of food technology and you're the guys who started the rage of eating Oatmeal for breakfast... (your cry can be... I tried it during the war, and it's good, and I'm not eatin that dammed Corn Meal MUSH!)

Friday night expect we may have to provide some guards for the gate for short stints. I see no reason Officers and sr. NCO's should not serve on this duty as well if they are available (remind Branigan of that if necessary). As usual, enlisted and jr, NCO's will be in the barracks, but I am not sure which bay, if we get's there furthest I desire you should commandeer the bay with the rope bunks.

Proceed with that until we are told otherwise by someone higher in rank than yours truly. Sr NCO's and officers in the usual spot by the ruined barracks. If as last year holds true, do not camp IN the confines of the structure.

Expect a whoop-de-doo Saturday night, as, I hear, the enlisted men are putting on a social of some sort. I can see it now, horsefaced local girls, and horsefaced soldiers.

For those of you going to San Antonio to surrender (and make Branigan's letter so much bluster) let Kevin and I know, we're going down Friday with the wives and staying near the River Walk so we can participate in the surrender on Saturday the 16th.

Best regards,
Alan P.

1st U.S. Calendar

2008

February

8th – 10th Battalion Muster, Fort Washita, Oklahoma

16th Twiggs Surrender, San Antonio, Texas

March

28th – 30th 145th Anniversary of the Battle/Siege of Port Hudson, Louisiana

April

19th Living History Event/Drill, Farmers Branch Historical Park (Friday evening (18th) overnight stay)

May

3rd and 4th Fort Chadbourne Days (Living History)

10th – 11th Texas Frontier Fort Days, Fort Worth Stockyards, Recruiting Event

17th - 18th Battle of Westport (Stands of Colors)

K.C. Missouri. Battalion Event

June

14th Flag Day at Fort Worth Civil War Museum (Living History/Recruiting Event)

July

Nothing planned (stay cool)

August

Unit Social. More information forthcoming.

September

27th and 28th Battle of Honey Springs, Oklahoma. Battalion Event

October

(Tentative) Drill or Camp Ford, Tyler Texas

November

8th Veterans Day, Dallas Heritage Village (OCP) Living History, Recruiting & Battle

December

6th and 7th Battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas. Battalion Event

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

Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 3rd (Frontier) Brigade
January 26, 2008

GENERAL ORDER: 2008 #1

Per direction of the Brigade Commander, elements of the 8th Infantry and 2nd Cavalry are scheduled to relieve companies of this battalion at their respective posts in the Department of Texas and Indian Territory. As such the following dispositions for 1st Battalion Troops will occur.

Companies A and D 1st Infantry currently at Ft. Chadbourne upon relief by companies G and K 8th Infantry will march with due haste and by direct route to Ft Washita, IT.

Elements of the 13th Infantry currently operating NW of Galveston City will remove themselves forthwith to Ft Washita without awaiting replacements.

The detachment of the 173rd currently enroute to Ft Inge will, upon receipt of this dispatch, retrace their route and return to Ft Washita.

The 2nd CO and 77th PA will vacate their respective posts in Indian Territory as they are relieved by the 2nd Cavalry but in no instance will they delay their removal to Ft Washita later than the first week in February.

The 10th KS and 1st KS will send such excess troops as can be spared from their posts to Ft Washita.

All other companies on detached duty are directed to remove themselves to Washita forthwith upon receipt of this order.

Local commanders are authorized to procure such transport at government expense as may be required to move their supplies and baggage.

All scattered detachments should arrive at Ft Washita by the 8th instant. Troops will be mustered for pay and will be available for such duties and training as the commander may desire.

By command of Major Donald Gross

Donald Gross
Major 1st US,
Commanding 1st Battalion, Frontier Brigade

1ST Battalion Muster

Ft Washita, Indian Territory

February 8 - 10, 2008

The infantry, from it's powers of endurance, it's capabilities for battle in all kinds of ground, and it's independence of those casualties by which other arms may be completely paralyzed, is placed as the first arm; and upon it is based the strength of all others. - Mahan

Billeting arrangements are as follows:

- Senior NCOs (Sergeants and above) will be billeted in tents on the west side of the West barracks (ruins).
- Junior NCOs (corporals) and enlisted men will be billeted on the second floor of the South barracks. If space permits Senior NCOs will be billeted in the barracks.
- Company officers and other branches of the Army will be in tents on the north side of the parade ground.
- Ladies will be billeted on the ground floor of the South barracks in the east room.
- The west room on the ground floor of the barracks will be the Mess Hall.

Rations:

This payment information was sent out before publication of this newsletter

Rations are provided for Saturday morning through Sunday (4 meals). Cost of rations is \$15.00. For additional family members under 16 price is \$7.00. Money is due by February 1st. If possible checks should be sent by unit. Checks should be made out to NTRS and sent to:

Alan Prendergast
1403 Barclay Drive
Carrollton, TX 75007

****The 1st US will send one check to Battalion****

The slight increase this year is due to extra "delectables" and refreshments being procured for Saturday evening.

Enlisted Uniform guidelines:

- 4 button sack coat, sky blue kersey pants, black Hardee/slouch or forage cap for drill.
- Parade/Inspection uniform will be frock w/ Hardees or fatigue blouse with forage caps, sky blue kersey trousers. Brass must be cleaned and uniform free of mud. If there are extenuating circumstances, the company NCO's need to let me know.
- Work gloves for fatigue duty.

Officer Uniform guidelines:

- Frock coat/shell jacket or officer sack with sky blue kersey or dark blue pants for drill, Forage, kepi, slouch or Hardee hat.
- Evening Parade/review uniform will be frock/ shell or officer fatigue blouse with Hardee, kepi, or forage in good condition. All officers on parade/review will have swords. Brass must be polished and uniform free of mud. If there are extenuating circumstances, please let me know.
- Officer of the Day/Guard will wear a sash in the prescribed manner.

The following guidelines will be followed with respect to gear brought to the muster:

- Period items brought befitting the status/rank of the individual soldier.
- Physical strength of the soldier dragging the stuff up the stairs into the barracks.
- Anachronistic items will not be displayed on the post from 7:00 am Saturday until noon Sunday.
- If you are musically inclined (no matter the skill level) please bring your instrument. We need it Saturday night.

Personal actions

Remember, we are portraying (and playing at) soldiers of the mid 19th century. I trust we will all act the part.

Please consider your fellow enactor and Do Not make obvious use of modern items. Cell phones especially can be annoying.



Washita Directions

See www.mapquest.com for more detail.

Schedule:

Friday

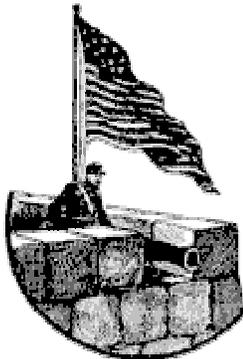
Arrival/Barracks Set-up
Dinner on your own
2100 Officer/Sr NCO Meeting and Training Session

Saturday

7:00 Reveille
7:30 Surgeons Call
Breakfast Call
8:30 Parade (assemble the battalion)
8:45 Morning Drill Call
Squad/Platoon level instruction by senior NCOs
Company Drill
Battalion Evolutions
12:00 Dinner call/ Soldier's time
1:00 Classroom Instruction
Officer/NCO Instruction
2:15 Afternoon Drill Call
Parade/Muster for Pay / Fatigue call
Battalion Commander's Time
5:45 Supper Call
Battalion Meeting
8:00 Soirée
10:30 Tattoo
11:00 Lights Out

Sunday

8:00 Reveille
8:30 Breakfast Call
9:30 Battalion evolutions
11:30 Final Formation/Dismissal



From Hwy 69/75 – about 2 miles north of Durant, OK, take the Hwy 48 exit and go north (turn left). About 3 miles turn left (west) onto Hwy 78. Go 7 miles to Hwy 199, turn left (west) and at 3 miles the Ft. Washita entrance is on the right. The barracks is to the left.

From I-35 – take the Hwy 70 exit east about 2 miles south of Ardmore, OK. In Madill take 199 east to Ft. Washita, which is 11 miles

Up and Adam! Time to Blacken the Leathers & Polish that Brass!

We've got an outstanding year ahead of us, starting with the Battalion Muster just up the road a tad. For the beginners, this is an excellent time to learn; for veterans, this is a great time to learn something new or recall what you'd forgotten. And, as a consequence, we've grown as a unit on the field in drill.

The Captain astutely pointed out last year while watching the Confederates that there are movements that we do today to get us onto field quickly that they haven't yet learned. This is the tactical advantage that makes the 1st US shine.

While we'll be doing all the typical military stuff at Fort Washita, we've got a surprise, fun function planned. So, I encourage you to come to this event that will pave the way for us to look good on the field throughout the year.

The remainder of the year is a great balance of reenactments and local living histories where we need to recruit more to keep this period of our nation's history alive. It's not too demanding, and certainly do-able.

Don't let this be a year where you sit on the sidelines only to hear what a great time was had without you. For the old timers: Admit it! It's hard to get your gear together and get there; but, once you're there, you have a great time and a lot of laughs.

I'd like to end by thanking each of you for your commitment to the 1st US Infantry. As often is the case with repeated human interactions year-after-year, we sometimes come to take each other for granted, not realizing that we, too, have other interests that compete for time and money with reenactments and recruiting events.

Each of you is important to the unit and your contribution is vital to its success.

OK, enough of that touchy-feely stuff: Let's head toward Indian Territory!

Paul Mattoon
1stSgt, 1st US Infantry

**Westport Missouri, (Stand of Colors)
Information: (May 17th – 18th, 2008)**

Men of the 1st Battalion,

Westport is shaping up to be the event for us out here in the west. Below is an initial report from Terry Crowder, commanding the division Cavalry Brigade. He has been involved in the planning for Westport from the start.

If you had a good time at the Shiloh event, you men will love this one more. Those who wish to camp campaign will be about 400 yards behind the main camp and completely out of site with NO modern intrusions. You will be about a 20 minute or less march from the main static camp. The hills are about 1/2 the degree as the ones at Shiloh but are completely hidden and out of site of everything but more wilderness. I have had three roads cut through the entire area and they are all period correct - even more so than Shiloh. The creek crossings are stone and the water running through them is actually city water so it is very clear and clean. I am attaching a map for you and your men that I hope will help. You will fight in a circle again ending up at the scripted fields. You will be able to deploy your men by unit/company/battalion or any manner you see fit.

The Static Camp is on top of the hill surrounding the abandoned civil war era house and a stone wall which surrounds the entire camp. The campaign camps are on the back side down the hill thru good terrain and along a open cut which is perfect for defense in case we are attacked.

Jack King will be in command of the non scripted as well as the scripted battles. Mike Moore will be present but has agreed to turn command to Jack. All is well.

If this event goes well, we have an open invite to do the same next year with whatever improvements you and the men wish. This is ALL about the groups of the West (West of the Miss) and our men. I am sick and tired of going east as well.



Our history is just as valuable out here. There may not have been as big battles as back east but we only have a few thousand men anyway. Never could figure out why people wanted to do reenactments that had 60 thousand men at them when we are lucky to put 1500 on the field. How accurate are they?

Colonel Terry Crowder, Commanding
Division Cavalry Brigade
First Federal Division

I'm excited about this event. From what I understand the site is anachronistic free (only one tower visible) and the terrain ideal for tactical movement. We'll obviously have good input into the scenarios and there should be something for everyone. Lets start planning on this one now!

Don Gross
1st Battalion
Frontier Brigade



MISSOURI.



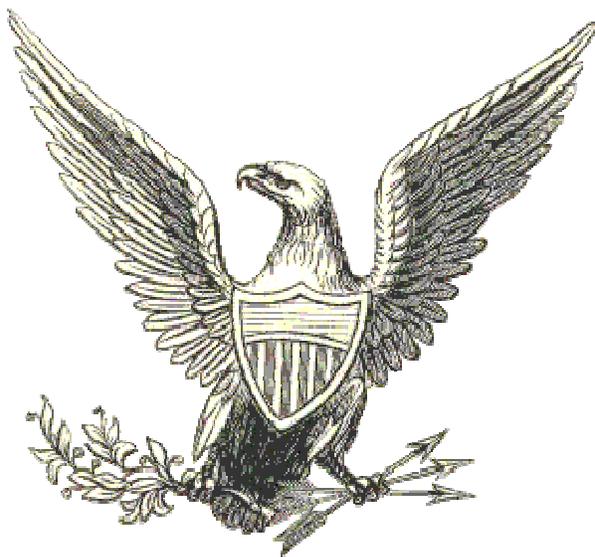
*****Yearly Membership Dues*****

Yes, it is that time again for everyone to pay their yearly membership fee. The annual \$25 cost is applicable to individuals/families and is now due. Please make your check payable to **NTRS**, not the 1st U.S. Any check payable to anything other than the NTRS will be returned, as our bank will only accept items payable to NTRS. Thank you.
Alan Prendergast

Make check payable to **NTRS** and mail to:
Alan Prendergast
1403 Barclay Drive
Carrollton, TX 75007
Or

You can bring your check or money (exact change would be appreciated) to the Battalion Muster.

Remember, check or money order must be made out to:
NTRS



David E. Twiggs



Brigadier General David E. Twiggs

David Emanuel Twiggs (1790 – July 15, 1862) was a United States soldier during the War of 1812 and Mexican-American War and a general of the Confederate States Army during the American Civil War.

Twiggs was born on the "Good Hope" estate in Richmond County, Georgia, son of John Twiggs, a general in the Georgia militia during the American Revolution. Twiggs volunteered for service in the War of 1812 and subsequently served in the Seminole Wars and the Black Hawk War.

He was Colonel of the 2nd U.S. Dragoons at the outbreak of the Mexican-American War. He led brigade in the Army of Occupation at the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. He was promoted to brigadier general and commanded a division at the Battle of Monterrey. He joined Winfield Scott's expedition, commanding its 2nd Division of Regulars and led the division in all the battles from Veracruz through Mexico City. He was wounded during the assault on Chapultepec. After the fall of Mexico City he was appointed military governor of Veracruz. He was awarded a ceremonial sword by the Congress on March 2, 1847. (The sword was recovered when New Orleans was captured in 1862 and returned to the Twiggs family in 1889.)

After the Mexican-American War, Twiggs was appointed brevet major general and commanded the Department of Texas. He was in this command when the Civil War broke out. Twiggs's command included about 20% of the U.S. Army guarding the border of the U.S. and Mexico. As the states began to secede, Twiggs treacherously delivered his entire command to the Confederacy and defected on February 19, 1861. He was dismissed from the U.S. Army for treason and accepted a commission as a major general by the Confederate States. He was appointed to command the Confederate Department of Louisiana, but his age kept him from active command and he retired on October 11, 1861. He died of pneumonia in Augusta, Georgia, and is buried at "Good Hope".

Battle of Picacho Pass, Arizona

The **Battle of Picacho Pass** (also known as the **Battle of Picacho Peak**) was fought on April 15, 1862 near Picacho Peak, 50 miles northwest of Tucson, Arizona, USA. It was fought between a Union cavalry patrol from California and a party of Confederate pickets from Tucson, and 3 Union soldiers were killed. The engagement was a tactical draw, as both sides withdrew from the field. Though actually little more than a skirmish, it has been considered the western-most battle of the American Civil War, although a few weeks earlier a skirmish between Union and Confederate troops had occurred farther west at Stanwix Station with no fatalities, one Union private having received a shoulder wound. (There was also a July 1862 battle at Apache Pass in Arizona, fought between Union cavalry and Apache led by Cochise; however, since Cochise killed Union and Confederate troops with impartiality, this should be differentiated as a Civil War era engagement but not actually a Civil War battle.)

Background

Due to years of neglect by the Federal government, Confederate sympathies were high in Tucson, which had been proclaimed capital of the western district of the Confederate Arizona Territory, which comprised what is now southern Arizona and southern New Mexico. Mesilla, near Las Cruces, was both the territorial capital and seat of the eastern district of the territory. Ultimately, Confederate dreams included influencing sympathizers in southern California to join them and give the Confederacy an outlet on the Pacific Ocean. The Federal government was anxious to prevent this, and Union volunteers from California, known as the California Column and led by Col. (soon to be Gen.) James Henry Carleton, moved east to occupy Arizona, using Fort Yuma in California as a base of operations.

It should be noted that all of the Civil War era engagements in Arizona -- Stanwix Station, Picacho Pass, and Apache Pass -- occurred near remount stations along the Butterfield Overland Stagecoach route, which dated to the 1850s and which the Confederates tried to keep open with limited success.



1st U.S. member Beck Martin visited the battle site of Picacho Peak in December 2007.

Combat

Twelve Union cavalry troopers and one scout, commanded by Lieutenant James Barrett of the 1st California Cavalry, were conducting a sweep of the Picacho Pass area, looking for Confederates reported to be nearby. Barrett was under orders not to engage them, but to wait for the main column to come up. However, their patrol surprised and captured 3 Confederate pickets. It failed to see 7 other Confederate soldiers before they opened fire. During the bloody skirmish that followed, Lt. Barrett and 2 of his men were killed and 3 others wounded. Aside from the mistake of not waiting for the main force under Capt. William P. Calloway to arrive, Barrett erred in ordering a cavalry charge on the Confederates, who had taken cover in a thicket. The Union cavalrymen thus made easy targets. After a brisk engagement that lasted about ninety minutes, both sides withdrew from the scene.

The remains of the two Union privates buried at Picacho were later removed to the Presidio in San Francisco, California, but Lt. Barrett's grave, near the present railroad tracks, remains unmarked and undisturbed. Union reports indicate two Confederates may have been wounded, but there is no confirmation of this. ^[1]

The Confederate participants reported the engagement to Capt. Sherrod Hunter, commander at Tucson, who in his official report made no mention of any Confederate casualties aside from the three men captured.

Aftermath

Confederate patrols had actually reached within a day's ride of the California border, where they burned hay at the stage stations to delay the Union advance from California. However, the goal of expanding Confederate influence into southern California and to the Pacific Ocean was never realized. Around the same time as the skirmish at Picacho, a far larger force of Confederates was thwarted in its attempt to advance northward from Santa Fe, NM, in the Battle of Glorieta Pass, and by July the Confederates had retreated to Texas. The following year, the Union organized its own territory of Arizona within the state's current borders, extending control southwards from the provisional capital of Prescott. Although the skirmish at Picacho Pass itself may have been only a small factor in these events, it can be considered the high-water mark of the Confederate West.

Picacho Peak



The Union Standard

Newsletter of the 1st U.S. Infantry

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