
The UNION STANDARD

February 2009

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

Headquarters, Infantry Battalion, 3rd (Frontier)
Brigade
February, 2009

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 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 last week in February.

The 10th KS and 8th 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.

Militia troops in the vicinity will assemble themselves under their respective commanders at Washita by the end of the month.

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 28th instant. Upon signing in at post headquarters, troops will be issued back pay for up to one month service. Troops will be available for such duties and training as the commander may desire.

Frazier Bros, the regimental sutler, is established on post. It is reported that a traveling tavern known as Tula's under the proprietorship of a certain O'doole has established itself in the vicinity of the fort. I would not be carrying out the duties of my command insofar as looking out for the welfare of the men if I did not caution them to exercise care and avoid the temptation to part too freely with the recent fruits (pay) of their labor.

By command of Donald Gross

LtCol 1st Regiment Infantry
Commanding Frontier Brigade

Battalion Muster
Ft Washita, Indian Territory
February 28 – March 1, 2009

Schedule:

Friday

Arrival/Barracks Set-up
Dinner on your own
1:00 Officer/Sr NCO Training Session
9:00 Officer Meeting

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
3:15 Afternoon Drill Call
Battalion Commander's Time
5:45 Supper Call
Battalion Meeting
7:00 Soldiers time
10:30 Tattoo
11:00 Lights Out

Sunday

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

Tactics

Company

Arms positions
Facings
Stacking
Marching, left and right
Wheels (fixed and moving)
By company into line
On the right (left) by file into line

Battalion (all except the last should be standard)

Form a line of battle in front to right and to left
Passing through obstacles
Retire into columns
Closed in mass
Counter march
Changing fronts
Double columns
Colonel's surprise

1st U.S. Calendar

2009

February

14th Twiggs Surrender, The Alamo, San Antonio, Texas

27th – March 1st Battalion Muster, Fort Washita, Indian Territory (Oklahoma)

March

28th – 29th Fort McKavett, TX 150th Anniversary of the 1st US abandonment of the Fort

April

25th – 26th New Year's Creek Invitational (Houston, TX area)

May

9th Fort Worth Frontier Forts (Recruiting/Drill) Fort Worth Stockyards

June

TBD Cartridge Rolling

July

19th Ceremony at Honey Springs, OK

August

TBD-1st US Social

September

26th – 27th Fort Washita Reenactment

October

31st – November 1st Bentonville, AK.

Battalion Event

November

7th – 8th Battle of Myer's Landing,

McKinney, TX

December

5th or 12th (TBD) Dallas Heritage Village

Candlelight Drill

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

Battalion Muster

Ft Washita, Indian Territory
February 28 – March 1, 2009

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 (as required).
- The west room on the ground floor of the barracks will be the Mess Hall.

Rations:

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. **The 1st US will be sending one check for the rations. Please send Alan \$15.00 by 2/23 if at all possible. Please make check out to NTRS.**

**Alan Prendergast
1403 Barclay Drive
Carrollton, TX 75007**

Federal 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.

Militia Enlisted Uniform guidelines

- Grey militia uniform
- Mexican War uniform parts
- Civilian wear
- Civilian or military hat

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.
- Militia Officers – Federal Uniform, Militia Grey, of Mexican War

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

- Period items 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.

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.

The list of individuals eligible for election and the declared candidates for office are shown below. This is the current list as of February 3rd, 2009 and will be revised as new data is received through the attendance QC project and as new candidates are declared. A final list will be posted on February 27, 2009 at Muster

2009 1st United States Infantry

Elections

a. Senior Officer

Doughtie, Gates, D.
Gross, **A. Prendergast**

b. Junior Officer

Doughtie, Gates, D.
Gross, Martin, A.
Prendergast, B. Rudy,
A. Smith

c. 1st Sergeant

Campbell, Doughtie,
Gates, Graham, G.
Gray, D. Gross,
Martin, A.
Prendergast, **B. Rudy**,
A. Smith, **B. Thomas**,
Zebian

d. 2nd Sergeant

Campbell, Doughtie,
Gates, Graham, G.
Gray, D. Gross,
Martin, B. Powers, A.
Prendergast, **B. Rudy**,
A. Smith, B.
Thomas, Zebian

e. Corporal

Campbell, Doughtie,
Gates, Graham, G.
Gray, D. Gross,
Landin, **Martin**,
Mattoon, **B. Powers**,
A. Prendergast, B.
Rudy, **A. Smith**, B.
Thomas, Zebian

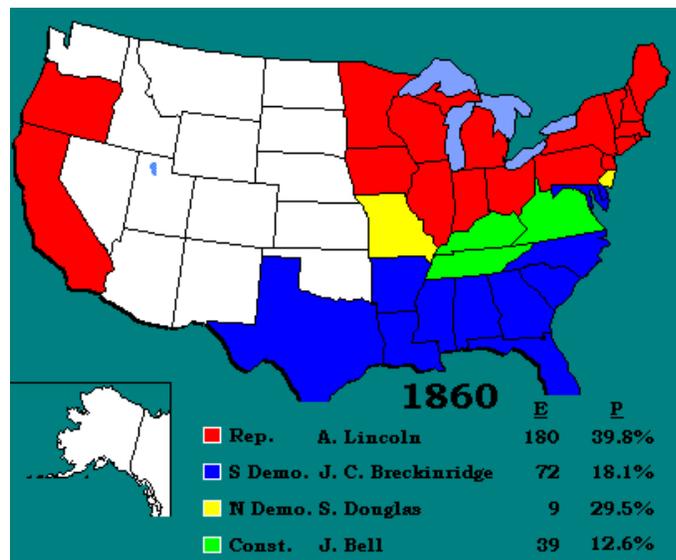
f. At-Large Rep

Campbell, Doughtie,
Gates, Graham, **D.**
Gross, Martin, B.
Powers, A.
Prendergast, B. Rudy,
A. Smith, B. Thomas,
Zebian

Article IV, Voting.

1. Only dues paid Regulars, Recruits, and Civilians are eligible to vote.
2. Regulars and Civilians must attend four meetings in the previous year to vote.
3. Recruits who have been a member for at least 60 days and have attended one meeting during that time in the previous year can vote.
4. Regulars and civilians can give written consent for proxy voting to other Regulars.
5. Regulars and civilians can send an absentee ballot to the election chair prior to the election.

The 1st US will be holding elections at Muster on Saturday evening (2/28). If have not yet declared your candidacy. Please let Don Gates d_gates@verizon.net know ASAP.



Bold Italics indicates a declared candidate.

Underlined indicates incumbent

1st US 2009 Election Proxy Vote

Submit in lieu of an absentee ballot

Proxy ballot may be delivered to any regular member prior to Election Day.

You may provide special written instruction for balloting or give your proxy total freedom to vote as he sees fit on all ballots.

I, (please print)

_____ release my proxy to (please print)

_____.

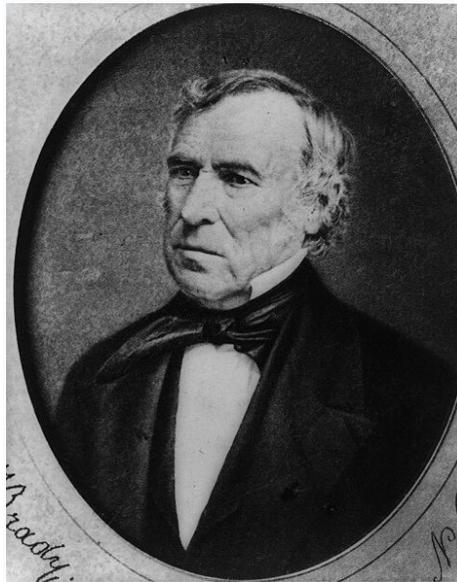
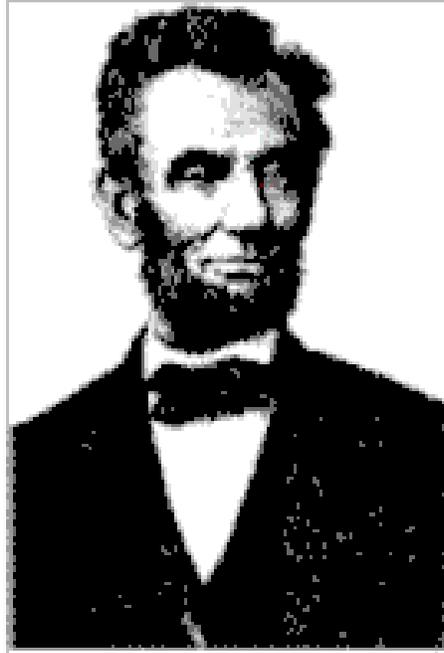
This ballot may be used for all Regimental Ballots.

Signed: _____

I certify that I am eligible to vote according to Article IV NTRS ByLaws

Date: _____

Special Instructions:





Fort Washita is the former United States military post located near Nida, Oklahoma on SH 199. Established in 1842 by General (later President) Zachary Taylor to protect citizens of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations from the plains Indians it was later abandoned by Federal forces at the beginning of the Civil War. Confederate troops held the post until they burned it at the end of the war. It was never reoccupied. After years in private hands the Oklahoma Historical Society bought the fort grounds in 1962 and restored the site. Today the Fort Washita Historic Site and Museum is a tourist attraction and hosts several events throughout the year.

History

Five Civilized Tribes removed to the Indian Territory

Eager to gain access to the lands of the Five Civilized Tribes in the southern United States the Federal government passed the Indian Removal Act into law on May 26, 1830. The first of the Indians to be removed, the Choctaws, signed the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek on September 27, 1830 effectively ceding their native lands in Mississippi and Alabama to the United States in exchange for lands in the Indian Territory. After traveling on the Choctaw Trail of Tears the Choctaws settled in the new Choctaw Nation, the southern part of the Indian Territory bordering the Red River. The Chickasaws soon followed in 1837, paying \$530,000 to the Choctaws for the right to live in their lands.

The Choctaws and Chickasaws settled the lands east of the cross timbers. While the indigenous tribes, such as the Comanches, Wichita, Caddoes, and Kiowa, generally stayed west of the cross timbers they occasionally threatened the Five Civilized Tribes.

Camp Washita

The first official contact between the United States and the plains Indians was during the Dodge-Leavenworth Expedition in 1834. Camp Washita, the precursor to Fort Washita, was established near the mouth of the Washita River to serve as a base of operations for the area. Two roads were cleared to the area, one from Fort Gibson to the north and one to Fort Towson to the east. Camp Washita was abandoned later that year.

Location

In response to the need to defend the removed Indians on the frontier the United States Army authorized the construction of a fort on the Choctaw lands west of Fort Towson. General Zachary Taylor chose the site for Fort Washita in 1842 on high ground a mile and a half east of the Washita River and 18 miles north of its junction with the Red River. At the time the Red River was the southern border of the Indian Territory

with new Republic of Texas. The nearest military post in 1842 was Fort Towson 70 miles to the east.

Near the Fort Washita the cross timbers began about 19 miles west of the Washita River.

The Shawnee Trail crossed the area leading north to Boggy Depot and south to Coffee's trading post near Preston Bend and Colbert's Ferry on the Red River. The old Preston Trail proceeded south from this area, making Fort Washita a main junction for what became the Texas Road. Military roads constructed during the time of Camp Washita connected Fort Washita with Forts Towson and Gibson,^[4] Later military roads connected Fort Washita with forts Arbuckle and Sill. Just prior to the Civil War the Butterfield Overland Stage crossed the area.

Construction and garrison

The United States Army occupied the post on April 23, 1843. Log barracks built in 1842 sufficed until the construction of the south barracks from limestone in 1849. By 1858 there was an east barracks, hospital, and surgeon's quarters all built from native stone, in addition to the wooden structures. A corral and stables on the hillside southwest of the fort supported cavalry operations. Cavalry comprised the bulk of the forces assigned to Fort Washita until the 1850s when it served as a United States Army Field Artillery School. Several Artillery units were assigned to the fort during this time in addition to infantry and cavalry.

In 1845 Fort Washita was the only frontier fort not accessible by steamboat and had to rely on

The Mexican-American War

During the Mexican-American War activity increased dramatically at Fort Washita as it served as a staging point for the war. Traffic on the Texas Road heading south increased during and after the war.^[8] During the war years the average garrison of 150 troops increased to almost 2000 troops. During this era Fort Washita served as the site of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indian Agencies. Shortly after the Mexican-American War the 2nd Artillery Regiment, commanded by Braxton Bragg and made famous at the Battle of Buena Vista, was assigned to the fort. The Fort closed on February 17, 1858 but was reoccupied later that year on December 29 after increased Comanche activity. Many men who served at Fort Washita would go on to become famous, including Randolph B. Marcy, George McClellan, William W. Belknap and Theophilus H. Holmes.

Fort Worth established June 6, 1849.

The distance between Fort Worth and Fort Washita is 120 miles.

The Civil War

The Five Civilized Tribes of the Indian Territory sided with the Confederacy and Federal forces under Colonel William Emory abandoned Fort Washita on April 16, 1861. The fort was quickly seized by Confederate forces from Texas and the Indian Territory. While it saw no action during the Civil War Fort Washita was an important Confederate supply depot. General Albert Pike served as commander of Fort Washita for a short time before establishing Fort McCulloch a few miles to the east. For most of the war Fort Washita was the headquarters of Brigadier General Douglas Cooper. General Stand Watie also served as commander during the Confederate occupation of the fort. Near the end of the war in August of 1865 Confederate forces burned the existing buildings and abandoned the post. A confederate cemetery remains to this day on the fort grounds. United States military graves were exhumed and reinterred at Fort Gibson near Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Abandoned

After the Civil War Fort Washita was never reoccupied by the United States military and the grounds fell into disuse. On July 1, 1870 the War Department handed over the fort grounds to the Department of the Interior. The passage of the Dawes Act in 1887 and the Atoka Agreement in 1897 divided the communal lands of the Chickasaw Nation, including

Fort Washita, into allotments owned by individual Chickasaw citizens. The Colberts, a prominent Chickasaw family, received the allotment of grounds including the fort. Charles Colbert turned the existing east barracks into a personal home and the site was used as a farm for many years. The remaining buildings were used in a farming capacity. The Colberts also used the cemetery as a family cemetery. The old west barracks continued to serve as the Colbert's household until it burned down in 1917.

Revitalized

In the 1960s there was a renewed interest in Oklahoma's Historical Sites. The Oklahoma Historical Society was able to determine that at the Fort Washita site there were 86 structures, 50 foundations and 2 structures still standing.^[11]

Ward S. Merrick Sr. of Ardmore, Oklahoma contributed funds to the Oklahoma Historical Society for the purchase of the site from the Colbert family in 1962. It was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1965 and in 1967 the Oklahoma State Legislature approved \$10,000 for the reconstruction and restoration of the fort's grounds. In 1971 the Oklahoma Historical Society conducted an archeological dig and rebuilt the south barracks.

Today the Fort Washita site is home to Fort Washita Historic Site and Museum, Civil War reenactments, and a yearly Fur Trade Rendezvous!

Leather Care: NOT!

By Blair Rudy

I recently had the misfortune to have a new item of accoutrement fail due to my misunderstanding of how to care for it and me a Sergeant to boot! My recently acquired replacement early war cap box from C&D Jarnagin separated from my belt at the onset of the Prairie Grove, AR event last month. How embarrassing! I think it was a component to my dying at the top of the hill near the Borden house. The strap had separated from lateral stress, go figure! I thought it a material defect akin to those so called wardrobe malfunctions we hear about and oh well - deal with it and die. On Sunday it sent me to forage for a temporary replacement from bugler Neal's stash of extra equipment. Thank goodness for a redundantly well stocked bugler brother!

On my return from the Arkansas wilderness and the Boston Mountains I contacted David Jarnagin to seek replacement of the item. He was generous with a replacement but then followed a rather firm lecture on the appropriate care of all leather goods used for our hobby. He told me I had used far too much Neats Foot Oil in my attempt to prepare the item for the field. I learned from him that leather used for our coots should not be over oiled as I had done. His many page and well documented discourse on how to care for leather items was included with his generous replacement. I then perused his additional notes on leather care located on the C&D Jarnagin web site. He is rightly proud of his copyrighted knowledge and I am unable to include his discourse here.

I refer you to David's web site for an outstanding review and directions as to how to care for leather items. I am sure he will be happy to visit with you about what he offers and how to care for it. I have found the Jarnagin's a

fantastic friendly resource for knowledgeable information on equipment and uniforms. They have a fantastic rubber blanket too. Here is the link for your review and consideration. I highly recommend you take a look and extend your investment in your hobby leather items:

<http://www.jarnaginco.com/leather%20care%20article.htm>

As a summary he told me to only lightly oil damp leather items and not to swamp or drown the material with oil as I had done as it will decrease its tensile strength and durability. I had to learn this the hard way at the front door of the Borden house. Learn from your Sergeant and sally forth with this long lost period knowledge.

Happy reenacting and remember: "Vote for Blair".

I will see you all on the field and in the ranks at Muster. Safe travels to Indian Territory.

Blair Rudy, Sgt, Co A

Washita Directions

See www.mapquest.com for more detail.

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

The Union Standard

Newsletter of the 1st U.S. Infantry

9091 Creede Trail

Fort Worth, Texas 76118