

---

# The UNION STANDARD

---

April 2007

Vol.15, no 1

## *The Newsletter of the 1<sup>st</sup> United States Infantry, The Regulars*

---

### From the Field

Gentlemen of the 1<sup>st</sup>, a few weeks ago we shook off the curse of Mudloh '97 (and replaced it with 'Rebloh '07) by venturing back to Tennessee for the 145<sup>th</sup> Shiloh reenactment. I recall doing the 135<sup>th</sup> event as a new private in the unit, and here ten years later I find myself the unit's commander. Now, there's something I personally never imagined (and probably no one ELSE imagined it either, and I'm still trying to get used to it.). Thank you once again for your confidence in this area.

The stalwarts from the 1<sup>st</sup>, present for battle were: New Shiloh Veterans... Taylor Clark, Gary Gray, Blair Rudy (Sgt Major Rudy!), Neil Rudy, Paul Mattoon, Harold Sickler, Steve Campbell (actually wounded in action on Saturday!), Bryan Powers & Pete Graham. 2<sup>nd</sup> time Shiloh vets were Don Gates, Don Gross, Adam Gross (on loan from someplace called the Air Force?), Kevin Doughtie and myself. God Bless Mrs. Pvt Thomas (Julie) who came along to take care of us as she often does and here's to Pete's wife too, who also made an appearance as well.



As many know, I'm not one for tactical events, but I think the tactical on Friday and Saturday was better than the spectator battles ended up being. We were always outnumbered (hence "RebLoh"), but with Major Gross in command of the Brigade we didn't stand waiting for the theme music to finish before the Rebs overran us as they did in the scripted Saturday battle. The Major kept us moving, which should surprise no one. We were merged with the bold and well drilled

boys of the 104<sup>th</sup> Illinois for all of Friday and Saturday's battles, forming the 3<sup>rd</sup> company of the tactical battalion. Coupled with our boys, you couldn't ask for a better disciplined or knowledgeable group of guys. Our maneuvers would have done Major Benefiel proud. On Friday we bayonet charged a troop of reb cavalry in the woods who, well, let's just say they got a little ahead of themselves and their supporting infantry. We took and held high ground over a creek in a position that resembled the Burnside Bridge at Antietam and finished the day by forming a hollow square and advancing in that formation to ultimately drive some very confused Reb Cavalry from the field. I personally distinguished myself Friday (according to the after action report written by Rex Griffin, commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Company) for, uh, ignoring the direct orders, given to me personally, by the General of the 1<sup>st</sup> Federal Division. I recognized that he wasn't *our* Major, and failed to recognize much else. How's that for the start of my career as commander of the 1<sup>st</sup>? (Just like VeraCruz). My excuse is I was focused on following orders to take up positions on the far side of the creek (and the high ground!). I hope (Gen'l) Lt. Colonel Zimmer will forgive my, uh, enthusiasm for dominating terrain.

On Saturday as 2<sup>nd</sup> company we mixed it up with easily 3 times our number in Reb infantry while trying to relieve the beleaguered elements of 5<sup>th</sup> company (Pvt Taylor Clark can describe that action).



We caught a Reb dismounted company completely by surprise when we, proceeding at the double quick off the field, halted, fronted on them and fired into their flank, driving them in disarray from their pursuit of one

of our dismounted companies. Ask the others, but I think this was one of those 'Civil War' moments for all involved (us and them) as they responded pretty much the way a surprised company would have responded had they been caught flat footed and in disorder by a company volley close on their right flank. We didn't have time to fully appreciate their skeddadle though as we right faced and doubled quicked to the tree line ourselves to get back into the battalion formation. Later the battalion captured a Reb supply train. That was to be our last glory that day as we were very completely surrounded at the Hornet's Nest and the entire company (Damn that Brannigan!) died gallantly to a man at the



fence line.

Mudloh...Curse Broken. Onwards!

Next month we have two events in Fort Worth. I encourage you all to make the Fort Worth events, particularly the Stockyards event. I feel the more of us we put in one spot at a recruiting event, the more we convince others who might consider the hobby that we're not just a couple of loons (we probably are, but there's more than a couple of us!) dressing up in blue costumes. There's also a drill scheduled at the Civil War Museum in Fort Worth as well (see the schedule for the dates). If you have to pick just one, I'd really prefer to see you at the Stockyards for the reason above (maybe the wet t-shirt girls from Billy Bob's will come back through camp again on Friday night). Then in May we have Jefferson, which the Major is working on. For those who enjoyed street fighting, this promises to be better than last time. Finally, based on conversations we had during the long drive back from Shiloh in the van (7 of us) I think we should also focus on serious consideration for doing 145<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg. There's a number of us Grognards that might make the 150<sup>th</sup>, but may not be 'on the field' in order to do it, so this will possibly be the last time some guys will have *in line* in the hobby to do an anniversary event that may have really large numbers. Veterans of Shiloh 135<sup>th</sup> event (despite the rain), or Chickamauga 135<sup>th</sup> (dust) or Gettysburg 135<sup>th</sup> can really appreciate what it means to have thousands and thousands of guys in blue on the field with you (we

could have used half a thousand at Shiloh). But you newer guys need a chance to see it for yourselves. Gettysburg 145<sup>th</sup> is a year away, and therefore it's time NOW to start serious discussion of the event to see if we want to attend. We've made common and friendly ties in the hobby with units to our North and East (104<sup>th</sup> Illinois, and Sykes Regulars to name two units I'd be more than happy to serve with) who ARE going to the 145<sup>th</sup> and we might be able to fall in with them if the Division/Brigade/Battalion are not considering the event at their level. The feed back I got from the guys in the van was pretty strong, so I'm starting to beat the drum to determine the unit wide interest in such an event.

I hope to see you all again very soon.

With fondest regards, I remain  
YMOS

Capt. P. Branagan,  
Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> US

---

### Notes from the Editor:

In the nine years of service to the 1<sup>st</sup> US I have seen many changes, the biggest improvement has been our communication. Our Signal Corp has worked hard to get information out to the troops in a timely manner, including bi-monthly updates. In this process, though, the newsletter was overlooked. In the last year, it has been mentioned more than once how much a regularly sent newsletter has been missed. Well, we have listened! Starting with this issue, look for a newsletter every other month. We will, however, continue sending regular updates about upcoming events and changes throughout the year.

Also, I would like to remind you that fellow 1<sup>st</sup> US and Board Member Cpl. Bob Zebian has taken over management of our website. He is doing a bang-up job keeping it up to date.

Thank you, Bob!

<http://www.1stusinfantry.org/>

Finally, I would be remiss if I failed to thank Alan Prendergast for his years of service as the Editor of the Union Standard. Alan has done a great job, but with his additional responsibilities to the 1<sup>st</sup> US, it was time for him to relinquish editor duties to others. Let me hear three cheers for Captain Prendergast!

With that said I have huge shoes to fill and for now there is a learning curve ahead of me. Please be patient, as this is the first newsletter I have produced. As I get the hang of things, you should see a marked improvement. I welcome any and all comments and suggestions.

YMOS,

Cpl. Francis E. Marshall (aka: Beck R. Martin)

## Notes from the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant:

It was an honor to be elected as your 1<sup>st</sup>Sgt recently. Thank you.

Shiloh was a good event, especially the tactical. In fact, with the shortage of Union troops (yes, you were sorely missed if you couldn't come), I had wished that the entire weekend were a tactical.

The 104<sup>th</sup> IL boys joined us, along with some other units to fill out the ranks of our Company. Up and down and through paths in the woods looking for the Confederates was drudgery, but when we found them, things changed. One of the better parts was when Captain Prendergast seized the opportunity to fix bayonets and charge a disoriented "cav" unit, who retreated at the sight of mad men rushing them. Then, placing us in a strategic position on the hill, we were finally able to direct effective fire that neutralized a superior force.

Sergeant Major Rudy (yes, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant) filled this Battalion billet for the weekend and constantly called for the submittal of appropriate forms. His younger brother, also bedecked with stripes and rockers, did his usual bugle duties and 'round the campfire with his excellent period guitar playing. *Dixie* and the Marine Corps hymn were very well done.

The chow was outstanding and period correct. Mrs. Thomas was kind enough to make, among other things, a pudding that was very good, but dry. Yet, it was complimented by the tasty punch that followed. I'm sure it was intentional.

After getting the word from LtCol. Gross to fix sight at 200 yards, then later while marching, Private Campbell put the right palm through with the rear sights of the rifle when tripping on the ubiquitous vines. It could have happened to any one of us. Lesson learned: return the sights to their "down" setting before marching again.

Private Gross, on leave before going to aerial training, *graced* our presence with his antics and grit. Thank God this boy is on our side.

Private Graham showed up with his bride for his cameo appearance to burn ammunition, which he did with uncanny enthusiasm and speed.

All in all...a good, safe event. I look forward to the next event and seeing everyone again.

Respectfully,

Paul Mattoon  
1stSgt, 1<sup>st</sup> US Infantry

## April Events:

Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> plan to meet at the Texas Civil War Museum in Fort Worth. Please arrive around 9am for a 9:30am start time and it should end around 11:30am. The museum is on the west side of Fort Worth, so for those coming from the North Dallas area, please allow yourself enough time. After the drill we are encouraged to stay at the Museum and mingle with visitors. Also, if we happened to have the recruiting box there, we will need help manning it as well. The address is 760 Jim Wright Freeway North, Fort Worth Texas 76108. Phone number is 817-246-2323. Please see the website for directions.

<http://www.texascivilwarmuseum.com/>

Friday and Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> we will be supporting/recruiting at the Texas Fort Muster at the Fort Worth Stockyards. This is very well attended event by the public. See pages 4 and 5 for addition information.

## 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Calendar

**2007**

### April

**14<sup>th</sup> - Drill – Texas Civil War Museum, Ft. Worth, TX.**

*27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> -Texas Forts Muster, Fort Worth Stockyards*

### May

**5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> –Reenactment, Jefferson Texas**

### June

**9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> - Reenactment, Tribbey Oklahoma**

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

## **SHILOH THERE AND BACK AGAIN**

### **A LIEUTENANTS' TALE**

Our story begins in Plano on Thursday morning as the hour of 10:00 am approaches. Privates Sickler and Powers await within the grove of trees that makes up my front yard for the arrival of the wagon which will transport us to SHILOH. A last minute change of plans places the wagon at Private Gates' house where Ms. Julie and Sergeant Mattoon are busily loading war materials into our conveyance. Then off to our rendezvous position at which time the great attempt is made to load 20 lbs into a 5 lbs sack. With much cajoling and a few well placed curses materials and troops are loaded and the great wagon lumbers out on to the road with Captain Prendergast at the reins.

We make our way out onto the Highway and the dust begins to fly as the war wagon gained speed on our eastward trek. The pace is relentless as we stopped only for food and forage for the wagon till we reached Memphis on the River. Captain Prendergast had spent sometime in this town before the war and remembered what he propertied to be a fine Rib House. We did not attract much attention as we where dressed in civilian attire which was well as some small time was spent searching for this eatery. At last it was found down an alley behind the livery where we secured a stall for our wagon.

We entered and were greeted by a most forward black man who showed us to our table and in no uncertain terms informed us that the drinks were SWEET tea, soda or water. When we were not ready to order at once he left until the rest of our party joined us, after they sent coded messages by wire on our progress thus far. Although gruff our host did lay out a fine meal and it was with great effort we drug ourselves up the stairs from the basement and back to the wagon. Once reloaded, Captain Prendergast, with a great crack of the whip, set us hurling onto the highway and into the inky blackness of the night.

We arrived at about 10:00 that night and found our campsite. The tents were quickly pitched, the wagon settled into a near by field and wood sawing symphonies began.

Friday morning we wake to the sound of the bugle and after a light breakfast fall in for the soldiers favorite activity—DRILL! We drill until mid morning then after a brief break we form up and head off into the woods. We stop well in the woods and start a defense line as the scouts ride up and say they are not far and will bee here soon. The battle is well described by Captain Prendergast. The best was having the high ground and making them pay to take it, it was a fine position.

After a brief encounter with the Reb Cav we left the skirmish company on the line and back to camp for us for the night. It was fair cold.

The bugle sounds again and soon gunfire in the distance. Mrs. Pvt. Thomas had breakfast and coffee ready and we quickly set out for the day. The morning was the rest of the tactical then a break for lunch. The afternoon was the hornets nest and Orkin was wearing gray. We stood until we could stand no more then fell as the Gray tide washed over us.

After a brief inspection of sutlers row it was back to camp for St.Pats dinner which our laundress/Chef had had spent the day preparing. Corn beef, cabbage, and a dessert to die for were our fair, then ample stores and song around the campfire attracting all the Irish in camp, then, another cool evening for sleeping.

Sunday found us quiet in camp well feed by the angel of the campfire, packing began for the battle was to be mid afternoon and the way home was long. The wagon was procured from the field and the repeat of the 20lbs in the 5lb sack was played out. The afternoon battle was a sweep for the boys in blue even though we were woefully out numbered. Captain Prendergast became the right wing which left me in command. Everyone was very kind to the Lt., still wet behind the ears. Thank you all for your patience.

After the battle, the wagon was loaded, Prendergast cracked the whip and we lurched out onto the road. The trip home was not as leisurely as the one on the way out, stopping only for food, necessity and forage for the wagon but the conversation never stopped. Thanks to all our intrepid pilots we arrived home at about 1:30 -2:00 am.

It was pretty much what it was promised to be, and save for Pvt. Campbell's' wound, stitches and all, it was a most amusing.

YMOS

Lt. J. Dougherty  
Company D, 1<sup>st</sup> US

### **More details on the Fort Worth Stockyards April 27-28**

The Seventh Annual Texas Forts Muster will take place in the Historic Ft. Worth Stockyards on Friday & Saturday, April 27-28. This yearly event has turned into one of our main recruiting ventures and your help is needed. I will setup Friday at 9:00 am as the first school group arrives at 10:00 and a second batch arrives at 12:30. We will also participate in the military parades at 11:30 & 4:00. Bring cartridges as we will perform firing demos, but leave those live rounds at home. Expect to "break ranks" around 4:00 pm both days. Parking passes and registration packets to be issued both days.

The event hosts will provide free meals on Friday & Saturday - breakfast & lunch – with a possible Social hour after Friday's Retreat. You may bring tentage and spend Friday night onsite, but let me know ASAP. The AmeriSuites hotel in the Stockyards is sold out, but there might be discounted rooms in the Ft Worth area, so contact me if you're interested.

Those who plan to attend either day are asked to contact me preferably by email. Our HQ will be in front of the Exchange Bldg. at 133 E. Exchange Ave.

Your Most Humble Servant,  
Pvt. George "Frederick" Hansen, Esq

### 1<sup>st</sup> US members historic travel pictures



2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant Blair Rudy at Vicksburg this past January.

The 1<sup>st</sup> US was there!



**DON'T FORGET JEFFERSON, MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> 2007. DETAILS WILL BE SENT OUT SOON. GET THOSE KITCHEN PASSES READY!**  
<http://jefferson-texas.com/battle2.htm>

### Community Service



Private John Bowen and Private Art Ogel posing with Cindy Harriman, Director of Communications & Education of the Texas Civil War Museum. If you would like to volunteer your time at the museum please contact Cindy at 817-246-2323.

**E- Mail/Mailing submissions to The Union Standard**  
– [beck.heather@sbcglobal.net](mailto:beck.heather@sbcglobal.net) or C/O Beck Martin, 9091 Creede Trail, Fort Worth, Texas, 76118  
**Newsletter** –  
contact George Hansen if you did not receive your mailed newsletter, [beast1st@comcast.net](mailto:beast1st@comcast.net) or (972)529-5349

**Address/Telephone changes** –  
any mailing/e-mail address changes or telephone number changes should be submitted to Blair Rudy, [brsuv1@verizon.net](mailto:brsuv1@verizon.net) or 817-424-0027

## **The Union Standard**

*Newsletter of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry*

9091 Creede Trail

Fort Worth, Texas 76118

## **FRAZER BROTHERS**

**The Official Sutler of the**

**1st U.S. Infantry**

**More Information at:**

**(214) 696-1865, or**

<http://www.frazerbrothers.com/>