

The UNION STANDARD

April 2009

Vol.17, no 03

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

From the desk:

Gentlemen of the 1st

Wow, I can't believe it is already April. The grass is growing or in my case weeds are growing which means mowing and chores around the homestead. But with chores, family and work we need some down time. For most of us reenacting gives us the release of day to day stress. Especially with today's economic issues, most of us need a little more outside diversions. There is nothing better on a spring day than to don the blue and hang out with members of the 1st US. We have plenty of opportunities to do this the next few months. I hope all of you can take advantage of this! Saturday, April, 18th at Farmers Branch Historical Park we will be providing living history for the Girl Scout Day. Also, we have the opportunity to spend the night Friday, April 17th. We attended this event last year and had a great time and turn out.

April 24th – 26th is our last opportunity for a true reenactment before the heat of summer rolls in. We will be attending New Year's Creek. This is an invitation only event that is being sponsored by the 13th US Infantry out of the Houston area. This event is south of College Station just off of highway 290. This looks to be a fun event with many different activities.

On May 9th, we have our yearly event at the Texas Forts Muster in the Fort Worth Stockyards. This is a perfect event for a drive-by and for mingling with the public. We will be recruiting heavily at this event as well. Lord knows we need to increase the 1st's roster.

June 13th we will start the summer with an indoor event. Our armory is low on rounds, so we will be having an old fashion cartridge rolling party. Details will follow in later correspondences.

As you can see we have some fun events planned for the spring and early summer. I hope that you can use these opportunities to escape from the day to day stresses.

For another piece of business, the NTRS Board held elections for the new board officers a few weeks ago. Your new Board Officers are as followed: President, Beck Martin, Vice-President, Kevin Doughtie, Treasure, Alan Prendergast, Secretary, Bryan Powers. Congratulations (I think ☺) to the newest officers, I am sure they will serve to best of their abilities.

I look forward to enjoying a cup of coffee with you around the campfire in the near future.

YMOS,

Beck R. Martin 2nd Sgt, 1st US Infantry (recreated)

1st U.S. Calendar

2009

April

17th (overnight) 18th Farmers Branch Historic Park Scout Day
25th – 26th New Year's Creek Invitational (Houston, TX area)

May

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

June

13th Cartridge Rolling, Fort Worth, Texas

July

19th Ceremony at Honey Springs, OK

August

TBD-1st US Social

September

26th – 27th Fort Washita Reenactment

October

TBD

November

7th – 8th Battle of Myer's Landing, McKinney, TX

December

12th 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***

New Years Creek

The skirmish at New Year's Creek promises to be a nice event. Located on private land, the terrain is pretty much anachronistic free and has slightly rolling hills with a mix of open and tree areas. Camping is under the trees and the parking is close but unobtrusive.

The best part of this event is it is **By Invitation Only**. Sponsored by the 13th US this one time event is infantry friendly with no dismounted and other assorted riff raff. Wood and hay are provided and the water is piped in. The battle area is level to a slightly climbing tree covered hill with a creek at the base.

Don Gross and Fred Yokubaitis are the Federal and Confederate commanders respectively. Artillery is limited to two full size guns and there is a wagon to use in the scenarios. Specific scenarios are somewhat flexible and will include spectator and non spectator battles if everyone is up for it. Public skirmish is at 1330 on Saturday and 1300 on Sunday. Sunday morning will feature a period church service. Complete with Chaplains Frock.

A Saturday night BBQ dinner is available for \$7.50 and for those so inclined a dance will be offered.

Good terrain, good camping, good scenarios, no BS. What more could you want.

Directions From Fort Worth-Dallas:

Take I-35 South to Waco, and then take Hwy. 6 toward Bryan-College Station. Take Hwy 6 to Hempstead. Turn west on Hwy 290. Once you cross the Brazos River, go three miles and turn left on Fm 1371. Look for signs for reenactment. We'll enter at the north entry off Ski Lane about four miles from Fm 1371/Hwy 290. If you hit the main entrance you've gone too far. Driving time from Fort Worth/Dallas is about 3 ½ hrs.

New Year's Creek Event Schedule

April 24th;

8:00AM to 10:00AM prepare for school day.

School day 10:00AM to 3:00PM

April 25th;

9:00 Am Officers Call

9:30 Am to 12:00Am Tactical

10:00 Am Site Opens

10:00 Am to 11:30 AM Ladies Social

2:00 Pm to 3:30 Pm Skirmish at New Years Creek

5:00 Pm Camp Closes to Public.

7:00 Pm to——— Buffy and Dance

April 26th;

10:00 Am Officers Call and Camp opens to public

10:30 Am Church Service by Dr. John C. Callison

1:00 Pm to 2:00 Pm Skirmish at New Years Creek

3:00 Pm camp close top public.

Letter from the 1st Sergeant:

Pards of the 1st US Infantry,
March was not our month. Without pulling on the Blue coat last month we are all ready to fall in at New Year's Creek Invitational April 24-26, right?
I am looking forward to it.

From talking with Lt. Col Don Gross our overall Federal Commander for this event I have every confidence it will be outstanding. He promised it to be so. This is a one time reenactment by invitation only on private land organized by reenactors for reenactors. No yahoos or dismounted cav were invited. With our Western Butternut Red River Battalion Pardes on the field this looks to be Infantry Heaven. We will set camp in the tree line with lots of shade and elbow room. The varied topography of field, wood lot and stream all conjure "good ground" to maneuver through. Furthermore, there is no organization leaning over us with last moment expectations. We the reenactors on the field will set the scenario and call the shots! This will be a great weekend!

Our impression is to be of western federal forces. Sack coat and forage cap or slouch hat will do. I will inspect musket, leathers and brass so polish up and be ready for assembly Saturday morning. I expect you will need the normal 80 – 100 rounds. Prudence may suggest you bring more if you have them. Many of you may remember Prudence from Shiloh, right? As this is late April balmy southern Texas you may not even need canvas. Dog tent, "A" frame or a blanket on the ground are acceptable.

Please RSVP to me by the 18th on your attendance to brsuv1@verizon.net or 214-505-1452. Also mail your \$10 ration fee to Captain Prendergast as we will unit mess with Ms. Julie overseeing the hearty and tasty fare.

Alan Prendergast
1403 Barclay Drive
Carrollton, Texas 75007

I remind you there is not much time to send me your "Letter Home" so get it to me soon. Let's make mail call a new tradition.

See You in the Ranks,
Blair Rudy, Orderly Sergeant

Farmers Branch Historical Park Scout Day April 18th. (Overnight stay on the 17th)

Gentlemen,

Unfortunately we were unable to form up at Fort McKavett in March, but as a more local alternative Farmers Branch Historical Park is having a living history day for the Girl Scouts (your commander is not mistaken this time and it's NOT the Boy Scouts) on Saturday April 18th. As with our opportunity last year, for this event, Farmers Branch has extended an invitation to us to attend the living history event, and opened the park to us for use Friday night to set up a camp, stay over, drill on Saturday morning and be part of the living history display for the young ladies during the day on Saturday.

LATE (heavy emphasis on the word late) evening Dinner will be provided Friday night (more than likely chicken or lamb in a stew type setting) and Breakfast will be provided Saturday morning (McFuddy's choice, but will probably NOT involve alcohol for once....).

For those who would like to come out and camp on Friday plan on arriving after 5:00 PM until, late into the evening. Tentage is your choice, for those attending last year, I promise we won't camp beneath the silvery street lamps by the pioneer cabin. This year we'll seek shelter down by the trees across from the office along the main street. Uniform is style is also your choice, as it's a living history display.

There will be, regrettably, NO firing during the drill or the event, as this must be cleared with the FB police department and fire department. Those wishing to drill on Saturday may plan on arriving between 8:00 and 9:00 am Saturday morning (If you would like to show up for breakfast, plan on being there at 0:darkthirty, those showing up at 8:00 will find the dishes and pans washed and cleaned, and the comestibles cold and or eaten). The drill, numbers permitting, will commence on Saturday morning at 9:00 and end a 11:00.

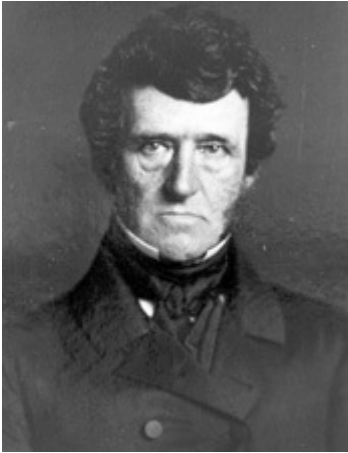
Last year the park provided us with a solid barbecue lunch otherwise I'd offer 3 square meals rather than just 2.

Please RSVP Sgt Rudy at brsuv1@verizon.net if you plan on attending either the drill or the over night.

See you in the field.

I remain
YMOS
A. Prendergast
Cpt commanding, 1st US

Robert F. Stockton



Robert Field Stockton (20 August 1795 – 7 October 1866) was a United States naval commodore, notable in the capture of California during the Mexican-American War. Stockton was from a notable political family and also served as a U.S. Senator from New Jersey.

He was born at Princeton, New Jersey into a political family; his father Richard Stockton was a U.S. Senator and Representative, and his grandfather, another Richard Stockton, signed the Declaration of Independence.

Stockton was appointed a midshipman in the U.S. Navy at the age of 16, serving at sea and ashore during the War of 1812. After that conflict, Lieutenant Stockton was assigned to ships operating in the Mediterranean, in the Caribbean and off the coast of West Africa. He was the first naval officer to act against the slave trade and captured several slave ships. Stockton along with Dr. Eli Ayers of the American Colonization Society negotiated a treaty that led to the founding of the state of Liberia. During the later 1820s and into the 1830s, he primarily devoted his attention to business affairs in New Jersey. The birth of his son John P. Stockton, later also a U.S. Senator representing New Jersey, occurred during this time.

In 1838, Stockton resumed active naval service as a captain. He served in the European area, but took leave in 1840 to undertake political work. Offered the post of U.S. Secretary of the Navy by President John Tyler in 1841, he declined the offer, but worked successfully to gain support for the construction of an advanced steam warship with a battery of very heavy guns.

This ship became USS *Princeton*, the Navy's first screw-propelled steamer. The ship was designed by John Ericsson. Stockton commanded her when she was completed in 1843. Although he was the deviser of a defective gun, Captain Stockton was absolved of responsibility for the February 1844 explosion of the gun, the *Peacemaker*, on board the ship. The explosion killed two cabinet officers and several others.

Cleared by the court of any wrongdoing in the explosion incident, Stockton was sent by President James K. Polk to Texas. Stockton carried with him Polk's offer to annex Texas, sailing on the *Princeton* and arriving in Galveston. Stockton's observations while in Texas made him aware of the looming war with Mexico, a fact he communicated directly to Polk once he arrived back in Washington.

In late July 1846 Commodore, Stockton arrived in Monterey, California and took over command from the ailing Commodore John D. Sloat of the Pacific Squadron of U.S. naval forces in the Pacific Ocean. The war in California was well under way and proceeding. His command ship was the *USS Congress (1841)* and his combined fleet of three frigates with about 480 men each, one Ship of the line with about 780 men and up to four sloops with about 200 men each as well as three storeships made him the strongest force in California as well as the senior military commander. He was instrumental in continuing to take possession of California. The short lived Californio rebellion which had previously drove the 20 man U.S. force out of Los Angeles and fought with General Kearny at the Battle of San

Pasqual. There Kearny's weary 100 dragoons mounted on tired mules, narrowly defeated a Californio-Mexican cavalry force under Andres Pico. Stockton's 450+ bluejackets and Kearny's 80 plus Calvary in a combined Army, marine and Navy force consolidated its control over San Diego in December, and in January 1847 won the minor skirmishes at the Battle of Rio San Gabriel and La Mesa taking back control of Los Angeles. Faced with the approximate 400 men under John C. Fremont's California Battalion as well as Stockton and Kearny's troops the Californios sued for peace and signed the Treaty of Cahuenga, which ending fighting in Alta California. Stockton, as senior military authority in California authorized John C. Fremont's appointment as military governor and commander of the California Battalion militia force. When General Kearny finally arrived with orders to assume control of the temporary government Stockton turned over control to Kearny.

Stockton resigned from the Navy in May 1850 and returned to business and political pursuits. In 1851 he was elected as a Democrat from New Jersey to the United States Senate, where he sponsored a bill to abolish flogging as a Navy punishment. He resigned on January 10, 1853 to serve as president of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Company, a position he held until 1866.

He was a delegate to the unsuccessful Peace Conference of 1861 that attempted to settle the secession crisis; instead the American Civil War began later that year. In 1863, he was appointed to command the New Jersey militia when the Confederate Army invaded Pennsylvania. Captain Robert F. Stockton died at Princeton, New Jersey, and is buried in the Princeton Cemetery.

Four U.S. Navy ships have been named USS *Stockton* in his honor. The cities of Stockton, California and Fort Stockton, Texas are named in his honor, as is Stockton Street in San Francisco, California and Fort Stockton, San Diego, California, which is now a ruin, but was occupied during the Mexican-American War. There is also a rest area on the New Jersey Turnpike named in his honor.



Dues Reminder
Also, if you have not sent your dues in, please
make it a point to get them in soon.
Again the cost is \$25.00, make the check out
to NTRS and send to
Captain Prendergast.

Alan Prendergast
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The Union Standard

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