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# The UNION STANDARD

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August, 2001

Vol. 9, no 8

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

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## *Dispatch from the Board:*

Gentlemen,

As the summer winds down and we get ready to start campaigning again, I thought I would mention something that has come to the forefront lately – SAFETY. Having grown up shooting rifles and competing with rifles and handguns, I know there is no subject more important to the “hobby”. We can discuss what level of authenticity we strive for, debate which scenario we like or how Confederates never follow one. We can worry about how many events to go to and what kind of events we enjoy the most, however, if safety is not foremost in everyone’s mind, well the hobby won’t last much longer. If the shooting at Gettysburg was not a wake-up call, then Raymond certainly should be. Ted Cross and I did a little experiment at the range soon after Raymond to see the results of a small caliber ball and a revolver load . We were both very surprised. The .36 caliber ball was clocked at over 900 fps with only 18 gr of FFFg Goex powder. The ball then hit a cotton towel that was folded and

wrapped around two 2 liter coke bottles filled with water. The ball had no problems punching through 8 layers of terrycloth as well as both bottles of water and then skipped in the dirt and went into the backstop. All of this at 75 yards!

This brings us to the live fire. This is a great opportunity to see how difficult it is to volley fire accurately as well as how different the recoil is with a live round. Gregg Benefiel will defend the 1<sup>st</sup> US “CUP” for the top shooter and we will all have fun. Afterwards, however, I expect every musket and revolver to be cleaned and ready for the next reenactment. Any part of a minie ball left in the barrel is a possible repeat of Gettysburg or Raymond. Please remember how important cleaning your rifle is. Let’s be safe as we have fun. See you there...

Y.O.S.

Kip Bassett  
Vice President  
N.T.R.S.

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Our lines were broken and the rebels came near ... (getting) our whole corps, besides several batteries. We were deployed out across an open field, the rebs got into the field within 500 yards of where we were deployed, and we were between two fires; we had to hug the ground mighty close to keep out of the way of the bullets.... Little Eddy Hays, whom you knew, was killed; he was from my company.... I think mother must be about sick of these of these tales about blood – certainly I am; but what can I do? I say as little and endeavor to describe in the least revolting manner the horrible scenes around me. I trust I may be spared the task of speaking of or participating in any more such conflicts.

Diary of Eugene H. Freeman, in camp on the Weldon Railroad, Va., August 21, 1864.

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**Three cheers for our latest recruits in the ranks!**

**Andy Yuhas**

**Jerome Levy**

**Andy Yuhas was recruited at the Grapevine event and**

**Jerome Levy was recruited at the Civil War musical**

# 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Calendar 2001

## AUGUST

11 Live Fire Mansfield, TX

## SEPTEMBER

29-30 Cabin Creek Reenactment Cabin  
Creek, OK **Official Frontier Brigade Event**

## OCTOBER

5-7 Reenactment/Recruiting Granbury  
13 Drill TBA

## NOVEMBER

2-4 Cane Hill Reenactment Arkansan  
16-18 Plantation Liendo Reenactment Houston  
area, TX

## DECEMBER

1 Drill/Candlelight Dallas

*Note: October and November Events to be discussed  
and voted on at Live Fire.*

## 1<sup>st</sup> US Annual Live Fire

This month's unit activity is the annual live fire at the Arlington Sportsman Club. The one time of the year when "burning powder" takes on a whole new meaning. Under the able direction of Kip Bassett and Ted Cross you will have the opportunity for individual and team competition. If not the competitive type you can still get an appreciation for why they went through so much lead back then. We will also platoon fire in two ranks. Bring your musket, 'coots, blank rounds, and some cleaning gear. For those without properly marked gear this will be an opportunity to rectify that! Shooting begins at 9:00, early arrivals welcome. **Important note: There will be a unit meeting at 11:30 to discuss and vote on the October and November events.**

Directions to Arlington Sportman's Club,  
Mansfield.

*Going west on I-20 in Arlington: Take 157/Cooper St. south from I-20 to Mansfield. In downtown Mansfield turn right on Broad St. Go 1.6 miles to Lillian St. and turn left. At 1.2 miles turn left into the Arlington Sportman's Club.*

*Going east on I-20 in Arlington: Take Hwy 287 south from I-20 to 157; turn right onto 157. In downtown Mansfield turn right on Broad St. Go 1.6 miles to Lillian St. and turn left. At 1.2 miles turn left into the Arlington Sportman's Club.*

## E-Roster Changes/Additions

Gregg Benefiel	<a href="mailto:gnaaw@swbell.net">gnaaw@swbell.net</a>
Rick Brockman	<a href="mailto:Irbrockman@aol.com">Irbrockman@aol.com</a>
Tony Durant	<a href="mailto:TDD518096@aol.com">TDD518096@aol.com</a>
David Hewell	<a href="mailto:daviddelplano@hotmail.com">daviddelplano@hotmail.com</a>
Jerome Levy	<a href="mailto:levymediator@aol.com">levymediator@aol.com</a>
Matt Ownings	<a href="mailto:mownings@mail.uttyl.edu">mownings@mail.uttyl.edu</a>
Michael Reece	<a href="mailto:mreece1669@yahoo.com">mreece1669@yahoo.com</a>
George Renfro	<a href="mailto:grenfro@nortelnetworks.com">grenfro@nortelnetworks.com</a>
Brad Walsh	<a href="mailto:brad.walsh@tdh.state.tx.us">brad.walsh@tdh.state.tx.us</a>
Andy Yuhas	<a href="mailto:conchyjoe@hotmail.com">conchyjoe@hotmail.com</a>

## Lessons from Lincoln

*A Good Reply When Someone Asks You How You Like Your Job.*

"Well, you have heard the story, haven't you, about the man as he was ridden out of town on a rail, tarred and feathered? Somebody asked him how he liked it, and his reply was if it was not for the honor of the thing, he would much rather walk." (Lincoln's reply when asked how he liked being president of the United States.)

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (Third Quarter)**  
**July 23, 2001 Location: Smokehouse of Lewisville**

Attendance: Gross,D., Hansen, G., Bassett,K., Bowen, J., Brown, W., Sanders, S., Kirkendall, J., Fett, G., Doughtie, K., Kirby, C., Barton, C.

SECRETARY- Submitted Minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter meeting—Approved

TREASURER Current report submitted (see report)

--Highlights— Savings balance- \$3,589.11/ Checking balance- \$1379.19

--Recruiting add to be placed in “Civil War News” @ \$31/ yr.

RECRUITING Six Flags, 60 signed up/ 46 contacted

--More emphasis needed in developing Mentoring program

--C. Barton nominated and approved as ‘Recruiting Sgt’

LIVING HISTORY Upcoming events: Six Flags Heritage Festival in Sept (tentative), Granbury Oct 5-7

**NEW BUSINESS:**

-Newsletter- new editor, Alan Pendergast

-Web site- Matt Noel needs input from Board, Kevin Doughtie to coordinate

-Status as member of Frontier Brigade- general discussion about quality of representation and support by the North/ South Alliance and Frontier Brigade.  
Don and George will discuss problems with Col Hodges.

-Upcoming Events:

--Live Fire- unit meeting after firing

--equipment marking at live fire

--possibility of conducting next year’s live fire at Mineral Wells range

--Cabin Creek- Sept 28-30

--Granbury- Oct 5-7 –discuss participation at live fire

--Liendo Plantation- Nov 16-18 –immersion event (with camp as alternate)

--OR Cane Hill- Nov 2-4 – no info as of yet- 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade event

--Candlelight in Old City Park- 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of December- hold as drill

-2002 Events:

-Have a list of possible events by December to be voted on

-Perryville- Oct 2002

-Prairie Grove- Dec 2002

-Muster- Feb 2002

-Proposed Expenditures:

-Buy 2 1863 Springfields w/ bayonets

-Buy 2 trousers (used), 2 Hardee hats

-Purchase of a national flag deferred

-Proposed Amendment to Bylaws (as tabled by G. Benefiel in writing at last meeting)

–“No single elected position will be held for more than two consecutive terms by any individual. By vote of a majority of the membership prior to the next election, this provision may be waived if there are no volunteers or qualified individuals.”

-Proposal passed by a vote of 7 yeas, 2 nays.

-Proposal will be posted in the next newsletter and voted on at Cabin Creek, the next unit meeting.

John Bowen  
Secretary

This Union Standard issue contains Mike Phineas' final installment of his impressions and observations at Raymond. Not only do we consider this to be a fine article, but so does the Camp Chase Gazette as they published Mike's work in its entirety in their recent July issue. The CCG editor states, "This is Mike Phineas' first appearance in CCG, and he is a most welcomed addition. Though a relatively new reenactor, he has already learned one of the hobby's most important lessons. Good times can be had under bad circumstances; it is all about attitude."

## **A Soldiers' View of the Raymond Campaign – Part III**

by Mike Phineas

As I knew the Frontier Brigade would be leaving the event, I soon wandered down to the campfire of the Austin Mess. I then pulled up a seat in the dirt and engaged in some enlightening conversation with 'Brother Maynard', 'Corn', and the rest of the boys. We talked far into the evening. It was as if I literally took a step back in time! I learned a great deal from this small group of authentic, including a new term... 'Immersion.'

I also learned that the Mess would be leaving before dawn in the AM, and would not stay for Sunday's battle. I sat there, staring at the campfire, wondering to myself, "Just how bad do you want to be a re-enactor?" I pondered the misadventures of the last few days... The lack of water, the shooting incident, the perceived slights, etc. Shortly I made a decision, bid goodbye to these hearty comrades-in-arms, and went off to find the headquarters of the Army of the Pacific.

I located Col. del Bello at the AOP commissary tent, where he was overseeing operations. As he sat on a couple of old hardtack crates, we discussed events and reenacting in general. "A soldier has to have it in here..." he said pointing to his chest, sounding very much like Winfield Scott Hancock. Listening with rapt attention, and perhaps a little awe, I nodded in abeyance and asked if I might have the chance to fight with his battalion on the morrow. Grinning, he told me to see his adjutant. Just then, an orderly moved past the colonel, dropping to his knees as he scurried past. I guessed, correctly I may add, that my adulating exuberance was being mocked. I could care less. I was going to fight with the AOP the next day. And that would bring invaluable training and experience for me as a re-enactor...

Dawn, Sunday. I woke with a buoyant attitude of what the day might bring. I bid goodbye to Pvt. Gates, and also to Lt. Mabry, who called Don and I to attention so he could dismiss the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion properly!

Slinging rifle and knapsack, screwing on my best regular army impression, I strode into the camp of the AOP and reported. I was assigned to Company B, which consisted mainly of some hard-bitten westerners from the 55th Illinois, plus a mixture of other troops. Also in the ranks were Tim Schneider (the old 1st Sgt. of the 13th US), Don Jolley (a holdover from the 1st US Co. D, Arizona), and a swarthy corporal named Mark Villajos (who was rumored to have been an officer in the 2nd US at one time, and most decidedly knew more than any corporal I ever served with...) Looking around at these weathered men, with their dingy, hand sewn sack coats, their battered slouch hats and their authentic salt pork and camp demeanor, I suspected I was amongst a crack outfit.

This perception was most unmistakably confirmed once drill commenced... Through parade, then company drill, and finally every conceivable battalion evolution imaginable, I gamely kept up the pace. As we swept through two or three rapid-fire movements in a row, Don Jolley looked over to me and mouthed, "These boys are good...!" Grinning, I gave him a rueful nod. I wanted desperately to conduct a competent, professional, and even slightly haughty attitude with my new peers. I sought to act like a regular, and I wanted to convey an impression representative of my regiment, 1st US Infantry Regulars. We went through skirmish drill with machine-like precision, then retired to camp for some rest, and, finally, knapsack inspection. This last action was entirely novel to me, and a well learned experience.

By Sunday afternoon we were growing restless. The AOP was to be the division reserve, the last unit on the field to join the assault up Champion's Hill. It seemed odd to lay there in idle amusement, arms stacked, making wisecracks to troops marching by, while the battle's crescendo built up. The battalion was acting with veteran-like indifference, and I truly felt part of an elite unit. Finally, we formed up.

We were two long lines of ragged, dusty men in sun-bleached uniforms. With a veteran's nonchalance, we nudged elbows and craned necks to the right. Our colonel stepped out in front of the ranks... "Ready FRONT!" No heroic speeches forthcoming, nor exhortations to the flag, or reminders of patriotic duty. Just work ahead... "BATTALION! Right FACE!" "COUNTERMARCH! By files left, MARCH!" Drums beating and tattered flags waving, the battalion slouched along casually with little regard for alignment, seemingly in no hurry at all, but covering ground to the battlefield very rapidly.

As we came up, a battalion before us was giving way, and had been pushed back off the slope at a right angle. We strode by and they cheerily shouted oaths of encouragement. Hard boiled and unemotional, we tramped by and performed a textbook 'by company into line', spreading the entire battalion into a fighting front. "BATTALION! Left wheel, MARCH!" And without hesitation, we smartly left wheeled and marched up the hill at shoulder arms. As I 'touched in and looked out' I felt an immense pride in being a civil war re-enactor.

We engaged the enemy in the climatic struggle for Champions Hill, aided by King's and Abelson's Battalions. The summit was all fire and flame as we pushed up the slope. The air

was thick with lead. The smoke hung low, engulfing and choking us, watering our eyes. All the while, the pitiful screams of the wounded pierced the acrid air. The officers and file closers paced to and fro, encouraging, shouting oaths, and our battalion commander was forever a beacon, directing, ordering... "Fire by battalion! Fire!" "Fire by File, commence firing!" "BATTALION! Forward, MARCH!" Heads ducked, as if entering a rainstorm, up to the crest of Champion's Hill we went.

*The rebs fled in disorder and the field was ours. The route to Vicksburg was finally open. Cheers and tigers were given to the enemy, and dutifully received in return. Hats waving, rifles held aloft, the men saluted the officers and staff of the battalion with a hearty "Hurrah!" Col. Del Bello personally walked the ranks, thanking every soldier for his dedicated service. Our faces were blackened with powder, our uniforms stained with the accumulation of four days dirt and grime, we were mad with thirst and worn out to the point of exhaustion, yet nevertheless were joyous and exultant. The sun was gleaming, the sky was blue, it was one of those grand moments that a re-enactor lives for... A perfect climax to the campaign.*

In retrospect, I acquired more knowledge and experience of the re-enacting art in that strife filled weekend, than I have in the past year combined. As I left the field, I took a reflective step back, and discovered the dedication and desire that burned in my heart to portray those heroes of our Irrepressible Conflict. I pondered my passion for the hobby, how I fondly recognized even the unique odors. The wool and leather, the burning wood, the gunpowder... And lastly, I realized the most important lesson learned: A soldier has to have it "in here..."

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## New Procedures

E-Mail/Mailing addresses and Telephone number changes should be forwarded to John Bowen, [bowen1stus@dellepro.com](mailto:bowen1stus@dellepro.com) or (972) 539-6167.

Newsletter – contact George Hansen if you did not receive your newsletter, [beast1st@home.com](mailto:beast1st@home.com) or (972) 529-5349.

## One Sunday Morning

by Carl Stang

It is early and the sun is up. It's a new day. The situation appears bleak. Heavily outnumbered and desperately in need of re-enforcement's, fate awaits. Nearly encircled, the rebs have taken up ranks on both the left and right flanks. A tough job is surely the order of the day. I can begin to hear movement around me signaling that the time for the opening of the day's activities draws nearer.

Memories of my loving wife and my young child at home waft from the recesses of my mind. Thoughts of the feel of a warm soft bed and appropriate covers on a cool morning, far out of harm's way bring a reminiscing smile to my face. It seems so far away and distant now. What a contrast of what seemed to be just a normal comfortable life just a short while ago. And now to be placed in this claustrophobic position with the rebs in such close proximity. Sometimes I think the time to go home will never come.

Does anyone really know that I am here? Will I make it successfully through the day? These and other sobering thoughts snap me back into reality. There is movement to our front. The rebs on our right flank have noted the movement also. I hear the rebs moving around and talking among themselves. Oh the rebs, they are so close. The contact that is brewing is becoming a stench in the air now. A knife could not cut the fixed gaze to the front.

What is the purpose of this movement to the front? Is it blue? Is it Gray? The movement draws close. It is a person. Yes, a man. A

stranger. Let him draw a little nearer and let's have a closer look at him. Who is this? Where is he from? I don't think the rebs know any better than I. I sense that their attention is also riveted to this intruder to our front. The man draws nearer. Coming closer in no great hurry. Steadily closer in an aimless manner. I rise. I look closely, carefully measuring up this person. Is he one of ours? Is he one of theirs? I wait. I ponder. He draws nearer.

Time for action is at hand. From the right corner of my eye, I see a rebel moving toward the source of our attention. I believe the man to be one of ours and wasting no time, I move quickly to cut the rebel off and claim the intruder to the front. Fancy footwork saves the day. I nimbly cut off the reb and I see the reb wisely yield and retire some distance to my right, safely out of range. The rebs on the left have remained quiet and still, remaining in their ranks seemingly unaware of the present activity to the front.

I move quickly toward the source of my attention and approaching the man I say..."Hi! Have you an interest in the Civil War? Do you like camping and being outdoors? Ever considered re-enacting as a hobby? It's lots of fun. Come, let me tell you some more about the hobby...."

(Note: the above article last appeared in the The Union Standard in December, 1994, and remains an all-time favorite.)

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### Cabin Creek Registration

*Important Notice:* Immediately notify John Bowen if you and/or your family members plan to attend the Cabin Creek re-enactment, September 28-30. John can be contacted at [bowen1stus@dellepro.com](mailto:bowen1stus@dellepro.com) or at (972) 539-6167.

**July 19, 2001**

**1st Battalion Frontier Brigade Update**

To: All Unit Commanders and Contacts, Brigade CO, 2nd Btn CO, and Bde. Adj.

Gentlemen, I hope everyone is rested and recovered from their Raymond experience. My report to Colonel Hodges can be found on the Brigade Webpage under the reports section.

Items of Note:

Don Kessler has stepped down as the Brigade Adjutant. Tim Johnson has been appointed to his position. There are not enough words to describe the job Don has done for the Brigade in promoting communications and keeping everyone informed. Next time you see him please pass on some well deserved praise and appreciation for all his hard work. Don will continue to manage the Brigade webpage.

Jerry Seery, former QM of the Frontier Battalion (an oldie, but goldie) has been made Brigade Assistant Inspector General. He will be charged with safety and authenticity matters. Jerry did a fine job as Battalion QM and I am glad to see him back with the Brigade.

The official police report for the Raymond event list the shooting as accidental. However, it did admit that the wound was not self-inflicted.

General Warnick's replacement upon his "retirement" has not been selected. Discussions continue.

Upcoming Events

I know some of you are still trying to make plans in regard to the fall campaign. Here is a listing of some of the events that will be attended by Brigade members during September – October. Remember Cabin Creek was voted the Official Brigade event.

September 29-30th

Battle of Cabin Creek – Vanita, Oklahoma

Two engagements. \$100 bounty for wagon and teams, or artillery. To register contact Whit Edards, 2100 N. Lincoln Blvd. OKC, OK 73105.

Camps should be campaign. At this time no outpost or separate skirmishing planned.

Frontier Brigade command (Hodge)/Trans-Mississippi Brigade Command (Beck)

Website: <http://www.ok-history.mus.ok.us/Creek/Cabncrk.htm>

November 2 – 4

Battle of Cane Hill – Bentonville, AR (near Fayetteville, precursor to Prairie Grove)

This event is late in being announced. It is not an official FB event.

Camps should be campaign. There may be outpost duty and non-scheduled skirmishing. Doug Kidd of FB Cavalry is looking into this being organized and allowed on site.

Registration is due by September 15. Registration fee is \$5.00 per individual \$6.00 after Sept. 15.

Frontier Brigade Command/Trans-Mississippi Brigade (Beck). Website:

<http://www.peelmansion.org/reenactment.html>

November 16 – 18

Plantation Liendo - Hempstead/ Outside Houston, Texas

Elements of the 1st Battalion will be present (13th US, 26th ILL)

This is not an official Brigade event

Both an Immersion Camp and Static Camp will be available. Those going immersion need to be ready to start Saturday morning at 4 a.m. and proceed through the rest of the weekend doing first person, outpost duty, skirmishing, and minimal camp gear, all rations being period only.

Both infantry camps should be campaign, but A tents are allowed in the static camp.  
1st Battalion FB Infantry Command (Dolive)/Confederate (J. King)  
Websites: General site: <http://users.bendnet.com/11texas/>  
Immersion rules/regs/comments: <http://home.att.net/~ill26infantry/http>

October 6 – 7

Granbury Texas Reenactment  
This is not an official FB event  
Reenactment and parade

As you can see there are several serious events to choose from in the fall. Brigade has asked that we request all members to make an effort to attend the Cane Hill affair. I ask each Company Commander to supply me with the following information:

Will your unit attend:

Cabin Creek?	If so how many men?
Cane Hill?	If so how many men?
Plantation Liendo?	If so how many men?

Are there other fall events that HQ should be aware off?

Also, the Fort Gibson Historic Site is sponsoring their annual Fund-Raiser entitled "The Pink Naked Ladies Waltz". There will be Music, Dancing, Entertainment, and Midnight Buffet. For more info contact Fort Gibson at 918 478 - 4089.

There will be a NSA planning meeting December 1, 2001. For more details contact Steve Draper.

Finally, in the last couple of days there has been a flurry of emails in regard to an incident at Raymond (yes another). I have no problem with incidents being reported directly to the Division Commander by the men. However, I ask that you request your men to let their Company, Battalion and Brigade commanders know of such incidents and give them the courtesy of sending them a copy of their report. That way requests from the Division AIG will not be a surprise. The incident in question was reported, not by the man involved, but by a concerned member of the Battalion who was only related the story in recent days. I received a request by the Division AIG with little notice. However, to the soldier's credit he did send me, his company commander, and Brigade HQ a copy of his memo the next day without my asking. Do not take this message as a complaint; I just wanted to bring this up if for future reference.

Gentlemen, it has been too long since we were together. I certainly look forward to seeing you at Cabin Creek and those going to Liendo. I doubt I will be at Cane Hill, but those who attend I know you will do the 1st Battalion proud.

Until we meet in the field, I remain,

YOS,  
Mark Dolive  
1st Battalion, Frontier Bde.



## Recruits Assigned

Wondering who that *fresh fish* is next to you in line? The following new recruits are assigned to the companies indicated. Letters will be presented and ID numbers assigned when they assemble their light marching order. Three cheers for the fresh fish!

### Company A

Jim Kincaid  
Tony Durant  
David Hewell  
Matt Torres  
Andy Yuhas

### Company D

Brad Walsh  
David Mabry  
George Renfro  
Michael Reece  
Matt Owings

## New Newsletter Editor

Our new newsletter editor is Alan Prendergast. Recently returned from detached duty in Austin Alan takes up his new duties with the September issue. We expect you will see quite an improvement! Thanks Alan.

## Fall Events

Things have change since the yearly schedule was approved by the membership in March. First of all we had to cancel our by-annual dance leaving an opening in November. There are several possibilities for events in the last three months of this year. The following events will

be discussed and voted on at the unit meeting at the live fire.

October 5-8 is the Granbury reenactment. For various reasons the 1<sup>st</sup> has not participated in this event for the past three years. This year the event is under new management and at a new location. Scooter (from Bellmead) is involved and early indications are the event should show signs of improvement. This is a “close in” event and ideal for those who can only make it for the day. We could vote to make this a weekend event, or a drill/stay for the battle, or a combination of both. The alternative would be to hold a regular drill. **Please note that Granbury is the week after Cabin creek – a max effort event.**

In November there is a choice between Cane Hill in Arkansas and Liendo near Houston. At this time we don't have many details on Cane Hill except that it is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion event in a nice location. At Liendo there is an opportunity to participate in an immersion scenario. We would be on outpost duty for the entire weekend but participating in the public battles. Our camp would be campaign style well away from the heavy campers/partiers. This was something we were supposed to experience at Raymond before the incident cut things short. The immersion is structured to be authentic in all respects, something that should fall within our normal standards.

The December drill will be held in conjunction with Candlelight. Again we have not been to this in several years. It's a nice opportunity to drill and then spend some social time in a period environment.

If you cannot make live fire let your company commander know which event/events you would like to participate in.

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

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