
The UNION STANDARD

June-July 2003

Vol. 11, no 5

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

Dispatch from the Board

Twenty-eight members of the first U.S. took part in drill at Samuell Farm on Saturday, June 21. This was one of our better turnouts in recent memory and I was glad to see it! It had been a while since we had participated in any activities at Samuell Farm and it brought back many memories, especially the Sunday a few years back when we experienced rain, sleet, and snow that cancelled that day's battle during what used to be yearly reenactments out at the farm. We had six brand new recruits at the drill: Ron Hagan, Hal Rudd, Chris Baker, Brian Elliott and his son Alex, and Scott Fullerton. We also had a second timer, Robert Burrage, who first joined us at the May drill in Arlington. Here is a hearty welcome to all of our new recruits and I hope we see them at many more future events!

The new recruits were drilled under the careful tutelage of Sergeant Major Beard and Conway Barton for the first part of the drill. The rest of us went over the basics with a quick tour of the manual of arms and then went out to do some maneuvering. We went through By Company into Line, on the Right by File into Line, etc. We did all of these marching by the right flank. Then, as we also did in the May drill, we switched to going through these maneuvers while marching by the left flank. I think we are getting the hang of it. It would be neat some day to show off our new skills at a brigade or battalion level muster. However, the acting first sergeant got caught off guard (it could be old age slowing his brain down) when we switched back to doing drill when marching by the right flank and totally screwed up a on the right by file into line. If anyone knows who that sergeant was let me know. We then went through skirmish drill, deploying by the Flank and on the file, both right and left. After that, the new recruits joined us and we did a few more iterations of skirmish drill. We also pulled off a left wheel from a fixed pivot and did a very nice job

if I say so myself! We then concluded drill and convened for lunch at a somewhat bawdy restaurant.

Some upcoming events include the July 4th living history at Old City Park in Dallas from 10-5. Old City Park is an interesting place and we will conduct drill for any new recruits who would like to show up. We are holding a cartridge rolling party on July 19th at Don Gross's place of business to roll "real" cartridges for the live fire in August. Word is that anyone who shows up and helps roll cartridges does not have to pay for any at the live fire. We will probably also roll some reenactor cartridges (blanks). If any new recruits would like to learn how to roll cartridges please come on out and pitch in! And, speaking of the live fire it will be at the end of August. This is an annual event and is a lot of fun! It is neat to fire real rounds and feel the kick of the musket against your shoulder. It is also interesting to carry 20-40 rounds of real rounds in your cartridge box instead of blanks. The weight difference is considerable. And at the end of September, we will travel north into Oklahoma for the Atoka reenactment. We are pushing for a maximum effort for this event. We have not had any reenactments (other than drill) since the tactical up in Decatur. So, come on out!

In closing, I would like to send the unit's condolences again to Bob Fuhrmann for the loss of Harold, one of his team of horses that so readily pulled the wagon that carried our supplies at many a reenactment. We signed a card for Bob and sent it to him. For everyone who saw his email reply you know how much Bob appreciated it. It is nice when the unit can act as family and be there for members who may need help, support, etc. Knowing the members of our unit I know this will always be true.

YMOS,

Greg Fett
"Sarge"



1st U.S. Calendar

2003

AUGUST

30 Live Fire, 200 yd range, Mansfield

SEPTEMBER

26-28 Battle of Middle Boggy (Atoka, Oklahoma)

OCTOBER

18 Drill at Granbury Re-enactment -
CANCELLED BY GRANBURY

NOVEMBER

7-9 Battle of Bentonville (formally Cane Hill)

DECEMBER

6-7 Drill, Fort Washita

Company Info!

If you can spare a moment of your time, I'd like to bring some information to your attention. Firstly I'd like to inform you of the latest batch of recruits that have come our way since we last (a long time ago) reported on that sort of thing.

The following men have joined the cause and I hope you will take time out to welcome them. I've included their "telegraph" information for those who want to wire them a friendly note (no warnings about yours truly need be sent please...some things are best left to personal experience....)

Robert Burrage – Unionstreet@verizon.net
Trey Weeks – weeksem@yahoo.com
Scott Fullerton – scott.fullerton@heartplace.com
Ronald Hagan - Ronhagan@rolandcriss.com
Jake Wise - Rebelgray05@aol.com

Also, as of Jake's joining, we have 71 infantrymen on the roster. Spread about evenly between A and D companies and 9 men in the recruit company.

The last few events we haven't managed to get anywhere near 71 people out, but then again, at the last two "non event" events I've attended we've had showing of 17 guys, and that, for things like the 4th of July celebration at Old City Park in Dallas, isn't bad

at all. We might have had more at OCP, but I think people Don Gates wouldn't be available to run the chow and that I'd be filling in for him....ah well....

Based on the number of recruits we've had join over the last two months a special thanks should be extended to the recruiting depot. George, Conway, and all the other members who have taken time out to man the booth.

On other fronts, for those who haven't seen it in some other fashion, Troy Frazier would like it to be known his email address has changed to:

frazier1863@comcast.net

And for those who still haven't (as myself) quite got (former) Corporal Doughtie's mail right, it's now j.doughtie@comcast.net .

GRANBURY – has been cancelled as an event (by the folks in Granbury), so I suspect we'll be getting together to try and find something to pass the time in October. Suggestions are welcome, provided they don't involve burning any more property in various parts of the south. Marching on Richmond might be acceptable, but only if someone is willing to provide crates of S'mores Schanpps (if you haven't seen the Re-enactor episode of South Park, you need to make an effort....you'll especially enjoy the Stars & Bars appearing over the Union Camp, presumably as an alternate Union flag?...and Eric Cartman as 'Marse Robert?...the world would never be the same.)

And finally....to everyone who wondered when your checks were going to be cashed! They were finally dug up from under the chicken coop, taken out of the strong box, and cashed at the 1st Cumberland Bank, so you should receive notification of that fact in your next statements. And I'd like to apologize for taking so long to take your money...usually I'm better at it than that!

I remain, YMOS
A. McFuddy

Hardtack Warning

We all have heard the hardtack horror stories. We've even told a few our own selves. But this latest report is a bloody shocker, as soon you'll see.

It seems that recently, Pvt. Andrew Bass, Union Army Veteran, was apprising a brigade of boys

as to the secrets of soldiering. Thinking to break a tooth-duller cracker into shareable bits, he smote one with his boot heel. At least one of the resultant shard had a keen enough edge to flat SLASH HIS HAND WIDE OPEN!

In retrospect, we should have expected this. Anything that's hard as flint should reasonably be expected to be as knapable into as wicked an edge.

I knew a fellow once who made his living as a side-show wonder. One of his best tricks was chowing down on broken glass. I never realized, 'till now, that I was following in his footsteps every time I set myself down to eat an Army cracker

Hargis, G. 5 A-1

A letter...

In the letter I just transcribed, I am related to the Harkeys on my maternal side. While some went to Arkansas to join the Cav, the rest stayed back to protect San Saba and Harkeyville from Indian raiders. They fought several large battles, including Indian Hill, which from all accounts is referred to as a blood bath. One of the Harkeys was wounded by an arrow in the chest but kept up the battle for another 12 hours.

Scott Fullerton

Arkansas Aprile the 15th 66

Mr. Israel M. Harkey and family after my love and respects to you all. I seat my self to rite yu a few lines in answer to your kind letter whitch We received th 12 day of Aprile 66 dated January the 2nd 66 it gave us great satisfaction to hear from you and to hear that you was all well and dooing as well as u ar. I will say at the start that I hav Not mutch time to rite and will make every Word as short as posable. I will first sa We are all Well at this time except Tibbitha and she is getting well verry fast. She has bin sick 7 months I can't advise you to drive stock here through all kind of stock here is verry scarce

even hogs. Bacon 35 cents per pound Beef 5 cents per pound. Milk Cows 15 to 30 \$ flour 8.\$ per hundred. Corn 2 \$ per bushel horses from 100 to 250 \$ per head sheep none at all Work steers will broke 50 to 100 \$. Sow and pigs 25 \$ chickens 30 cents per head. You ask who is dead. I will enumerat all I can thoug the tears gushes from my eyes at the remembrance of my brave country men and friends and mess mates in the army of my country they are gone: first old Moses Harkey who was taken or draged from his familey and hanged by the rebs. 2. Clark Weems was stabbed and hanged. 3. James Moudy Catherine Harkeys husband was beat and hanged. 4 a 5 Eli and Martin Harkey was drove from ther homes and joined the army and died in the hospital I was in the hospital sick my self with eli when he died. Wilson Harkey was kill by the rebbles he died with 2 empty revolvers in his hands. Levi Harkey was captured by the rebbles and shot. George Fink was captured and carryed off and is gone. Henry Harkey died at Lewis burg he didn't belong to the army and many others are dead that was murdered by the rebs thare wasent a harkey but what was loyial to the bone. They all said our union right or rong and so they fought and died and when they died they died covered all over with glory. I and all the settlement that was able to fire a gun was mountain boomers till in the fall of 63. We then joined the 3rd Arkansas Cavarly and we all hav our discharge that lived though the desperate struggle we was discharged the 18 day of July 65. I am still a live though I fought and bled and died 2 or 3 times through this war and hant got but one round hole in my hide.

I had the measels and 2 spells of the tyFored and Numonia and small pox while I was a soldier one spell of the fever lasted 40 days. I am not half the man I was when the war begun but I am so as to be on about on 2 or 3 legs. I will bring my letter to a close hoping to hear from you soon so fare well for a while your friend and brother.

Frontier Brigade Headquarters

16 July 2003

To All Unit Commanders of the Frontier
Brigade

Gentlemen:

When I took over the Brigade, I was excited about the possibilities of working with such a fine group of men and women. I did not, however, fully realize the amount of time that the position would consume. I also did not realize, perhaps naively, the amount of politics and in-fighting I would have to put up with. My job does not give me enough time to deal with the former and my age and personality no longer give me the patience or desire to deal with the latter.

Therefore, it is with great regret that I announce my resignation from command of the Frontier Brigade and my retirement from reenacting effective the 21st of July of 2003. I will miss a great many of you and I wish all of you the very best in the future.

As my last official act, and in accordance with the Bylaws of the U.S. Frontier Brigade, I hereby appoint Colonel Boo Hodges to be Interim Commander of the Frontier Brigade pending the next election.

John P. Sample
Colonel, Commanding
Frontier Brigade

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The above certainly can't be construed as welcome news. From my own time in the hobby, and my infrequent interactions with "Phil" Sample, I've always come away better for any conversation I've had with him. Phil always struck me as a gentleman of the old school, and I for one will certainly miss him since it appears that not only has he given up command of the

Frontier Brigade, but the hobby as well. I hope you will all join me in bidding Phil a fond farewell, and wishing him all the best. I've posted happier news in this newsletter, that is a certainty.

Alan

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HEADQUARTERS
3rd Brigade, 1st Federal Division
Department of the Frontier

General Order 2003-4

July 21st, 2003

- 1. The undersigned assumes interim command of the US Frontier Brigade.**
- 2. Until further notice, the Cavalry, 1st Battalion and 2nd Battalion commanders are retained in position at their present ranks.**
- 3. Until further notice, all Brigade Staff officers and NCO's are retained in position at their present ranks.**
- 4. Until further notice, all previously issued orders and policies remain in effect.**
- 5. Special thanks and recognition are given to Colonel John Sample for his long, untiring and devoted service to the Frontier Brigade. "There will always be a special place in our heart and a space in the ranks for you."**

By Order,

Merle "Boo" Hodges
Colonel, Commanding

OFFICIAL
Branch Commanders
Unit Commanders
Brigade Staff
Civilian Liaison

(and Finally....)

Open Letter from Boo Hodges

*Members of the Frontier Brigade,
As I step into my role as Brigade commander, I realize that there is much work to be done. While I have received input from some of you, I would like to hear from the rest of you. I would like to know what your thoughts are on the Brigade. Is there something we can do better? Do changes need to be made in the structure of the Brigade? What do you think? I want to hear the negatives as well as the positives. I can't fix it if I don't know what's brok(en). I am asking that this letter be distributed to all unit members, down to private. If anyone has a comment, suggestion, a complaint, or just wants to talk in general, then contact me personally at **Grimcheftn@aol.com**. I would also like as many of the members who can attend, to come to the Middle Boggy max effort event on September 26-28th. I will be holding an informal meeting, open to all members, as well as speaking to the various unit commanders and staff, privately. This is your opportunity to be heard on all topics including rank, infantry organization, communication, event participation, etc. I would like to remind everyone of General Order 2002-2 which covers the infantry organization. If we form at events and have seven companies or less, we will form a single consolidated battalion, commanded by a designated officer or myself. The command staff assignments will rest with me. Also, as we consolidate, there will be a surplus of officers and NCO's who will be expected to rejoin the ranks. This keeps the rank proportionate to our actual troop strength. I hope to see many of you there because we need to move forward. We, as a Brigade, must make this hobby fun and enjoyable again for all. "A house divided, cannot stand...". (Signed) Merle "Boo" Hodges*

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THE STORY OF THE "CUP"

On August 30th, we will gather for a fun time of sweating and shooting live ammunition.

Someone will go home with "The Cup". It has become the symbol of that person that shows exceptional skill with his musket. Last year someone asked me the story behind the Cup and I thought you might like to know. So here goes.

The story really starts in 1995 at Fort Sill OK. Every year on Memorial Day weekend, the Army puts on a competition for muzzleloading artillery units that want to shoot live rounds at realistic distances. (Ft. Sill is where the Army's Artillery school is located.) Somewhere along the line, Infantry units started showing up and a competition with muskets began. All of this is just so much history except that in 1995 someone from the 1st US arrived. Carl Stang drove up to see how he would do in the competition. There were individuals and teams from all over the western states. Well, after shooting close to 100 rounds, Carl took home top musket honors and made a name for himself and the 1st. When Carl came back, he voiced the desire to form a team and go back in 1996 and compete as a unit. When 1996 rolled around the 1st US fielded a team consisting of Ed Prejean, Robert Mathis, Jay Weber and myself. The competition had expanded to about 120 rounds. Distances were from 25 to 150 yards. There were individual "heats" as well as 2-man and 4-man events. I think we got style points for bayoneting the last target in the sniper/spotter event. When the smoke cleared, our team from the 1st US had won the team title, the 2-man sniper/spotter event as well as the individual title. As a matter of fact, our 4 team members were all in the top 5 shooters.

1997 saw an expanded Infantry Match as well as our participation. The 1st US not only competed with 2 teams, but we were put in charge of running the match. The reason we ran the match was because no other unit even came close to taking the title of Best Unit from us. That year, the sniper targets were moved out beyond 200 yards and scoring became stricter. Once again, the 1st US swept every event. There were, however, problems in mudville. It seemed that the artillery guys wanted to stop our shooting and shut down our range at their whim. This made running the match VERY difficult. When we brought our concerns to the Army, they told us that since it was originally an

artillery event, the Infantry portion would not be continued the following year. Gee, did we upset everyone by winning too often?

In 1998, we tried to move the Infantry competition to Fort Hood. At first this sounds like a great idea but working around the Army's timetable was just a mess. I also wanted to build an appropriate trophy for the best unit in the Infantry competition. We did have a great shoot, but it was only 1 year. On one of Ft. Hood's known distance ranges, we had a great time. Sniper targets were placed out to 300 yards and everyone was satisfied. Deployments and red tape, however, ended our venue at Fort Hood.

1999 found us once again at the Arlington Sportsman's Club. The range is only 100 yards, but Ted Cross (the master musket marksman) and I designed a course of fire that was still challenging. That year we finally had a trophy. It was designed around the idea that so many prestigious trophies were cups. What would be more appropriate than a Civil War tin cup? 1999 was the last year I would shoot. Ted and I would run the match instead.

Well, that is the story of the Cup. Greg Benefiel won the Cup in 2000. Keith Brazile took the Cup home in 2001. In 2002, Clark Kirby won the honor of taking the Cup home. 2002 was also our first year at the Johnson County range. It is a 225 yard range and a great venue for our annual live fire. So come on out and try your hand at live firing, FEEL THE RECOIL!!

From *“Everyday Life in the 1800’s, A Guide for Writers, Students & Historians”*

SLANG & EVERYDAY SPEECH
By John Bowen

Continued from May issue....

Lampposts: Civil War soldiers described artillery shells in flight as flying lampposts because to the naked eye they looked like elongated blurs

Land sakes: socially acceptable alternative for lord's sake

Lay: price, terms, salary

Leg: considered a naughty term, limb was used as a polite substitute

Let her rip: let it go!

Like a book: to speak eloquently or with a large vocabulary

Likely: able-bodied, attractive, serviceable

Limb: socially acceptable or polite word for leg

Little end of the horn: same as short end of the stick, to come out of a situation disadvantaged

Lobcourse: Union soup made of salt pork, hard tack and anything else available

Long nine: nickname for a cheap, 9-inch cigar

Mad as a March hare: very angry

Make a die: to die

Maroon: a fugitive slave in hiding

Miller: one who operated a grain-grinding mill

[have a] Mind: to have a notion, to be willing

[to get or give the] Mitten: a lady, in turning down a proposal is said to give the gentleman the mitten

Mosey: to saunter or shuffle along

Most: used for almost

Mudsill: the uneducated, working class

No-account: worthless

Nohow, no way you can fix it: not at all

Not by a jugful: not at all

Notions: a wide variety of miscellaneous articles for sale

[ask no] odds: ask no favor

Old man, old woman: one's spouse, also, one's father or mother

Old orchard: whiskey

One-horse: small, limited, inferior

Opine: to be of the opinion

Ornary: mean

Peaked: thin or sickly in appearance

Peart: fresh and happy, sprightly

Philadelphia lawyer: popularly credited with nearly superhuman intelligence

Picayune: used to signify something small or frivolous

Picture: one's face, one's person

Pile on the agony: to add insult to injury

Plank, plank down, plank up: to pay in cash

Plug-ugly: a Baltimore rowdy, any rowdy or ruffian

Plum, plumb: entirely, completely

Plunder: personal belongings, baggage

Pony up, post the pony: pay up
Poor as Job's turkey: very poor
Powerful: great, extreme, a large quantity
Pucker: in a state of irritation or anger
Puke: a Missourian (sorry George, just reportin' the facts!)
Pull foot: to leave in a hurry
Reckon: to think or guess
Retiracy: retirement
Ride out on a rail: to be forced to leave town
Rip-roaring, rip-staver, rip-snortin': an impressive person or thing
Rum-hole: a small drinking establishment, especially in New York
Runner: one who solicited business for a hotel, boardinghouse, steamship, etc.

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MORE SAD NEWS –

Dang, but if this isn't about the saddest information issue I've published in my tenure as Editor, but I have one more unhappy bit of news to relate –

Harold passes on –

As the older hands know, Bob Fuhrman's horse Harold has been a contributing member of the 1st US for quite a while. Sadly enough, Harold crossed over the river to graze under the shade of the trees in June of this year. He'll be missed.

I've enclosed Bob's letter to the unit –

From Bob Fuhrmann:

Sir George,

The nicest thing happened to me yesterday on my return from the mail box. A card of thought and concern for another comrade's loss was received by this person. The card says it all. It meant a lot to me and enforces my love for all in the 1st U.S.

I consider myself the luckiest man in the world to have such friends. As for Harold he will be missed, he was a big part of my family, and I will not forget all the times that the grandkids would feed him carrots, apples and such to him thru the fences. They would just pet and kiss him and he ate it up. I even put them on his back and led him around with the kips riding him

As for the future, it will be hard to replace him. I do have contacts in the Amish country and plan to find a mate for Dick or simply find another team depending on cost. Will do this next fall or winter.

Again, this is why I belong to the re-enacting world and the 1ST U.S. It is not only doing History, but also the brotherhood of it. I am and always have been a person of the thought that no person is an island.

WE ARE TRULY A BAND OF BROTHERS. I FEEL THAT IN MY HEART EVERYDAY.

Thanks to all again for your kind words and thoughts.

**GOD BLESS YOU
YOUR COMRADE
BOB FUHRMANN**

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Newsletter contributions - E-Mail/Mailing submissions to The Union Standard –
d1stus@gte.net or C/O Alan Prendergast, 1403 Barclay Drive, Carrollton Texas, 75007
(please help out by using Times New Roman)

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

Address/Telephone changes – any mailing/e-mail address changes or telephone number changes should be submitted to John Bowen,
bowen01@dellepro.com or (972) 539-6167.

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