
The UNION STANDARD

March 2005

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

Gentlemen of the 1st,



Following the recent elections I thought I might be relieved from duty in regards to the *Dispatch*. Alas, 'tis not to be. One last time I take pen in hand and try to fill a page.

With the election a few weeks ago the 1st decided who will be leading us for the next two years.

These biannual elections provide an opportunity for **the membership** to decide who leads. Our election process isn't perfect but we do our best. Besides, you could always be part of a unit that has no elections. The guiding force behind our elections is the bylaws. Our bylaws were adopted in 1999 and amended in 2001 and 2002. The bylaws provide our organization and are the guiding document for how we operate. The 1st is actually a part of the North Texas reenactment Society which is incorporated in the State of Texas as a 501 C 3 non profit corporation.

The 1st is organized along the military rank structure of the unit we portray. The controlling authority is the ten members of board of directors. Eight of these directors also hold field rank. I've had the honor to be part of the leadership of the 1st over five election periods, serving as 1st Sgt, Officer, and now a member at large. During this time our structure has changed. Following a battalion structure the bylaws were originally written with a Major (leading multiple companies), two company commanders, and an Adjutant in the officer roles. Just as in any corporation the board of directors provides overall direction for the unit but it's the corporate officers (president, VP, Secretary, and Treasurer) who have responsibility for "daily" operations. The elections of 1999 left the position of Major and Adjutant empty. The men elected resigned immediately after the election. For a while

we operated with just the two company commanders. It soon became apparent that we actually worked better as two companies rather than having a Major over us and the bylaws were amended accordingly. It also solved a rank heavy problem. The 2002 amendment was to set term limits. You may ask why is he going over this old history. For as long as I can remember the one person who actually spoke for the unit was the Major, or since '99 the senior officer. The same person spoke for the unit on and off the field. This changed at the board meeting following the last elections. As president of the NTRS, George Hansen (elected as a member at large) speaks for the unit. In the field John Bowen, as senior officer, speaks for us. This is the first time we've operated this way. To pull this off requires the right mix of personalities. I think we have that mix with this board and expect good things the next few years. The point of all this is that the bylaws we developed in 1999 have served the unit well and will continue to serve us well in the future. We'll continue to function at the same high level regardless of personalities.

Allow me a few closing thoughts. You couldn't ask for a better group of guys to command. I've enjoyed every moment of the past ten years (OK, there have been some tense times but allow me the pleasure of looking back at only the good stuff.). I'd be foolish to try to list all the impressive things we've done over the past several years but I will mention a few things that stand out in my mind. We went from live fires at a 100 yard controlled range, to a 200 yard range, to a wide open range where we ran a live skirmish drill. We did a bayonet charge (Cross Timbers) with drawn bayonets. There is no way I would have been part of either of these unless I was with men who knew their ~~sh@t~~, drill (ed...) and I could trust. We've beaten up on the confederates in a judged tactical and forced them to quit early (Grasslands). *Continued on Page 3.*

1st U.S. Calendar

Mark Motley

2005

MARCH

5th – 6th Annual North Texas Irish Festival at Dallas Fair Park

24th Living History opportunity - School Presentation – Keene – (Brother Brockman needs our help!)

APRIL

1st – 3rd Port Hudson, La
23rd 10am – 4pm Living History opportunity at Farmers Branch Historical Park.

30th - 1st Jefferson, Tx

MAY

13th-14th Texas Forts - Fort Worth Stockyards

JUNE

10th – 12th Tribbey Oklahoma

JULY-

AUGUST

(tbd) 1st U.S. Social

SEPTEMBER

16th –18th Drill & live fire at Fort Chadbourne

OCTOBER

2nd – 4th Corinth Ms.

NOVEMBER

4th – 6th Glen Rose, Texas

DECEMBER

(tbd) Drill & Candlelight – OCP
(annual McFuddy lay-about feast)

*Note: **Bold** are scheduled maximum effort events. Italicized dates are available events or recruiting activities.*

Be sure and welcome these gentlemen to our ranks, several have crossed over from ‘the dark side’ and prove our ‘enemies’ of the moment are still our brothers in arms.

Initial Impressions of the 1st US -- Recruit Paul Mattoon

Significant differences were noted in the 1st US. Yet, there are more similarities than differences between the Confederate units of which I’ve been a member and the 1st US. Initially, this was a comfort; but, the more I thought about it, the more ominous these similarities became. (The two Confederate units of which I’ve been a member are Company B, Palmetto [South Carolina] Battalion, and the 12th Texas Infantry.)

It should come as no surprise that the type of men in all three units are interested in history and genealogy. Most prize the exploits of their ancestors, their units, and those times.

The obvious of similarities to me was that all three units demand competence on the field. (Read = drill, drill, and more drill. Hey, I know how to pick them—what can I say.) Not knowing what you are to do on the field is tantamount to losing the battle—it can’t be tolerated—irrespective of whether we are just “reenacting.” It’s also somewhat comforting to know that safety is taken dead serious by all three units—always.

There is a quest for reasonable, but serious, authenticity. This plays out differently in the three units, but the motivation is the same. In Company B, Palmetto Battalion, there was an effort to be uniform (sharp and crisp in early war-; ragged in the late war-impression); in the 12th Texas, where farmers often wore what they had when they joined, consistency in uniform and equipment isn’t high, but accurately reflecting how the soldier would have been clad in the Army of the Trans-Mississippi is; and, in the 1st US, a near-complete uniformity is desired, reflecting a regular Army unit of the period—with shined brass, oiled leathers, and uniform marking of equipment.

Some interesting similarities.... All three units had medical doctors in their ranks, all genuine people. Also interesting was that Scripture was preached from the same Bible, and that the percentage who didn’t attend worship services was the same in all units—small. Captains in all units definitely act the same when their expectations exceed the realistic attention span of their troops.

NEW ‘RECRUITS’- Three cheers for our latest recruits in the ranks!

Harold Sickler
Travis Sickler
Bruce Loveall
Paul Mattoon

Serious now, the most striking similarity revealed itself in an ominous way. It helped me comprehend, at least in part, the genesis for the devastation of the War—the deeply held commitment that the cause for which they fought was right. Upon reflection, I wondered why this should have come as a surprise to me. To me, the convictions on the part of the Confederate soldier had been obviously genuine; yet, until this weekend, I really didn't think that Yankees had any real convictions. It just never dawned on me. Big mistake!

The implication of this revelation impressed upon me how truly gruesome was the clash between Americans (when I say Americans, I mean those on both sides who sincerely had a spirited bond to their country, strongly believed in the ideals as expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, and dearly cherished her peculiar destiny). Both sides represented firm convictions based in no small measure on the cultures that had spawned different visions and interpretations, with very lethal consequences. Although different, both sides showed the dogged determinism and confidence of being right. I felt both pride and humility realizing this quality on both sides.

Again today, marked by culture that wasn't reenacted, there are clear differences.

The 1st US was very organized, well prepared, and systematic in the conduct of their classes at Fort Washita. Even their training aids on the position of skirmishers had a polished, almost “professional,” appearance. (My wife's only comment to this was, “Well, no wonder they won.”)

Most classes were given by officers. This, I found very different, as among Confederates, NCOs usually give classes, with the officers only observing and clarifying. Also, it's unimaginable to consider a Confederate unit mixing up a mash of—even with the tint being Confederate gray—shoe polish, unless of course the unit was portraying the Confederate States Marine Corps (historically true, BTW).

The same exacting care that was given by the drummer to ensure his beats were timely (both in rhythm and the hour in which they were heard) was also given to the instruction and application of the Guard Mount.

The weekend at Fort Washita was packed full of activities. There was very little free time, per se (obviously, not a requisite, desired Confederate trait). In the 1st US, constant industry seems to be highly esteemed. (Reminded me of the Marine Corps Reserves, i.e., packing 2 months of stuff into one weekend.)

Socially “relaxing” (i.e., discussing, arguing, drinking, and singing) was done on the same level of industry—with high energy and a certain amount of exactness. For instance, the unit had a trained musician accompanying the crew (as opposed to “troop”) with a bone fide period instrument to sing a litany of sea chanteys, and even some Army songs now-and-then (go-figure). While bellowing out politically neutral sea chanteys that I'd recently learned, I was made a tad uncomfortable upon actually hearing those songs sung that I'd come to despise, *Marching through Georgia* and the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. Incidentally, it was clear to me that my uneasiness helped fuel the glee of those who sang them with gusto. Good hearted fun, with a tinge of spite, reminding me that they, too, are genuine. I reckon that's how it should be in a truly “unreconstructed” Federal unit.

Despite those particular horrible songs, I had a good time, learned a lot, and appreciated the many who went out of their way to make me feel a part.

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Dispatch continued from PAGE 1

We incorporated all branches in a tactical scenario and even though the judging went against us I know we bested them again. We fielded two full companies at Chickamauga. Ran the cavalry to ground at Fort Townsen. .Went to forts (McKavett and Chadbourne) where the 1st was actually stationed. Had all shelters at Franklin. We've..had the best mess - bar none. And best of all, no matter what the supply situation, he whiskey ration always go through! You guys are the ones that make this all worthwhile.

Now allow me to retire to the ranks where I can bitch at officers who forget commands, and sergeants just on principle.

God Bless The Regulars!

I remain,
Your Most Obedient Servant,
Don Gross
Member at Large
NTRS Board of Directors

+++++
(1st US DRILL)

Red River Battalion Spring Muster
Fort Parker, Mexia, Texas
March 12 - 13, 2004

General Information:

The focus of Spring Muster will be preparing for the upcoming Port Hudson event. Muster is a maximum effort event for the Red River Battalion and attendance is highly

encouraged. This will be a weekend long event, just like a reenactment. A Friday arrival time is suggested. Those that cannot make it out Friday night should be in camp by 7:30 A.M. Saturday morning and are to report directly to their 1st Sergeant. Those that cannot be there for both days are strongly encouraged to attend at least one day.

Frazer Brothers and The Haversack Depot will be on site all weekend for your sutlery convenience. A period photographer will also be present at muster. Covington's Traveling Portraits will be available for sittings all weekend during inactive periods.

The battalion will also be conducting a yard sale. This will be open for all members to sell any of their new and used reenactment items. Please see the Announcements section of this issue for more information on these offerings.

Scenario:

It is May of 1863. The 165th NY has recently disembarked from the Steamer Iberville, and has arrived in Baton Rouge. It will spend several weeks in the relative comfort of garrison camp before joining Major General Nathaniel P. Banks in the assault on Port Hudson

The scenario for muster will be the period of preparation of the 165th NY Infantry for the Port Hudson Campaign.

Agenda:

Instruction will include Manual of Arms, company drill, battalion drill, skirmish drill, uniform and equipment discussions, and a brief history of the 165th NY and The Battle of Port Hudson.

Uniform and Equipment:

The uniform for muster will be our 165th NY Zouave impression. In lieu of this, a generic Western Federal impression will be perfectly acceptable.

Tentage:

The bivouac for muster will be a garrison camp. A-frame tents, tent flies, and shelter halves are all acceptable forms of shelter for the weekend.

Schedule of Events

Friday, March 11, 2005

12:00 P.M. - on Arrival and setup

8:00 P.M. Officer/NCO meeting

Saturday, March 12, 2005

6:30 A.M. Reveille

6:45 Company formation / roll call

7:00 Breakfast

8:30 Battalion formation / Morning Reports due / Announcements

8:45 Company drill

10:15 Break

10:30 Battalion drill

12:00 P.M. Lunch

1:00 Battle of Port Hudson presentation

1:30 Battalion drill

2:45 Break

3:00 Uniform & equipment discussion

3:30 Battalion Drill

5:00 Retreat Formation

5:15 Dinner

7:00 Battalion meeting

8:30 Battalion Fellowship

Sunday, March 13, 2005

6:30 A.M. Reveille

6:45 Company formation / roll call

7:00 Breakfast

8:00 Church service

8:45 Battalion formation / Morning

Reports due

9:00 Skirmish drill

10:30 Battalion drill

12:30 P.M. Final Formation / Announcements

1:00 Strike camp

Rations:

Everyone will need to provide their own meals during the weekend. Due to time constraints, please plan on staying in camp for Saturday's lunch and plan something *that can be prepared quickly*.

Amenities:

Water, restrooms, and showers are available free of charge on site. Firewood is available in a limited quantity. Anyone with a supply of wood is encouraged to please bring extra.

Hay is not available on site. If you want hay for bedding you will need to bring it *and clear your area before you depart* for the weekend. As always, all modern items should be kept to a minimum and should be concealed in your shelter, stored in your vehicle, or left at home.

Directions:

Directions from Waco:

Take Hwy 31/ Hwy 84 east. Exit the Mexia/Fairfield cutoff (Hwy 84 east). Once in Mexia, turn right at the first traffic light (this will put you on Hwy 14 south). Leave Mexia and travel approximately seven miles. The entrance to Fort Parker is on the right on Park Rd 35. The fort is approximately 1-1/2 miles down Park Rd 35.

Directions from Dallas:

Take I-45 South to the Richland Chambers exit (Hwy 14) and go south. Continue south on Hwy 14 until you reach Mexia.

Go through Mexia and travel approximately seven miles. The entrance to Fort Parker is on the right on Park Rd 35. The fort is approximately 1-1/2 miles down Park Rd 35.

Drill - Notes for members of the 1st.

Friday evening arrival is open to those who wish to come down and camp. Dinner will be catch as catch can I suspect. This may change, as we progress over the next week, we'll notify you on the status of rations.

As you can see by the Saturday schedule the 9th is **DRILLING, DRILLING, DRILLING.**

Please do not let this discourage you. Company drill, from 8:45 to 10:15 is just that, *COMPANY* drill, and we will be on our own so we need not perform extensive 'battalion' drill at the company level before we actually engage in drill as part of the battalion.

Given also that some number of our men may not arrive until 9:00 AM our Company drill will probably be curtailed somewhat. We'll play that portion by ear. We will also be joined by men from the 173rd at the drill.

Since we're planning on participating with the 9th at Port Hudson however I think it is very important for us to participate in the Battalion drill aspects, certainly before lunch, and for those who are willing to stay some of the afternoon, also the battalion drill immediately after lunch. We'll let our #'s and feelings be our guide on the afternoon portion.

I would encourage people to stay for the Port Hudson presentation as well. The 9th, of course, has extended their hospitality to us for the *entire* weekend.

Those staying over Friday night will please make careful note their observations about the Saturday noon meal (quick) and especially STRAW. If you bring it in, you're clearly expected to haul it out when you're done.

Also, note the firewood limitation - whatever you can bring you can burn, otherwise *there ain't none.*

I'll be down there Friday afternoon and plan to leave after Retreat on Saturday evening.

Those wishing to come down Friday afternoon/evening are quite welcome, otherwise...

Official Drill starts at 9:00 for us, and ends at 12:00 on Saturday.

Members wishing to remain for the afternoon portions are encouraged to do so. After all, you can just never get too much "Union Army" (polite disagreement from Shilo (Mudlow) Veterans excepted...).

YMOS

Lt. Prendergast

D1stus@gte.net

(murther....I near fainted...who'd have thought the 'Hero of Diego's Cantina' in Veracruz would ever be in command...McF)

Texas Frontier Forts Muster

Ft. Worth Stockyards

May 13-14

The annual gathering of the Texas Forts Muster will again be held at the Ft. Worth Stockyards. The 1st is

committed to a Friday and Saturday appearance as we'll present firing demonstrations to the crowds, perform living history and do much needed recruiting. Your help is needed Friday even if only for a half-day. This is typically a busy day as school kids are bused to view the forts' presentations. I need assistance with the firing demos as well as you leading such activity.

Brian Glass with the Boy Scouts Explorer group is bringing three mountain howitzers and the First will help man these weapons when fired. We will setup next to Brian's howitzers which are crowd pleasers.

This event is our primary 2005 recruiting effort and if you can't come Friday, then please attend Saturday. The Mrs. and I plan to spend Friday night at The Stockyards Hotel. With plenty of unique shopping, interesting restaurants, rides on the Tarantula Train, we plan to make it a fun weekend. See www.fortworthstockyards.org for more info and contact me regarding more details regarding this recruiting and Living History event.

George Hansen

(972) 529-5349

ghansen@jackhenry.com

The Battle of Corinth

By Ron Myers

Corinth, at the junction of the Memphis and Charleston and the Mobile and Ohio Railroads, was recognized by both Confederate and Federal Commanders as being of such strategic importance that the village was occupied by one or the other of the forces from 1861 - 1865.

As the Confederate armies assembled in Corinth in March, 1862, Union forces were concentrating at Pittsburg Landing, Corinth's nearest river port on the Tennessee, in preparation for an attack on the small northeastern Mississippi village.

Although the Trans-Mississippi armies had not reached Corinth, General Albert Sydney Johnston decided to strike the Federal forces, under General U.S. Grant, before Grant was reinforced by General Don Carlos Buell: Consequently the CSA forces left Corinth April 3, 1862, and by April 6, were in position to attack Union forces. The two-day battle, named for Shiloh Church, ensued. On the second day, forces under Grant and Buell took all the ground lost the previous day and the Confederates were forced to withdraw to Corinth.

Following Shiloh, Corinth became a vast Confederate hospital center. Hotels, churches, residences, warehouses, and the college were filled with wounded. The overcrowded and unsanitary conditions contributed

to more troops dying of sickness and diseases than wounds.

After Shiloh, Henry Halleck replaced Grant and called for reinforcements. Late in April, the Union Armies of the Ohio, the Tennessee and the Mississippi, numbering 128,315 effectives, began inching and entrenching their way toward Corinth, taking a month to cover 20 miles.

Men of the 1st US Infantry, now manning 20 and 30 pound siege guns, opened up on the Corinth Confederate lines, forcing the Rebels to evacuate Corinth the next day. By daybreak of May 30, Beauregard's forces had withdrawn. The men of the 1st US moved into three redoubts along the Corinth defensive line. These redoubts were Battery Phillips on the left (comprised of Companies A, B, & H) Battery Williams in the middle (comprised of Companies D & L) and Battery Robinett on the right (Company C.)

In July, CSA General Bragg, who had replaced Beauregard as CSA Commander, moved to Chattanooga leaving General Van Dorn and General Price in Mississippi. Van Dorn moved southward; Price remained in the northern section to keep an eye on Grant.

In September, many of the Union Army men near Corinth went off to fight a bloody battle at Iuka, successfully blocking a Confederate move into Middle Tennessee.

Following the Battle of Iuka, Grant moved to Jackson, Tennessee leaving General Rosecrans with 4 divisions in Corinth. Immediately, Rosecrans ordered the batteries in the College Hill Line connected by breastworks and covered with abatis.

Van Dorn believed that if the Confederates could surprise Rosecrans and storm the fortifications, they could take Corinth. His division, under Lovell, led the way northward from Ripley. It was followed by Price's two divisions under Maury and Hebert. Near Pocahtontas, the 22,000 Confederates turned east, repaired the Hatchie River and Tuscumbia River bridges, skirmished with Union cavalry - thereby losing the element of surprise, and continued to Chewalla where they camped for the night of October 2.

Meanwhile, Rosecrans, aware that the Confederates were moving, had called his out-lying troops nearer to Corinth. On the morning of October 3, he sent three divisions to the old Beauregard Line. The fourth division was placed mid-way on the Halleck Line.

Before dawn on October 4, the Confederates woke the Union troops with artillery fire. However, they delayed

the attack because the general who was to lead the opening attack had to be replaced. About 9:00 a.m. the Confederates opened a savage attack on the Union line. Some of the Confederates fought their way into the town. Battery Powell changed hands twice in fierce fighting. About 10:00 a.m., four columns of gray clad Confederates advanced on Battery Robinett. The men inside the battery watched them come:

“As soon as they were ready they started at us with a firm, slow, steady, step. In my campaigning I had never seen anything so hard to stand as that slow, steady tramp. Not a sound was heard but they looked as if they intended to walk over us. I afterwards stood a bayonet charge . . . that was not so trying on the nerves as that steady, solemn advance.”

The fighting on October 4 gave the Battle of Corinth its reputation of being one of the most vicious of the Civil War. Hand-to-hand fighting ensued.

A Confederate brigade of four columns including 2nd and 6th Texas Infantry and the Dismounted 9th Texas Cavalry attacked the three batteries manned by the 1st US. Another full brigade fell in behind during the attack. In front of Robinett, Maury's brigades advanced through the abatis and into withering fire from Robinett's cannon. Colonel William P. Rogers of the 2nd Texas led their third advance. Colonel Rogers grabbed his colors from the fourth color bearer to die in the charge and ran it to the top of the redoubt. Just as he reached the parapet, he was killed with the last canister fired by Company C that day. It was then the “old soldiers of the 1st Infantry quit their cannon” and picked up their rifles to defend their own battery. This stout defense with fixed bayonets parried the Rebel attack, and the Confederates began to withdraw from the redoubts.

Inside Battery Robinett, half of Company C was either dead or wounded. Lt. Robinett was wounded, but remained in command. The Stars and Stripes still waved proudly over the field!

South of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, the Confederates skirmished, but never advanced. Van Dorn ordered the Confederate retreat. By 2:00 p.m., the fatigued Confederates were retreating toward the Hatchie River.

On October 5, they battled with Union troops under Ord and Hurlbut before they finally crossed the Hatchie River at Crum's Mill and retreated to Ripley.

Rosecrans reported Federal losses 315 killed, 1,812 wounded, and 232 prisoners or missing; Confederate

losses were 1,423 killed, 5,692 wounded, and 2,268 prisoners.

The 1st Infantry continued to man the siege train because of its outstanding service. The battalion stayed in Corinth until February, 1863 when they boarded the steamer Westwind and later embarked in Memphis. They would take part in the Vicksburg Campaign and continue to distinguish themselves as heavy siege artillery.

Sources: Kip Bassett, The National Park Service, and the Corinth Tourism Council

1st Federal Division

Office of the Assistant Adjutant General,
Corinth Site Report

January 25, 2005

Sir, I have the duty to present the following as requested,

The North South Alliance met 15 January to discuss the logistics of the Corinth re-enactment scheduled for 1 October, 2005. Mark Dolive (CG), Jim Kirkendall(AAAG), Rick Brockman(ADC), Mike Daley(QM)and Michael Pierpoint(PM) represented the 1ST Federal Division. Details of the meeting are as follows:

Site Description:

We toured the site. The property is an approximately 600-acre plot of land just northeast of Corinth, Mississippi on the Tennessee state line. The site is made up of rolling hills with two tree lines running southwest to northeast on the west side of the site and northwest to southeast on the east side of the site. There is a small creek running north to South with a culvert roughly in the middle of the property, which allows for easy crossing.

Access to the site is through a gate on the south side of the property on State Line road. It is currently being planned to make this road one way during the event for traffic control reasons.

Logistical details:

Water will be supplied to the site via water pipes that will be installed this summer. One line will run 1500 feet; another will run 2500 feet to Union and Confederate camps. The goal is to have the water lines installed well in advance of the event, allowing ample time to make certain that they are working properly. Water buffaloes may be used to supplement this system.

Hay will be provided in round bales for infantry, artillery and civilians. Bales will be issued to those with mounts.

The possible need for ice for the infantry was discussed.

Drainage could become a concern if there are substantial rains prior to or during the event.

There are two homes on the site but one is almost completely blocked from the field, concealed by a ridge. The other is at the far north side of the site behind a tree line.

Camp locations were discussed. Civilian camp is to be located toward the middle of the East side of the property. Union garrison camps will be located behind the west side of the tree line. Confederate camp is to be located toward the northern end of the property. Cavalry campsite is tentatively set behind the tree line near the Union infantry. One primary consideration for that camp location is finding suitable shade and access to water. Sutlers will be located on the south side of the property near the main entrance. Re-enactor parking will be on the far east of the property. Spectator parking will be on the south side of State Line road.
Schedule:

The first event (Iuka) is to be held Friday afternoon, 1 October at 4:30. The second battle (Oliver's Hill) will be a held 2 October in the morning, followed by a 3:00 PM battle (Corinth, Battery Powell). The final event will is scheduled for 3 October at 1:00PM (Corinth, Battery Robinette).

Site preparation:

A compromise was reached with an agreement to build only one battery in total, Battery Robinette. Battery Williams may be partially built. It was requested that volunteers be asked to travel to the site one weekend to assist in field preparation.

Other:

Various topics were discussed such as medical needs, portajohn rental, and registration issues. It is hoped that registration will go online February 1. The meeting and visit adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by,
Captain Jim Kirkendall
Assistant to the AAG
1st Federal Division

Book Review:

By Blair G. Rudy
Grandpa's Gone: The Adventures of Daniel Buchwalter in the Western Army 1862-1865 by Jerry Frey, 1998 Burd Street Press. ISBN 1-57249-094-2

This story takes place during the Western War of the Rebellion and is based on the 1911 recollections of Private Daniel Buchwalter, 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Company A. Daniel, and his older brother Enos, are the paternal Great Great Grand Uncles of Blair and Neal Rudy.

It was odd to see a family name in print as I searched Amazon for Civil War books. I had to look further and sure enough Daniel Buchwalter was from Wayne County, Ohio, the center of Rudy, Buchwalter, Sauer, Myers and Houghton family names. He was mine and I was his. I was surprised and well, surprised, to see our family story in print like this. His story is an informed and quick read. I encourage members of the 1st US Infantry to secure a copy and taste this story of Western War as we attempt to reenact it in 2005. This quick review does not do the book justice and I hope you will relish the complete tale for yourself.



Daniel Buchwalter

Uncle Daniel's story is from the eyes of a Private in the ranks. Author Jerry Fry of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table rounds out the big picture and thereby centers Uncle Daniel's diary into a colorful, warm, and even humorous tale of survival, common valor and what can only be described as down right outstanding luck or perhaps God's Will.

These two Ohio Mennonite farm boys answered President Lincoln's call for 300,000 more troops and enlisted into Company A, 120th OVI on August 15, 1862. Daniel was 19 and his older brother, Enos was 21. Only one brother would return home in 1865.

The boys in the 13th Corps saw action at Arkansas Post, Vicksburg, Champion Hill, Big Black River Bridge, Red River Campaign, Fort Blakeley at Mobile, AL and post war police and guard duties in Houston and Galveston. Of the Regiments 1000 men and Officers only 150 returned to the fertile fields and family of North Central Ohio in 1865.

Following the beating at Arkansas Post the unit was assigned to the digging of a channel to re-rout the Mississippi River at Vicksburg. The task was hot, dreary and deadly in early 1863. A number of the men died of disease and many of the Officers sought discharge. The morale of the men was low and Daniel recalls many desertions, although the records show only 3 in the regiment ran off. The digging effort was abandoned and the boys fell into column for the detour South of Vicksburg and into Jackson and Champion Hill.

The 120th OVI was the relief guard at the Big Black River Bridge and stood picket duty there from May into July 1863 while Grant pressed on to victory and the fall of Vicksburg on July 4, 1863. They must have really had that Guard Mount duty memorized. The book constantly has the regiment out as skirmish line, so I am sure they could do that evolution well too.

On July 9, Port Hudson surrendered and the 120th OVI was shortly ordered to New Orleans through that port city. On August 15, 1863, at Port Hudson, following 7 days of typhoid fever Enos Buchwalter died in his brother's arms and was buried on the banks of the Mississippi River. Perhaps those of you who attend the April reenactment can cast a glance across the river and appreciate a sense of sacrifice for Neal and I, as we will not be able to attend the event with you.

“Aug 15, Enos died this morning. Some of the boys hunted up some boards and made a coffin, and we buried him on a small mound near the Miss River. Steve Coe, cut Enos” name, age and regiment on a board and placed it at the head of the grave. Such is life. This is a terrible loss to me as I had always depended so much on his advice”

At some point following the war the family had the remains of Enos Buchwalter moved to Martins Mennonite Church Cemetery, just North of Dalton, Ohio and he now rests close to his brother Daniel and family.

During the Red River Campaign the 120th OVI was consolidated into the 114th OVI as it's numbers dropped below Regimental standards when the unit was ambushed on the Red River.

On May 3, 1864 The “City Belle” riverboat was detailed to transport the 400 remaining men of the 120th and 100 men from other units up the river. At “Snaggy Point” the boat was attacked from shore by the 5th, 7th,

13th Texas Cavalry along with the 1st Texas Partisan Cavalry Battalion and batteries of 10-pound Parrott rifles and a section of howitzers of the 6th Louisiana Battery (Grosse Tete Flying Artillery). The “City Belle” was torn to pieces and set aflame. Our boys in Blue were outnumbered 3 to one by the Texans and chaos ensued. Col Spiegel was mortally wounded and the regiment records indicate the unit suffered a 60% mortality rate in 45 minuets. However, seven Officers and 170 men were later confirmed prisoners at Camp Ford, near Tyler. Amazingly, Private Daniel Buchwalter and 190 other survivors swam to shore and were shown the way through the swamp by a Negro guide for the 35 mile walk to Alexandria.

The unit was crushed and the remaining men were disheartened to be swept into the 114th OVI on November 28, 1864 for the remainder of the war. The Regimental Colors of the 120th were sent home and boys fell in with the 114th and did their duty.

The now reinforced 114th next advanced into Alabama and successfully assaulted Fort Blakely at Mobile, AL on April 9, 1865. The city fell on the 11th and the news of the fall of Richmond and the capture of Lee’s forces came on the 15th inst. was so exhilarating for the men of the 120th OVI.

“News still cheering and boys all speculating as to the end of the war”

The unit would have to wait a few more months to return home, as it was next assigned occupation duty in Houston and Galveston, Texas.

Daniel Buchwalter was mustered out in Houston with 149 of the original 1000 men and officers of the 120th OVI on October 14, 1865. He passed at the age of 75 on the morning of April 21, 1918 and is buried with his wife and brother in Dalton, Ohio.

I occasionally have the opportunity to travel to Galveston, and as I cross the viaduct onto the island, I now think on and wonder what Uncle Daniel saw and felt there in the summer and fall of ’65. Somehow it all makes sense that he served here, in Texas, my new home, in the land of the Brave and Free. I think he would agree that the cost was worth the effort and the sacrifice. Go read the book.

Etiquette of the Ball

reprinted from Civil War Era Etiquette: Martine’s Handbook & Vulgarisms in Conversation.

- Gloves are required. However, do not dine with them on.
- At the start of the music, a gentleman will bow to the lady and will be graced with a curtsy from her before touching hands or dancing.

- When a gentleman escorts a lady to a ball, he should dance with her first, or offer to do so, and it should be his care to see that she is provided with a partner whenever she desires to dance. To dance together continually is impolite, and will deservedly provoke severe criticism.
- If a lady would waltz with you, beware not to press her waist. You must only lightly touch it with the palm of your hand, lest you leave a disagreeable impression not only on her ceinture, but on her mind.
- After dancing, a gentleman should invariably conduct a lady to a seat unless she desires otherwise, and in fact, a lady should not be unattended at any time in a public assembly
- When a gentleman conducts a lady to her seat, he thanks her for the pleasure she has conferred upon him, and does not remain too long conversing with her.
- It is improper to engage or reengage a lady to dance without permission of her partner.
- Never forget that ladies are to be first cared for, to have the best seats, the places of distinction, and are entitled in all cases to your courteous protection.
- Young ladies should avoid sauntering through an assembly room alone. They should either be accompanied by their guardian or a gentleman. Neither married nor young ladies should leave a ballroom assemblage, or other party, unattended. The former should be accompanied by other married ladies and the latter by her mother or guardian. Of course, a gentleman is sufficient companion for either.
- If, while walking up and down a public promenade, you should meet friends or acquaintances who you don’t intend to join, it is only necessary to salute them the time of passing. To bow or nod to them at every round would be tiresome, and therefore improper

Newsletter contributions –

E- Mail/Mailing submissions to The Union Standard –

d1stus@gte.net or C/O Alan Prendergast, 1403 Barclay Drive, Carrollton Texas, 75007

Newsletter – contact George Hansen if you did not receive your mailed newsletter,

beast1st@comcast.net or (972) 529-5349.

Address/Telephone changes – any mailing/e-mail address changes or telephone number

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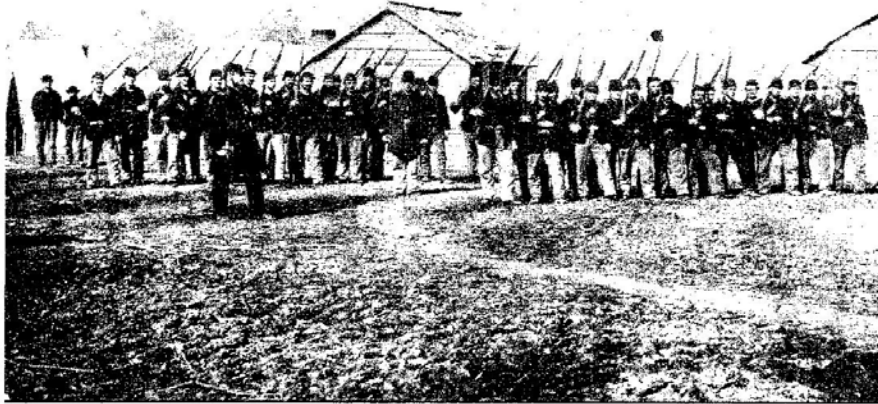
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