
The UNION STANDARD

Feb 2005

Vol. 13, no 2

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

Dispatch from the Board

As has become a tradition we started off the year with drill at Veterans Park followed by our annual company meeting. Participation was a little less than I would have liked but not too bad. Maybe it was the threat of poor weather – that did not materialize – that kept a few away. We did manage to snag a few new recruits (or at least new dual unit members) from the dark side. Hopefully we won't have to watch those guys as closely as we've had to keep an eye on our original galvanized confederate Mark Backus.

I was pleased at your performance at skirmish drill. The ability to skirmish with alacrity says a lot about a unit. This is the one time when you are on display in front of the entire brigade and sometimes the entire army. For the keen eye a unit's reputation can be made or broken here. The last two drills we practiced the easier method of deploying - by the flank. Next step is to get up to speed on deploying on a file. Another area of drilling we took up this year was maneuvering by the left flank. Once you've done it it's not hard but it's something that most units cannot do and it's something the men of '61 could have done in their sleep. This is just another area where the 1st continues to set the standard.

At the company meeting we voted, or at least agreed to the schedule for this year. We'll be attending a few events we haven't been to before and the entire year isn't in concrete but for those who need to do long range planning note the dates in the schedule. If nothing else you need to make plans to attend Corinth in October. This is one of the few battles where the real 1st saw action and at least part of the scenarios will be tailored to us.

Of course the big news for February is the unit elections. Elections will take place at Ft Washita. We've got a good crop of candidates for leadership positions. I'm pleased to see that there are some new faces stepping up and willing to take on positions of responsibility in the unit. In the 1st the men who

wear the stripes or tabs hold dual responsibility. They not only provide the field leadership but also comprise the board of directors and as such are directly responsible for all the other thankless duties that are involved in running a volunteer organization. Final information on the elections is in this newsletter. If you can't make Washita you need to get your absentee ballot to Conway Barton by February 10th or you can appoint a proxy. It's always more fun to vote in person though.

This is my last *Dispatch* to the 1st. Starting next month someone else will have the ~~chore~~ pleasure of coming up with the first page of the newsletter every month. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as Captain and Senior Officer of the 1st US. As in the real army, there isn't a better job in reenacting than being a company commander. Of course what made it such a good job all these years were you guys, the men of the 1st. You're a great group of guys and soldiers. I'd match you against any unit on either side for professionalism in the field and fun at the campfire. Stan Prater has asked me to be the 1st Battalion Commander. I'm looking forward to that job and I know the challenges involved. Of course I'm counting on the 1st to continue as the anchor of the battalion as it has in the past, and I'll be watching you. At 1st only activities expect to find me in the ranks, proud to be a regular or as the trouble making private, as the mood strikes me. In any case save me a space at the campfire and have the coffee ready.

God Bless The Regulars!

I remain,
Your Most Obedient
Servant,
Don Gross
Capt, Co A Commanding
President, NTRS



1st U.S. Calendar

2005

FEBRUARY

11th – 13th **Unit Muster – Ft. Washita, Ok.**

MARCH

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

24th *School Presentation – Keene – (Help out Rick Brockman!)*

APRIL

1st – 3rd Port Hudson, La

30th - 1st Jefferson, Tx

MAY

13th-14th *Texas Forts - Fort Worth Stockyards*

JUNE

4th – 5th Annual Live Fire, Ft. Chadbourne

JULY-

AUGUST

(tbd) **1st U.S. Social**

SEPTEMBER

(tbd) Drill

OCTOBER

2nd – 4th **Corinth Ms.**

NOVEMBER

4th – 6th Glen Rose, Texas

DECEMBER

(tbd) Drill & Candlelight – OCP
(annual McFuddy layabout feast)

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

Help a Pard, Help Yourself

Steve Hardy is selling his equipment. Some of you may need gear replaced, or perhaps are new and needing to buy it for the first time. Steve has always been one (unlike McFuddy) to keep his gear in top notch condition, so you can count on good equipment and it will help Steve out as well. Anyone who's

priced this stuff out recently will see there are some really GOOD prices here.

Here's the list:

Knapsack -----\$75

1 Enfield w/ range rod, bag clean kit, bayonet blank rolling kit -----\$400

Gum blanket & poncho -- \$10 ea.

1 set leathers -----\$50

Wool gloves -----\$7

1 haversack -----\$15

1 neck scarf -----n/c

Sack coat (44) -----\$25

Pants (36)-----\$30

Suspenders-----\$10

Brogans (9)-----\$65

2pr. drawers (lg)-----\$5 ea.

14 packs of blanks-----\$28

Other camp items-----???

Contact Alan P or John Bowen by email if you're interested.

McFuddy Business –

The following have committed to attendance at Ft. Washita for Muster:

Mark Backus

John Bowen

Robert Burrage

Courtney Burrage

Kevin Doughtie

Tony Durant

Pete Graham

Mike Gristina

Don Gross

George Hansen

Glen Hargis

Mark Motley

Paul Mattoon

Ron Myers

Alan Prendergast

Steve Sanders

Blair Rudy

Neal Rudy

Brad Walsh

For those of you intending to show up unannounced it's a fine thing, *but remember you'll be dealing with the cooks with the fond hope they were clairvoyants when it comes time to eat. My advice is you contact the 1st Sgt instant or proximo before muster or be prepared to face the wrath of the 2nd Sgts wife AT muster.*

McFuddy...

-Membership DUES -

Mcfuddy Consolidated has received dues from the following individuals for their 2005 membership. *(Recall if you will, that your membership entitles your FAMILY as well, so if they are not listed below that does not mean they will not be counted when the roll is called over yonder...)*

Bassett, K.
Beard, M.
Bowen, J.
Bowen, S.
Brockman, R.
Burkett, T.
Burrage, R.
Dunn, D.
Durant, T.
Gates, D.
Gigliotti, J. *(hey Jim!!!!)*
Graham, P.
Gross, A.
Gross, D.
Hargis, G.
Inserra, T.
Levy, J.
Loveall, B.
Martin, B.
Mattoon, M.
Myers, R.
Ogle, A.
Phineas, M.
Prendergast, A.
Prendergast, S.
Renfro, G.
Rudy, B.
Rudy, N.
Smith, A.
Smith, M.
Thomas, B.
Thomas, J. (Laundress)

(if you KNOW you've paid this scalawag and find your name not upon the list, let the 1st Sgt know and he'll straighten the matter out with the crafty devil...Ed...)

Attention to Orders

HQ 1st US Infantry
SO 05-01
January 25, 2005

United States Army Regulations of 1861. Section XXXI, Paragraph 327. *Troops will be mustered for pay on the last day of February, April, June, August, October, and December. The musters will be made by an Inspector-General, if present,.....in the absence of either an Inspector-General or officer specially designated, the muster will be made by the commander of the post.*

In accordance with the above, troops of the 1st US are ordered to report to Ft Washita Indian Territory for mustering during February 11th through 13th. Troops not in garrison by eight and a half o'clock on the morning of February 12th will be listed as absent without leave.

Privates, Musicians, and NCOs will occupy the top floor of the barracks. Authorized civilians will be housed in the lower floor. Suitable quarters for officers will be procured. All suitable garrison equipage is authorized and no restrictions on baggage is placed on either officers or enlisted. Soldiers will ensure that they have both fatigue and dress uniforms with leathers blackened, brass polished, and muskets clean. Cartridge boxes should contain the full load of forty rounds.

In addition to mustering soldiers will be drilled in all aspects of company drill with an emphasis on skirmishing. Officers and NCOs are instructed to review Casey's prior to arrival. In addition to field maneuvers soldiers will be instructed in such soldierly activities as equipment maintenance, etiquette, guard mount procedures, and cartridge manufacture. It is the commander's intent to train the men hard but to allow time for relaxation. Hard training may result in an extra whiskey ration for deserving troops.

The regiment will be dismissed by twelve o'clock noon on Sunday. Troops are responsible for securing their own transportation. Full rations will be provided beginning Saturday morning. The ten dollar cost of said rations will be withheld from the soldiers account.

Questions may be directed to the 1st Sergeant or any officer.

By order of Captain Donald Gross
Co. A, Commanding regiment

1st US 2005 Election Absentee Ballot

Submit in lieu of a proxy vote

Absentee ballot must be delivered to the election chair (Conway Barton – 734 Bent Creek Drive, Allen, TX 75002) by February 10, 2005. I understand that there are no provisions in this ballot for run-off elections.

Circle choices.

Senior Officer

John Bowen

Junior Officer

Alan Prendergast

1st Sergeant (vote for one)

Don Gates

Sergeant (vote for three)

Don Gates

Jim Kirkendall

Ron Myers

Blair Rudy

Aaron Smith

Corporal (vote for two)

Beck Martin

Ron Myers

Blair Rudy

Aaron Smith

Member at Large (vote for two)

Don Gross

George Hansen

Beck Martin

Ron Myers

Blair Rudy

Aaron Smith

_____ Write-in

_____ Write-in

Signed: _____

Date: _____

I certify that I am eligible to vote according to Article IV NTRS ByLaws

----- cut here -----

1st US 2005 Election Proxy Vote

Submit in lieu of an absentee ballot

Proxy ballot may be delivered to any regular member prior to Election Day. You may provide special written instruction for balloting or give your proxy total freedom to vote as he sees fit on all ballots.

I, (please print) _____ release my proxy to (please print) _____.

This ballot may be used for all Regimental Ballots.

Signed: _____

I certify that I am eligible to vote according to Article IV NTRS ByLaws

Date: _____

Special Instructions:

Elections to be Held

In accordance with the Bylaws the 1st US will hold its Bi-annual elections at the February meeting at Ft. Washita. Standards for rank were published and eligibility to vote is in the Bylaws.

Article IV, Voting.

1. Only dues paid Regulars, Recruits, and Civilians are eligible to vote.
2. Regulars and Civilians must attend four meetings in the previous year to vote.
3. Recruits who have been members for at least 60 days and attend one meeting during that time in the previous year can vote.
4. Regulars and civilians can give written consent for proxy voting to other Regulars.
5. Regulars and civilians can send an absentee ballot to the election chair prior to the election.

This year's elections are under the direction of Conway Barton and the election committee of Pete Graham and Aaron Smith. For those not able to make the February meeting an absentee ballot or proxy statement is located in this newsletter. Remember, your dues need to be paid up and you must have attended four meetings in the past year.

Article II, Organization.

A. Unit will generally be organized along the military rank structure found in the Regular Army of the 1860s.

B. Election of Officers, Board of Directors and Regiment Ranks:

1. The unit will elect a Board of Directors as follows: The military ranks will elect two company grade officers, six NCOs, and two military representatives at large. The civilian organization associated with the 1st US, with at least ten active members, may elect a representative at-large to serve on the board.

We are electing the Board of Directors, which is the governing body of the unit. Their job is twofold. They provide the legal direction for the unit (we are a 501(c) (3), incorporated in the state of Texas) and, with the exception of the two members at large, also have field command duties (officer or NCO). Every

election year at the first board meeting following the elections the Directors elect from among themselves the corporate officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer).

the casualties would have been much, much higher. Anyway, it gives you sum'tin' to think on....

Ammo

Be advised that Ted Cross, who is the 1st US armorer, has powder & caps should you need to stock up. Ted's number is 817-429-6317 and call soon before his stocks run out. Note that the caps are the accepted 4-wing variety.

- \$10 Goex powder, 1 lb.
- \$9 RWS caps (German), 200 per box

On Period Correspondence –

"Your Letter of the 6th inst."

T'other day, our Pard an' feller Rakensacker, Art Ogle posed in interessin' question thusly:

Given my well-known penchant for observing the absurd I'd like you to give me a definition that haz been wrackin' me brain matter fer quite a spell.

How cum, pray tell, did those fellers what had a desire to communicate wif each other during the late unpleasantness use the term "instant" perzactly. I wuz laboring under the impression that "Instant" denoted a specified period of time. I'll be there in an instant.

I've noticed that certain of some Union Commanders would spout off:

"In my last letter of the? instant."
What in the cat hair do that mean?

Arthur Ogle
Great Grandson of Ninian O'Gill
Late of the 14th Mo. Union Vols.
(J W Birges Western Sharpshooter if'n ye will)

To which I replied:

Dear Cove,
Glad to Oblige There are three of these things, oft abbreviated ult. (ultimo), inst. (instant), and prox. (proximo). They reference the month of the event or the month when an original letter was written, etc. So "your order of the 13th ult." would mean "your order

dated the 13th of LAST month." "your letter of the 15th inst." means "your letter of the 15th of THIS month" and "you will advance your Corps upon Corinth no later than the 2nd prox." would mean "get your troops moving no later than the 2nd of NEXT month.

These terms are still used in stuffy British and Anglo-Indian business correspondence. Why? You ask, don't they just write the name of the month in question? Perhaps they are compelled to conserve ink.

Hargis, G. 5 A-1

Washita Directions

See www.mapquest.com for more detail.

From Hwy 75 – about 2 miles north of Durant, OK, take the Hwy 48 exit and proceed north. At 3 miles turn left (west) onto Hwy 78 and follow the signs to Ft. Washita, (which is roughly 8 miles).

From I-35 – take the Hwy 70 exit east about 2 miles south of Ardmore, OK. In Madill take 199 east to Ft. Washita, which is 11 miles.

Civil War Era Etiquette: Martine's Handbook & Vulgarisms in Conversation

Chapter "On Dress"
(submitted by George Hansen)

"... Dress, ... is one of considerable importance, for a man's personal appearance is a sort of 'index and obscure prologue' to his character. ... The appearance of a well-dressed man commands a certain degree of respect, which would never be shown to a sloven.... The dress of a gentleman should be such as not to excite any special observation, unless it be for neatness and propriety. The utmost care should be exercised to avoid even the appearance of desiring to attract attention by the peculiar formation of any article of attire, or by the display of an immoderate quantity of jewelry, both being evidence of vulgarity."

"Cleanliness and neatness are the invariable accompaniments of good breeding. Every gentleman

may not be dressed expensively, he may not be able to do so; but water is cheap, and no gentleman will ever go into company unmindful of cleanliness either in his person or apparel."

"A well dressed man does not require so much an extensive as a varied wardrobe. He wants a different costume for every season and every occasion; but if what he selects is simple rather than striking, he may appear in the same clothes as often as he likes, as long as they are fresh and appropriate to the season and the object. There are four kinds of coats which he must have: a business coat, a frock-coat, a dress-coat, and an over-coat. A well dressed man may do well with four of the first, and one each of the others per annum. An economical man may get along with less."

"Avoid what is called the "ruffianly style of dress," or the *nonchalant* and *slouching* appearance of a half-unbuttoned vest, and suspenderless pantaloons. That sort of affectation is if possible even more disgusting than the painfully elaborate frippery of the dandy."

"Dress according to your age. It is both painful and ridiculous to see ... an old fellow, old enough for a grandfather, affecting the costume and the manners of a *beau*. ... Young men should be well dressed. Not foppishly, but neatly and well. An untidy person at five-and-twenty, degenerates, very frequently, into a sloven and a boor at fifty."

[LITTLE ROCK]
ARKANSAS TRUE DEMOCRAT
(submitted by Glen Hargis)

April 7, 1860, p. 1, c. 8

Learn This by Heart.

There was a young woman, and what do you think?
She soaked her light dresses in chloride of zinc.
Then fire could'nt hurt her, tho' close she came by it:
(*wink wink.....I hate a rhyme what don't rhyme ya see...McFuddy*)

April 7, 1860, p. 2, c. 3

Another Book Burning in Montgomery. — The Montgomery Mail, of the 29th, says:

At 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, by previous arrangement, there was a burning of the work of the notorious English abolitionist, Spurgeon, at the bookstore of Mr. B. B. Davis, Market street. Mr. Davis prepared a good fire of pine sticks, in the rear

of his store, and in the presence of several gentlemen — some of them true Baptists — about sixty volumes of Spurgeon were reduced to smoke and ashes.

April 14, 1860, p. 2, c. 7

The new metal aluminum, is now being made into thimbles, bracelets, eye-glasses and a variety of small articles. The King of Denmark has a helmet made of it which is as light as a cloth cap, while a sabre cannot

cut through it.

Livery keepers now use the odometer on all their vehicles. It measures the distance traveled, and fast men who hire a buggy for a ride of a mile or two and go five or six, are astonished when they come to settle. The stable man looks at his meter and tells them exactly how far they went.

Homespun clothes are becoming fashionable all over the South. So much so that the factories in the different southern States are putting up more looms and machinery to enable them to supply the increased demand. But, it must be added, this homespun is all for the masculines. — Nowadays fashion beats patriotism among the feminines and calico, silk, satin and the various imported and Yankee manufactured goods for female wear, have not in the least, given way to homespun.

April 14, 1860, p. 3, c. 6

A Revolving Bracelet. — A New York magazine of fashion describes a piece of jewelry which is destined to make a sensation among the "female persuasion." It is a strap bracelet of fine link chain, of a quaint Venetian pattern. The centre, set in a circular head, is a cluster of diamonds, having an outside waving edge of black enamel, divided into twelve compartments, each nestling a dazzling brilliant. Between the edge and the central glory is a vine of fine gold, in what sailors term, "round turns," each turn embracing one of this cluster of diamonds, and from this vine buds of fine diamond burst into light. But in the centre of all are two wheels, set in black enamel ground, each having eight arms, and each arm twelve diamonds. These wheels turn out on a common axle, the hub being the largest diamond of all, and by an ingenious piece of machinery which is wound up with a key, these wheels are made to revolve in opposite directions for two hours. Imagine the effect of this pyrotechnic display in a brilliantly lighted saloon, with a fair plump arm beneath it, if you can! What admiration it would command from the men; what envying and heartburnings it would excite in the women !

Lessons from Lincoln

"They {the authors of the Declaration of Independence} knew the proneness of prosperity to breed tyrants, and they meant when such should reappear in this fair land and commence their vocation, they should find left for them at least one hard nut to crack."

"He {Horace Greeley} is like an old shoe — good for nothing now, whatever he has been. In early life, and with few mechanics and but little means in the West, we used to make our shoes last a great while with such mending, and sometimes, when far gone, we found the leather so rotten the stitches would not hold. Greeley is so rotten that nothing can be done with him. He is not truthful; the stitches all tear out."

From the Diary of Charles Adams

"We are all alone on an island here, and on its shores our pickets stand and gaze placidly at the pickets of the enemy on the shore opposite.... I visited our furthest pickets and found them on Barwell's Island at the house of Mr. Trescot, the author of whom we have heard. It isn't a pleasant picture, this result of war. Here was a new house on a beautiful island and surrounded with magnificent cotton fields, built evidently by a gentleman of refinement and very recently, and there was a garden before it filled with rubbish, and within broken furniture, scraps of books and letters, and all the little tokens of a refined family. Scattered over the floors and piled in the corners were the remains of a fine library of books of many languages, and panels and glasses were broken wherever doing so was thought an easier course than to unlock or open. I wandered round and looked out at the view and wandered why this people had brought all this upon themselves; and yet I couldn't but pity them."

Charles Francis Adams Jr., letter to his mother, Feb 2, 1862, Beaufort, SC.

“House Divided”

from The Civil War Strange & Fascinating Facts, by
Burke Davis.

Old Henry Clay’s grandsons were soldiers, three for the Union, four for the Confederacy.

Col. John S. Mosby, the Confederate Ranger, slipped into Alexandria and captured Col D.H. Dulaney, USA. Mosby had a well-qualified guide in his ranks, French Dulaney, the son of his victim.

Jeb Stuart’s chief of staff, Maj. H.B. McClellan, had four brothers in blue and a first cousin, George B. McClellan, who was twice cmdr. of the Army of the Potomac.

Stonewall Jackson was the symbol of Southern resistance, but his sister Laura, a Union sympathizer, remained unshaken in her devotion to the Old Republic. She sent a message by a Union soldier to the effect that she would “take care of wounded Federals as fast as brother Thomas would wound them.”

The war was touched off by an artillery duel between Confederates ashore at Charleston, SC, and the Federal garrison at Ft. Sumter commanded by Major Robert Anderson. Anderson had been so adept as an artillery pupil in his days at West Point that his instructor broke tradition to keep Anderson as an assistant. The Confederate commander who directed

firing on Sumter was the instructor himself, Gen. P.T. Beauregard.

For the siege of Vicksburg, Missouri furnished 39 regiments – sixteen Confederate, 22 Union.

At Bull Run, Fredrick Hubbard of the Washington Artillery of New Orleans, who wore gray, for the first time in seven years, met Henry Hubbard of the 1st Minn. Inf., who wore blue. The brothers were wounded and by coincidence placed side by side in the stable which served as a hospital.

The climax of the war for the 7th Tennessee Regt., Confederate, was the capture of the complete 7th Tennessee, USA – warriors, drummers, cooks, and all.

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@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, jbowl1stus@comcast.net or (972) 539-6167.

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