
The UNION STANDARD

September 2003

Vol. 11, no 8

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

Dispatch from the Board

Well, now I've seen everything – it actually rained at the Live Fire! Many thanks to Kip and the good folks at the Johnson County Shooting Sports Club for yet another outstanding live fire experience and to those who helped locate some of Mr. Hargis' wayward equipment. Kudos also to Cooky Gates on finally winning the shooting trophy for Co. A. This year we were joined by Maj. Robert Russell, chief surgeon of the 173rd NYSVI. I asked Maj. Russell to come and meet our guys in the hope that we can reestablish a mutually beneficial relationship between our units. While their infantry members are in need of a safe and competent group to fall in with for drill and battle at events, we can always use more boys in blue on the firing line. Similarly, their after-action hospital scenarios require men to portray wounded soldiers and other roles, while we have no shortage of actors, hams, and serious living historians that could participate. If you were at the last Bellmead, you could not have missed noticing the huge spectator crowd that gathered to witness the medical demonstrations following the battles. The simple fact is that virtually every man that hefted a musket and marched to a battle also reported to sick call at least once or spent some time in a hospital tent. I see a great opportunity for us to both field more soldiers and to improve and expand our period impressions through a closer relationship with the 173rd. My sincere hope is that you will all join me in making it happen.

I would be remiss if I didn't put in a last minute plug for Atoka. This is the mother of all maximum effort events for 2003. It's a great site with a good battlefield and camping areas and we've got a few extra curricular activities planned to help make it as fun as possible. Although we probably won't be treated to a burning Sibley tent this year, we will no doubt have a good time. Heed Lt. Bowen's admonition to brush up on "drill for dummies" and also make sure to review guard mount procedures.

We will be standing guard duty, and Maj. Benefiel will be watching and, most likely, testing our performance! Following Atoka, we continue a busy fall reenacting season with a choice of events in October and then Cane Hill in November. There are also a number of other events that will take place this fall in Texas – you can keep yourself occupied virtually every weekend until Christmas if you're so inclined. One of the challenges the Board has faced this year is learning about events far enough ahead of time to consider them and making last minute schedule changes in response to cancellations and postponements of events. As you communicate with your friends in the hobby or travel around the state, be sure to pass on information about living history, recruiting, or reenactment opportunities to your board members. Remember, for example, that we only learned about Fort McKavett because John Schultz happened to visit the fort during a trip. We've had limited success in having the membership decide on events to attend in the past, and we could certainly use a lot more input in this area.

I'll leave you with a few words about recruiting. I've been very pleased to see new faces at the last few events. George and Conway are to be heartily congratulated on their excellent recruiting efforts this year. One area in which we could all do better, however, is in "re-recruiting". While new faces are a welcome sight, we're missing a number of more familiar faces. I suspect that each of us can think of at least one person we miss seeing on a regular basis. I challenge each of you to pick up the phone and call at least one person that you've been missing and let him or her know that we still want and need their participation. We can only dress funny and play our silly games if we have enough others around that are crazy enough to play too.

I remain your most obedient servant,

Brook Thomas

1st U.S. Calendar

2003

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

4-5 Granbury Re-enactment
11 Pearce Museum - Corsicana
25-26 Crockett

NOVEMBER

7-9 Battle of Bentonville (formally Cane Hill) Arkansas

DECEMBER

6-7 Camp Ford, Tyler, TX

OCTOBER EVENTS

At Tuesday evening's board meeting, we decided to do something a little different with events scheduling for October. Due to the cancellation and then the re-instatement of the Granbury event at a different date, our October schedule was a bit uncertain. There are also 2 other events in October that came to light along with the possibility that we might just do a drill. As it turns out, timing for the events wasn't perfect either.

So, here's the solution - We will not have a particular unit event scheduled for October but rather a choice of events. We ask that you try to attend at least one of the events as each has its own advantages.

The events are:

1. Granbury, Oct 4-5
2. Pearce Museum at Navarro College in Corsicana, Oct 11
3. Crockett, Oct 25-26

First, and MOST important... Atoka in Sept and Bentonville in Nov are our max effort events. If it comes down to a kitchen pass for the Oct events or one of the max effort events, take the MAX EFFORT EVENTS!! More info on the October events will be published in the upcoming newsletter, but for now, at least you have info to make plans. Granbury is Granbury, what else can I say. It is our ONLY local event to recruit though, so George and the Recruiting

Committee will be there and will appreciate any help, even for only one of the days. (You can also participate in the battles)

The Pearce Museum is an opening dedication of the largest CW museum west of the Mississippi. They need re-enactors of the 'blue persuasion' to even the odds of some 100 or so Johnnies. Again George is leading the charge on this one. (Starting to get the picture ????, George is really tapping himself out, so he needs our help. He may need a place to stay if Marie kicks him out for good in Oct.)

Crockett is a local event in, you guessed it, Crockett, TX (north of Houston somewhere... Brook is taking the lead with this one and it is a good way of supporting the 173rd as it is in their neighborhood. Anyway, more info later, but now at least you have somethin' to chew on.

Jb

(Lt. John Bowen)

The Recruiting Post

by George Hansen

The Granbury Reenactment offers the perfect opportunity to add Rackensackers to the ranks. Come join me Oct. 4 & 5 in the recruiting booth as the 1st attempts to swell its numbers. Granbury has traditionally been the initial introduction to our hobby for the unwashed as originally experienced by some of our members; e.g., Kevin Doughtie, Greg Fett, Aaron Smith, Kip Bassett, Don Gross, et al. It is hoped we garner a good prospect crop and your assistance is appreciated and requested. If attending, contact me at beast1st@comcast.net, or (972) 529-5349. See the Granbury info elsewhere in the newsletter for further details.

Again, recruiting is not just a one-man show, but requires every member to help in some manner. Quality festivals, historical related gatherings, gun shows, or pestering neighbors and work associates are the stuff where novices are turned into reenactors. Contact me or a board member for your input and suggestions.

**Granbury Reenactment
October 4 & 5
Recruiting**

Granbury has been a long-time local reenactment within the metroplex and provides a favorable spectator location near historical Granbury. Recruiting and the battles will be the weekend's primary objectives, but opportunities to do impromptu living history talks are available. Recruiting Sgt. George Hansen needs your help. As a reminder, recruiting is a must activity should you wish to receive your "1" brass number to be worn on the dress Hardee. Bring 40 rounds for each battle. A or dog tents are acceptable. There will be no food provided by the unit.

Mandatory individual registration is online at www.granburyreenactment.com. Those who do not have web access may contact G. Hansen at (972) 529-5349 and he will register you.

Directions:
From I-20 go south on Hwy 377 to Granbury. Take the Bus 377 exit into downtown. At the Courthouse square go south on FM 51S. The site is 10 or so miles from Granbury and look for the reenactor signs.

**Pearce Museum Grand Opening
October 11
Navarro College, Corsicana
Living History**

Arrive no later than 9:30 am as the ceremony starts at 10:00. Although not mandatory, dress uniform is requested – white gloves, black tie if you have one, leathers blackened, and brass polished. Bring 10 rounds for a rifle salute. Activities should cease around 1:00 pm. Be prepared to interact with the crowd. Shelter tent is optional, but bring camp chair and impedimenta of your choosing for LH purposes. Contact G. Hansen if attending – beast1st@comcast.net, or (972) 529-5349.

The new Pearce Center for Civil War History and Western Art will be unique in its balanced view of Civil War history and will contain over 6,600 documents and artifacts. Visitors will see and hear letters from Lincoln, Davis, Grant, Lee, Sherman, Jackson, John Wilkes Booth, Frederick Douglass, Julia Ward Howe and numerous other figures of the era. The museum will feature two multi-media theaters, original documents, artifact displays and graphic depictions of each year of the war.

Directions: Navarro College campus, Hwy 31 west end of Corsicana. I-45 south to Corsicana. Take Highway 31/7th Avenue exit and go west all the way through town to the college on the right. If you get to the Wal-Mart you've gone too far. The Cook Center has the big airplane and the bronze Indian on horseback in the front.

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**Crockett Texas Heritage Days Festival
October 24-26 2003**

The Crockett Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Civil War reenactment hosted by the 173rd NY Infantry/Medical Corps, the Capitol Guard Artillery, and Co. E of the 8th Texas Cavalry. The site is approx. 100 acres total, with the battlefield area covering bout 60 acres. There are woods surrounding the field on three sides, with one area of the woods extending out into the field about halfway down. The battlefield area is a hay meadow, so it is fairly flat and mowed. The camping area for Federals is going to be right up against the woods on the right side of the field, and the Rebs will be against the trees on the left side. Water and hay are available fairly close to the camping area. There are hose bibs and there will be a water truck with about 10 to 15 spigots as well. Four pickup loads of wood have been cut and split, and the Chamber President has promised to have more available. He even agreed to keep some in reserve on a trailer so that additional wood can be distributed throughout the weekend. Saturday night the Chamber will be providing dinner for all reenactors before the dance, and it is most likely going to be a fish fry.

The site opens for reenactors on Thursday morning and living history demonstrations for area schools will be Friday from 9:00am to 2:00pm. For more information and registration go to www.geocities.com/houstoncountyheritage/ or contact Sgt. Thomas.

LIVE FIRE!

On Saturday, August 30th, 2003, members of the 1st U.S. Infantry gathered for the annual Live Fire extravaganza held at the Johnson County Shooting Sports Club. Again we would test our deadly marksmanship skills. It is always exciting to compete for the "cup", to know that you are the best of the best!

This year we would have the four minute drill, which consists of firing as many shots as you can in a four minute period at paper targets with human body outlines on them at 25 yards, and two man team competition at 50 yards shooting at what seemed to be very small clay pigeons.

The company record for the four minute drill is ten shots fired. This record was not in jeopardy this year! However, we again proved that we are very deadly at 25 yards. However, if the enemy was really within 25 yards of our line we would either be fixing bayonets or skedaddling out of there! If I remember correctly, Don Gates was our most deadly of shooters with a score of 27 in this competition. If I have this wrong please let me know. In the two-man team competition, the team of Alan Prendergast and Don Gates hit all four of their clay pigeons. In fact, Don was able to hit two clay pigeons with one shot earning him the nickname of either "One Shot", or possibly "Dead Eye Don" I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dave Nelson, my teammate for hitting a clay pigeon so that our team was not shut out. I was absolutely crappy during this particular competition. Sorry, Dave, I was hoping to do better!

After these two events, the unit lined up and volleyed at wooden targets (looking suspiciously like Rebs!) out at 100 yards. We also did a fire by file. We did manage to score some hits, proving that we are not just deadly at 25 yards.

We then went into a skirmish line and fired at both wooden figures again and a gong out at 200 yards to start.

We managed several hits on the wooden figures and hit the gong twice. Don Gates scored on the hits on the gong, and yours truly had the other. There were a couple of other hits on the metal frame that held the gong.

A hearty welcome goes out to Brad Walsh, Ron Myers, Blair Rudy, and Scott Fullerton for attending their first live fire. Hopefully they had as much fun as the rest of us. It is always interesting to lug around a cartridge box full of live rounds as compared to blanks. Also, the sound of a live round being fired always amazes me, being WAY louder than a blank.

A big thanks goes out to Kip Bassett for organizing this event. Thanks also go out to John Bowen for helping judge the events and Ted Cross for supplying items for sale, even though he could not be there in person. I know he was there in spirit. Thanks also go out to folks cooking in the rain for supplying burgers, dogs, chips, drinks, and especially brownies. It was appreciated after a long day of shooting. Almost forgot. Don Gates won the competition this year and will have the honor of adding his name to the "cup". Hope to see everyone again next year!

YOS,

Greg Fett".

(personally, meself, I prefers the name "2fur Gates"... McFuddy)

ATOKA INFO

Sept 26-28, members will begin showing up in the late afternoon/ early evening of Friday, Sept 26th. Cookie will have a supper prepared that night. Otherwise, suggest you arrive early morning on Saturday. (A more definite schedule of events will be included in the upcoming newsletter to give you a better idea of scheduling.) The Battalion plans this to be a 'campaign style' event with dog tents/ flys/ or the great Oklahoma sky over your slumbering head.

That said, if an A-tent is as campaign style as you want to get, by all means bring it and enjoy the weekend. No one will give you a hard time, we need your bod at Atoka more than your campaign impression.

Rations: Cookie is preparing his usual culinary delights. All meals will be provided up thru breakfast Sunday morning. For you to participate in said delights, you MUST have your \$10 check to McFuddy's doorstep no later than Tuesday, Sept 21st. (Checks are preferred for your own protection...if it is discovered McFuddy paints the town red with our proceeds, you can stop payment and sit in on the punishment phase of his court martial...) Make checks payable to the NTRS (certainly not to McFuddy hisself!) and send it to:

Alan Prendergast
1403 Barclay Dr
Carrollton, TX 75007

(Now that I have you thinking about it, why not write that check right now!!) If you can not stay the entire weekend, give him a call to work out a reasonable payment plan. 972-492-1031/
d1stus@gte.net

The unit has already been registered for the event. There is no registration charge for the 1st US. To aid unit planning, please respond to me as soon as you are able with your intention of attending Atoka. Again, we are shooting for a full 2-company attendance which means we need a minimum of 32 rifles in the ranks.

DIRECTIONS:

Take Hwy 75/69 north thru Sherman/Denison/ Durant to Atoka. On the south side of Atoka, turn left onto Hwy 7 and go west about 7 miles. The site is on the right side of the highway with registration at the entrance.

LASTLY: We haven't had a drill in a while so we will be a bit rusty. PLEASE read over your "Drill For Dummies" as a refresher. We will drill Sat morning to 'knock off the rust', but coming mentally prepared will help maintain our

reputation as the Brigades best drilled unit. If you don't have a copy, let me know and I'll e-mail it.

YMOS,
jb

Lessons From Lincoln

It was a common thing for Lincoln to discourage unnecessary lawsuits, and consequently he was continually sacrificing opportunities to make money. One man who asked him to bring suit for two dollars and a half against a debtor who had not a cent with which to pay, would not be put off in his passion for revenge. Lincoln's counsel therefore gravely demanded ten dollars as a retainer. Half of this he gave to the poor defendant, who thereupon confessed judgment and paid the \$2.50. Thus the suit was ended, to the entire satisfaction of the angry creditor.

New Member info: by Sgt. Kirkendall

You may have noticed some new faces at recent drills or at the live fire. If you haven't had a chance to meet them yet here is some information about our three newest recruits.

Ron Myers is an air traffic controller who works at the air route traffic control center near DFW airport. Chances are he talked to a couple of our veterans in the past and didn't even know it. Ron has already been recognized as having one of the best overall impressions at the recent drill at Samuel Farm. Ron and his wife, Charmayne, have a daughter, Miranda, age 8, and a son, James, age 6. They live in Colleyville.

Scott Fullerton lives in Arlington with his wife and kids. He's a computer geek by trade but has many varied interests including restoring classic Ford Mustangs. He also has an interest in aviation. Atoka will be his first chance to see the Elephant.

Jake Wise is probably one of our youngest members. Despite his youth, he's a veteran. Jake comes to us from our parads in the 13th US in the Houston area. He's going to be attending college in Stephenville so he's signed up with the First.

Scott and Ron learned about the 1ST US on the Internet. Jake knew about us from his time in the 13th.

If you haven't had a chance to get to know our new recruits, take the time to introduce yourself and get acquainted with them. They're a welcome addition to the ranks.

Reenactment of Middle Boggy at Atoka

Oklahoma was Indian Territory during the Civil War. It included land ceded to the Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole. These tribes had come from the south and some of their leaders and other affluent tribesmen owned slaves that they brought to Oklahoma. Many joined the Confederacy. This was most likely due to the influence that Federal Indian Agents Douglas Cooper and Albert Pike (who became rebel officers) had with the leaders and the humanitarian and generous terms offered by the Confederate treaties. Pike was given the task of negotiating treaties with the Indians by the Confederacy. The terms he offered were equal to or more generous than those in effect with the Federal government.

Battle of Middle Boggy Depot

In February 1864, Col. William Phillips left Fort Gibson with the Union Indian Home Guard and headed south down the Texas Road bringing the war to the Seminoles, Creeks, Chickasaws, and Choctaws. He got to within 20 miles of Fort Washita before returning to Fort Gibson on February 24. During the expedition Phillips and his me fought with and dispersed numerous Confederate detachments. The major engagement occurred on February 13 at Middle

Boggy Depot. A Federal Column under Major Charles Willett surprised a poorly armed Confederate force. The rebels made a determined stand for about thirty minutes before being forced to retire loosing 47 killed.

The reenactment of Middle Boggy will be held September 26-28 (see directions elsewhere in newsletter). This is a campaign style evens as we are portraying troops on the move. That being said if you feel the need to bring an A tent feel free. Our goal is to fill two full companies of 16 rifles each. Most folks will be showing up Friday evening but if you can only make it for Saturday that's fine too.

Saturday's battle will be a generic battle and the recreation of Middle Boggy is on Sunday. We have a few little things planned to make it an interesting event for all. Naturally, our own Don Gates – chef extraordinaire, will provide superior rations! Send \$10.00 to Alan Prendergast to get on the rations list. E-mail John Bowen to confirm attendance. We registered as a unit and there is no cost for individuals. This is a nice piece of property to play on and the camps are in a wooded area. Its well worth the 2 hour drive north of Dallas.

The Jonah

From a veteran of the Army of the Potomac.

“Now, accidents will happen to the most careful and the best of men, but the soldier whom I describe could be found in every squad in camp - that is, a man of his kind. Such men were called “Jonahs” on account of their ill luck. Perhaps this particular Jonah after getting his tin plate level full of hot pea-soup was sure, on entering the tent, to spill a part of it down somebody's back. The higher he could hold it the better it seemed to please him as he made his way to his accustomed place in the tent, and in bringing it down into a latitude where he proposed to eat it he usually managed to dispose of much of the remainder, either on his own or somebody else's blankets. When pea soup failed him for a diversion, he was a dead shot on kicking over his neighbor's pot of coffee, which

the owner had put down for a moment while he adjusted his lap-table to receive his supper. The profuseness of the Jonah's apologies - and they always were profuse, and undoubtedly sincere - was utterly inadequate as a balm for the wounds he made. Anybody else in the tent might have kicked the coffee to the remotest bounds of camp with malice aforethought, and it would not have produced a tithe of the aggravation which it did to have this constitutional blunderer do it by accident. It may be that he wished to borrow your ink. Of course you could not refuse him. It may have been made by you with some ink powders sent from home - perhaps the last you had and which you should want yourself that very day. It mattered not. He took it with complacency and fair promises, put it on a box by his side and tipped the box over five minutes afterward by the watch.

Cooking was the forte of this Jonah. He could be found most any time of day - or night, if he was a guardsman - around the camp-fire with his little mess of something in his tomato can or tin dipper, which he would throw an air of mystery around every now and then by drawing a small package from the depths of his pocket or haversack and scattering some of its contents into the brew. But there was a time in the history of his culinary pursuits when he rose to a supreme height as a blunderer. It was when he appeared at the camp-fire which, by the way, he never kindled himself, ready to occupy the choice places with his dishes; and after the two rails, between which fires were usually built, had been well burdened by the coffee-pots of his comrades it presented an opportunity which his evil genius was likely to take advantage of; for then he was suddenly seized with a thought of something else that he had forgotten to borrow. Turning in his haste to go to the tent for this purpose he was sure to stumble over the end of one or both of the rails, when the downfall of the coffee-pots and the quenching of the fire followed as a matter of course."

From the book *Hardtack & Coffee - The Unwritten Story of Army Life* by John D. Billings

Submitted by Ron (OUCH!!) Myers
(Ron lad, is there somethin yer trying to hint at for us? Should we be considerin makin certain sure you're captured soon?... McFuddy)

For Sale: (Recruits take note!)

Contact Wes Hanson at
Wes.Hanson@weblinkwireless.com, or (972) 223-8502:

Daley Sack Coat 48" (brand new) - \$165
Jarnagin 1857/61 Cartridge Box, w/sling, plates, tins (never used) - \$120
Trousers (Frazer's) about 42" - \$40
Sack Coat (Frazer's) 50" - \$40
Brogans 10 1/2 - \$20 or best offer!

Newsletter Costs

Members who receive the newsletter by mail can help the First US save money by requesting a newsletter copy only by e-mail. The postage and printing costs will help the treasury pay for a needed national flag and other items essential to our impression. Should you wish to contribute to this goal contact G. Hansen at beast1st@comcast.net.

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Newsletter contributions - E-Mail/Mail 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 font)

Newsletter - contact George Hansen if you did not receive your newsletter by snail mail - beast1st@comcast.net or (972) 529-5349.

Address/Telephone changes - any mailing/e-mail address changes or telephone number changes should be submitted to John Bowen, bowen1stus@comcast.net or (972) 539-6167..

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