



The Dispatch

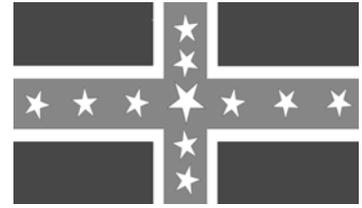
Newsletter of the

9th Texas Infantry Regiment

March 2006

Volume 4, Issue 2

Fred Yokubaitis, Editor



From the Colonel

Gentlemen,

Greetings! I know, you're asking yourself, "What, a newsletter so soon after the last?!?!?" Well, I'm trying to get back on a timelier schedule and get information out more toward the first of each month. We'll see how long this lasts.

First off, I'd like to thank all our brave 9th Texas members that made it to the Twiggs Surrender event. Unfortunately, I could not be present due to some last minute problems at work, but I did hear all about the event. Apparently it was very cold and windy, with a slight mist. To those that attended, thank you very much for suffering through the bad conditions to help our pards in the 6th Texas. I know they really appreciate your help.

I also heard reports that the Menger Hotel did not properly prepare for the onslaught of our brave 9th Texas lads, lead by our beloved Sergeant Major Crisp, by stockpiling sufficient reserves of the proper caliber quaff (in this case, the Sergeant Majors preferred beer). Consequently, our men were made to suffer by being forced to consume inferior quality quaff, at the apparent disgust of Sergeant Major Crisp. One would think that such a historic establishment would take notice of defeats of similar circumstance throughout history and properly prepare, especially when given prior warning by our benevolent Scot! My question: was the poor bartender left hanging from the rafters upon our lad's departure?

And now to something completely different....Efforts are underway, AGAIN, to produce a current revised 9th Texas Handbook, and this time we mean it! The handbook will be aimed primarily at new recruits, but will contain information pertinent to veterans as well. Aside from the introduction to the hobby, focused toward new members, it will contain such information as our uniform and equipment standards, sources for the aforementioned, and other helpful hints. It will be made available as soon as possible, but please understand that an undertaking of this magnitude is comparable to such projects as the writing of *War and Peace*. It is also our goal to update the 9th Texas website with more advanced information to make it a place of reference for the veterans of our group.

Please remember our Spring Muster will be held in conjunction with the Beaumont Ranch event, March 17-19.

(Continued on Page 3)

Upcoming Events

(See inside for detailed information)

- March 17-19: Beaumont Ranch / Spring Battalion Muster
- April 1: Battalion Drill & Confederate History Symposium
- May 6: Battalion Drill
- May 20-21: Bellmead Reenactment
- June 2-4: Scottish Festival
- June 10: Battalion Drill
- June 25: Recruiting Event & Living History
- July 4: The Fourth of July in Dallas Heritage Village
- July 15: Battalion Drill
- July 21-23: 145th Manassas Reenactment
- July 29-30: NSA Meeting

** Important Reminders **

9th Texas Infantry Year 2006 Dues:

Year 2006 dues payment deadline is March 19, 2006. Submittal of payment and Enlistment/Waiver Forms can be done in person at Spring Muster, or by mail:

Tom Corll
2979 County Road 4935
Kempner, TX 76539

Bring Raffle Tickets to Muster:

Those who purchased raffle tickets for the "Allatoona Pass" print, by Don Troiani, are reminded to bring them to the upcoming Battalion Spring Muster. The drawing will be held that Sunday afternoon. Tickets can still be purchased from Tom Corll for \$5.00 a ticket.

145th First Bull Run Registration Deadline:

The early registration deadline for the 145th First Bull Run event is March 31, 2006. See inside for more information

Remember to check

Battalion's Web Page: www.9thtexas.org
For the latest Battalion news, event information,
and message board.

Recent Event Attendance

January 14, 2006 – Drill: 42 people

February 18, 2006 – Twiggs Surrender: 21 people

2006 Event Information

Beaumont Ranch & Spring Muster

March 17 – 19, 2006

Beaumont Ranch, Grandview, TX

Battalion Maximum Effort!

– See event flier in the February issue for more information.

Battalion Drill & Confederate History Symposium

April 1, 2006

Hill College, Hillsboro, TX

9th Texas Maximum Effort!

– See event flier in this issue for more information.

Battalion Drill

May 6, 2006

Location TBA

9th Texas Maximum Effort!

- Mid-war Army of Tennessee impression.
- Drill to start promptly at 9:00 AM.
- Light marching order.

Bellmead Reenactment

May 20 – 21, 2006

Bellmead, TX

Battalion Maximum Effort!

- Reenactment / Recruiting Event.
- Mid-war Army of Tennessee impression.
- www.bellmead.com/html/civilre.htm

Scottish Festival

June 2 – 4, 2006

Maverick Stadium, Arlington, TX

- Recruiting Event.
- Mid-war Army of Tennessee or Zouave impression.
- www.arlington.org/scottish_festival.shtml

Battalion Drill

June 10, 2006

Dallas Heritage Village, Dallas, TX

- Mid-war Army of Tennessee impression.
- Drill to start promptly at 9:00 AM.
- Light marching order.
- Schoolhouse opens at 4:00 PM Friday for overnight stay.
- Office & NCO meeting in the schoolhouse at 8:00 AM.
- See www.dallasheritagevillage.org for park info.

Recruiting Event & Living History

June 25, 2006

Savannah, TX

- Living History / Recruiting Event.
- Mid-war Army of Tennessee impression.

The Fourth of July at DHV

July 4, 2006

Dallas Heritage Village, Dallas, TX

- Living History / Recruiting Event.
- Early-war impression.
- See www.dallasheritagevillage.org for park information.

Battalion Drill

July 15, 2006

Location TBA

- Mid-war Army of Tennessee impression.
- Drill to start promptly at 9:00 AM.
- Light marching order.

145th Manassas Reenactment

July 21 – 23, 2006

Middletown, VA

- Optional Event.
- Early war impression.
- www.cedarcreekbattlefield.org/reenact/bullrun.php

North/South Alliance Meeting

July 29 – 30, 2006

Location TBA

- Annual NSA Meeting for Battalion Staff.
- Attendance by all RRB staff is requested.

Battalion Drill / Officer and NCO School

August 12, 2006

Dallas Heritage Village, Dallas, TX

- Mid-war Army of Tennessee impression.
- Drill to start promptly at 9:00 AM.
- Officer and NCO School 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
- Light marching order.
- Schoolhouse opens at 4:00 PM Friday for overnight stay.
- www.dallasheritagevillage.org for park info.

Fall Muster

September 9 – 10, 2006

Location TBA

Battalion Maximum Effort!

- Mid-war Army of Tennessee impression.
- Garrison camp.

144th Perryville Reenactment

October 6 – 8, 2006

Perryville, KY

Battalion Maximum Effort!

- Mid-war Army of Tennessee campaign impression.
- Static camp.
- www.nsalliance.org
- www.perryvillereenactment.org

America Goes to War

November 11 – 12, 2006

Dallas Heritage Village, Dallas, TX

9th Texas Maximum Effort!

- Living History / Recruiting Event.
- Mid-war Army of Tennessee or Zouave impression.
- www.dallasheritagevillage.org

Plantation Liendo Reenactment

November 18 – 19, 2006

Hempstead, TX

Battalion Maximum Effort!

- Reenactment / Recruiting Event.
- 165th NY Zouave impression.
- Garrison camp
- www.11texascav.org/liendo/liendo.shtml

Battalion Drill / Holiday Party

December 9, 2006

Location TBA

Battalion Maximum Effort!

- Mid-war Army of Tennessee impression.
- Drill to start promptly at 9:00 AM.
- Light marching order.
- Schoolhouse opens at 4:00 PM Friday for overnight stay.
- Office & NCO meeting in the schoolhouse at 8:00 AM.
- www.dallasheritagevillage.org for park info.
- Holiday party 6:00 PM to ???

(Continued from Colonel Page 1)

The combined muster/event is a new experiment for the 9th and will hopefully be successful, but like all events it will not be worth a hoot unless we have a good turnout. It's a battalion maximum effort event, so plan on attending. Pack your kit and we'll see you there!

Our next regular drill will be at Hillsboro Junior College on April 1, and will be in conjunction with the Confederate History Symposium. This will give us a break from drilling at DHV, and is not too far of a drive from the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. This will be more than just a drill, so please plan to attend. See the event flier in this issue for more information. An announcement of the location of the May 6th drill location will be made at Spring Muster.

STOP THE PRESSES! (Or copier in this case) The *From the Colonel* column is usually the last thing I type for the newsletter. This time I even printed all the other pages before typing and printing the pages containing this column. That's why you will not find the following information listed in the Event Information section. In the interim of printing and writing this column, I received an invitation from General Jack King to participate in a "Fun March" on April 7-8, 2006. This is the same weekend as the Pleasant Hill Reenactment, and will be in the same area, but IS NOT part of the reenactment. The reenactment is not a 9th Texas event due to

the fearsome farbiness of the event! The "Fun March" will be approximately 10 miles conducted over two days (Friday and Saturday) and will be more of a living history, with no battles planned. This will not be done for preservation, but for fun, and as an opportunity to meet and get to know people in King's organization (2nd Division, AOT). The march will conclude at the reenactment site and it is my understanding that King does not officially plan to participate in the battle, but those wishing to participate may do so. Those wishing to attend the march should contact me for more information.

Forward! Forward!

Your most obedient servant,

Col. Fred Yokubaitis
Red River Battalion

Event Information Update

Beaumont Ranch & RRB Spring Muster

Revised Schedule of Events

Thursday, March 16, 2006

12:00 PM Site opens for early setup

Friday, March 17, 2006

8:00 AM Arrival and setup

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM School Day demos

8:00 PM Mandatory Officer/NCO Meeting

Saturday, March 18, 2006

6:00 AM Reveille

6:15 – 6:30 Company formation / Roll call

6:30 – 7:45 Breakfast

7:45 – 8:15 Battalion formation

8:15 – 12:15 Drill / Bayonet / Dues collection

12:15 – 1:30 PM Lunch

1:30 – 2:00 Battalion forms for battle

2:00 – 3:00 Battle

3:30 – 4:30 Weapon cleaning and instructional

4:30 – 5:00 Retreat Formation

5:00 – 7:00 Dinner

7:00 – 8:00 Battalion meeting

8:00 – 11:30 Battalion Fellowship & Follies

Sunday, March 19, 2006

6:00 AM Reveille

6:15 – 6:30 Company formation / Roll call

6:30 – 7:45 Breakfast

? AM Church service

9:00 – 9:15 Battalion formation

9:15 – 11:15 Skirmish drill / Dues collection

11:15 – 12:30 PM Lunch

12:30 – 1:00 Battalion forms for battle

1:00 – 2:00 Battle

2:00 Final formation and strike camp

145th ANNIVERSARY REENACTMENT OF THE BATTLE OF FIRST MANASSAS JULY 21 - 23, 2006



This summer the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation will host the 145th Anniversary of First Manassas, also known as First Bull Run, on the Cedar Creek Battlefield in Middletown, Virginia on the weekend of July 22nd and 23, 2006.

Kicking off the start of the 145th anniversary Civil War reenactments will be the Battle of First Manassas - First Bull Run. Because our organization has had many years' experience in hosting reenactments and because no suitable land was located in the Manassas area, (the National Park Service prohibits reenactments within its boundaries), the Foundation was asked to host the event on its battlefield in the Shenandoah Valley - about 50 miles west of the original location. Belle Grove Plantation, our preservation partner, has graciously agreed to offer the use of its land to accommodate the many thousands joining in the commemoration of this historic event. As many as 12,000 reenactors will be recreating the great Confederate victory of July 21, 1861 - the battle where General Thomas Jackson received the well known nickname of "Stonewall". We hope you will join us this summer either as a reenactor or a spectator to celebrate this important date in our American history.

GENERAL INFORMATION

In Commemoration of the 145th Anniversary of the Battle of First Manassas originally fought on July 21, 1861, the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation will host the event on its fields in Middletown, Virginia as requested by the Mason-Dixon Alliance. 500 acres will be available for camping and battles. Participation will be strictly limited to 12,000; Artillery limited to 45 guns each side; No Walk-ons will be permitted. Registration is not guaranteed until, waiver and proper payment is received by CCBF. Please register early. Proceeds will benefit the preservation and interpretation of the non-profit, Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation. Camps will open at 9:00 a.m., July 21, 2006. Vehicles parked in other than designated areas will be subject to tow, ticketing, the boot, or deflation of tires. Follow directions and avoid fines, inconvenience; read revised waiver for changes relating to parking & trespassing.

REGISTRATION

Express Registration - \$15: Those registering by March 31, 2006 will be able to take advantage of the express registration option and receive vehicle and participant passes by mail. No check in on site will be required. Please help by making copies of the waivers for your members to sign. **The passes will be mailed to the address listed on the WAIVER FORM by June 30th.** If you wish all passes to be directed to the contact person, please advise. The contact person will be responsible for distribution to members. **We must have the REGISTRATION FORM, FEE & SIGNED WAIVER by March 31, 2006 to be eligible for the bulk mailing.** (There will be only one bulk mailing due to the high cost of postage.) Do not sign for anyone but yourself - we must have original signatures on the release form. Forged signatures are a liability for you. Waivers received after the deadline will be marked on the roster.

Registration - \$20: After March 31st, and postmarked by May 31, 2006. Register for the event by completing the registration form and mailing with fee to CCBF, or phone 888-628-1864 with credit card. Check in at the registration tent will be required. You may bring a signed copy of waiver with you or sign participant release forms on site.

Late Registration - \$25: After May 31st by phone with credit card only until June 30, 2006. Register for the event by calling 888-628-1864 with credit card information. Check in at the registration tent will be required. You may bring a signed copy of waiver with you or sign participant release forms on site.

Substitutions - No Substitutions will be permitted after July 8, 2006.

Minors - 12 & under - no charge

SORRY, NO WALK-ONS ALLOWED!

For Registration Forms, Waivers, and Event Regulations please visit www.cedarcreekbattlefield.org/reenact/bullrun.php.

Battalion Drill & Confederate History Symposium

Harold B. Simpson History Complex, Hill College, Hillsboro, TX

April 1, 2006

Schedule of Events

Friday, April 1, 2006

5:00 PM Site opens for overnight camping

Saturday, April 1, 2006

8:00 AM	Office and NCO meeting
9:00 AM	Battalion formation
9:00 AM – 2:30 PM	Recruiting booth open
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Company drill
11:00 AM – 2:30 PM	Camp open for living history
11:30 AM	Drill and firing demonstration
12:00 PM	Lunch
12:30 PM	Drill and firing demonstration
1:30 PM	Drill and firing demonstration
2:30 PM	Final formation and dismissal

General Information: April's battalion drill will be held at Hill College in Hillsboro, TX, in conjunction with the 33rd Annual Confederate History Symposium. This is a 9th TX maximum effort event! We will conduct our regular drill exercises on site. We will also provide the symposium with a campaign military living history camp, as well as drill and firing demonstrations.

The topic for this year's symposium is The Life of Robert E. Lee, and will consist of lectures from four guest speakers, as well as various musical performances. In addition, the Confederate Research Center and Texas Military Heritage Museum (featuring great WWII and Viet Nam exhibits) will be open to the public. Other exhibits will include our drill and living history demonstrations, several artillery demonstrations, an excellent book fair, Frazer Brother's Sutlery, and a lecture and display of replica period women's clothing by Ms. Goetz. Joe Walker, our pard from the 7th TX and host for the event, will have his original Jenkins Columbus Depot jacket on display.

We have permission to set up our campaign military living history camp on Friday, as well as stay in camp Friday night. Saturday's activities will start with company drill, followed by rotating the companies through living history, drill, and firing demonstrations.

Women and children civilians in period dress are welcome at the event, but are asked to refrain from the military living history camp due to the specific campaign impression being presented to the public.

The event will take place rain or shine! For more information on the Confederate Research Center or the Texas Military Heritage Museum please visit their website at www.hillcollege.edu/museum/museum.html.

Event Registration and Admission: No registration is required of reenactors for this event. Those wishing to camp on site Friday night need to inform Col. Fred Yokubaitis of their intent to do so by Friday, March 24.

Our camp and demonstration area will be located in the area behind the Harold B. Simpson Confederate History Complex and the Vera Martin Daniel Performing Arts Building, and close to the softball field (see campus map on next page). Please report to your respective highest ranking company NCO or officer upon arriving on site.

Admission to the symposium lectures is free to all 9th Texas members in uniform and civilians in period dress. Symposium attendance will be secondary to the 9th TX drill and demonstrations. Time will be allowed to give 9th TX members an opportunity to attend the symposium functions on a rotating time basis.

Arrival Times: Those camping on site may start arriving at 5:00 PM Friday evening. Those coming out Saturday morning are to arrive no later than 8:45 AM. Officers and NCOs are to report on site at 8:00 AM Saturday morning for an Officer and NCO meeting. First formation will be called promptly at 9:00 AM, followed by the start of company drill at 9:30 AM.

Recruiting Booth: We will have a recruiting booth at this event. Jeff Gibbs will coordinate the recruiting booth. Volunteers will be called during the day to help man the booth.

Uniform and Equipment: We will portray Confederate troops for this event. Our impression shall be our standard 9th Texas mid-war Army of Tennessee uniform; Columbus Depot jackets only, no Trans-Mississippi or civilian impressions, and absolutely no Federal impressions.

Light marching order is required for drill. Everyone is requested to bring heavy marching order equipment (knapsacks and shelter halves) for setup in the campaign military living history camp.

Tentage: Shelter halves and tent flies are the only acceptable forms of shelter in the living history camp.

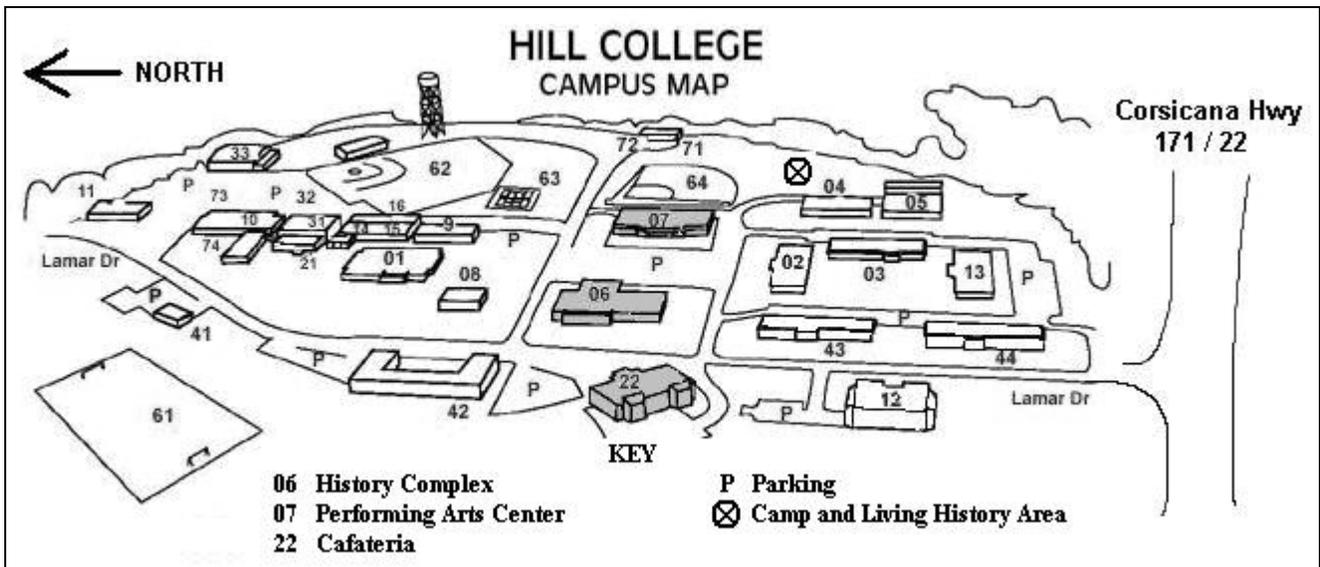
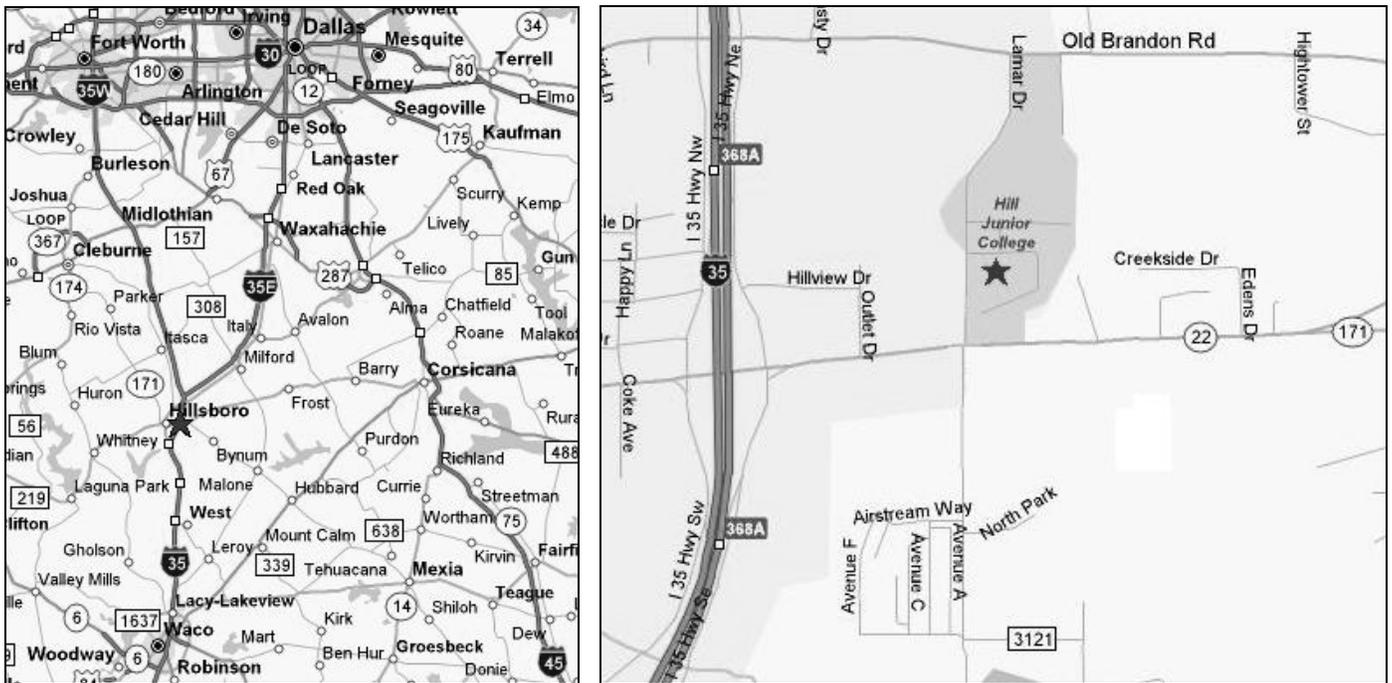
Ammunition: Everyone will need to bring 20 rounds of blank ammunition for firing drill and the demonstrations. Don't forget to bring caps. Those that can bring their rounds wrapped in arsenal packs are asked to please do so.

Rations: We will have an opportunity to do some quick cooking of period rations for Saturday lunch as part of our living history. Rations will not be provided by the battalion. Those wishing to participate in this aspect of the living history will need to provide their own rations.

Amenities: Water and restrooms are available in the Vera Martin Daniel Performing Arts Building. Wood will be made available for cooking rations during our living history demonstrations. The school cafeteria is open for lunch to all attendees for \$5.00 each. In addition, many restaurants are located very close to the campus.

Motel Accommodations: There are several motels and bed and breakfasts in the Hillsboro area. Please call the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce at (254) 582-3127 for further information.

Directions and Parking: Take I-35 to Hillsboro. In Hillsboro, take exit 368A and turn east onto Corsicana Hwy/22/171. Go approximately 3/8 mile and take a left on Lamar Drive. The Harold B. Simpson History Complex will be approximately 1/8 mile on the right. Free parking is available on campus.



Announcements

Corso and Jobin Take Role of Battalion Armorers

Privates Mike Corso and Mark Jobin have volunteered to serve as battalion armorers. As armorers, Corso and Jobin will carry spare parts and equipment to help maintain and repair any weapon that for any reason fails or malfunctions while in the field. In addition, they will serve as instructors to aid new recruits in weapons safety, instruct in field and post event weapons cleaning, and will have the authority to pull any weapon from service that is not in safe condition. Their function as armorers is not intended to replace the guidance and instruction of company first sergeants and the sergeant major, but to supplement it by providing additional help and safety. Unlike an ordnance sergeant, this position does not carry an official rank; we need more privates as shooters in the rank than we do NCOs. However, all due respects should be paid to these men while in execution of their duties.

144th Perryville Event Website and Registration

The official event sponsored website for the 144th Anniversary Battle of Perryville is up and running. The web address is www.perryvillereenactment.org. The website contains information pertinent to the event, as well as the Reenactor Registration Page. **DO NOT REGISTER ONLINE ON THIS WEBSITE!!! I REPEAT DO NOT REGISTER ONLINE ON THIS WEBSITE!!!** The AoT (formally the 1st Confederate Division), of which we are members, will be handling registration independently from the aforementioned online registration. Our registration procedures will be conducted very similar to the way we did it for Corinth. Individuals will register with their respective company, company registration passed to their respective battalion, battalion to brigade, and so on up the chain. This registration process is fully valid and acceptable by the official event sponsors. Registration through the AoT has not yet begun, but should start very soon! Announcements will be placed in The Dispatch and on the 9th TX website detailing our specific registration procedure when registration begins.

Optional Eastern Event – The 145th Anniversary Battle of First Manassas

The big event in the East this year will be the 145th Anniversary of the Battle of First Manassas. This **IS NOT** an official Red River Battalion event. However, due to the desire to support our North Carolinian brethren who have faithfully supported us by attending many of our events over the past several years, this event will be supported as an optional event. Anyone wishing to go is encouraged to do so, but not at the expense of official battalion events. Please remember, 9th Texas members need to support battalion events first.

Those planning to attend need to register for the event on an individual basis. The Red River Battalion **WILL NOT** handle registration for this event. Registration can only be done by downloading the forms from the event website and mailing them to the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation. When filling out the registration form, the ANV box should be checked for the CS Military Affiliation; the unit name should be listed as Co. B, 4th Regiment; and the unit contact should be listed as George Hatcher. Uniform, equipment, and other items requiring coordination of those attending will be handled by Bill Pecena of Company H. Please contact Bill if you are going. More information for this event can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

9th Texas Membership IDs

Year 2006 9th Texas Membership IDs are now being distributed to those individuals who have paid Year 2006 dues. The first batch of IDs has been included in this issue of The Dispatch. Those who have paid, but have not received the ID in this newsletter, will receive it at the Spring Muster. Those who pay between now and muster will receive their ID in the next issue of The Dispatch.

9th Texas Infantry Year 2006 Dues

Year 2006 9th Texas Dues are now due and need to be paid by our Spring Muster weekend, March 18-19, 2006. Dues are \$30.00 per family. Payment can be by cash, check, or money order. Checks should be made out to '9th Texas Infantry'. Dues payment **MUST** be accompanied by **CURRENT AND COMPLETED** Enlistment and Waiver forms. Forms are provided at the end of this issue of The Dispatch, as well as being available through the adjutant at drills and some events. Forms can also be found on the 9th TX website at www.9thtexas.org/enroll.html. Those wishing to submit payment and Enlistment/Waiver forms by mail should send both to the battalion adjutant at:

**Tom Corll
2979 County Road 4935
Kempner, TX 76539**

Articles

Civil War Reenacting – A Long Tradition

By John A Braden

Reprinted from Camp Chase Gazette

Reenacting is probably as old as mankind. It is easy to imagine hunter-gatherers recounting the day's hunt around the campfire, punctuating the account with demonstrations (reenactments) of their exploits. Reenactments of more significant events might be woven into a dance or ritual. At some point, dressing in clothing of the era portrayed was added to the mix, and formal reenacting was born.

Since commemorative reenactments were established in Europe by the time America was colonized, it is not surprising that reenactments soon became a way to commemorate our own history. In "The Surrender of Cornwallis," Artemus Ward humorously recounts one such battle reenactment in Maine before the Civil War.

WARTIME REENACTING

Civil War reenacting is as old as the war itself. On July 30, 1861, in Muncie, Indiana, militia units reenacted the battle of Rich Mountain. The Delaware Guards (representing the Federals) assaulted the Ellsworth Rifles, putting the latter to flight. There were several casualties in the fight, due mainly to wadding fired from the muskets, but in one case by an accidentally fired ramrod (one reason why modern reenactors use neither wadding nor rammers).

REENACTING BY THE VETERANS

After the war, the veterans themselves took up Civil War reenacting. Veteran reunions were popular among veterans and spectators alike. At some, the veterans would "take to the field," charging one another and letting loose their battle cries.

One of the earlier Civil War reenactments took place on August 28, 1878 in connection with a veterans' reunion at the farm of General Judson Kilpatrick near Dickerstown, New Jersey. The veterans (portraying the Confederates) arrayed themselves on a hill, supported by artillery. When the battery fired, the local militia assaulted the hill. The militia took the battery, but hand-to-hand combat with the vets forced them back. Kilpatrick's riding onto the field with a flag of truce ended the conflict (which reportedly boasted of 1,500 participants).

The expedient of tapping non-veterans to supplement a dwindling number of veterans was used again at Chickamauga in 1898, as National Guardsmen (in their then-modern uniforms) assaulted Snodgrass Hill. However, the vets themselves remained game. In 1903, Confederate veterans reenacted the Battle of the Crater at Petersburg, and during the 50th anniversary veteran reunion at Gettysburg in 1913, a line of aged Confederates crossed the field of Pickett's Charge, shaking hands with their Federal counterparts when they reached the stone wall.

Although eclipsed by the approach of a real war, the 75th anniversary of the Civil War (1936-1941) was marked by reenactments of First Manassas and Chancellorsville, put on by the U.S. Army and Marine Corps.

The Civil War Centennial (1961-1965) took Civil War reenacting several steps further. First, instead of a few isolated events, a whole series of reenactments were held. Second, for the first time, an attempt (albeit puny) was made to re-create an authentic appearance, using original items (muskets, leathers) when available, facsimiles (kepis, blue or gray shirts and trousers) when not.

These were "farby" affairs by modern standards; cobbled-up cotton uniforms (rather than correctly tailored wool) were the rule. Many participants carried modern firearms. Civil War tactics were unknown, and almost no one bothered with details like period-style eyeglasses and footwear.

REENACTING TODAY

The Centennial was a flame that burned brightly but quickly died. However, it left coals that were fanned to life in the 1970s. First as individuals, then as small groups, Civil War buffs began researching and producing reproduction items, and gathering for small events.

These small beginnings had reached critical mass by the time of the Quasiquicentennial (1986-1990). Enough research had been done, and enough "sutlers" had sprung up to produce reasonably accurate reproductions of Civil War gear, while enough people had become Civil War reenactors to produce a turnout in the thousands at national events. As a result, for the first time since the war itself, it was possible to view battles with troops in both credible numbers and in realistic gear.

(continued on page 9)

Moreover, in contrast to the Centennial, interest did not die away with the last note of "Taps" at Appomattox in 1990. On the contrary, spurred by videos of the quasiquicentennial reenactments, television miniseries (North and South) and movies ("Glory, "Turner's "Gettysburg") - all of which were made possible by reenactor involvement - public interest in reenacting increased, such that some more recent "national" events have outstripped the quasiquicentennials in size and authenticity.

While most reenactments remain small and local, the tendency to designate one event "the" big national event of the season assures a turnout that reenactors before 1985 could only dream about.

From recounting the day's hunt around the campfire to reliving another era around the campfire; reenacting brings us full circle to our roots as no other hobby can; which perhaps explains why most reenactors consider "hobby" too limp a word to describe an activity that sets to trembling (in Abe Lincoln's words) their "mystic chords of memory."

THE FUTURE

Reenactors would like to think that reenacting, like rock-and-roll, "forever will stand." However, since continual infusion of new blood is necessary for the hobby to maintain its current prominence, its future depends on whether the same passion for history possessed by reenactors can be kindled in the younger generation. Declining educational standards, increasing addiction to the cathode ray tube, and the splintering of America's heritage present challenges - but opportunities too. Most history teachers are happy to permit school presentations by reenactors. Television has been a means of creating more interest in the Civil War. Portraying ethnic elements of the armies can be billed as diversity

In short, the future of reenacting is in the hands of reenactors. If they are complacent, the hobby will wither. If they reach out to the next generation, we can expect to see Civil War reenactments through the 150th anniversary and beyond.

ENDNOTES:

At pp. 253-260 of Artemus Ward -- His Book (Carleton Publishers; New York, 1862).

Muncie Free Press, via the August 3, 1861 Indianapolis Daily Journal, via the Summer, 2000 Watchdog.

The September 25, 1879 Lebanon, Indiana Weekly Patriot reports a "sham battle" put on by the veterans at the Lebanon racetrack. At page 38 of Al Chapman, editor, The Story of Camp Houck (Oceana County [Michigan] Historical Society, 1984), a 1901 edition of the Muskegon Daily Chronicle is quoted in which it discusses a "sham battle" put on at the July 4, 1884 celebration at "Mason's Forty," a.k.a. Camp Houck. An August 20, 1908 letter from J.L. Nesmith, published in the August 28, 1908 Leighton [Alabama] News, recounts a "sham battle" in Decatur, Texas, in which the veterans (portraying the Confederates) took on the local militia (via the October, 1996 Camp Chase Gazette). And Jeffrey D. Wert's article "Remembering a Day" discusses a charge reenacted by Civil War veterans in 1912 in Rebersburg, Pennsylvania (at p. 60 of the October, 1995 Civil War Times Illustrated).

Bruce M. Venter, "The First Civil War Reenactor" in the February, 1999 issue of Civil War (No. 72, pp. 38ft). Mr. Venter cites several period newspaper accounts.

Reported in the November, 1898 Confederate Veteran (Vol. VI, No. 11).

Pp. 1-2 of Will Dennison, Springing to the Call: How to Get Started in Civil War Reenacting (Camp Chase Publishing, Marietta, Ohio 1991).

Page 2 of Dennison, op. cit.

The reenactments included Fort Sumter (April 12, 1961), Bull Run (July 22-23, 1961) and Antietam (September 15, 1962). World Book Encyclopedia Yearbooks for 1962 through 1965. The lack of late-war reenactments may indicate how quickly twentieth century, like their forbears, tired of the war.

Although innumerable small events continued (and continue) to be held, many of the Quasiquicentennial events featured troops in the thousands; Bull Run (1986), Shiloh (1987), Gettysburg (1988), Chickamauga (1988), Wilderness/Spotsylvania (1989), Franklin, Tennessee (1989) and Saylor's Creek/Appomattox (1990). Weather constraints probably explain why no one expressed an interest in reenacting Fredericksburg and Murfreesboro; while the Peninsula and Atlanta campaigns were too drawn out to capture the imagination.

Although there had been large reenactments in 1878 and 1898, participants in those made no attempt to re-create authentic uniforms and gear.

Reenactments that equaled or bettered the "125ths" in turnout include 130th Perryville, 130th Franklin, 135th Antietam, and 135th Gettysburg.

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