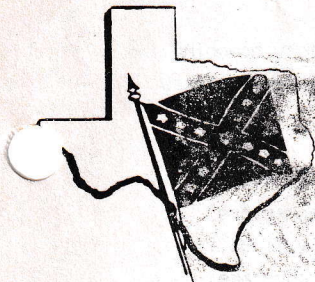


THE TEXAS RIFLES

"TO THE TYRANTS NEVER YIELD!"

Hdqtrs. P.O. Box 23344, Waco, Texas 76702
(817) 751-0568 or (817) 848-4487



THE BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA

Company Commander	First Lieutenant	First Sergeant	Newsletter Editor
Capt. Scott Swenson	Gil Eastland	Jeff Hunt	Jon Butcher
P.O. Box 23344	14914 Ben Ali	911 Battle Bend Blvd. No. 124	17310 Fife Lane
Waco, Texas 76702	San Antonio, Texas 78248	Austin, Texas 78745	Webster, Texas 77598
(817) 848-4487	(512) 492-3701	(512) 441-4461	(713) 996-9424

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMPANY COMMANDER

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Gettysburg reenactment. Our company received more than its share of compliments from battalion and brigade staffs and other companies. Considering the number of new recruits (that we were fortunate enough to have), this event ran more smoothly than any in the past.

Also, congratulations for a job well done goes to the members of the Texas Rifles who served on the respective brigade and battalion staffs or served as commanders, i.e., Jack King, Mike Moore, John Blackmon and his Provost Guard, John Keahey, Randy Gilbert, Scott Curran, Dr. Mike Enger and Dr. Bob Williams.

As I think back on the Gettysburg reenactment, there are certain things that I will always remember: the whiskey ration; ambushing the National Regiment on the second day, Larry Richardson holding the battle flag over his head, capturing John Perry on the battlefield (John was the charter member first sergeant of the Texas Rifles who moved home to Ohio); reading our "mail" by the river; watching Jeff Hunt look for something to start a fire with when the train stopped in Washington; the Yankee troops cheering us as they marched off the battlefield after Pickett's Charge, and the camaraderie of our unit. There are many great events still to come, and the hobby will continue to grow as will the Texas Rifles, but to do so, we must all strive to increase recruiting and improving our impressions.

Good News -- The Texas Rifles, Cleburne's Brigade, and the Confederate Guard are getting back together in the same battalion under Mike Moore's command. This will be the foundation of the best battalion in the army! Chickamauga is only a few weeks away, so everyone take your wives and sweethearts out for a nice dinner and tell them you have received orders to march again.

As a last word about Gettysburg, I would like to thank Lt. Gil Eastland and 1st. Sgt. Jeff Hunt and his NCOs for their tireless efforts, for without them my job would have been impossible. But the real credit for our unit's success goes to the men in the line for this is their company, and I thank them for the privilege of leading it.

For God and Texas!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Note: "NTRE" means not a Texas Rifles' event, i.e., though members of the Texas Rifles may attend, the company will not be officially in the field. In other words, you're on your own.

*Trail
Path
Street
Shop*

DEDICATION OF NEW U.D.C. CHAPTER, August 20, Texas City (between Galveston and Houston). Ceremony honoring the start-up of a new United Daughters of the Confederacy chapter in Texas City. Contact John Blackmon in Texas City at (409) 945-0424. (Organized by the Brigade Provost Guard)

BATTLE OF THE MEDINA, August 20-21, 25 miles south of San Antonio right off I-37. Reenactment on site of original battle of 1813 when Spanish troops defeated filibusters in bloody engagement. Need reenactors portraying American filibusters and Spanish troops (Mexican Army uniforms from the Alamo movie will do if Mexican shako plates are removed). Meal provided. Beautiful encampment next to river. Media coverage expected. Main battle 10 to Noon Sunday. Contact Steve Abolt for more information (817-535-2359). [NTRE]

TEXAS RIFLES COMPANY MUSTER, August 27-28, 1988, Chriesman, Texas. Bring tents and camp equipment. Be ready for a good time. We will stress skirmish drill [bring caps & cartridges]. Larry Richardson will be hosting this muster, and he will provide a free BBQ supper Saturday night. This should be an extremely fun event and very important for everyone attending Chickamauga. You know if Larry is the host, it won't be boring! Don Drachenburg will have Gettysburg photos for sale. There will be a business meeting early Saturday evening and a slide show. If you have any merchandise to sell, bring it to the muster. There will be recruits who need to get outfitted. Everyone should arrive no later than 10 a.m. Saturday morning. Muster ends Noon Sunday. Any recruits who plan to attend Chickamauga with the Texas Rifles must attend this muster to receive the necessary pre-event instruction. ALL recruits are urged to attend. (Submitted by Scott Swenson)

FORT SCOTT KANSAS, September 10-11. Mid 1840's Mexican War event. Sponsors provide 10 cents per mile and all meals. Need U.S. Regulars with flintlocks or Mississippi rifles in Mexican War attire. Also need men portraying Mexican Army. Movie uniforms will do. Steve Abolt, Mike Moore, and Scott Swenson are among those who plan to attend. Contact Steve Abolt for details (817) 535-2359. [NTRE]

BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA, September 17-18, near Summerville, Georgia. **MAXIMUM EFFORT EVENT!!!** See report below.

BATTLE OF BAYOU BOURBEAU (1863 BAYOU TECHE CAMPAIGN), September 24-25, Washington, Louisiana. Engagements will feature hidden troop movements, numerous infantry and cavalry charges and counter charges, artillery bombardments, night battle. Hay, wood, water, sanitary facilities, hot showers, powder ration, sutlers, Cajun Fais-do-do (dance) Saturday night. Skirmish through historic Washington Saturday, live musket competition, cavalry competition (sabering and pistoling melons!). Main battle starts 1:30 p.m. Sunday. Contact James Hesse in Houston for details (713) 480-7322. This is a popular reenactment in Louisiana that deserves our attention. DO NOT let this event interfere with Chickamauga where every member is needed. [NTRE]

TEXIAN MARKET DAYS, October 1988, south of Rosenberg, Texas, at the George Ranch. Overnight encampment, business meeting, opportunity to perfect drill. More information to come.

TYLER, TEXAS, November 1988, possible event at Tyler, Texas (See Larry McMahan's activity report on Camp Ward). Specific date and more information later.

BATTLE OF GONZALES, Gonzales, Texas, November 1988. Texas War of Independence event commemorating the famous "Come and Take It" skirmish. Need Texian soldiers or colonists, Tejanos, and Mexican Army Soldados. Specific date and more information later. Battle, parade through town, encampment. [NTRE]

TEXAS RIFLES 1989 ELECTION MUSTER, February 1989, Winedale, Texas. Specific date and more information to come.

125TH ANNIVERSARY REENACTMENT OF THE BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA

\$5 registration fee is due IMMEDIATELY. Send it to Gil Eastland (see letterhead address). We will be the senior company on the right of the battalion which means we will be the skirmish company. Hopefully we will have more opportunities to deploy than we did at Gettysburg. Since we will be the senior company in a battalion that includes Cleburne's and the Confederate Guard, we must have a strong showing. This is a **MAXIMUM EFFORT EVENT**, and everyone is urged to attend. Suggested transportation: Vans (12 passenger) from each region. Regional Directors should look into this for their respective regions. (Submitted by Scott Swenson)

In addition to Scott's report, Mike Moore has put together a package of information. Copies will be available at the Chriesman muster. Here are some excerpts: The Texas Rifles will portray Company A of the 27th Mississippi one day and Company A of the 13th Mississippi the next day. Other companies will include the Confederate Guard (Company B), Cleburne's (Company C), and Chetham's Division (Company K). We will be part of the First Confederate Brigade which will consist of three infantry regiments. The event will be held on 700 acres of forest land about 2.5 miles north of Summerville, Georgia, on HWY 27 (the Lafayette Road) which is 32 miles south of the original battlefield.

Event Schedule: Thursday the 15th, camps open in a.m. Friday the 16th, arrival of most troops, try to arrive by early afternoon. Saturday the 17th, battle includes forcing of Reed's and Alexander's brigades by Confederates with the Federals leaving their entrenchments on the Lafayette Road to counter the Confederate crossing, and the battles around the Brotherton House and Jay's Hill. Sunday the 18th, the Federals will be in line west of the Lafayette Road. When Wood's Division shifts to the left, Longstreet's troops break through the gap and route the Federals forcing their left to compress on Snodgrass Hill. The Confederates attack repeatedly and finally force Thomas to withdraw from Snodgrass Hill.

Physical Impression: Jackets - untrimmed shell jackets of jean (cotton/wool blend), cadet grey or other gray/brownish grey shade. Trousers - mixed civilian styles preferred with sky blue being next preferred and then Confederate grey pants. Hat - 80% slouch hats. Shoes - Jefferson bootees. Musket - three-band percussion or rifle musket, Enfield preferred, triangular bayonet. Accouterments - black, worn on waist belt. Haversack - white cotton (dirty) or tarred. Canteen - required equipment--tin, U.S., or wooden. Knapsack - discouraged, blanket roll preferred. Tentage - shelter halves preferred, wall tents are prohibited on company street. Camp - sparsely furnished, no modern anachronisms, and those that cannot be done without must be hidden or disguised. Drill - the challenge is to accurately depict the famous military capabilities of veteran Confederate infantry (maneuvers to be used are listed in information package).

Col. Moore also stated, "All firing commands will be by drum. Companies A and B need to be able to deploy, fire, cease fire, and rally by bugle command. The third sergeants will be responsible for ordnance, in contrast to past events in which the second sergeant was in charge of this. First and second sergeants will need to be well versed in the school of the guides -- being able to guide the company's marching with the proper intervals and toward the proper point of aim." Col. Moore concluded, "With the cooperation of each of you and your organizations, these ambitious goals for Chickamauga can be achieved -- we can have the best looking, best drilled, most authentic, and fiercest fighting regiment to take the field in the past 125 years. We owe this to ourselves, each other, and our predecessors of over a century ago." The information package also contains a history of the 27th Mississippi, map to the event (copy in this edition), and maps explaining the actual battle.

Capt. Swenson and Lt. Eastland have stressed that this event is crucial to the future of the Texas Rifles and what happens next year. Our performance at this event, especially as the skirmish company, will greatly affect our reputation. A strong showing and good performance will prove once again that we are disciplined veterans who can be depended upon as the foremost company of the regiment. Your attendance is urgently needed. Contact your regional directors for help with transportation (Editor).

THE CHRIESMAN MUSTER

Larry Richardson, who will act as our host at this month's muster (August 27-28), provided the following facts about Chriesman: The area was first occupied by the Tonkawa Indians who camped along the springs. Chriesman, originally called Yellow Prairie from the golden buffalo grass, was settled in the 1830s by Alexander Thompson of Tennessee, a leader of the Sterling C. Robertson Colony. A son, "Mac", was a member of the ill-fated Mier Expedition and was one of the 17 men to draw a black bean and was executed by the Mexicans. When the Santa Fe Railroad came through in 1880, the settlers moved to the tracks. The town site was surveyed in 1882 and in 1884 renamed in honor of Capt. Horatio C. Chriesman (1792-1878) who was a colonial statesman, Indian fighter, one of Stephen F. Austin's "Old Three Hundred", and is buried in the Chriesman cemetery. His grave is marked by a state historical plaque. Some Confederate soldiers are also buried in the Chriesman cemetery, among them is my wife's great-great grandfather, G. Winkler (1840-1929).

TR TID BITS

TWO TR'S TO TIE KNOT: The latest word is that Pal Tigert proposed to Tammy Guest during the trip back from the the Battle of Gettysburg! Pal and Tammy are both members of the Texas Rifles. I know I speak for everyone in the Texas Rifles when I say to Pal and Tammy, "Best wishes from all of us."

LISA AND KENT HARGETT are now the proud parents of a baby girl. Her name is Suzanah Lee, and she was born Saturday, August 6. Congratulations!!!

TEXAS RIFLES FLAG: Scott Swenson has proposed that the Texas Rifles commission Steve Abolt to sew a flag for the unit. This will be voted on at this month's muster. Ideas for the type of flag made should be presented at the muster.

THANKS FOR BO: Special thanks goes out to Bo Richardson for taking up the drum. We certainly need a good drummer. Oh, and thanks, Larry, for buying the drum (submitted by Scott Swenson).

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FROM STEVE ABOLT AND MIKE MOORE: In a long-distance phone call from Dallas, Steve Abolt (4th Texas Adjutant at Gettysburg) asked me (Editor) to tell the members of the Texas Rifles that, as far as he was concerned, the Texas Rifles was the best company in the 4th Texas. "Thank God the Texas Rifles was on the right" was one of Steve's compliments as well as "Thank you to the men of the Texas Rifles. Excellent work. You were the best on the field!" Steve said that Mike Moore shared these opinions and that Mike asked that high compliments be passed on to the men of the company.

RECRUITING: Remember, every new recruit must have a sponsor, and it is the sponsor's responsibility to notify the captain when the recruit has completed his event probationary period. If you have any questions about how the recruiting program works, bring it up at the August muster (submitted by Scott Swenson).

SHELL JACKETS: Shell jackets that are purchased from now on should be jean material (wool-cotton blend). Two sources for jean material are (1) County Cloth (Charles Chiles), Box 111, Rogers, Ohio 44455, phone: (216) 227-9798 or (2) Ben Tart, Lot 163, Love's Creek, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, Phone: (919) 742-4768. If you need help with your uniform patterns or sources, contact Joe Walker, our authenticity chairman. Joe's home phone number is (817) 776-4256. If you have any questions about this, call me or your regional director (submitted by Scott Swenson).

ENLISTMENTS: Here's a hearty welcome to new members **Michael R. Daley** of Nacogdoches and **Dr. Robert Williams** of Dallas. Also, past member **Jack King** of Galveston has re-enlisted.

POST CARD BALLOT: Many members will find a post card addressed to Scott Swenson enclosed with your newsletter. Please write in the following information on the blank post card and mail it immediately: (a) Your name. (b) Are you going to attend the Chriesman muster? (c) Are you going to attend Chickamauga with the Texas Rifles? (if "maybe" briefly explain your situation.) Some members will not receive post cards if I know that you have been, or will be, contacted about your status (Editor).

RAISE THE DUES?: The newsletter this month does not include several items I had hoped to include. In fact, I've been instructed not to include information from event sponsors, historical background information, or extra road maps. The fact is, we simply cannot support a large or frequent newsletter at the current \$5 dues per year. If you feel we should have newsletters that contain newspaper articles, photos of events, historical background information for events, important information from event organizers, road maps, accounts written by the membership, etc., the annual dues must be increased (Editor).

ITEMS FOR SALE

U. S. Brogans, size 8 1/2 - 9, price \$37.50. Cadet gray single breasted frock coat with French blue cuffs & collar, size 39L, price \$65.00. Contact Scott Swenson (see letterhead for address and phone number).

Cadet Grey shell jacket for sale. Nicely hand-sewn, best quality grade of English Cadet Grey wool. Has lining, seven convex (raised) Texas star buttons. Pre-shrunk, fits 38-40 regular, made to last. This is far superior to the mass production shell jackets provided by suppliers. Best offer. Contact Fred Adolphus, CAM USM DEH, APO NY 09086-3877.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Activity reports or personal accounts are accepted from members for publication in the newsletter. Please limit your reports to Texas Rifles events or activities (Editor).

REPORT BY PATRICIA WATSON, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE TEXAS RIFLES' LADIES' AUXILIARY: I'd like to take this time to apologize for being so slow about writing a report. There have been so many things happening, one of which was the purchase of a new house. I had a long article written, and in the process of moving, it was lost. But now that the dust has settled. here's my report.



Tammy Patricia Nancy

Gettysburg was wonderful! The three ladies who went participated in an authenticity appraisal. We were judged on pattern and material of our dresses, hairstyle, accessories, underpinnings, shoes, etc. I am pleased to announce that all three of us received 100% authentic with honors! Gentlemen, you have reason to be proud of us. [See photo]

I have several ideas for the ladies of the Texas Rifles, and now that we number more than two with more joining all the time (?) I feel they are feasible. First of all, since it is always a hassle for us to find a place to stay at events, we have decided to purchase a wall tent. Since we have no money with which to do this, we will begin cooking and doing anything else that needs to be done (i.e., sewing, mending, etc.) for a small fee. This money will in turn be used for the ladies of the Texas Rifles. If any of the gentlemen have any suggestions, ideas or comments, please contact me. We will need your help and support. You may call me at work at (214) 266-9646 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or at home after 6:00 p.m. at (817) 277-8340.

* * * * *

REPORT BY LARRY McMAHAN, NORTHEAST TEXAS REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Anyone who tuned in to radio station KTBB in Tyler Wednesday morning, July 6th, around 8:15 had the chance to learn a little about re-enacting. Mike Edwards conducted an "on air" interview with me, and the topic was Gettysburg 1863. Also discussed was how to get started in re-enacting and how one attorney from Tyler even fell from a horse to add authenticity to a battle scenario. I've been asked back for an update on the war after Chickamauga. The Northeast Region hopes to pick up a few new recruits from these opportunities.

Now in the organizational stage is a "living history" event centered on the 125th Anniversary of the building of the stockade at the Confederate prisoner of war camp located in Tyler. The event is scheduled for early November. Camp Ford started as a conscript camp, but was soon pressed into service as a temporary holding area for a few prisoners until they could be moved to a permanent facility. There was no stockade in the beginning, only a source of guards from the conscript camp. The prisoners were simply kept in the open. With the war moving closer to Smith county through the North's Red River Campaign and the South taking prisoners at battles such as Mansfield, the numbers of men being detained at Tyler was growing by as much as 500 at a time. The camp eventually became the largest P.O.W. camp west of the Mississippi. After an unsuccessful attempt at a prison break that was aided by a few citizens in of the town, the military went to the townspeople and asked for their assistance in building a stockade. The call went out to all the slave holders in the county to send a portion of their slaves to Tyler to help in this project. It is this period that we

wish to recreate. We will be incorporating the prison break, the prison revolt, the uncovering of the plot by the sympathizers, and the construction of the stockade into the scenario. Needless to say, we will need scores of Federal prisoner impressions since they outnumbered the guards about 7 to 1, as well as militia townspeople. There will be a few choice parts that will demand more acting and dialogue and those parts will be auditioned for. More on this event will follow and a presentation will be made at the August muster. Anyone who would like further information now may contact me (Larry McMahan) (214-561-0857) or Randy Gilbert (214-592-5561).

The Northeast Texas Region held their May muster in conjunction with Marshall's Stagecoach Days on May 21. George Eichenberg, Robert Fair, Richard Friehoffer, Randy Gilbert, Mike Powell and me set up an impression of a recruiting station on the grounds of the Starr Home State Historic Site. The house was built by Dr. James Harper Starr, Secretary of the Treasury for the Republic of Texas (1839-1840) and later Postmaster for the Trans-Mississippi Confederacy. School of the Soldier, drill, and firing demonstrations were included in the impression and several of the members had the opportunity to command the unit. Tammy Guest and Pal Tigert arrived later in the day to give support to the troops. A possible recruit for the Texas Rifles was also able to attend from Nacogdoches.

In addition to Marshall Stagecoach Days, Richard Friehoffer, Mike Powell, and George Eichenberg participated in the annual Jefferson Pilgrimage at Jefferson, Texas, in May. A Confederate assault on the train station and several other mock battles made up the event. Even though there were only three members of the Texas Rifles present, they were able to obtain photo coverage of themselves in the Marshall newspaper as the "Texas Rifles Event".

* * * * *

"MY GETTYSBURG EXPERIENCE" BY RAY SEIGMUND: I had started on my long awaited trip to Gettysburg by riding with Kevin Stork and his parents to New Orleans. We arrived a day early to take in some of the sights of New Orleans. Early Sunday afternoon, we decided to check into our room at "The Columns" hotel. Upon arriving, we found that there were no reservations for the Texas Rifles. Shocked, confused, and being the first there, the two lowly privates got a room anyhow hoping to solve the problem with the reservations later. With Kevin's parents, we drove around checking out the local scenery and locating the train station. We later returned to the hotel to behold our fearless officers and a NCO (Scott Swenson, Kevin Young, Gil Eastland, and Jeff Hunt) on the veranda drinking DIXIE BEER. We immediately inquired about the rooms and were informed that all was settled. We changed into our uniforms and returned to the veranda to await the arrival of the other members of our group. Other members gradually arrived which started several discussions about their trip so far, the event, transportation, and the unveiling of the stunning flag. We later turned in, preparing ourselves for the train trip starting the next day.

Once we got settled on the train and put behind us all that water, the talk turned to the scenarios in the upcoming re-enactment and to the terrain the train was passing through. The singing of songs and the listening to the harmonica did very well to pass the time on the train. One of the most interesting parts of the trip was eavesdropping on some letter dictations. I had thought the train trip would be more boisterous. I feel it was more sedate because we did not have the car to ourselves.

Upon arriving in Baltimore, we did not have enough "wagons" (vehicles) to transport us and our equipment. So a detachment of men was left in Baltimore while our gear was taken to the camp. After unsuccessful attempts to gain recruits and finding one Confederate sympathizer (a man who was willing to transport some of us to camp), we settled in to wait for our transportation. When the "wagons" had not returned at the appointed time, we concluded that we were cut off by Yankee cavalry. After waiting for some time, we located and tapped into Union telegraph lines (made a phone call). We discovered that there was Union Army activity in the area (the State Police had blocked the roadway). Following this intelligence, we started to make plans to bivouac for the night. A few minutes later, our Confederate cavalry came to our aid (the vehicles finally arrived) and we made our way to camp.

Finally, Friday was here and what I had long waited for had arrived: the first day's engagement. The first day's engagement portrayed the action around McPherson's Ridge. We left camp in the afternoon on a march that would take us to a creek [Marsh Creek] where we could refresh ourselves. Upon arriving, the men were

surprised to learn that mail had been received. One by one, the men opened their just received letters. The letters were from parents, wives, sweethearts, and business associates. The company learned that Bo Richardson, our drummer, had gotten a letter. The contents dealt with his wife and children. Obviously, the lad had received someone else's letter from home. So of the men asked their officers about the contents of their letters. Col. Moore responded to the mens' requests and read aloud one of the letters he received. After completing his letter, the only words he could utter were, "O, Angus" "O, Angus". Col. Moore declined to enlighten the men of the contents of the second letter. However, by the expression on his face, I could see that not all was well at home. The reading of the letters made the time pass quickly and soon the orders came for us to march. This march would lead us to battle.

Once we arrived on the field, we had a very difficult time getting into action. It seemed just as we were positioned the battle shifted to our left. We finally got into the fray but our fire to the right was limited. A Confederate unit on our right was forward of us. This prevented us from bringing the full weight of our firepower against the Yankees in that direction. This unit receiving heavy Union fire and realizing their location, retreated from their position. At the same time, a solid line of blue (at least twice the strength of Co. E) advanced to a line of thickets. I thought that the Confederate unit would pass through our lines and allow us to deliver a devastating volley to the advancing Yankees before they fired. However, those men halted in front of our right end and then knelt just a few moments before the Yankees delivered a solid volley of fire. I was glad that no one in our ranks was wounded by their fire. After a few moments, I was going to point out the situation to one of our officers when the Yankees withdrew from their position. They moved to the rear and in the direction of a large clump of trees that was in front of us. We were ordered forward to roust the Yankees from those same trees. The line advanced and upon entering the trees our unit found no Yankees. The area our unit had occupied was so entangled with brush and vines that we soon became disorganized and lost touch with the main force. Once we managed to get ourselves out of there, we were ordered to proceed and plug a gap in the Confederate line. After firing for a short while, our unit was ordered to deploy as skirmishers. We advanced toward the Union line which was supported by cannon. I fired my musket and while I was reloading, the artillery piece responded. I was wounded and saw no further action.

I was looking forward to the second day's action in order to put the first day's confusion and disorganization behind me. The second day's engagement centered on the attack of Longstreet against the Union left. We again moved into our position in the afternoon. After our initial advance, we were soon engaged by Yankee skirmishers. A heavy fire fight erupted. As I was firing, I noticed no one was taking casualties. I contemplated taking a hit. I fired several more rounds and fell wounded. After I took my hit, our unit moved forward. It halted after several paces and began to fire. The fire from it was consistent and I assume accurate. Soon the company pulled back passing by me. A few moments later, the line advanced again and halted a few feet from where I lay. Just before they began to fire, some of the men in a unit came forward and aided myself and other wounded to the rear of the line. They fired a few volleys, moved forward and engaged the enemy. After awhile, the Confederate line withdrew and passed over me. Sometime during this action, one of our beloved officers (identity unknown at the time) was wounded, for I saw Sgt. Hunt and Pvt. Stork bravely advance and retrieve a limp body from the field. Shortly afterwards, the Confederate line moved back into a depression. I could no longer see any of the men but still could see our colors. As the line moved, a Confederate artillery piece moved forward and unlimbered near where I lay. My attention was now shifted from the engagement to watching closely the tending horses. I was concerned that they would bolt and trample me and the other wounded nearby. (I later saw the mule team that was pulling the wagon with the water and ice bolt). The artillery piece fired a couple of rounds. I looked back and saw the colors were gone. I assumed that the action had shifted to the left and our units were engaged there. Soon I realized I was mistaken for I saw, ahead of me and to my left, the Stars and Stripes moving forward. The next thing I heard was a thunderous volley and the Yankee colors soon disappeared from view. From this point on, I could not see anymore of the action.

As I lay there, I occasionally glanced to my right checking to see if the spectators were leaving. I felt assured that if they were leaving, the action around me had ceased and it was safe for me to get up. After several minutes, I arose and surveyed the area looking for familiar faces. I saw Kevin Stork and Kevin Young and went over to them. They filled me in on the action I had not seen (the wounded officer was Lt. Eastland). We stood watching the closing minutes of the second day's engagement. From where we viewed the action, we saw both lines of infantry separated by less than 40 yards and firing at a furious rate. Also, the wind was brisk

enough that the flags of both sides were fully unfurled. This made for a spectacular scene. After the muskets began to fire into the air, we knew that the action was over. We started walking in order to meet up with the survivors of Co. E. As they approached, we gave them a salute and joined their ranks. We marched back to camp.

The third day's engagement highlighted Pickett's Charge. It began as the other two days with our unit marching out of camp in the afternoon. We halted in an open space just in front of a large area of trees. While we were standing there waiting to be positioned, the Union Army passed us on our right. The marching column of dark blue stretched for at least a mile. It was a very impressive sight. After viewing this body of men, we received our orders and marched into the woods. We snaked our way forward but soon had to halt. We had to wait until a path was cut through the brush in order for us to pass. While we waited, the men sang, chatted, and checked their weapons and ammunition. The whole time we were in the trees, artillery shells were exploding in the air around us. Once the path was made, we moved forward and left the safety of the woods. We halted momentarily to dress our lines and advanced across ground covered in high grass, dead limbs, and briars. This made movement very difficult. The nicely dressed lines soon became a jumbled mass with gaps forming between units. We soon started to receive fire from the Union positions ahead of us. With no time to dress our line, we pushed onward. The returning fire from our ranks was continuous and fierce. Soon, the barrel of my weapon was burning my hand as I reloaded. Men around me were falling and officers were shouting orders. After exchanging heavy fire with the dug in Federals, we fell back a short distance to regroup for another assault. At this point, I somehow became separated from my platoon. I searched the advancing lines of men for a familiar face. I soon joined up with my company's second platoon. After advancing a few yards, I was wounded. I laid there for several minutes. I decided to make my way back, as walking wounded, to an aid station for I was low on water. As I got up, I saw Capt. Young halt a soldier running from the battle. The captain motioned, with his drawn pistol, for the man to get back to the right. The man refused and the captain responded with a swing of his pistol. His weapon struck the man in the head knocking him to the ground. I turned and saw John Blackmon and another individual making there way to the rear. I joined up with them and after taking several steps, an aerial burst exploded directly over us. We hit the ground simulating a hit, but also from the concussion of the blast. It was at this time that I received my second and fatal wound.

Eventually the fire died down and some type of ceremony was held. I cannot be sure because from where I was (on the extreme left) I could not hear a thing. After it was completed, a small detachment marched back to camp by way of crossing the Federal line (we made it). The next day, we left the camp site and went to the train station. The train trip back was uneventful except for the air-conditioning going out in our car. In closing, I would like to express my thanks to Kevin Stork's parents for allowing me to ride with them to New Orleans and to Scott Swenson for driving us back to Austin.

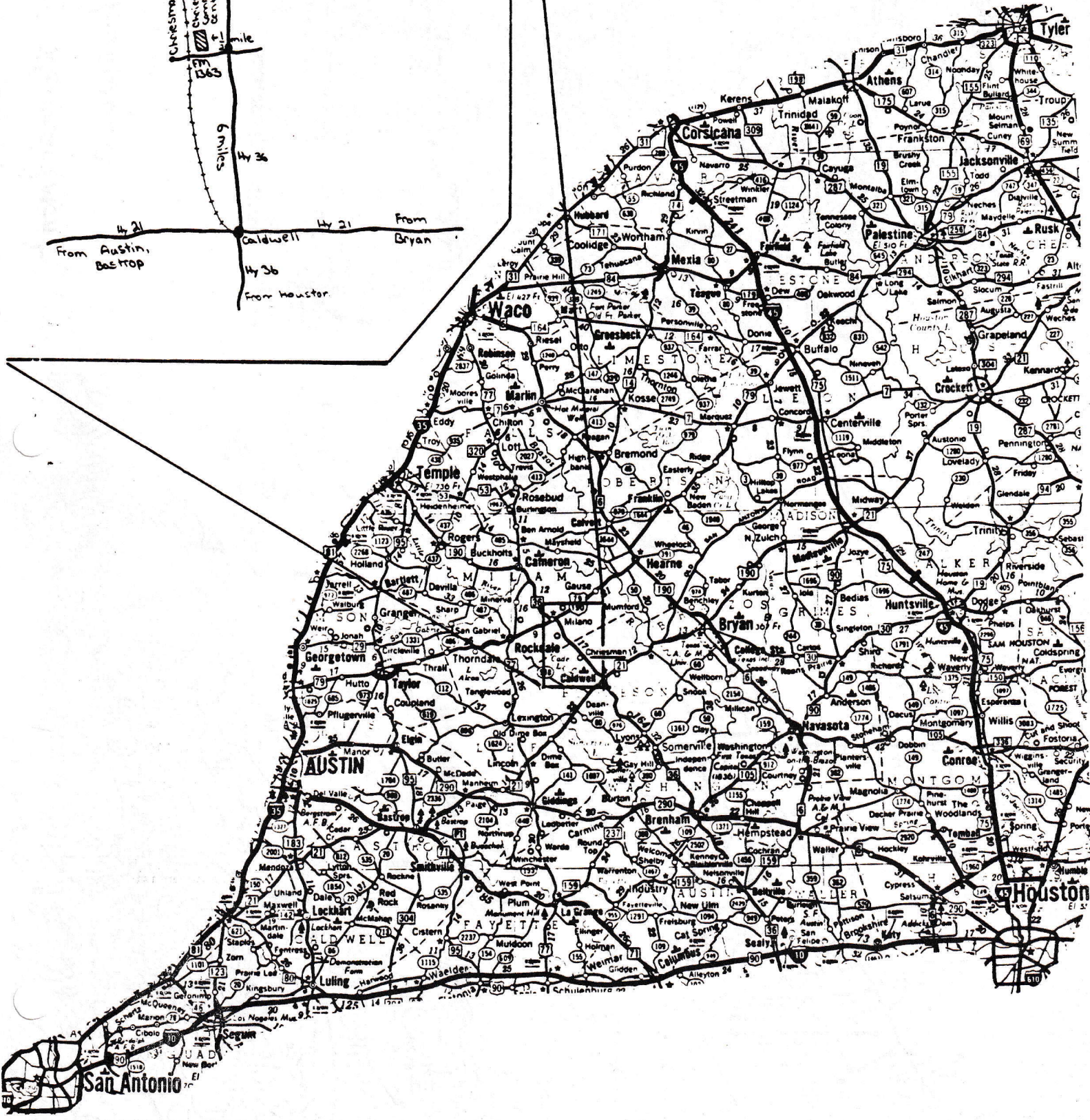
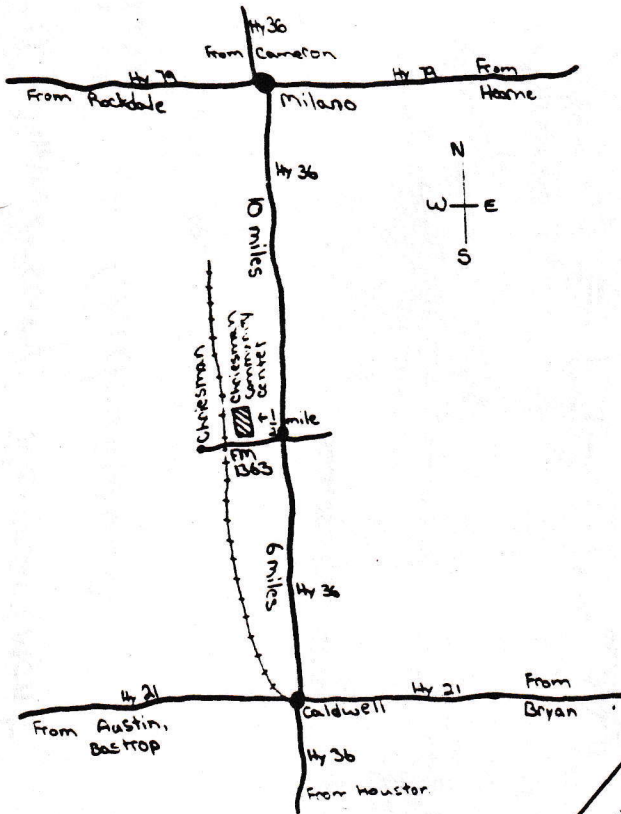
* * *

Editor's Note: Despite the need to reduce the size of the newsletter, I couldn't resist including the newspaper articles from the "Austin American-Statesmen". Both Joe Walker and Tom Kerley are quoted in two of them, and the articles seemed like a fitting finale to our 1988 Gettysburg campaign. I want to thank Vince Draa of Houston for submitting a report on two non-Texas Rifles events he attended. I may be able to print it in a future edition. Thank you Larry McMahan and Patricia Watson for your contributions, and a special thank you to Ray Siegmund for his report on Gettysburg.

{ * } { * } { * }

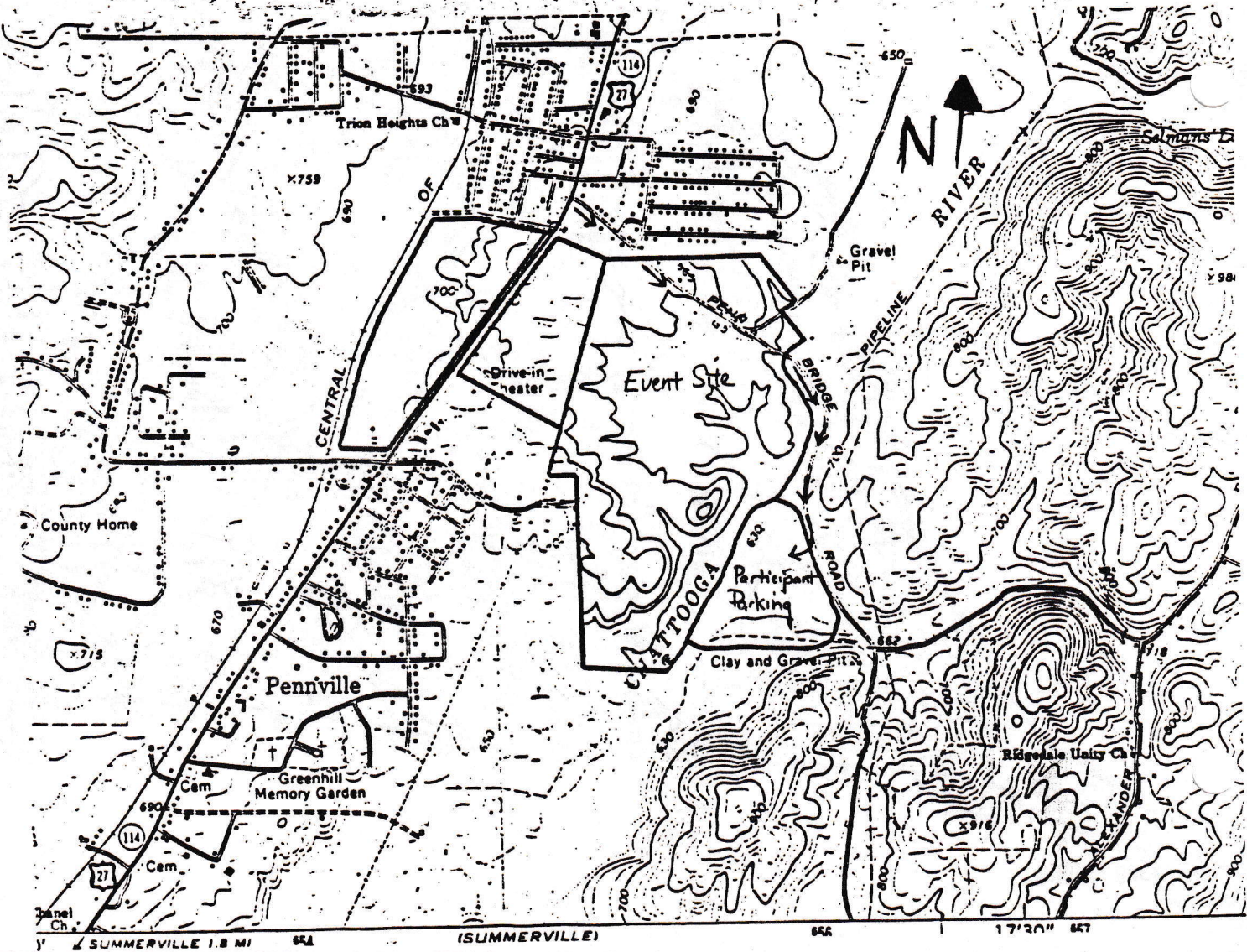
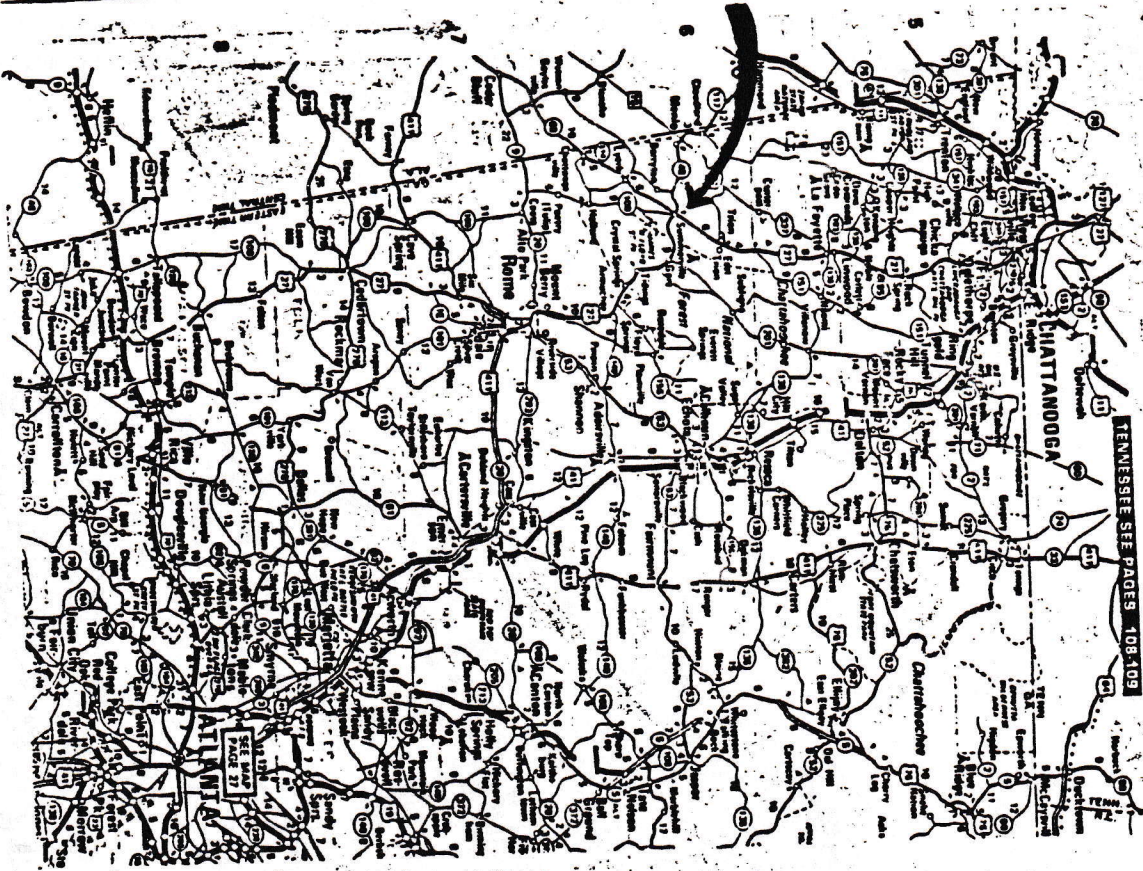
The newsletter is published on an as-needed basis. For more information about the Texas Rifles or enlistment information, contact Scott Swenson P.O. Box 23344, Waco, Texas 76702.

Chriesman is a small community located 6 miles north of Caldwell and 10 miles south of Milano (see hand-drawn map provided by Larry Richardson). From Caldwell, go north on HWY 36 six miles to FM 1363. Turn west on FM 1363 and go 1/2 mile to the Chriesman Community Center.



San Antonio

125th Anniversary Re-enactment
Battle of Chickamauga
Sept. 16, 17, 18, 1988



Don Drachenburg and John Keahey prepare meals.



"Gabby" Hayes still lives!



Our Company prepares for action.



Conference at field Headquarters



Some mean look'n dudes! Watch out, Billy Yank!



Texas Rifles watch the rest of the brigade form for review.

Texans and Gettysburg: Their only failure of the war

By Dick Stanley
American-Statesman Staff

"Texans always move them!" Gen. Robert E. Lee is said to have declared as his Army of Northern Virginia pushed back the Union Army of the Potomac one more time.

More than a century after the Civil War, Lee is one of the few figures on either side still widely admired. And, his biographers agree that Lee admired the Texans above all the men in his army.

In four years of war, the Texas Brigade of 7,300 volunteer infantrymen failed Lee once. It was at the Battle of Gettysburg, the bloodiest of the war, 125 years ago July 1-3.

When the fight between 168,000 Americans in the green hills south of the Pennsylvania town was over, 51,000 were dead, wounded or missing. Historians still call it the high tide of the Confederacy.

For thousands of modern Civil War enthusiasts, a costumed, safe replay of the battle today on private farmland south of the old battleground will be the highlight of the 125th anniversary war commemorations, which began in 1986.

"The biggest one of all will be the Gettysburg event," said Joe Walker.

Walker, a 41-year-old Waco executive, has been a re-enactor of Civil War battles for 12 years. He's proud of his hand-woven replica of a Rebel uniform coat and authentic rifled musket.

"Re-enactors are like a fraternity," he said. "It's hard to get into a group. It's a hobby. We call it 'the disease.'"

Most re-enactors, even Northern ones, prefer to portray Rebel soldiers. And none of the Rebel groups was more famous than the Texas Brigade.

"It's true they were not successful at Gettysburg," said Norman Brown, a professor of history at the University of Texas. "But you have to give credit to the Union defenders."

Texas survivors gave the credit in memoirs of their fight against New Yorkers and Pennsylvanians at the base of two small mountains called Round Top and Little Round Top.

Survivor Val Giles, a private in the brigade's 4th Texas Regiment, recalled how easy it was to find a replacement for his damaged musket among the hundreds of brigade dead and wounded.

"It was no trouble to get another gun there," Giles wrote. "The mountainside was covered with them."

The brigade had gotten within 50 feet of the crest of Little Round Top before they were driven back, according to Harold Simpson.

Simpson, a historian at Hill Junior College in Hillsboro, is an authority on the Texas Brigade. He said 10 percent of them were native Texans. Many came from Tennessee. Simpson said the majority were from English, Welsh and Scottish stock, but some were Irish, German and French. Only one was a draftee. The last survivor died in 1938.

In July 1863, Austinites were enduring the third summer of the Confederate fight for independence. Many were tired of the war, which would take 70,000 Texas men and boys to the Confederate army before it was over.

"A quarter of Texas' most vigorous manpower (would be) killed or incapacitated," wrote historian T.R. Ferenbach in *Lone Star*. "The graves of the Texan educated elite (would) lay scattered in a grim procession across six states."

Texans were so tired of war a few months before Gettysburg, Ferenbach wrote, that "a move grew not to make peace with the Yankees but to secede from the Confederate States."

By mid-June, however, Lee had invaded the North for the second time in the war, which was fought mainly on Southern soil. For Lee's army, the war was fought primarily in Virginia in defense of the Confederate capital at Richmond.

Newspapers reported Lee's army had invaded Pennsylvania to win a major victory so the Confederacy could bid for peace with the United States.

Scholars agree Lee was not at his best at Gettysburg. His cavalry had become separated from the army. Without cavalry reconnaissance, Lee was uncertain of the positions of the 93,000 Yankees who faced his 75,000 Rebels.

"And Lee was overconfident, and he was ill," said UT's Brown.

The battle forever gnawed at Gen. John Bell Hood. The tall Kentucky native who commanded the Texas Brigade early in the war was one of the few generals on either side who invariably would lead his men from the front.

Like Lee, Hood was a West Pointer who had been posted to the Texas frontier in the 1850s. Hood was "the simplest, most transparent soul I have met in this great revolution," wrote Mary Chesnut, the South Carolina diarist whose husband was a high Confederate official.

At the start of the war in 1861,



Austin History Center

Gen. John Hood commanded the brigade early in the war.

the 30-year-old Hood had commanded the 4th Texas Regiment. Later, he was promoted to command all four regiments of the brigade. By Gettysburg, he had risen to command a division of 15,000 men, including the Texas Brigade and troops from Arkansas, Alabama and Georgia.

Advance and Retreat, Hood's war memoir published after his death in 1879, reflects his anger over Gettysburg.

"The (division's) losses were very heavy and have often caused me the more bitterly to regret that I was not allowed to turn Round Top Mountain," he wrote.

Hood meant that Lee had insisted the division assault Little Round Top and Round Top from the west where they were heavily defended. The two hills were on the left end of a 3-mile Union line drawn into a fish-hook shape on the ridges south of Gettysburg. Hood had protested Lee's orders.

The Union soldiers "could easily repel our attack by merely throwing and rolling stones down the mountainside as we approached," he wrote years later.

After scouts reported the ground south of Round Top was undefended, Hood urged his Corps commander, Gen. James Longstreet, to allow Hood's division to attack from there, to "turn" the Union left flank and roll it up.

"The theory was," said Brown, "that if the Confederates occupied the Round Tops, they could sweep north along the whole Union line."

Three times, Hood made the request. Three times, Longstreet refused.

Historians still disagree on Hood's plan. Simpson said it might have been successful. Brown said it would have made no difference.

"To have sent Hood's division away into the Union rear could have been very risky," Brown said. "And it was already late in the day."

Warfare, weaponry and tactics have changed tremendously since

1863. Then, wars were fought between soldiers. Although Union and Confederate troops burned several Southern cities, 19th century armies generally did not make war on civilians.

The main weapons were rifled muskets and smooth-bore cannons. Both fired one shot at a time and took about a minute to reload. Both used black powder, which produced clouds of smoke that obscured the battlefield. Flags and drums were used to guide soldiers through the smoke.

Tactics echoed Napoleon, with a heavy dose of chivalry. Opposing sides simply lined up in ranks opposite each other and fired away. One charged and the other defended until one side broke and ran.

The first day of battle at Gettysburg, July 1, was a Rebel victory. It was short-lived. Late in the afternoon of July 2, the Texas Brigade led Lee's army into the second day of fighting.

"Those guys had marched for about a day to approach the battlefield," Simpson said. "On the morning of July 2, they had had no breakfast and had marched six hours more and without lunch. And when they finally got into position in the late afternoon, they were subjected to a tremendous Union artillery barrage."

Lee once said Southerners could not fight without music. On July 2, several Confederate brass bands played waltzes and polkas as the Union and Confederate cannons reached their crescendo.

"They played the tunes of the times," Simpson said. "I'm not sure which ones. But, well, there's the *Jeff Davis Polka* and waltzes like *Come Dearest, The Daylight Is Gone*."

The daylight was waning when the Texas Brigade finally charged into glory.

"They had to advance over a mile even to get to Little Round Top," said Simpson. "And they were climbing. The ground slopes up about 350 feet and it's full of rocks and bushes. They had to hold onto the bushes and fire at the same time."

All the while, Pennsylvanians and New Yorkers and their cannons kept firing downhill at the Texans. John C. West, a private in the 4th Texas Regiment, recalled the effect of one cannonball in the noise, smoke and confusion.

"It hit our line about 8 feet in front of me," West wrote, "knocking off one soldier's head and cutting another in two, bespattering us with blood."

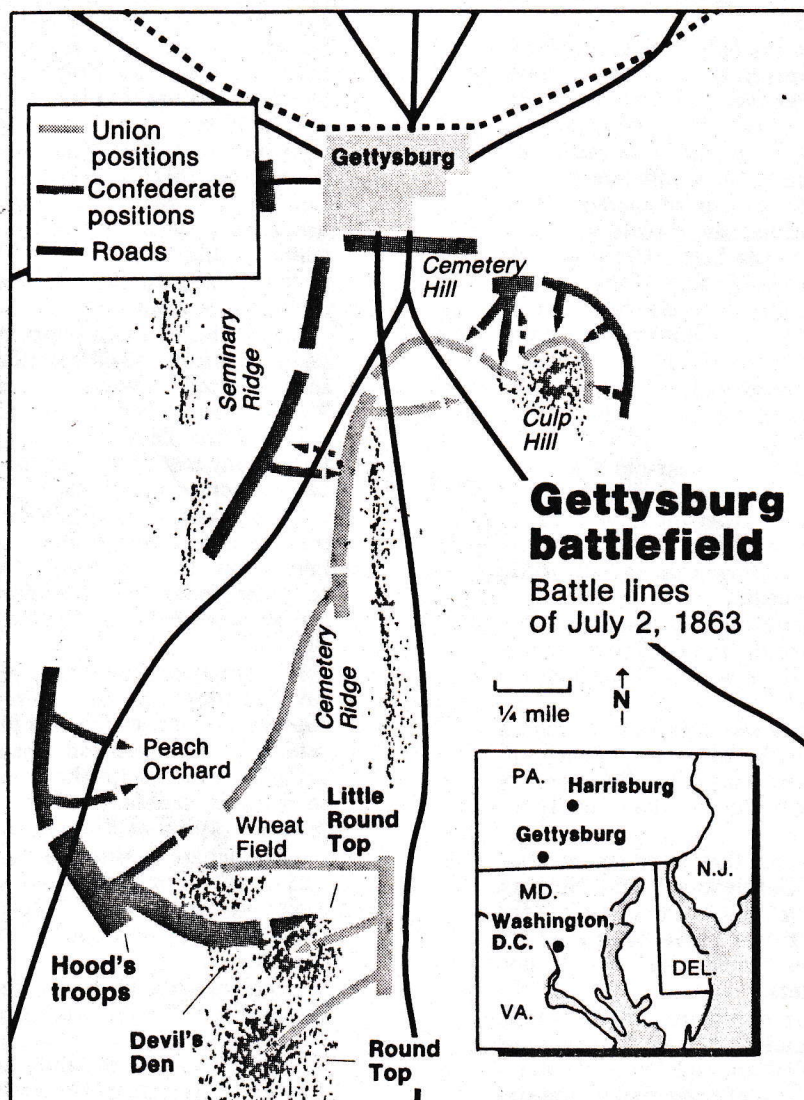
In a gloomy place of huge boulders and tall trees called the Devil's Den, Hood's left arm was shattered. So many officers were killed or wounded that the Texas Brigade became disorganized.

"Every fellow was his own general," Giles recalled.

The Texans' charge melted away in the setting sun. North of their position, the Mississippi Brigade led a charge that also failed to break the Union line. For the rest of the night, the Rebels and Yankees held their positions and shot at each other.

So began the Confederacy's long march downhill to defeat in 1865.

Lee always insisted the blame for Gettysburg was his. He never stopped admiring the Texans. His quoted regards still cover an obelisk monument to the brigade erected in 1910 a few steps east of the Texas Capitol.



The Texas Brigade led the Confederate assault of Round Top and Little Round Top on July 2, 1863, the second day of the battle at Gettysburg. The brigade was commanded by Gen. John Bell Hood, for whom Fort Hood is named.

Fourteen years after the war, Hood, his wife and three of their 12 children died in New Orleans in an epidemic of the yellow fever virus. Brigade survivors collected money for the nine surviving children but they were sent to separate foster homes, according to UT's Brown.

Americans like re-enactor Joe Walker still remember. So much so that when it came time to choose between joining in the re-enactment of Gettysburg or spending the anniversary a week later near the Devil's Den with the ghosts of the dead, Walker chose the anniversary.

Said he: "I'd rather be on that consecrated ground."

Texans in Rebel footsteps

Re-enactors take field at Gettysburg

By Dick Stanley
American-Statesman Staff

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — Tom Kerley of Temple sat near a glowing campfire on the famous battlefield here.

He was dressed like a Confederate infantry private and was smoking a cigar and telling jokes.

Nearby, another Rebel re-enactor from Tennessee was playing the harmonica.

"I've never been here before," said Kerley, 41, turning serious for moment. "And my great grandfather fought here."

Kerley was one of several Texans among about 500 Union and Confederate re-enactors who slept under the stars on the battlefield over the weekend. Thousands more jammed motels for miles around this little town with the immortal name.

It was the 125th anniversary of "the battle that saved a nation," as Pennsylvania tourist brochures put it.

Here, where firework displays tonight will commemorate Independence Day, the ghosts of Gen. Robert E. Lee's army of 70,000 Confederates and their 90,000 Union adversaries will be tending their wounded and burying their dead.

They had stumbled into a battle here in the hills south of Gettysburg on July 1-3, 1863. It was the turning point of the American Civil War.

Fifty-one thousand Americans were casualties in this, the bloodiest battle of a war that killed more Americans than have died in all other wars combined.

Lee's army was defeated, never recovered and finally surrendered less than two years later.

Gettysburg has capitalized on the battle ever since. Lee's old headquarters is still here, but is part gift shop. And the new General Lee Family Restaurant is three times as big.

Throughout the anniversary, local helicopters chartered by tourists have competed with those from television stations in cutting the quiet air above battlefield's miles of rocky ridges, farmland, woods and creeks.

But much of the old ground that is studded with bronze cannons turned green with age is owned by the National Park Service. And the national shrine still has the power to awe the sensitive, especially those whose ancestors fought here.

"I want to know what he went through," said Scott Frank, a union re-enactor from New York. Frank, 35, found out walking guard duty before dawn at the Union camp on Cemetery Ridge. "I think about the ghost a lot," he said.

Frank was pleased that, for once, the Union re-enactors outnumbered the Confederates. The Rebels were camped about 100 yards south of the Yankees on the ridge, against which thousand of Rebels charged without success.

More than a century after the war, the re-enacting fraternity that counts thousands of members in the United States and Europe attracts many more would-be Rebels than Yankees regardless of their ancestors. They said this was the first time the Park Service had invited re-enactors to camp on the battlefield and it was by invitation only.

"In Europe, you have to be Yankee for two years before you can be a Confederate," Ben Strakos, a re-enactor from Waco, said with a grin.

Like the others, he shouldered a working replica 1860s musket made in Italy that cost about \$300. While the Union troops wore the regulation 1860s blue uniform, the Confederates wore a mixture of gray and butternut-brown wool civilian clothes of the 19th century period like the real Rebels, many of whom hated regimentation.

The individual appearance of the new Confederates contributed to the romantic lure that drew many more tourists to them than visited the Union camp over the weekend.

Under the supervision of the Park Service, both sides gave separate demonstrations of close-order drill and the firing of muskets and cannons, complete with rolling drums and huge battle flags that snapped in strong breezes.

The demonstration area was close to Plum Run, a little stream meandering through the western slope of Cemetery Ridge. There the Mississippi Brigade fought on July 2 before being cut down by New York and Massachusetts cannons and muskets.

But Joe Walker, 42, a re-enactor from Waco, was thinking of the Devil's Den, a nearby hill covered with hugh boulders. It was there that the Texas Brigade led the July 2 assault of Lee's army and was stopped with heavy casualties.

Walker's Confederate great-grandfather, Hugh Moore, fought there and survived.

The Devil's Den was full of children playing on the boulders and cannons near the monument to a Maine unit that helped New Yorkers and Pennsylvanians stop the Texans.

Until recently the government did not allow the states of the old Confederacy to put monuments at their high-water marks, only at their assembly areas on Seminary Ridge to the west.

The Texas state monument on the western ridge is a tall rectangle of pink granite erected in 1964. It says, "Texas remembers the valor and devotion of her sons at Gettysburg."



AP
Confederate and Yankee cavalymen clash sabres during a re-enactment to mark the 125th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Rebels' final charge staged at Gettysburg

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (AP) — Brother fought brother and the North won again on Sunday as more than 8,000 uniformed men re-enacted the final charge of the Battle of Gettysburg to commemorate its 125th anniversary.

Griff King of the 2nd Virginia Regiment planned to participate in Pickett's charge while his Yankee brother defended a ridge with the 93rd Pennsylvania Regiment.

"We don't agree on anything anyway," said King, a 35-year-old machine operator from Weston, W.Va.

About 12,500 mock soldiers and civilians in period garb took part in the three-day re-enactment billed as the largest ever, organizers said.

After a series of cannon blasts by both sides, a 200-yard line of Confederate troops gave a rebel yell and marched shoulder-to-shoulder up to a wall defended by Union troops.

Troops for the North and South traded volley after volley in an engagement staged at one-third its original scale.

"It was a great battle," said John McQueen, a 37-year-old marketing manager from Atlanta who continued firing for the 52nd Ohio Regiment as soldiers for both sides fell around him. "The rifle barrels were getting so hot you couldn't touch them."

The event ended with soldiers standing in silence for an invocation to those who died 125 years ago. A bugler played taps while 75 cannons fired one after another.

Major Gen. George Pickett's unsuccessful charge with more than 12,000 troops against 9,000 Union soldiers was the Confederate's final offensive push of the Battle of Gettysburg from July 1 to July 3, 1863. About 50,000 soldiers were killed or wounded.

"If the Battle of Gettysburg was the turning point of the Civil War, then Pickett's charge was the turning point of the Battle of Gettysburg," said Kim Holien, a historian with the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

About 140,000 people witnessed the three-day re-enactment, said organizers for Napoleonic Tactics Inc., which staged the battle on 700 acres of farmland five miles south of the battlefield.