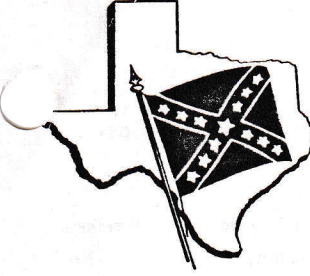


THE TEXAS RIFLES

"To The Tyrants Never Yield!"

Hdqtrs. P.O. Box 23344, Waco, Texas 76702



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Scott Swenson	Gill Eastland	Jeff Hunt
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COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

On September 8-10, Gill Eastland, Jeff Hunt, Vince and Anna Draa, Steve Abolt, Kevin Young, Mike Moore and myself ventured back to 1846 to the U.S. Army post at Ft. Scott, Kansas. In my twelve years of reenacting, it was one of the best events I have ever attended. The regular army life and the well-restored fort were a nice change of pace. If you think you might be interested in the Mexican War time period, please visit with one of the Texas Rifles members who went to this event.

And now for something completely different. I will not be running for Captain in the January elections. It is my belief that everyone deserves the right to move up the chain of command. There are others in our group deserving of the chance to serve as captain, and I also believe that a change of command would be very "healthy" for the unit. I have seen too many groups become stagnant under the continued leadership of one person. I have served as captain for three years. Now someone else deserves the opportunity.

My decision has obviously been out through the "grape vine" for some time as a couple of weeks ago a member of our group said to me, "I heard you are not going to be with us next year." This upset me greatly. When I first started pushing for the formal organization of the Texas Rifles, I was "with you" and I will always be an active member of this group for the rest of life. Maybe not with the rank of captain, but I will be there. It is true that I will run for a battalion staff position, but the competition will be stiff. If I make it, that will be great, and I will serve as a representative of the Texas Rifles. And when we are at non-battalion events, I will pick up my musket and serve in the ranks. On the other hand, if I am not elected to battalion staff, that will be great, too. I'll serve in the ranks. The main thing that I want everyone to understand is that I am not going to "disappear." The Texas Rifles is a part of my life that I love dearly, and I will always strive to have an active part in it, in whatever capacity.

Franklin will be my last opportunity (for some time at least) to command our company in the field. I urge each of you to make plans now to attend. I think it will be one of the best events ever. Be sure to send your \$7 registration fee to Gill Eastland. Texian Market Days is October 21-22 and Camp Ford is November 4-5. These will both be good events and even better than last year. Our members are sponsoring both of these, so a good turnout would be appreciated. I hope to see all of you in Richmond, Texas.

For God and Texas!!!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott".

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[Notice: Most of the members, officers, and NCOs will be present at events in **bold type**, but you may be on your own at events in regular type.]

TEXIAN MARKET DAYS: October 21-22 at the George Ranch Historical Park south of Richmond, Texas (west of Houston). Maximum effort event. Encampment under shade trees, drill and musket firing demonstrations. Saturday night dance, free meal. See event information section for more information or contact Don Drachenberg in Rosenberg (713 342-1360).

CAMP FORD: November 4-5 in Tyler, Texas. Reenactment of POW camp and refugee life in Tyler during 1863. See event information section for more details or contact Larry or Jo McMahan in Tyler (214 561-0857 evenings).

BATTLE OF FRANKLIN: December 1-3 near Franklin, Tennessee. This will be a maximum effort brigade and Texas Rifles event. This reenactment is put on by reenactors for reenactors. Scott Swenson said the site is the best he's ever seen, and that we need to put more members in the field at this event than any in the past. There will be three battles. Details forthcoming. Start making plans now to attend. **DON'T MISS THIS ONE!!!!**

TEXAS RIFLES "FIRST ANNUAL" BALL: December 30, Driskell Hotel in Austin, Texas. This is a living history evening ball sponsored by the Ladies of the Texas Rifles. See Event Information section for more details.

DADE'S MASSACRE: December 29-31, Bushnell, Florida. Pre-1860 event. For those seeking the action of a full-fledged battle in the 1830's. Contact Steve Abolt (817) 535-2359 or Vince Draa (see masthead).

BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS: January 5-7, 1990. New Orleans, Louisiana. The 175th Anniversary of the 1815 battle. Encampment on the original site. Contact Steve Abolt (817 535-2359).

CONFEDERATE BALL: January 1990 in Houston, Texas. The Albert Sydney Johnston SCV annual debutant ball. Need members for color guard. Contact Gordon Gentry in Houston (713 645-1119).

TEXAS RIFLES ANNUAL MUSTER AND ELECTION: January 27-28, 1990. Winedale, Texas. More information to come.

BENTONVILLE: In Georgia third weekend of March 1990. Surrender of the Confederates will mark the end of the 125th Anniversary. Battle reenactment, encampment, and surrender ceremony. Brigade event. Details to come.

* * INFORMATION ON COMING EVENTS * *

TEXIAN MARKET DAYS

Texian Market Days has always been a good event, and this year, things will be even better. If you read Don Drachenberg's letter in the last edition of the newsletter, you got an idea of some of the activities that are planned. Below is a schedule:

Schedule of Events for October 21, 1861: 10 a.m. camp opens. 10:30 a.m. drill - School of the Soldier. 11 a.m. artillery demonstration. 11:30 a.m. company drill and musket firing. 12:30 p.m. lunch (in camp if possible). 1:30 p.m. artillery demonstration. 2 p.m. parade and company flag presentation. 2:30 p.m. soldier funeral. 3:00 p.m. artillery demonstration. 3:30 p.m. skirmish drill and musket firing. 4:30 p.m. court martial, soldier drummed out of camp or executed. 5 p.m. artillery demonstration. 5:15 p.m. evening parade. 6:00 p.m. camp closes.

Schedule of Events for October 22, 1861: 10:00 a.m. camp opens. 10:30 a.m. drill. 11:00 a.m. artillery demonstration. 11:30 a.m. bayonet drill and musket firing. 12:00 p.m. lunch (in camp if possible). 1:00 p.m. artillery demonstration. 1:15 p.m. Sunday inspection and parade. 2:00 p.m. court martial. 2:30 skirmish drill and musket firing. 3:30 p.m. artillery demonstration. 4:00 p.m. break camp.

As you can see, there will be lots to do, and there will be other activities between the scheduled events such a pay call or sick call. In fact, Scott Swenson, Gill Eastland, Jeff Hunt and Don Drachenburg have several things planned and they are depending a good turnout from the membership. A 40-man company would be really nice! Gordon Gentry will be there with his full-scale cannon and will be giving artillery firing demonstrations. Don said Gordon has over 40 rounds, so he can conduct several demonstrations each day. Gordon also plans to have a night fire demonstration and it would be good of the infantry could fire some night volleys too. Gordon may be a bit shorthanded, so some of the infantry may need to serve on the cannon. If you're interested in serving on the gun crew, just let Gordon or Scott know when you arrive. Other planned events include a scripted court-martial on Saturday and Sunday with the convicted felon being drummed out of camp or executed. Plans even include having a wooden sign reading "THIEF" to hang around the soldier's neck. Plans are also being made to have a soldier's funeral with a grave dug (not in the cemetery of course) and a simple wooden casket to bury for real. This will be done with full military honors. Also planned is a recreation of the flag presentation at Vicksburg, both as a period event and for the benefit of the members of the Texas Rifles who could not attend the ceremony at Vicksburg.

CAMPSITE: Everyone should be at the campsite no later than 9 a.m. We must have the tents set up and the camp ready when the public arrives at 10 a.m. We also need to get our vehicles unloaded and parked in the nearby parking lot before 10 a.m. So please come early. Don Drachenberg is even going out to the campsite Thursday to set up three tents and dig a fire pit to speed up things and provide a place for someone to camp Friday night. Yes, please camp Friday night if you can. The camp will be open. This is an early war event, so everyone should bring their period camp gear -- tents, crates, barrels, camp chairs, camp stools, lanterns, etc. We will have a nice shady spot for the camp this time. UNIFORMS: Since this is early war (1861), our uniforms should look good. But don't wear gaiters or havelocks. We look good in these when the entire company uses them, but not when only one or two people use them. MUSIC: We need field musicians (drummers, fifers, buglers) at this event. They will have many opportunities to perform at the court martial, the funeral, during drill, parades, etc. Also, we need all our musically gifted members to bring their period instruments (banjos, fiddles, etc.) so we can really have some good music in camp to entertain ourselves and the public. Don Drachenberg asked that anyone who has an 1836 Mexican Army uniform or impression to bring it. We may have a little engagement or two with the Texas militia in the colonist camp in between the Confederate activities. SUTLER STORE: Don said there will be a sutler set up where you can sell your reenactor items. Be sure to put a piece of masking tape on the item, or a tag, stating your name and the price of the item.

The weather forecast looks great. We are supposed to have clear skies with daytime temperatures in the low 70's or high 60's and temperatures at night in the low 40's. There will be a period dance with period musicians Saturday night, and a free meal Saturday night. Be sure to bring haversack rations and some food to cook on the fire. There will be time to just sit in camp and relax with friends or see the many arts and crafts booths. This has always been a good event, but it will be great this year. People like Don Drachenberg, who has put in a lot of time and effort on this event, are really excited about the event. We need maximum attendance from early Saturday to Sunday afternoon. In the past, we've had a good showing on Saturday but only a few on Sunday. Please try to make both days and stay Saturday night in camp with us. Come enjoy good camp life, camaraderie, nifty activities, and some good powder burn'n!

The George Ranch is located on FM 762 south of HWY 59 and Richmond, Texas, and southwest of Houston. A map is included in this edition. (Editor)

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CAMP FORD LIVING HISTORY EVENT

The information package provided by the sponsors is too lengthy to type into the newsletter, so I will bring extra copies to Texian Market Days. Larry and Jo McMahan are the primary Texas Rifles contacts for this event, and in the last newsletter, you were asked to contact if you needed details. You may still contact Larry or Jo (see masthead for address and phone number) if you have any questions, or talk to them at Texian Market Days. For the benefit of those who may not be able to get a copy of the information package, here's a brief summary:

The Camp Ford Living History Program will take place the weekend of November 3, 4, and 5 at the Camp Ford Site on HWY 271 northeast of Tyler, Texas (see map). This will be a recreation of the events in Tyler in October and November 1863 that resulted in the construction of a stockade to contain the Union prisoners at the prison camp. The Goodman Mansion in Tyler will be used to interpret civilian and refugee life and the military interpretations will take place at the prison site. At the time there were approximately 600 federal prisoners, 71 militia guards, various civilians, and a hand full of veteran officers and troops. The program will be structured with intensive use of first person and tours conducted by interpreters. There will be at least five areas at the prison site: Col. Allen's HQ, the militia camp, the prison compound, the guard line or "dead line", and the civilian area in the compound. Strict authenticity will be required. IMPRESSIONS: UNION PRISONERS - typical western infantry. Since most of them were not "stripped" by their captors, they would have been fairly well equipped, but you need to look a little "seedy" so don't bring a nice, pressed uniform. Bring tent halves and tent flies but no wall tents or wedge tents. If all you have is a wedge tent, pitch it in the guard compound and sleep there at night. CONFEDERATE MILITIA: Few first-line weapons. If possible, bring Mississippi Rifles, .69 caliber smoothbores, and civilian weapons. Uniforms were a mixture of civilian attire with some military jackets. No federal surplus items. CONFEDERATE "VETERANS" AND STAFF: Due to the tenseness of the situation, available troops were apparently rushed to Tyler. This included Col. R.T.P. Allen who was superintendent of the Kentucky Military Institute prior to the war, and elements of Walter P. Lane Rangers, an independent cavalry company from Marshall that saw some service. CIVILIANS: Wear typical civilian clothing for the period.

If possible, bring Union, Confederate and civilian attire. The organizers will permit reenactors to change areas or impressions if they aren't happy with their first choice. Federal impression are, however, strongly encouraged. One free meal Saturday night. Bacon and cornmeal will be issued during the day, so be prepared to cook. Cooking gear should be kept to a minimum if you are a prisoner. Escapes and riots will be staged periodically throughout the day. No digging will be allowed since this is an archeologically sensitive area. Large number of cut poles will be provided to rig tents. If the weather is bad, you will be able to bring in extra sleeping gear after the event is closed to the public at 5 p.m. It must be removed by 9 Sunday morning. Practice up on your first person. Warning! If you try to escape, you will be tracked by hounds!

The ladies are invited to participate in living history activities in the beautiful and historic Goodman Home in Tyler. Men and women reenactors are needed to portray the activities of persons mentioned in the book Brokenburn, the Journal of Kate Stone. Kate Stone occupied the mansion during the time period we are recreating. We hope to allow visitors to the home to glimpse into the thoughts and feelings of people caught up in the war and to show what went on during a typical day in Tyler in November 1863. In particular, we need men and women who can present demonstrations of the playing of period music and musical instruments, and card games, and other pastimes. Those who plan to participate at Camp Ford might be able to come to the Goodman Home for about an hour or two to share these skills. Please call Jo McMahan (214 561-0857) if you are interested in doing such demonstrations.

The 1988 program was a tremendous success and gained a lot of good "PR" for the Carnegie History Center in Tyler and the hobby. The Chamber of Commerce was especially impressed and has become interested in preserving the site. This year, Larry McMahan, Jo McMahan, and many other people involved in the program are eager to surpass last year's success. Those who participated last year said the event was great fun with never a dull moment. Please attend! Call Larry McMahan (Project Chairman 214 561-0857 evenings) for more information.

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THE TEXAS RIFLES "FIRST ANNUAL" BALL
BY ANA DRAA

On December 30, 1989, at the Driskill Hotel in Austin, Texas, the Texas Rifles will hold their first "annual" Christmas Ball. Within the walls of the ballroom we plan to keep all aspects of the ball as authentic as possible: the food, decorations, band, and participants. This is a living history event. All guests are encouraged to do their own research or ask for advice from reenactors. With the non-reenactor in mind, I have compiled some general information regarding period attire. Hints on period behavior will follow later. A good general rule for everyone -- if it existed in the 1860's, it's perfect for our ball.

There will be several activities including men's and ladies' pre-ball activities, dinner, and dance. The price is \$35 per person, and the only additional cost to you should be the cash bar and any photographs you choose to purchase. There will be a period photographer capable of delivering modern and period photographs so please leave your modern cameras at home. A baby sitter will be available on premises at a small charge to those requiring such services. Everybody will then gather at 8:30 p.m. to enter the ball. Music will commence at 9:00 and end at 2:00 a.m. Since there was no gift paper in 1861, we will hang small gifts for all guests on the Christmas tree.

I believe this ball will prove to be a wonderfully historic event. The first 100 people who send their \$35 to Gill Eastland (see masthead for address) will be the people at the ball -- first come, first serve. We cannot hold any place without the ticket being bought. If you wait too long, you run the risk of being left out! If you are unable to participate, we will not be able to make a refund. We have been in contact with people from many other groups and the interest runs high to attend such a truly authentic event. The only problem we anticipate is not having enough tickets to meet the demand.

PRE-BALL ACTIVITIES: The ladies "toilette" will be from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Hogg Room. During this time, we will visit and fix our hair. There will be many hair accessories available with lots of ribbons, pearls, laces and flowers. The ladies of the Texas Rifles will be preparing hair ornaments, including snoods, as gifts to those ladies who desire them, so please contact me (Ana Draa, 713 896-1023) and let me know the color and style of your dress. The period hairstyles are too numerous to mention here, so we will have books for you to look through and choose from. We will help you as much as you would like to be comfortable, period and pretty. Please don't be scared of period styles -- many of them are similar to modern ones. Even if you don't want your hair done, please attend the toilette to enjoy the company, tea snacks and homemade perfumes. The men will gather in the Citadel Room from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. to swap battle tales and play games such as chess and poker. Period cards and money (worthless now) will be provided along with deli-styled sandwiches and, of course, Goober Peas. Brush up on your period talk and jokes. There will also be some dance instruction during the afternoon -- more information to come later.

GENERAL GUIDELINES: Modern eyewear should be eliminated in favor of contact lenses, period glasses or, at the last resort, squinting. Modern watches, especially worn on the wrist, are unnecessary anachronisms as many people carry period time pieces and are glad to share the time. If you care to smoke, there will be cigars for purchase. Cigarettes should be left at home in favor of pipes or cigars. A smoking corner will be provided on the balcony as was the custom. Every effort you exert to make your attire period will increase everybody's ability to forget about the 1980's and spend an evening in the 1860's. There will certainly be some anachronisms at our ball, but let's keep them to a minimum.

LADIES DRESS GUIDELINES: A lady of the 1860's usually owned only one "best dress". I have seen a carte de visit of a woman wearing a bridal veil and her wedding dress, a plaid day dress. So feel comfortable wearing either a ball gown or a day dress. Some ladies will be renting dresses. Gloves are an essential accessory. Dance slippers were the prevalent ball-shoe wear. Modern ballet slippers adorned with bows and fabric flowers on the toe appear to be almost identical to original slippers seen in museums. If you want to wear a heel, please limit the height to 1 1/2 inches. This was considered a "high" heel. CaPezzio jazz shoes or low pumps are good substitutes. Make-up should be very natural as only ladies of questionable virtue wore bright painted faces. Please don't wear any colored nail polish as it was not available at the time. Reproductions of period jewelry seem to be abundantly available. Some of the "1928" brand jewelry is particularly good. An easy and very period necklace or bracelet can be made with a velvet ribbon. Much of the jewelry we wear today, such as simple pearl bracelets, could easily have been worn in 1861. Strands of beads such as pearls were usually short in style, around 16 inches. Try to avoid modern-styled jewelry such as post earrings. Dress patterns are available from (1) Heidi Marsh, 810 El Caminito, Livermore, California 94550. (2) Past Patterns, 2017 Eastern S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507. (3) The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 63706.

MEN'S DRESS GUIDELINES: The men's guidelines are fairly simple. There are only three rules: (1) remove heelplates from brogans so we don't ruin the floor. (2) No rental of military uniforms - they are all terribly unauthentic and come from "polyester city". (3) Wear white gloves. Just like the ladies, the men would have worn their best outfit whether it was a frock coat or a field uniform. If you wear your field uniform, please be certain to remove all dirt and odor -- if possible -- and make any necessary repairs. You should take care to blacken your brogans and polish your buttons. A plain uniform can easily be "dressed up" after such previously described improvements and the addition of a nice shirt with a cravat. In short, wear your best civilian or military attire. For those non-reenacting men, my best advice is to contact a reenactor who can answer any questions. Although you may not wear rented military uniforms, there are some fine civilian

attires for lease. One option is to ask a reenactor friend to lend you an outfit. Most of the men have at least two outfits. Shoes are the most difficult detail. There are a couple of options: (1) plain black dress shoes (no wing tips), (2) boots (not pointed-toe cowboy boots), and (3) dance shoes -- jazz.

For more information on the ball, contact Ana Draa or Vince Draa at the phone number and address shown in the newsletter masthead.

* * * T R I D B I T S * * *

EDITOR'S NOTES: This edition had to be a quickie. It's only purpose is to get information to you about approaching events. I did not have time (due to pressing work obligations) to include several articles and battle reports that have been submitted, but I have included three short reports just to keep pace with the flow. Hopefully, the remaining articles and reports will be in the next edition. I want to thank James Hesse for his past assistance. Unfortunately, due to conflicting schedules, we weren't able to work on newsletter mailouts together, but James did assist by handling the purchase of stamps. Also, I must let you know that I may be forced by work obligations to discontinue my editorship of the newsletter. If anyone is interested in becoming editor, please let Scott Swenson know. I will have copies of the New Member Package, the Recruiting Package, the Information Package on Camp Ford, and Jeff Hunt's article the Battle of Franklin for distribution at Texian Market Days.

BOB AND DENISE FLETCHER are the new parents of a beautiful 8 lb. 5 oz. baby girl, Angela Denise, who was born October 2. Here's a hearty "CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!" to Bob ("Fletch") and Denise from the men and women of the Texas Rifles.

NCO POSITIONS: These are the appointed NCO positions until Winedale in January 1990. Only these members should be wearing NCO rank. Of course, Jeff Hunt is the elected 1st. Sgt. (By Scott Swenson).

3rd Sgt - **David Agee**
1st Cpl - **Vince Draa**
2nd Cpl = **Brian Bosworth**
3rd Cpl = **Kevin Stork**
4th Cpl = **Larry Richardson.**

CHARLES CHILDS: Charles Childs of Country Cloth, the primary supplier of jean material (a period wool-cotton blend) has a new phone number. If you want to order cloth, dial (216) 482-5131.

TAILOR FOR HIRE: If you need someone to sew uniforms, Steve Abolt is making his services available. His work is guaranteed and high quality. 1856 Carl, Fort Worth, Texas 76103, (817) 535-2359. (By Scott Swenson)

NEED MORE MUSICIANS: We need to recruit more musicians! Bo Richardson is our only active company-level field musician at this time. If you know anyone who would be interested in being a drummer or fifer, ask them to contact me. (By Scott Swenson).

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Ed Grandle, Scott Wilkey, Mike Boyd. WELCOME Y'ALL!!!!

NOTE TO NEW MEMBERS: Make sure you have received and read a new member package. The information that it contains is very important and should be used as a guideline for purchasing equipment and uniforms.

GET READY FOR NEW ORLEANS: Anyone interested in going to New Orleans as a U.S. Regular should start putting together their uniform and kit NOW as it is somewhat elaborate. Contact Steve Abolt or Scott Swenson for assistance and information. (By Scott Swenson).

* * R E P O R T S * *

On the evening of October 8, 1989, a **cartridge rolling party** was held at the home of John and Joan Keahey. Ed Grandle, John and Joan Keahey, Vince and Anna Draa, Jerry Keller, and Scott Wilkey were present. Over 230 cartridges were rolled, and uniform requirements were discussed. Anna Draa asked that special thanks be given to John and Joan for opening their home to the Texas Rifles for the purpose of the cartridge rolling party.

On the weekend of September 23, five members of the Texas Rifles participated in the **Battle of Bayou Bourbeau** near Washington Louisiana. They were James Hesse, Edward Jablonski, Ron Oglesbee, Arnold Huskins, and your editor. We wish to thank Donnie Kennedy and the men of the 12th Louisiana for their excellent hospitality. The event was a lot of fun and we made some good friends among the Louisiana troops who were present. Though this event is still developing, it is a real powder burn'n event!

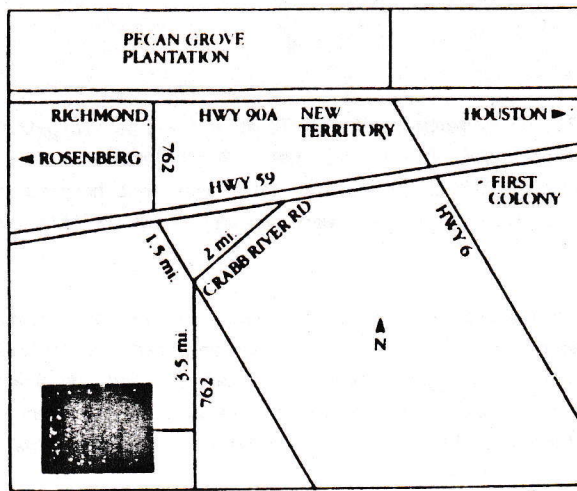
On Friday, September 29, 10 members and recruits of the Texas Rifles participated in the **Fort Bend County Fair parade** and marched through downtown Richmond and Rosenberg, Texas. An attendance were David Agee, Gordon Gentry, Lloyd Lively, Troy Fogle, James Hesse, your editor, Alan Hutton, Otto Haardt, Earl Hutton, and Don Drachenberg. We marched about 3 miles and fired our muskets occasional to the great delight of the crowd. We also won the second-place award, which was no small honor considering that we were in competition with floats, etc. (see newspaper photo below).

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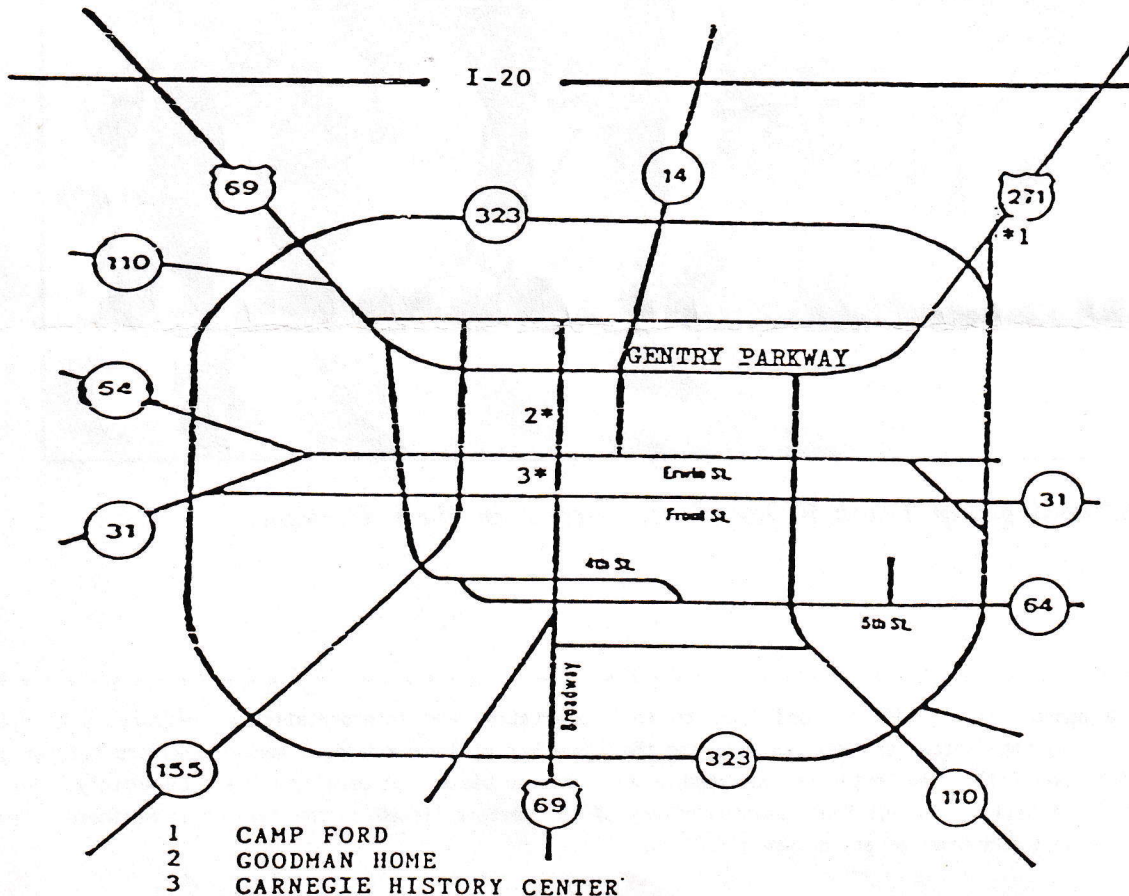
The reenactment group Texas Rifles placed second in their division.

The Texas Rifles is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of history, with special emphasis on the War Between the States, the Mexican War, and the Texas War of Independence. Annual dues are \$12 per year, pro-rated monthly. The Texas Rifles newsletter is published on an as needed bases, but usually appears bi-monthly. For more information about the Texas Rifles, contact Scott Swenson or any of the members listed on the newsletter masthead. Members must promptly notify the unit commander of any change of address.



TEXIAN MARKET DAYS AT
THE GEORGE RANCH SOUTH
OF HWY 59 ON FM 762

SITE LOCATIONS: Camp Ford - On U.S. Hwy 271, 1 mile NE of its intersection with Loop 323 in Tyler. Approximately 8 miles from I.H. 20. Due to limited parking area, participants will be asked to unload their gear and remove their cars to a safe parking area which will be provided. Goodman Home - From Camp Ford, take Hwy 271 west to Gentry Parkway; Gentry to Broadway; left on Broadway; home is on the right (624 N. Broadway).



- 1 CAMP FORD
- 2 GOODMAN HOME
- 3 CARNEGIE HISTORY CENTER