

THE STRAGGLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS RIFLES
ISSUE NO. 29 AUGUST 1990

"To The Tyrants Never Yield!"



CHRIS -
I need your
phone # -
I don't have
your unlisted # -
Mike



COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

I hope everyone has had a good summer. Your captain has just come back from inspecting the New Orleans defenses, especially Ft. Jackson and Ft. St. Phillip. Much more work is needed to be done to resist an Union attack! Well besides spending some of my vacation in the Confederacy's largest city...I had the chance to meet with Michael Moore, Jeff Hunt and Scott Swenson. Among other things we discussed were Texian Market Days, the tactical (now moved up to March) and Wilson's Creek. All three of these events will be Texas Rifles Maximum Efforts.

Texian Market Days will not be like any T.M.D. we have been to before. For starters the time period and clothing will be different. The details of the changes are elsewhere in the newsletter but it should be exciting, if not a big challenge for the Rifles to pull off. No matter where you live it will be an important event for everyone to attend!

By the time you read the newsletter the "tactical" to be held in Tennessee sometime in late March will be very much in the works. This event looks to be the most authentic ever held. You won't see crowds on our flanks or behind the Yankees because it is not an event for spectators. We'll eat, sleep and march as they did and besides being (and I thank God) without the sounds of Minie balls flying through the air, we'll fight like we never have before. This event will not be for the farb or the reb-wana-be. This event will be for the serious living historian soldier. I don't believe you'll want to miss it.

Rounding out next year will be Wilson's Creek. There's another article in this issue about uniforms. We are pretty much set on our uniform for Wilson's Creek. Don't miss Texian Market Days or you'll miss a full briefing!

I have a questionnaire enclosed in this issue. Everyone needs to fill out the post card and return it to me ASAP. If you have more comments please send them to me.

In closing, it's been a long time since we've been in the field. I hope all of you have had a good summer. Texian Market Days is the only planned Texas Rifle Maximum Effort Event this fall. Make all plans to be there!

Until then...I have the honor to be your captain and most obedient servant,

B. Gill Eastland

B. Gill Eastland
Captain



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Please let your Regional Director know which events you plan to attend -- this information is essential for proper planning!

FT. SCOTT: September 6-9, 1990 at Ft. Scott KS. Mexican War-era living history. See related article in this issue.

FT. BEND COUNTY PARADE: September 28. Contact Don Drachenberg 1014 Horace Mann Rosenberg (713) 342-2477 for information.

GONZALES "COME AND TAKE IT" DAYS: September 29. More details to come.

SIEGE OF ROME: October 19-21 at Rome, Georgia. Reenactment of 1863 and 1864 battles. Call John Carruth (404) 232-4567 for details.

*TEXIAN MARKET DAYS: October 27-28 at the George Ranch near Richmond, TX. Otto Haardt and Don Drachenberg are chairmen of the Confederate area; Mike Moore is in charge overall. See related article in this issue.

*SECOND ANNUAL TEXAS RIFLES BALL: February 1991 at the Driskill Hotel in Austin. This event will recreate the heady period surrounding secession in February 1861. Militia, CS or civilian impressions will be correct. More details will be forthcoming.

*TACTICAL: March 1991 in Tennessee. More details to come.

*BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK: August 1991 in Missouri. See related article in this issue.

(NOTE: An asterisk "*" denotes a MAXIMUM EFFORT EVENT. Most members, officers & NCO's will be present. At all other events the attendance is usually smaller; you may be on your own.)



TR TID BITS

REPRODUCTION PAPER GOODS by Scott Swenson

Everyone should order a catalog (hand bound-very nice) for the best selection of repro paper goods including labels, pamphlets, song sheets, etc. Send \$1.50 to P. Mc Dermott, Wholesale Stationers, 64 Linden Ave., Somerville, Massachusetts 02143 (617) 776-3463 (calls taken 7:30-11:30 PM). He carries the best paper repros available and everyone can find something he or she needs!

GOTTA GRIPE?

Each member is encouraged to let our elected leaders or the appropriate regional director know if she or he has a complaint about any aspect of our organization or its activities. This is the only way our leadership can effectively meet the needs of the membership of The Texas Rifles. Your complaints will be printed in The Straggler (subject to being edited for the sake of clarity and length) only if you accompany your gripe with a proposed solution to the problem you have identified.

WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations are in order for Texas Rifles members Katy Gilbert and George Eichenberg who were married on August 11, 1990 at the First Baptist Church Chapel in Tyler!



ARTICLES FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

TEXIAN MARKET DAYS by Gill Eastland

This year's Texian Market Days will be different. We'll need your participation and help before and during the event. You'll have the chance to do as much as you want or just be one of the crowd or simply in the militia. Whatever you do it will be first person from 10:00 A.M. until the gates close.

Here's the theme of the program:

SATURDAY: It's October-November 1860. The election of 1860 is being held. Speeches are being given on the election—crowds gather to hear and to be heard if they don't like what's being said. People are wondering what might happen if that A. Lincoln is elected. Why, he's not even on the Texas Ballot!!! You'll have the chance to make your mark (just like the spectators coming through). A militia company is being formed from the county (expecting the worst and being prepared for it). The company recruits, drills, elects officers and target shoots. A meeting is being held by the local castle of the K.G.C. They are recruiting and planning for the future also.

TIME WARP

SUNDAY: It's January-February 1861. Lincoln has been elected. Southern states have and are leaving the Union. What will Texas do? Speeches are given on the issues and people vote the state's destiny. The militia company is better drilled, new uniforms are on the way and issued. Their weapons are old, but they are willing to fight.

So why the change? The main reason is to start the 130th events off right. This gives us the mind set to build for Wilson's Creek and future events. It was also time for a change to Texian Market Days. This year is 1860. Next year we'll do Oct. 1861. The next year 1862, etc.

There is no question we'll need everyone to participate in some way at TMD. If you want to give a speech you'll have the chance (with preparation before hand). And if you choose to be a face in the crowd or a private in the militia, you can do so. The main thing is from 10:00 A.M. till the gates close we'll be in first person. Think about the role you might want to portray. More information will be coming to you in September.

You can be assured you won't need your Enfield musket. If you have another long gun or those pistols you've wanted to bring-go ahead. Everyone will be in civilian dress (pants and shirt are fine, vest is better and preferred and entire civilian suit is wonderful). If you need any help putting together a civilian impression with the items you already own, please feel free to give our Authenticity Chairman, Scott Swenson, a call. Bring your tentage and camp gear. If you have extra period clothes, you might want to bring them along.

We'll be doing a lot of new and fun living history skits. Don't miss out. Back to you with more details soon!

THE TEXAS RIFLES QUESTIONNAIRE

Please indicate your answers to the following questions on the enclosed postcard and return it to Gill Eastland ASAP ! We need a response from everyone because everyone's response is important. We need your names only because we need to know who and what to expect at Texian Market Days.

1. I will be at Texian Market Days (Oct.27-28) A. Yes B. No C. Maybe
2. I plan to eat the evening meal to be provided at Texian Market Days on Saturday, October 27. A. Yes B. No
3. I plan to bring my Mexican Infantry impression to Texian Market Days. A. Yes B. No
4. List the number of other participants you will be riding (in the same vehicle) with to Texian Market Days.
5. List the approximate roundtrip mileage you will be driving in order to participate in Texian Market Days.
6. I want to attend the tactical in March 1991. A.Yes B.No C.Maybe D.Need more information.
7. I will attend the 130th Anniversary of Wilson's Creek. A.Yes B.No C.Maybe D.Need more information.
8. I will attend Pleasant Hill next April. A.Yes B.No C.Maybe
9. Given that Pleasant Hill might be only 2-3 weeks after the tactical, should Pleasant Hill be a T.R. maximum effort event ? A.Yes B.No
10. Would you go to Pleasant Hill to fight as a Yankee ? A.Yes B.No
11. I own the following (list all that apply): A.Enfield/Springfield Musket B.Flintlock C.Sporting Rifle D. Shotgun E. Other
12. I will carry another arm besides an Enfield at Wilson's Creek. A.Yes B.No
13. I have a civilian impression. A.Yes B.No
14. I would rather wear my civilian impression than a battle shirt at Wilson's Creek. A.Yes B.No
15. I have a Federal infantry impression. A.Yes B.No

16. If the T.R. had the chance to buy Federal sack coats at a reduced price and could sell you one at that price would you be interested ? A.Yes B.No
17. I have these other impressions: A. US Mexican War 1846-48 B.Texas Revolution C. Other
18. I am not interested in doing any impressions other than Confederate. A.Yes B.No
19. I have a good A.early war Confederate impression B. mid-war impression C. Both
20. I consider my Confederate impression complete A.Yes B.No
21. I plan to attend the T.R. Ball in February 1991. A.Yes B.No
22. I'd like to see the Texas Rifles have A.4 B.6 C.8 D.More than 8 events per year.
23. The Texas Rifles are A. Well-drilled 1863 CSA infantry (very good) B.Well-drilled for 1861 (good) C. a Militia company (fair) D. an unorganized mob (poor)
24. I know Hardee's school of the soldier A.well enough to be a "by God" Confederate B.OK but rusty C.Where's the awkward squad?
25. I know Hardee's school of the company A.better than the Captain B.Good enough C. school of what?
26. I know skirmish drill A. very well B.fair C. not at all
27. The Texas Rifles drill A.Too much B.Just Right C.Not Enough
28. The best all around 125th Anniversary Event that TR attended was A.1st Manassas B.Shiloh C.Gettysburg D.Chickamauga E.Wilderness F. Franklin G.Bentonville
29. I know the following Civil War songs by heart A.Dixie B.Bonnie Blue Flag C.Yellow Rose of Texas (list all that apply)

THE LUCK OF THE DRAW
AND AN IMPRESSION TO LAST A WARTIME

Or a System for Taking Casualties
And Creating a More Realistic Company
For the 130th Anniversary
As Developed by the Texas Rifles
by Jeff Hunt

At the reenactment of the battle of Pleasant Hill this last Spring, the Texas Rifles experimented with a new means (at least new to us) for taking casualties during pre-scripted combat. This new method was so successful and so popular with the troops that we have decided to make it a regular feature of our future campaigns. Colonel Mike Moore has decided to initiate this process on a Battalion wide level.

Briefly stated the system works like this. The Battalion staff would determine the appropriate number of casualties for the entire regiment to take in an action. Then these losses would be distributed more or less equally amongst the companies. The ratio of 1 man killed for every three or four wounded would be maintained. Each company commander would make slips of paper equal to the number of officers, NCOs and men in his unit. On these slips would appear one of four things. First there would be blank slips. Second there would be slips with K#. Then slips with W#, followed by slips with R#. All the slips would be put into a hat and each man in the company would draw one, being sure to keep it secret from everyone else.

A man with a blank slip would be designated to come through the battle unhurt. A man who drew a K would be killed. His death would come according to his number. A K2 would be killed after the second fire command issued to his company. A K5 would be killed after the fifth fire command. In the same fashion men who drew a W would be wounded after what ever fire command their number indicated. An R would mean that a man would attempt to run away after a certain fire command. For fun a couple of men could be given a slip reading W2K3. Which would mean that a man was wounded after the second fire command, but only slightly. Binding his wound he would stay in action only to be killed after the third fire command.

This system works very well. Should time or the situation dictate officers could speed the process up by ordering, for example, all the number 3s and 4s to take their hits in the next volley. This allows some flexibility to the system. The greatest benefits of this system are that it first of all ensures that we take the proper percentage of casualties during a given action. This keeps us from being wiped out, and helps us hold to historical accuracy in combat. In addition the lottery system increases the realism of losses. Having received his fate prior to an engagement every man has a chance to plan how he will be hit and how he will react when he is hit. This produced very authentic casualties for the Texas Rifles at Pleasant Hill. Also it adds a random element into the chances of battle, for just like a real action one has little control over one's own fate. If a man wishes to he can trade his slip for that of another in order to get a fate he wishes, but both parties to a trade should be careful to keep what they are trading secret, as one of the charms of this system is that no one knows what to expect from the men next to him or even his officers and NCOs.

The Texas Rifles intends to further utilize this system in another way. For the 130th Anniversary events every member of the Rifles will start the war with a specific impression (for which he will be provided the proper articles, paper work etc.) All of the men in our company will be mustered in and carried on the roll throughout the 130th. Men will be furloughed, detailed or discharged just as in the real army. Every man will keep his impression until the lottery system kills him off or until he receives a wound. If a man chooses he can have a severe wound that will require his discharge. If a light wound he will be able to return to the ranks with his original impression. Men killed or disabled will receive new impressions. This will improve our feel for the experience of a company trying to make it through the entire war, our first person impressions and attitude, the realism of our company organization, and our combat experience.

We plan to have every man reenlist in 1862 (or be conscripted) and we also plan to obtain from every man the address of a relative, wife, girlfriend or friend who would be willing to write period letters to a soldier. The ladies of the Texas Rifles will send each of these instructions on how to write a period letter and solicit the same from the volunteers before each event. In the field the men will receive these letters at mail call. They will be period letters from actual people they know, and there will be the possibility of not getting any mail at all (a very realistic experience).

The Texas Rifles intends to make all of its efforts in the 130th years progressive, so that we can get the feel of a body of men fighting throughout the entire war --- something we did not quite obtain during the 125th. The men and ladies of the Texas Rifles would be happy to discuss these ideas with anyone who might be interested. Until then here's to a more realistic and exciting four years of war!

FT. SCOTT by Steve Abolt

ATTENTION ALL REGULAR INFANTRY, ARTILLERY, DRAGOONS, MILITIA AND CITIZENS
OF OUR ILLUSTRIOUS REPUBLIC!!!

AMERICAN BLOOD HAS BEEN SHED UPON AMERICAN SOIL!!!!!! A STATE OF WAR HAS
BEEN DECLARED AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF MEXICO!!!

ALL ABLE BODIED CITIZENS ARE URGED TO REPORT TO FT. SCOTT IN INDIAN
TERRITORY TO MARCH TOWARD OUR EMBATTLED FRONTIER!!! ON TO MEXICO!!!

On September 6, 7, 8 and 9, 1990 the annual Mexican War encampment will be held at Ft. Scott NHS in the town of Ft. Scott, KS. The event, which is the finest Mexican War encampment of its kind, promises to be better than ever! Last year's event featured the largest turnout ever and included some memorable living history! The fray between the Militia and Dragoons will culminate this year with a Court of Inquiry on the affair! Feedback and suggestions from last year's participants was quite enthusiastic, and several changes have been made to better the event. Please read the following communication and fill out the registration form at the back. We hope you will be able to participate with us and enjoy a unique living history event.

ON TO MEXICO!

Y'r ob't s'v't,
Capt. C. Steven Abolt
7th U.S. Infantry

SCENARIO

The time is September of 1846. The American Army has gained stunning victories over numerically superior forces of the Republic of Mexico. War fever is high and men by the thousands are rallying to the Colors. At Ft. Scott in Indian Territory the 26 men of B Company 1st US watch as a steady stream of Volunteers, Dragoons, Artillery and Company A of the 7th US march to the Texas frontier. This battle migration plays heavily on the minds of B Company as their orders are to garrison this lonely outpost on the permanent Indian Frontier while their brothers in arms proceed toward the fray. The garrison has never seen this much activity in its brief four year existence. The Fort bustles with the preparation for war. Stores are drawn at the Quartermaster depot. Company drill is perfected. The militia are formally inducted into US service, and after some rather nasty fist-cuffs between some Dragoons and Volunteers a Court of Inquiry is being held. Amid this bustle newspaper reporters, for the first time in our history assigned to actual front line coverage, take careful notes of the disparity between the Officers and men of the Regular and Volunteer forces, and perhaps the righteousness of the War. The laundresses and Ladies of the Fort engage in forming a Relief Society, hold the obligatory formal teas and prepare for a Grand Ball to be held on Saturday night. In the guardhouse various offenders of the minutiae of military law and decorum await their courts-martial, while others, already found guilty take a ride on the wooden horse or perfect their skill at the manual of arms using a log instead of a musket. There are plenty of political speeches being made and lots of Flag waving. But there is also a deep undercurrent among

certain individuals over the legality of the Army's invasion of Mexico, and the morality of the War itself. The usual ceremonies of Guard-Mount, Dress Parades and the bi-monthly inspections seem, along with the drill, to drone on incessantly. Aside from the Ball, a brief respite is offered by the unexpected visit of the paymaster. Finally, with their strength regained from the previous march and their garrison chores at an end, the "General" sounds and the combat troops prepare to depart. As the column marches out of the Fort to the strains of "The Girl I Left Behind Me" the men of B Company and the women of Ft. Scott resume their day to day trials in a world that has seemed to pass them by.

Participants are asked to bring only items that are period in nature. Please no blanket-covered coolers! Cots will be allowed in the tents, as we are in a Garrison, but please no aluminum ones and keep the one you do have covered with a blanket. Period camp furniture is acceptable, but you must ask yourself in all honesty if an enlisted man in 1846 would have such an article. For those who are shipping tents and muskets with me and 1st Sgt. John Gattis: Your tent will be set up and your personal gear placed inside by the 1st Sgt. and myself. It is your duty on Sunday, however, to strike and stow your own gear for transportation back home. "Nuff said!" As to the climate: As it is still summer the summer white uniform should be worn. However, last year it rained on Friday and got chilly enough for greatcoats on Saturday night. Be prepared for either extreme heat or early chill. If you plan to make the hike make sure your brogans are well broken in and carry some moleskin for blisters as well as an extra pair of socks. The Fort also has a large stand of prairie grass nearby which is loaded with pollen and mosquitoes! You have been warned!!!

Chain of Command

Company A 7th US

Captain: Steve Abolt 1st Lt: Mike Boyd 1st Sgt: John Gattis
2nd Sgt: Skip Thomas

Depending on numbers Corporals will be appointed as will other Sgts. Those interested in these positions must demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the drill as well as be able to help with the early stages of the event.

Company B 1st US

Captain: Kyle McGonigle - also Post Commandant
Post Adjutant: Lt. Jeff Sheets
Dragoons: Lt. Rollie Schafer
Artillery: Lt. Jeff Sheets
Volunteers: Lt. Bruce Winders with Lts. Bennet and Jackson subordinate.
Surgeon: Captain Bob Williams

If you are interested in an NCO position please let me know. Many of you have been faithful in shouldering your muskets and your diligence needs to be rewarded!

Uniform Requirements

All enlisted men should have the following:

White cotton or linen summer service shell jacket (M1832)
White cotton or linen broadfall or flyfront trousers
M 1839 blue wool forage cap
Brogans
Wool or cotton socks
Wooden canteen, tin with raised US in middle also acceptable
White cotton haversack with tin cup, utensils and plate
Cartridge box containing forty rounds, blank ammunition and spare flints;
brass oval US plate on flap, brass eagle breast plate on white buff sling
White buff waistbelt with small oval brass US plate
Bayonet and scabbard worn in frog on waistbelt
US or Charleville flintlock musket with flashguard and frizzen cover.
M1842 percussion musket also acceptable
Whisk and pick worn on cartridge box sling
Period shirt
Leather stock-----these will be worn on duty!!
Hardframe knapsack--white or black straps acceptable
Period wool blanket

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT:

Greatcoat

M 1832 dress uniform
M 1832 dress cap
White gloves

Sergeants to have all of the above as well as M 1840 NCO sword worn in double baldric with bayonet. 1st Sgt. only to wear a red worsted wool sash.

If you do not own the white summer uniform, the sky-blue winter service uniform is also acceptable. However, please no mixing of blue jackets and white pants, or vice-versa. If you need help in acquiring any of the items listed or need a copy of Scott's Tactics, please let me know and I will link you up with the best sources.

Amenities

The National Park Service at Ft. Scott has been extremely helpful and cooperative in the past in providing for the need of the participants. Again this year all meals will be provided on site. They will be prepared in period style and served in the Mess Hall. As always, the food will be good and plentiful. The bakery will operate and provide plenty of fresh bread, even though, according to Regulations, it may not be eaten until cold. Anyone interested in working in the bakery should check the appropriate box. There is a modern shower located in the rear of the Infantry Barracks as well as modern, air-conditioned restrooms in the same building. There is plenty of firewood provided, as well as straw for bedding. There is also a stable available for the quartering of horses. In the past, the Fort has provided some mileage money, but this is not yet confirmed for this year. As usual, there will be a Dress Ball on Saturday night and all are invited to attend.

Housing

As always at Ft. Scott, the Dragoons will occupy the barracks, while the Infantry, Artillery and Volunteers will camp in tents. If there are open bunks in the Dragoon barracks they will be available on a first come basis. However, if there are more Dragoons than bunks, then, as per Regulations, the Dragoons will sleep two to a bunk. The Infantry will camp in street formation in the usual location on the south side of the Infantry Barracks. The Volunteers will camp on the north side. Civilian participants may camp either behind the Infantry Barracks or set up cots on the second floor. Civilians should note that if they stay upstairs in the Barracks they must move their items for Saturday's Grand Ball. During the hours the Park is open to the public, enlisted men should refrain from entering Officers' quarters, and women may not be in the military areas unescorted.

The March

This year we are trying a new twist. On Friday night Company A of the 7th, along with any interested Volunteers, Dragoons and Artillery, will be taken to a farm approximately 4 miles from the Fort. Here we will establish camp for the evening. This will be First-person camp and if you participate you must remain in character the whole time. Guards will be posted about the camp and relieved at regular intervals. In order to participate in the march you must arrive at Ft. Scott no later than 5PM on Friday, September 7. You may also be a member of the Company B 1st US and participate as well. You can return to your other Company after we arrive at the Fort. If you wish to be a member of the 7th but cannot make the March, you can serve as a garrison soldier and switch after arrival of the column. All enlisted men should plan to carry knapsacks with blanket roll and great-coat, if available.

Coffee and rations will be carried in the haversack for breakfast Saturday morning. There will be no baggage wagon so if you don't want to carry it, don't bring it! There will be no tents at the farm. We will be sleeping under the stars. Gum blankets will be allowed, however painted canvas is preferred. This promises to be a great twist so we hope many will participate. We also hope to have two drummers and a fifer to accompany us. Please note all march participants must have a canteen!

When does the event begin?

The event will officially begin on Friday, September 7th at 9AM. All participants are asked to arrive Thursday night, Sept. 6, if possible. If this is impractical you may arrive throughout the day and night Friday. If you arrive after nightfall please stop by the guardhouse for information and the location of your billet. As stated earlier, please try to arrive for the march no later than 5PM on the 7th. The event will end at 2PM on Sunday, Sept. 9th. Events are planned for Friday so please plan to attend. On Friday we will also use part of the day to standardize drill and review the ceremony for Guard-Mount and Dress Parade.

FT. SCOTT 1990
September 6, 7, 8 and 9

PLEASE FILL OUT AND MAIL BACK TO:
Steve Abolt, 1856 Carl, Ft. Worth TX 76103

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

___ I will attend. Date of arrival _____. ___ I cannot attend.

IMPRESSION (please check one):

___ Infantry ___ Artillery ___ Dragoons ___ Civilian
___ Militia ___ Newspaper Reporter ___ Laundress

Military Section

___ I will make the march. ___ I cannot make the march.

Number of wedge tents you will be bringing _____.

I wish to serve in the following Infantry Company:

___ B Company 1st US (garrison) ___ A Co. 7th US (combat)

NB: YOU DO NOT HAVE TO MAKE THE MARCH TO BE IN THE 7TH US. You may switch Companies after the march on Saturday.

If available I wish to serve in the following interpretive stations. These areas will be in addition to the normal drill and fatigue.

___ Sick in hospital ___ Hospital steward ___ Prisoner in guardhouse
___ Member of the guard (should have dress uniform) ___ Bakery
___ Kitchen ___ Quartermaster store ___ Court of inquiry

Civilian Section

___ I will camp behind the Infantry Barracks. ___ I will stay in the Infantry Barracks. NB: If you stay in the Infantry Barracks you must move your belongings for Saturday's Grand Ball.

I would like to participate in the following:

___ Ladies Tea and Literary Society Meeting ___ Decorating for the Ball
___ Organizing Ladies Relief Society ___ Laundress ___ Kitchen

___ Check here if you need a copy of last year's booklet on the Mexican War and Army life in general. The booklet, prepared by Steve Abolt, Jeff Sheets and Bruce Winders, contains quotes, newspaper excerpts, garrison duties, pay scale, songs, etc., etc.

ON TO MEXICO!

THE CONFEDERATE ARMY AT WILSON'S CREEK by Donald S. Frazier

The battle of Wilson's Creek, or Oak Hill, Missouri occurred on August 10, 1861 and dealt a serious reversal to Federal war aims in that crucial border state. The Union Army, under Nathaniel Lyon, headed southwest across the state in an attempt to strike ex-Governor Sterling Price's Missouri State Guard before it could concentrate with the small Confederate army under Ben McCulloch.

Although unsuccessful in preventing the joining of the southern forces, Lyon did surprise the Rebels in their encampments along Wilson's Creek near Springfield. In the ensuing battle, Federal troops drove Price's Missourians off of the high ground, Oak Hill, but were in turn driven off by a determined Rebel counter attack. The battle ended with the Confederate Army holding the field, the still dangerous Federals in a rapid retreat toward St. Louis and General Lyon dead.

The Confederate Army at Wilson's Creek was an odd assortment of under-equipped troops from three states. The 3rd Texas Cavalry and some mounted Missouri State Guard units fought mounted, all others fought on foot. The following is a chart outlining the organization and equipment of each unit:

Missouri State Guard

1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, Infantry Regiments, various provisional regiments of differing sizes. Most veteran organization in Rebel army. Strength: 5,521. Weapons: Over 1000 unarmed.

Others carried shotguns and at least 700 smoothbore muskets captured at Carthage, Missouri. Accoutrements: None.

Carried rounds in their pockets or in cotton bags hung across their neck. Uniforms: Civilian clothing, possibly captured Federal clothing. Mention of some soldiers wearing red scarfs (kerchiefs) on their head.

McCulloch's Brigade

1st Arkansas Mounted Rifles (Churchill), 2nd Arkansas Mounted Rifles, McRae's Arkansas Battalion, 3rd Texas Cavalry, 3rd Louisiana Infantry. Strength: 2,270. Weapons: 3rd Louisiana carried 70 Springfield Rifles and 950 smoothbore muskets. Other units carried shotguns, various rifles, civilian arms, and "huge chopping knives." Accoutrements: 3rd Louisiana is equipped with necessary accoutrements. Other units have very few cartridge boxes, belts, etc. Uniforms: 3rd Louisiana uniformed. Others in civilian clothing, possibly captured Federal clothing. Strips of white muslin on left arm. Tentage: Carried Sibley tents for troops, Wall tents for officers.

Pearce's Brigade

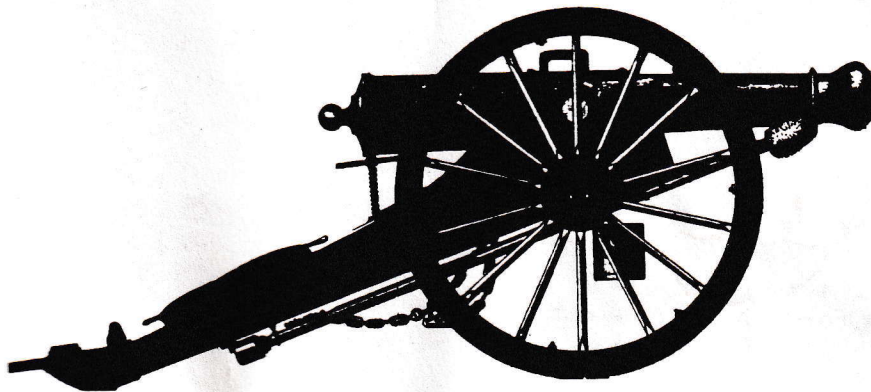
1st Arkansas Cavalry, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Arkansas infantries. Strength: 2,234. Weapons: Units carried shotguns, various rifles, civilian arms, flintlocks, Hall's rifles. Like arms organized into companies. Accoutrements: Units have very few cartridge boxes, belts, etc. Uniforms: Civilian clothing, possibly captured Federal clothing. Tentage: "Home made tents."

The Missouri State Guard and McCulloch's Arkansas units were the heaviest engaged, fighting atop Oak Hill. In the Missouri State Guard, 1 man in 6 became a casualty. Among the men of Churchill's and McRae's units, 2 in 5 were hit.

The Battle of Wilson's Creek will be reenacted in August of 1991. The best Southern impression in my opinion supported by the following documentation would consist of the following items:

Clothing: A general mix of battle shirts, vests, shirts, assorted Federal and militia uniform items; jean, wool, and cotton trousers. Headgear: Broadbrims, kerchiefs, wheel caps, etc. No Kepsis. Shoes: Anything or nothing.

Accoutrements: Gourd, wooden, tin, or no canteens; cotton "cartridge bags" with a few cartridge boxes mixed in; frame, pre-war, or no belts. Weapons: Shotguns, Squirrel, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Plains rifles; Smoothbore muskets; Flintlocks; smattering of Springfields, Mississippi, and various other rifles. Flags: No references to battleflags. Missouri flag may have been carried by guard; 3rd. La. probably equipped with a first national pattern. Other units carried unknown banners and guidons. Tentage: Sibley and Wall tents, flys, and assorted "home made" shelters.



FOR SALE, TRADE, LOST OR FOUND

FOR SALE: 1 Brown Bess (Jap.); fired 10 times. Plus frizzen cover/Flash guard, white buff sling, bayonet w/ shoulder carriage. \$375 or trade. I will pay freight in Texas. Also NCO sword. Contact Randy Bennett, 415 Pickford Drive, Katy, Tx. 77450 (713) 392-2829.

FOR SALE: 2 wool blankets, 1 blue, 1 brown. \$15 each or \$25 for both. Contact Nancy Pretzer 218 Crescent Drive Montgomery, Texas 77356.

FOR SALE: 1) Med. size white machine sewn 3 button shirt (15 1/2-33) \$12. 2) New Med. size 3 button shirt hand sewn w/ hand woven material \$35. Nice! 3) Med. size red & tan hand sewn shirt of hand woven material. \$28. Very good condition. 4) 2 hand woven material handkerchiefs w/ hand sewn/rolled edges. \$6/ea.

5) Hand sewn housewife-copied from original. Made of antique tapestry & other materials. \$13. 6) Cadet Grey Ensemble: (For officer or dress ball impression only!) Shell jacket— 7 button, hand sewn button holes, no trim, size 39-40 \$49 ppd; military vest — 3 pockets 9 U.S. buttons, hand sewn button holes, brown polished cotton back, white muslin lining, \$26 ppd; trousers— mule ear button pockets, size 32 W— 33L, \$26 ppd; Kepi — correctly attached brim, no trim, size 7 1/4 - 7 3/8, \$11 ppd; All in very good shape; sold as set \$99 ppd. Send money or first born child to Scott Swenson P.O. Box 23344 Waco, TX 76702.



THE TEXAS RIFLES

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