



THE TYRANTS' FOE

"TO THE TYRANTS NEVER YIELD"



ISSUE NO. 44

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS RIFLES

FEBRUARY 1993



COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

General Order No. 4
January 19, 1993

By command of Captain Winders, all Regions are reminded that they are to supply one hundred rounds of ammunition, properly placed in arsenal packs with caps included, to the company's reserve ammunition box. These rounds are to be presented to the ordnance sergeant at each maximum effort event so that the company will have a constant ready supply of ammunition on hand from which all members can draw rounds during combat operations. Each Region should also maintain its own ammunition box and supply from which it will be expected to fill the needs of its members at smaller events and in camp. The first event where rounds will be collected this year is Murfreesboro.

These instructions will constitute a standing order and NCOs and Regional Directors are cautioned to make sure that it is carried out in a timely fashion.

By order of the captain commanding,
Jeffrey Wm. Hunt, 1st Lieutenant

PORT HUDSON By Jeff Hunt

This event will be held on March 27-28, 1993 but reenactors are free to come in on Friday, March 26 to set up. A free meal will be provided on Saturday night (I've been promised they won't run out of food like they did last year). Any civilians who are interested in attending are welcome. If they have an interest in doing some particular living history program they should contact the Port Hudson State Park at (504) 654-3775.

This year's battle will be held in a different and better location than last year's. Confederate troops will camp behind and defend the works of the Alabama/Arkansas redoubt, which is deeper in the park than Fort Desperate which we defended last March. The redoubt is the biggest original earthwork in the Park. We will portray either the First Alabama or the Eighteenth Arkansas. Since the Alabama troops (six companies) were the ones in the redoubt during the May 27th assault that will likely be our unit designation. More information on these fellows will be in the next issue of The Reenactor's Companion, but an interesting note is that they were armed with flintlocks. So anyone who wants to carry his flintlock to Port Hudson would be welcome to do so.

The event ends at 3:30 P.M. on Sunday (but I'm sure you can leave earlier if you want to). The site is about a mile from the nearest parking, so pack light! Shelter tents are the rule. Also be sure to bring lots and lots of ammunition—last year seven of us

shot off 1,200 rounds in two days of fighting! The Federals will be portraying the 75th New York and First Louisiana (Colored), U.S. and will be one hundred yards away from us in Fort Babcock. The terrain is rugged and heavily wooded and if the battle is anything like it was last year it will be very intense. I will have more details at Murfreesboro. If you're interested in attending please contact Jeff Hunt no later than Murfreesboro. If you are interested in making fake cannon balls or Ketchum hand grenades for this event let me know. These were used in the battle and it would be fun to drop these on the Yanks.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



PLEASE LET YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR KNOW WHICH EVENTS YOU PLAN TO ATTEND. THIS INFORMATION IS VITAL FOR PLANNING PURPOSES.

*MURFREESBORO: March 5-7, 1993 near Murfreesboro, TN. See related article and map in this issue.

PORT HUDSON: March 27-28, 1993 at Port Hudson, LA. See related article and map in this issue.

*PLEASANT HILL: April 3-4, 1993 at Pleasant Hill, LA. More details to come.

VARNER-HOGG PLANTATION: April 17, 1993 in Columbia, TX. Living history event. See related item in this issue.

GLORIETTA PASS: July 1993 in New Mexico. More details to come.

INVASION OF THE NORTH: Fall 1993 in Indiana or Kentucky. A Tactical. More details to come.

THE RED RIVER CAMPAIGN: April 1994 in NW Louisiana. A week long recreation of armies on the march culminating with the battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill. More details to come.

NOTE: An "*" indicates a TEXAS RIFLES MAXIMUM EFFORT EVENT which all members should strive to attend. At the other events, attendance by TR members may be lower, and you may be on your own.

MURFREESBORO

By now everyone who is planning to go to this event should have paid their \$3.00 registration fee to Jeff Hunt and should have made transportation arrangements. However, if you have not taken care of these matters and you still want to attend this reenactment please contact Jeff and/or your Regional Director ASAP. Included elsewhere in this issue is a map directing (Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page) you to the reenactment site in Smyrna, Tennessee. You need to arrive on site no later than 1:00 P.M. on Friday if possible, as there is a battle Friday afternoon. As of February 12 the following people still owe The Texas Rifles their \$3.00 registration fees: G. Vollmering, J. Keller, C. Prack, M. Texel, W. Evans, K. Stork, T. Frazier, J. Schuette, J. McKinnis and M. Wong. See you in Tennessee !!!

Drill Bits By Jamie Bain

At Fort Washita, most of our drill time was devoted to battalion Drill rather than company drill. Since the First Trans-Mississippi Regiment will be fielded for the first time at Murfreesboro, I want to devote this column to some points that concern our company's performance in battalion formations.

One maneuver we practiced a lot was moving by the right of companies to the rear. This requires each company to break files to the rear. This simply means that once the company is faced to the right, the first two files (sets of four men) slide over to the right. The first file, all the way across the column; the second file half-way across the column. So the first three files will look like this:

BEFORE	AFTER
oooo	oooo
oooo	oooo
oooo	oooo

This needs to be done very quickly so that the company may begin to march by files to the right. Now, you may think that only the first eight men in the company need to learn how to do this. But what if the company is moving by the left flank? "By the LEFT of companies to the rear"? Now the LAST eight men in the company need to learn how this little trick is done, and done quickly. Also anything that can be done by COMPANY, can also be done by PLATOON. So, now the last eight men in the first platoon and the first eight men in the second platoon need to know how to break files to the rear. That makes thirty-two men who need to know this maneuver. In other words, sooner or later, everyone is going to get a chance to do this.

By the way, did I mention that we may also move by the right (or left) of companies (or platoons) to the FRONT?

Membership Report By Jamie Bain

Thirty-one members of The Texas Rifles attended the Regimental Muster at Fort Washita, Oklahoma on February 5-7, 1993. Regimental Commander Scott Swenson presented the Rifles with the much coveted "Outstanding Company" dispatch case (formerly known as the Best of the Best Cup). The Rifles' stacking team of Don Gipson, Bob Huey, Robert Stripay and Chris Strzelecki came in a close second in a hotly contested stacking competition. However, the Rifles' relay team of Ray Siegmund, Jeff Boutwell, Chris Strzelecki and Tom "Speedloader" Heard walked away with top honors in the loading/firing competition.

A short business meeting resulted in the induction of three new members: Cal Hill, Vivian Schroeder and Bob Wetteman. Also a new recruit was introduced to the Rifles; Dan Morgan's smarter and better looking brother: Buck Morgan.

Finally, dues checks have started coming in and several members paid their dues at Fort Washita, so now there are 63 current members, while we're expecting to hear from 21 more members in the near future.

THE TEXAS RIFLES MASTHEAD

CAPTAIN: Bruce Winders 1402 Colonnade Arlington, TX 76018 (817) 465-6104

LIEUTENANT: Jeff Hunt 911 Battle Bend Blvd. #124 Austin, TX 78745 (512) 326-5739

FIRST SGT: Jamie Bain 4200 Ticino Valley Ct. Arlington, TX 76016 (817) 478-4108

CIVILIAN COORDINATOR: Kay Kuykendall 2210 Granite Dr. #2044 Arlington, TX 76013 (817) 265-9848

REGIONAL DIRECTORS:

Tyler: Larry McMahan 2219 Heather Tyler, TX 75703 (903) 561-0857

Austin: Phil Ulbrich 875 Walker Circle New Braunfels, TX 78130 (210) 629-9849

Waco: Jeff Boutwell RR 1 Box 463 China Spring, TX 76633 (817) 836-4148

San Antonio: Harold Johnston 11721 Welcome Dr. San Antonio, TX 78233 (512) 599-0943

Dallas: Gil Vollmering 2014 Willoughby #4624 Arlington, TX 76011 (817) 469-8390

Houston: Chris Strzelecki 5707 Timbers Trail Humble, TX 77346 (713) 852-3380

Vince Draa 8715 Wind Side Dr. Houston, TX 77040 (713) 896-1023

NEWSLETTER STAFF: Vince & Ana Draa 8715 Wind Side Dr. Houston, TX 77040 (713) 896-1023

AUTHENTICITY COMMITTEE:

Scott Swenson P.O. Box 23340 Waco, TX 78248 (817) 751-0568

Don Frazier 5299 Hunters Ridge #1311 Ft. Worth, TX 76132 (817) 292-4957

Vicki Betts 2310 Sparrow Circle Tyler, TX 75701 (903) 592-2368

Dave Stieghan 3007 Fairfax Dr. Tyler, TX 75701 (903) 566-2815

WHY YANKEES DON'T DIE Submitted By Vicki Betts



HUMORS OF THE WAR.

Private No. 83.—"THEY'RE COMIN', DARN EM... BE YOU SCARED?"

Private No. 84.—(Mathematically inclined.)—"NO; THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN KILLED TO EVERY SIX HUNDRED SHOTS FIRED IN BATTLE, AND THREE AIN'T OVER FIVE HUNDRED REBELS IN THAT CROWD."

PORT HUDSON STATE COMMEMORATIVE AREA
756 W. PLAINS-PORT HUDSON ROAD
ZACHARY, LOUISIANA 70791

ANNUAL REENACTMENT INFORMATION SHEETS
March 27/28 1993

I. Entry and exit:

The Port Hudson SCA is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm. For the convenience of the reenactors the park gates will be closed but NOT locked between 5:00pm and 9:00am. PLEASE CLOSE THE GATES BEHIND YOU WHEN LEAVING AND ENTERING THE PARK.

II. Camp sites and their locations:

A. Authentic overnight camp site:

There will be one authentic camp site. It will be located in the park's front field. Vehicle passage from this site to the park road is just past the reforestation area next to the entrance to the Fort Desperate parking lot. Reenactors should NOT have their vehicles at this site during the program. All C.S. and U.S. artillery, cavalry, infantry, medical and civilians who will be camping authentic will be in this area. During the program this campsite should have the appearance of a U.S. camp. C.S. units may leave camp guards provided they are not in C.S. uniforms. Confederates may visit this camp during the program provided they are not in C.S. uniforms.

B. Modern overnight camp site:

There will be one modern overnight camp site. It will be located on the park maintenance road. All reenactors who are camping modern (campers and modern tents) will be in this area. There are no "hook-ups" at this site.

C. Authentic primitive overnight camp site:

There will be one authentic primitive overnight camp site. It will be located to the rear of the Alabama/Arkansas rifle pits. Passage to and from this site will be on foot only, and since this site will be strictly a primitive camp, reenactors can only take what they can comfortably carry. NO UNAUTHORIZED VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED! Only one fire will be permitted. There will be two camouflaged five gallon water buckets for fire control. There will be no running water or port-a-lets at this site. This site is to be used by C.S. reenactors during the program hours. C.S. reenactors who are not primitive camping at this site are encouraged to bring extra items for their use during the program. These items are restricted to what they can comfortably carry.

D. Sutler camp site:

The sutlers will have their camps and stores located in the field next to the Interpretive Center.

III. Program:

A. Schedule:

Friday: Reenactors set up camp

Saturday: Reenactors set up camp

8:15 Officers Call at the U.S. Artillery Position
9:00 Park opens/program begins/weapons inspection
9:30 C.S. cav. attack on U.S. camp/C.S. art. demonstration
10:30 U.S. art. demonstration/C.S. & U.S. sharpshooting
11:30 Truce/help "wounded"/fraternization/ Ketchum grenade demonstration
12:00 Noon meal/letter reading (women)
1:00 C.S. art. demonstration
1:30 U.S. art. demonstration
2:00 U.S. assault on C.S. rifle trench
3:00 Medical demonstrations

Saturday continued

4:00 Program ends
5:00 Park closes
5:30 Jambalaya served (reenactors need to provide their own plates, cups, forks and knives)

Sunday:

8:15 Officers' call at the U.S. art. position
9:00 Park opens/program begins
10:00 Church service
11:00 C.S. cav. attack on U.S. camp/C.S. & U.S. art. demonstrations/
Ketchum grenade demonstration
12:00 Noon meal/letter reading (women)
1:00 U.S. art. demonstrations/C.S. & U.S. sharpshooting
1:30 C.S. art. demonstration
2:00 U.S. assault on C.S.' rifle trench.
3:00 Medical demonstrations
3:30 Program ends
5:00 Park closes

B Battle Station:

1. Alabama/Arkansas rifle trench: the C.S. artillery and infantry will be stationed in the rifle trench just west of the Alabama/Arkansas Redoubt.
2. Fort Babcock: the U.S. infantry will be located at Fort Babcock, opposite from the Confederates. This site will be only a rallying point for U.S. troops and there will be no overnight camping here.
3. U.S. Artillery Position: the U.S. artillery position will be located under the tree line next to the authentic overnight camp site. The cannons will be aimed in the direction of Fort Desperate. The artillerists may assist the U.S. infantry in the attack against Alabama/Arkansas rifle trench when they are not needed to man the cannons.

C. Siege Scenario:

The scenario will depict two of the days during the siege of Port Hudson. The time period is between the May 27th and June 14th assaults. The same scenario will be used both days.

The C.S. art. will portray Batty. F, 1st Ms. Art. Regt.
The C.S. cav. will portray Cage's La Cav. Battn.
The C.S. inf. will portray Miles' La Legion
The U.S. art. will portray Batty. A, 1st U.S. Art. Regt.
The U.S. inf. will portray the 75th N.Y. Inf. Regt.

D. Attack Scenario:

The attack scenario will be discussed at the 8:15 Officers' Call on Saturday and Sunday morning.

MF/jkt

ry positions and earthworks, or breastworks, will see along these trails are those in the portion of the Port Hudson battlefield. The map of this brochure shows the entire battlefield covers more than four square miles. Included in our are five major confederate defensive positions.

ad
ersection
w: This ravine area was probably used as a e by Union soldiers.

o Trail End at Sandy Creek - Artillery Ridge. dge was seized by the Yankees early on May ey quickly brought up several batteries and uted them along the crest. These guns rted the attacks against Bennett's Redoubt he Alabama/Arkansas Redoubt later that ng. Throughout the siege, Union cannons arded the Confederate earthworks from this on.

ersection
w: Union troops moved through this area on in their attack against Bennett's Redoubt.

ersection
ersection

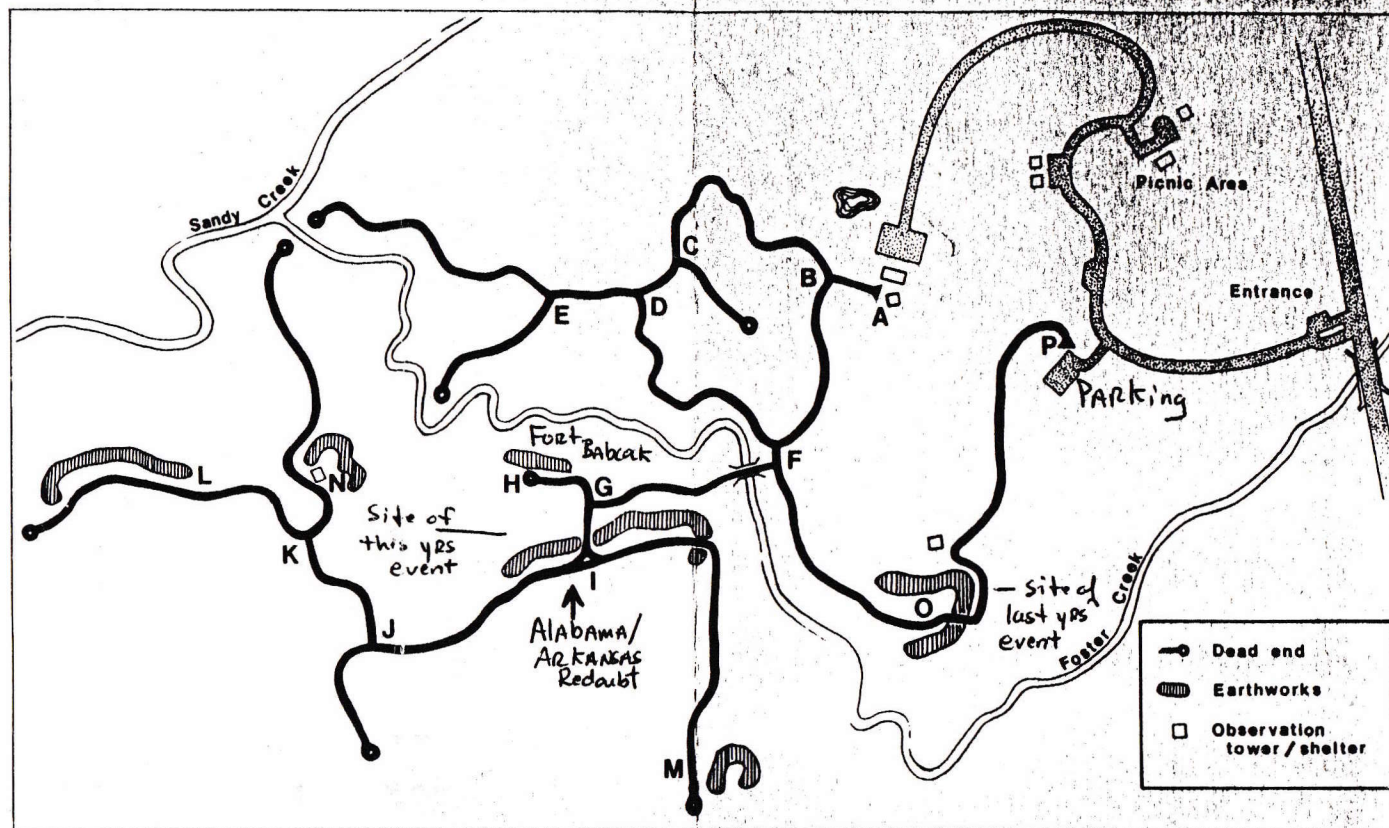
ibcock; This position, slightly more than 100 from the Confederate earthworks, was the it point seized and held by the Federals on 27. It was named for Lieutenant Colonel ighby Babcock of the 75th New York Infantry ent.

ia/Arkansas Redoubt: This position was held c companies of the 1st Alabama Infantry ent on May 27. The men were relieved several after the attack, and the position was held by 3th Arkansas Infantry Regiment for the rler of the siege.

ersection
ersection

ippi Redoubt: This position was the right wing it portion of the line occupied by the 39th sippi Infantry Regiment throughout the siege. Union army never attacked this section of the derate lines. The left wing of the 39th Mis- i (just to the west of the park property) re- i an attack by black Union soldiers on May 27.

e earthworks on state commemorative this one is closest to the location of the



PLEASE NOTE: The earthworks depicted on this trail map are the northern part of the entire battlefield (see map on the back of this brochure). The upper loop, A through F, takes 1½ to 2 hours, and the lower loop, F through P, takes 3 to 3½ hours to walk. Some visitors may find sections of the trail (A to F, F to G and I to M) difficult due to the steep grade of the terrain. There are no restrooms or water fountains along the trails. Benches are located at stations O and N.

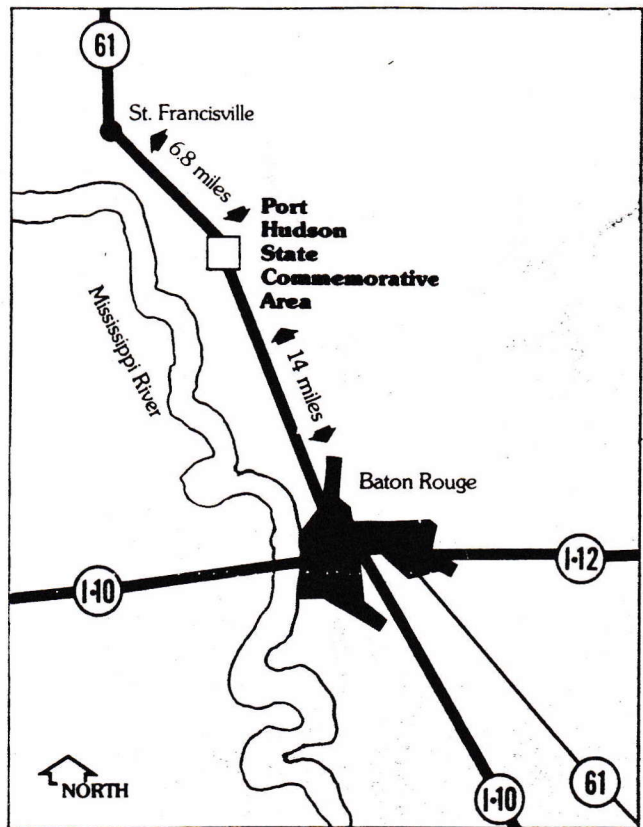
moved southward almost two miles since the siege of Port Hudson, cannot be seen now from the commemorative area.

M - Commissary Hill: Commissary Hill was named for its proximity to the Confederate granary and grist mill. On May 27 it was occupied by cannons without infantry support. Following the attack, a portion of the 1st Alabama Infantry Regiment constructed earthworks and helped defend the hill for the remainder of the siege.

N - Bennett's Redoubt: The 10th Arkansas Infantry Regiment and a section of Watson's Louisiana Battery occupied this position on May 27. The infantrymen were allowed several days' rest following the attack before returning to this position, where their unit remained for the duration of the siege.

Most Louisiana troops who ed at Port Hudson fought in the southern part of the Confederate line.

O - Fort Desperate: This earthwork formed the northeast salient of the Confederate defensive perimeter and was located on a prominent and exposed ridge. It protected the main road to the garrison's arsenal and commissary buildings. The fort's defenders, members of the 15th Arkansas Infantry Regiment, were responsible for three-quarters of a mile out of the total of 4½ miles of Confederate earthworks. Union troops made unsuccessful assaults against Fort Desperate on May 27 and June 14. Federal siege operations after June 14 included a trench and tunnel approach directed at Fort Desperate and ultimately reached a point 30 yards outside the fort's ditch. The men of the 15th Arkansas constructed an exterior rifle pit and prepared land mines to slow the progress of the Union approach. While the fighting all along the Confederate lines was severe, the defenders of this r tion named it Fort Desperate because of the ferocious combat



Port Hudson State Commemorative Area (P.O. Box 453, Zachary, LA 70791, 504-654-3775) is located on U.S. 61 in East Feliciana Parish, 14 miles north of Baton Rouge. The 643-acre site encompasses a huge battlefield and features an elevated boardwalk over the breastworks in the Fort Desperate area. Other facilities include three viewing towers which link the area visually, a picnic area and restrooms. Groups are requested to call for an appointment.



**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE,
RECREATION AND TOURISM
OFFICE OF STATE PARKS**

P. O. Drawer 1111, Baton Rouge, La. 70821
Telephone (504) 925-3830



This public document was published at an annual cost of \$.04 per copy by Bourque Printing, Inc., 13112 S. Choctaw Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70815, to give the public general information concerning the Parks and State Commemorative Areas and also used in promoting a better tourist trade of Louisiana under the authority of special exemption by Division of Administration. This material was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

VARNER-HOGG STATE HISTORICAL PARK

P. O. Box 696 West Columbia, Texas 77486 (409) 345-4656

February 6, 1993

Texas Rifles
Confederate Infantry
1st Lt. Jeff Hunt
911 Battle Bend Blvd., #124
Austin, TX 78745

Dear Mr. Hunt:

I spoke with you several weeks ago regarding our Plantation Days Festival to be held here on the plantation grounds Saturday, April 17, 1993. It is in conjunction with the San Jacinto Festival held in West Columbia at the same time.

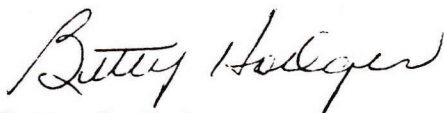
This will be the fourth year that we have had Plantation Days. Last year we had over 3,000 people visit in a six hour period. We are expecting many more this year due to more publicity.

There is not an entry fee for admission to the park. The only charge is to tour the large plantation home and for the Southern cooking (fried chicken, homemade ice cream, etc.) that we will have for sale that day. On the front lawn of the plantation home we will have historical exhibitors under the large magnolia trees, children games on the back lawn, historians, interpretative barn tours, oral histories regarding the African-American heritage, live entertainment on the front porch of Miss Ima's cottage, carriage rides through the park, a children's fishing tournament with cane poles, etc.....

We saw your encampment at the George Ranch this past year and would feel very fortunate if you can come and be part of our festival. We will furnish anything you may need. If possible, we are hoping to have several more "living histories encampments". We have a very scenic park and know that you would add so much to our day. This area is very rich in history; we would like for everyone to know more about their heritage.

We hope to see you the evening/night of April 16th.

Sincerely,



Betty J. Hodges
Administrative Technician/Curator

bh

Fcn



San Jacinto Festival
P. O. Box 837
West Columbia, Texas 77486

Dear Historical Demonstrator:

It is festival time again and we would like to invite you to participate in the Plantation Days Festival in conjunction with the San Jacinto Festival in West Columbia. The Plantation Days Festival will be held at Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historical Park. The major theme is interpretation of the plantation era.

You will be contacted in the near future concerning the planning and location of your interpretation. Please call us if you have any questions. Our number is 409-345-4656.

Below are some facts concerning the festival.

- WHAT:** Plantation Days Festival/San Jacinto Day Festival
- WHO:** Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historical Park -- Hosts
The San Jacinto Festival Committee -- Sponsors
- WHEN:** April 17, 1993, from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historical Park, two miles north of Hwy. 35, on FM 2852 in West Columbia, Texas.
- WHY:** To interpret plantation life at Varner-Hogg before and after the Battle of San Jacinto. 1820's thru 1870's.
- HOW:** By having demonstrators, historians, song and dance, food and drink, children's games, etc... exhibit their crafts within the grounds of Varner-Hogg Plantation.

MARCH 5, 6, 7

BATTLE OF MURFREESBORO

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY - - MARCH 5

1:00 pm - - 5:30 pm	Vehicle access closed to military camps
2:00 pm	Begin march for battle
2:30 pm	Battle (fighting around the Brick Kiln)
5:30 pm	Camps closed to the public
5:30 pm	Vehicle access re-opened to military camps (unloading only)
6:30 pm - - 7:30 pm	US and CS Battle of the Bands

SATURDAY - - MARCH 6

6:00 am	Reveille
9:00 am	Camps open to public
9:00 am	Vehicle access closed to military camps (for weekend)
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Drill Period
10:00 am	Cavalry formation for battle
11:00 am	Battle (cavalry action)
2:00 pm	Formation for battle
3:00 pm	Battle (The Round Forrest/Cown House)
5:00 pm	Camps closed to public
6:00 pm	"Ladies' Bazaar featuring Grand and Patriotic Entertainment"

SUNDAY - - MARCH 7

7:00 am	Reveille
9:00 am	Camps open to the public
10:00 am	Division Parade
1:00 pm	Formation for battle
2:00 pm	Battle (Breckenridge's Charge)
3:30 pm	Vehicle access opened to military camps

BATTLE SCENARIO

The Military Committee, chaired by Al Gatlin, includes representatives of the Western Brigade and the First Confederate Division as well as independent reenactors. Three major engagements are planned. Friday's scenario will be a running battle beginning at 2:30 pm depicting the opening action of December 31 and will begin in some of the site's more remote fields with Confederates assaulting the right wing of the Union Army. Federals will be pushed through woods and cedar breaks into an open field where Sheridan's stand near the Brick Kiln will be recreated. Saturday will include separate cavalry action focusing on the clash of Wharton and Zahm. Saturday afternoon will see repeated Confederate assaults on the Round Forest. A replica of the burned Cowan House will stand in the field as an obstacle to advancing Confederates as it did in 1862. Sunday's action will be Breckenridge's charge against massed Federal guns posted on a hill overlooking the "river" crossing. Confederates will gain initial success, encounter the power of massed artillery, falter, and be driven back by a determined Federal infantry

Camps -- Military camps shall be laid out and all participants shall camp in designated areas. All campfires shall be in a pit dug at least 18 inches below ground. Fires shall only be permitted in designated kitchen areas (not in the company streets).

Women in the Ranks -- Female troops shall be allowed in the ranks where it can be shown, by original or copies of research documents, that there was a female in the 1862-63 Battle of Murfreesboro in the unit being portrayed; and, the soldier in question does not show the obvious features of a woman, and shall be viewed as a man in all cases.

Vehicle Access -- Vehicles will be restricted from the camps at designated times. This will be strictly enforced. Please refer to the special notice on vehicle access to the site elsewhere in this package.

Personal Conduct -- No illegal substances will be allowed or tolerated. Offenders will be turned over to law enforcement officials for prosecution.

Murfreesboro

DIRECTIONS

From Nashville: Take I-24 East to Exit No. 66B, Sam Ridley Parkway. (See map in this newsletter). Exit there and go towards Smyrna. Sam Ridley Parkway will cross over Murfreesboro Road past the airport and stay on Sam Ridley Parkway to Smyrna. By the time you enter Smyrna there will be signs directing you to the registration building. It is not in the site, but is an empty building adjacent to the site (like Franklin's registration building, for those who were there). Across the street and down from the registration building is the site entrance for participants. Once in the site there will be signs that direct you to the camps. You will be able to drive your car into the camp to unload, then go park in participant parking. Walk back to the camp is approx. $\frac{1}{4}$ mile.

