



The Tyrants' Foe



Newsletter of the Texas Rifles

Volume XXV, Number 1 ***** September 2009



Next Event

Texian Market Days

October 24th, 2009 Richmond, TX

Next Max Effort

Texas Rifles, Henkel Square

"Round Top Harvest Festival",
November 7-8th, 2009 , Round Top, TX

Captain's Dispatch



Dearest Friends,

Just prior to sitting down to write this missive, I glanced over the ten-day weather report for the Austin area. The report indicated that temperatures are expected to plummet to the low 90s by this weekend! That can mean only one thing: the dog days of summer are over and the cool, crisp days of autumn are about arrive! Ok, so perhaps temperatures in the low 90s hardly qualify as "cool." But, when you've suffered under 100^o+ heat for months, anything lower than the century mark seems refreshing by comparison!

In any event, it IS September, and the autumn campaign season is upon us, even if true autumn weather is not. Fortunately, as an organization, the Texas Rifles's dance card is fairly full over the next months. In October, Texian Market Days at the George Ranch beckons. Unlike previous years, the members of the Texas Rifles and the 1st Texas will portray Confederates. As the 15th Texas has agreed to attend as Federals, this is a welcome change for the rest of us. In early November, the civilian event at Henkel Square will be held. For those who have attended in the past, you know how wonderful this event is and what a great opportunity it is to hone one's civilian impression. If you have not participated, now is the time to remedy that oversight. The Marek's, Kevin Traxler, and others have worked hard to put together a quality event that you will not want to miss. A few weeks after

Henkel Square, Liendo Plantation awaits us with a completely revamped battle scenario that promises to be more dynamic and interesting than the stale, open-field fight typical of years past.

Now, while scheduled events will keep us fairly active, at least one unscheduled event is definitely worth mentioning. Rick Hall is in the process of organizing an educational event to be held on the University of Texas at Austin campus for ROTC students (Navy and Marines) about military life during the Civil War, North and South. Email interest in this event has been very brisk among the membership and I encourage anyone who can attend to do so once the details have been hammered out. Look for future updates over the next weeks.

Without question, I anticipate a more than pleasant second half of the 2009 reenacting year. We have plenty of activities to keep us busy in the field where the fires of camaraderie will continue to burn bright. As always, the world turns, the political landscape changes, the economy ebbs and flows, and yet, the Texas Rifles remain. It is an honor to serve such a sturdy organization, and it is an even greater honor to have the privilege to call each of you "friend." Thank you for your unwavering dedication and support.

Warmest regards,
Phil Sozansky,
Captain of the Texas Rifles

Lieutenant's Inkwell



As the newsletter editor, I have the advantage of reviewing everything that is going into the newsletter before having to write my own article. After careful consideration and thought (i.e. not coming up with anything profound or inspiring), I've decided to discuss some of the recent (recent being relative to the last newsletter issue) Texas Rifles events and happenings.

1st, congratulations to the new executive board members (Capt. Philip Sozansky, 1st Sgt. Tommy Attaway and Civilian Coordinator Holly Marek). Many thanks to Doug Davis for continuing as the treasurer and for Lee Chesney for taking over the vital position of quartermaster. Thanks also to John Keahey for serving as an exceptional quartermaster for many years.

I would also like to thank the regional coordinators for serving and encourage them to become more active in promoting events and attendance. As a group, we have unfortunately let this slide with the occasional (& not always effective) email. As suggested by the Captain, we need to re-institute the telephone webs prior to events to insure accurate information transfer and to pump up the guys for the event. Expect calls in the future!

So far, this has not been an exceptionally busy year for events, but some interesting ones have occurred. Up to the point of continuous rain, the "Into the Piney Woods" march was fun and memorable. It was great as always to serve under Frank Marek, who was our company captain, and it was also pleasant to have a very able Colonel. The battle on the hill was something to see and the flank attack and subsequent capture were unforgettable.

For a 1st time event, the Chappel Hill event sponsored by the 13th U.S. (& technically also us) was great. It wasn't big, but it was pretty well organized and the extended skirmishing leading into the battle was a lot of fun. We also had another great Outpost event which was also interrupted rudely by Mother Nature.

A number of us also attended Brice's Crossroads, or as I fondly remember it, Brice's Chiggerfest. I don't know about anybody else, but I still have scars. Fighting on an actual battlefield is always great, unfortunately there was only a companies worth of Federals to shoot at.

Many thanks to everyone that has helped and participated this last year. We have 3 events coming up this year and one in early January which are described in detail throughout this newsletter. I would only like to add my normal encouragement to try to attend these events. I know everyone is busy and money is always an issue, but all of these events are local and we need to support them so they don't disappear. I know that recruiting potential is a major factor (i.e. new members are becoming more & more rare), but we also need

to try to field as many rifles as possible to remain one of the best performing and highly respected groups in this region.

With all of that said & if you're still reading, I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events! It's been to long from the field!

Your Servant,
Don L. Tucker
Lieutenant of the Texas Rifles

Drill Bits



I've been trying to find a period quote about one of the volunteers in the Union army that saw a regular army unit at drill and the impression it made upon him about how well they did when compared to his own unit, and how he resolved to become more proficient at drill in his own unit. It is this certainty about what to do and how to do it, that is the difference between the unit that looks like it is part of an army, compared to a group of guys with guns. This column tends to be a redundant call to become better at drill, but I am also aware, that the unit leaders have a responsibility to be able to explain how the maneuver is to be conducted, and what each man should do.

Therefore, it will be my goal in the future editions of our newsletter to explain a maneuver in detail, so that it is clear to each man what he is expected to do, in order that the company as a whole will be recognized as a trained unit, and merit the confidence of the larger unit of which we are an integral part.

Individual drill, can be practiced at home, and needs just a refresher as a group, to verify that the timing of movements and position is to our standard. Those things requiring the company as a whole, are where I would like to concentrate our attention during the limited time we have together at events.

In this regard, the next column will focus on By Company Into Line.

Tommy Attaway,
1st Sergeant
Texas Rifles

From the Home Front

What a long hot summer! If you are like me, you are ready for cooler weather and a chance to get back in the swing of the hobby. A long period of inactivity has given us a chance to do some planning on the civilian end. At TMD the Mareks and Mike Covington will be manning the kitchen at the 1860's house. While the men are chopping wood (and no doubt sneaking shots of whiskey) we will also be busy making a large pot of chicken gumbo on the working wood stove there. The gumbo will even be made from home grown chicken and okra from the Marek Farm!

Next up will be Henkel Square. This will be a Texas Rifles event so we hope to see you all there. The scenario is a town harvest festival set in the year 1864. Town's folk will be coming together for a picnic lunch, horseshoe competition, and pie contest. Prizes will be given to first place shoe pitchers and pie bakers. Military members are encouraged to attend even if you don't have a civilian impression. A home guard can be formed or you can simply be on furlough or recently discharged. Homes will of course be open for us to use as well as the barn for single men to sleep in, if you do not book a room at the boarding house. Mike Covington will be running the Tavern and should have plenty of good stuff for the "gents".

Please feel free to contact me at hbmarek@dishmail.net if you have any questions.

We have fewer plans for Liendo, but we may be doing something as simple as setting up camp and pushing a wheelbarrow of goods around to sell to the troops.

Thankfully, it looks like a nice schedule to make up for a slow summer. See you all soon!

Love and Kisses, Peach (AKA, Holly Marek)
Civilian Coordinator

Texas Rifles Fall Festival Info

(as posted on the TR Yahoo Group)

The Texas Rifles will be hosting our Henkel Event on the weekend of Nov. 7 & 8. "The Round Top Harvest Festival" will be an exciting and fun event for all. This event will represent the Fall of 1864 and will be open to civilian and military participants. The basic scenario will be that of an annual harvest festival in central Texas in 1864. Civilians will be gathering to picnic, play games, and trade goods. The harvest festival is an effort by the civilians of the town to put the war out of their minds if only for a weekend. We will have fun and games for young and old.

Men who want to do a military impression have to option of portraying discharged or furloughed soldiers or if there are enough men interested, a home guard can be formed. Either way your drill time, if any, will be up to your commanding officer or senior NCO. So if you do not have a civilian impression the town folks will still welcome the military as heroes.

Our harvest festival does not include strict personas, but our typical high level of authenticity is encouraged. We will have one town Marshall and all other men need only be town folk or farmers. If you have a special impression you would like to do please let us know.

Our plans are to arrive on Friday and set up. The event will go live at first light on Saturday morning and may include a horseshoe competition for the men, croquet for the ladies, and races for the kids. There will be blue ribbons for the winners of each competition. We will also have a pie contest for anyone in who is interested in participating. We only ask that the pies be homemade, with ingredients specific to 1864 Texas. However the pies do not have to be cooked on site, they can be prepared in the comfort of your modern kitchen. A blue ribbon will be awarded on taste and authenticity (modern aluminum pie plates will be acceptable). There will also be a blue ribbon awarded for the best home grown/home canned product, whether it's jelly, fruit, vegetable, or beverage (don't be afraid to cheat with modern products made to appear home canned/prepared).

PICNIC: We are asking for a little help for Saturday's picnic lunch. We can have fried chicken prepared for the picnic, but the side dishes will have to be prepared by us. Boiled potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots, and corn are a few things that we can prepare on site. Please let us know what you can contribute or if you have any other ideas for the menu. Breakfast for Saturday and Sunday will be up to you.

Saturday night after five o'clock there will be cards and punch for the ladies and dominoes and whiskey for the men. The event will be much looser at this time and since there will be no spectators it will be okay for us all to mingle.

Sleeping quarters will be available to those who want it Friday and Saturday night. If you have been to Henkel before and have a housing preference please let us know ASAP. The Mukleroy, Schumann I, and Schumann II are spoken for. The Schumann II will be a boarding house for those who need a room. There is also room in the barn for those of the military who would like to sleep with a roof over their head. There are also some very nice oak trees that will provide good shade for those who wish to camp out.

Sunday morning there will be a short church service for those who wish to attend. The event will come to an end at noon on Sunday.

The folks at Henkel Square have been nice enough to let us use the site for free, so we are asking for \$5 per person registration fee. This money will be donated back to the site as a thank you for their hospitality. There is a registration deadline of Oct. 26. We need enough time to prepare for food.

Please contact me at hbmarek@dishmail.net if you are interested in attending.

HolliBeth Marek
TR Civilian Coordinator

Different families are taking up residence in the larger houses, but there is still plenty of room for single men to sleep indoors. Just let us know if you plan on sleeping inside or camping outside with the military.

Mike Covington will be in charge of the Tavern, there is room for a few men to sleep in the upstairs of the Tavern. He is also looking for an assistant to help tend bar. Please let us know if you are interested in this job.

The Crow has the same house he had at Muster and there may be room for a few men there. There are also rooms available in a few of the houses, and of course the barn will be open.

For you single men not in the military, breakfast will be served at the Tavern on Saturday and Sunday. We may need donations of bacon and potatoes to feed you Tavern boys. If you can donate please let us know.

Frank is looking for teams for the horseshoe competition. You can wait and sign up there, but if any two of you are ready to team up let us know and we'll put you down.

HolliBeth Marek

Frontier Region Report

Powder and caps obtained in order to make cartridges.

From the Crow's Nest

“Opportunity to Serve!”

Here is an excellent opportunity to serve both your Country and the Hobby! I recently had the privilege of meeting and talking to Capt. Mike "Trapper" Spence, USN at a meeting of the Navy League, Greater Austin Council. He is the commanding officer of the University of Texas Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. The organization website is:

http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/navymarine/welcome_aboar_d.php.

Captain Spence has over 900 carrier-arrested landings and 3900 flight hours. Awards include the Legion of Merit (3 awards,) Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards,) Meritorious Service Medal (4 awards,) Air Medal (1 individual w/combat "V" and 3 Strike/Fight,) Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals (5 awards including Combat "V") and various campaign and service awards. That, in addition to plenty of additional stories that would make you proud.

I am asking my fellow Pards to participate sometime this Fall in an educational event on UT campus for ROTC students (Navy and Marines) about military life during the Civil War, North and South. This was at the request of Captain Mike Spence. The date and time is yet to be determined by him but

I wanted to get the interest of as many of you as possible as early as possible.

I told Captain Spence that a Saturday would be the best and would get the most participation from the Rifles but I say that not knowing what their schedule looks like. As soon as he gets back to me, I'll send out the word.

I've already got an excellent response from the Rifles from all areas of the Great State of Texas and I know we can really put on a great show plus it will be fun! How about it? Let me hear from anyone who hasn't responded as yet. There are still plenty of young minds to influence out there!

FOR THE CAUSE!! DON'T LET THE HOBBY DOWN!!!
SUPPORT ROTC!!!! SUPPORT OUR FUTURE!
Anchors Away and Ooo Rah!

The Crow

Battle of Galveston

Information from the 1st Texas

The Galveston Historical Foundation (GHF) has been working closely with the 1st Texas to organize a Battle of Galveston (BOG) on the weekend of **January 9-10 January 2010**. Reenactors should arrive the afternoon/evening of Friday 8th Jan for registration. This is an excellent opportunity to recreate the battle on the same location in 1863.

Given that the BOG was primarily a naval battle and troop engagements were limited, Mike Bringham, Jeff Thompson & I have held several meetings with the GHF, and have developed a scenario that we believe includes many historical aspects of the actual battle.

Understandably, an actual naval engagement is not possible, but the GHF will incorporate walking tours by Mr. Edward T. Cotham, Jr., author of "Battle on the Bay" to explain the actual events during the battle and possibly opening the "Elissa"- a period tall ship sailing vessel for the public to view. Two battle scenarios are planned, on the afternoons of Saturday the 9th January and Sunday the 10th January, in the vicinity of The Strand and 21st Street. Confederate Sharpshooters will be placed on some rooftops and fire toward the vicinity of where the Federal troops were garrisoned at Kuhn's Wharf. The scripted engagement would be involved Confederate troops marching down The Strand and 21st streets where Federal troops would be positioned. Since the engagement is located within the town, only a few artillery pieces will be allowed on the streets for reasons due to the age of the historical buildings during the battle; in addition, artillery demonstrations are planned at a location very close the original location where the Confederate artillery was positioned at the time of the battle. Our encampments will be in the downtown area in close proximity, and other items are being explored by the GHF to add to the event such as a wreath ceremony at the cemetery on Broadway where General John Bankhead Magruder is buried, along with a period ball on Saturday evening.

Our vision is to conduct this event with impressions and conduct in an authentic manner, and we of the 1st Texas Infantry believe your organizations are clearly living historians that would ensure the event a success. The GHF has not announced this event publicly, and are respectfully soliciting your participation. We will establish certain guidelines that will be realistic, yet authentic.

Please consider this advance invitation and advise if your organization will participate. In doing so, it will allow us to refine organization of #'s and command structure. We anticipate if we have approximately 200 participants that would provide a handsome recreation. In your response, please advise if you are willing to be Federal or Confederate. At this time we are not intending to galvanize impressions. Depending on the response we will attempt to offer suggestions should any adjustments become necessary. If you would, please respond to one of us by August 12th.

We sincerely appreciate the relationship we share between our organizations, and believe we have an opportunity to bring life to one of the few engagements held on Texas soil. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Fred L. Anthamatten

Additional upcoming event info from the 1st Texas (Capt. Mike Bringhurst)

Mike Bringhurst and other members of the 1st Texas have worked hard this year to improve and to add new local events. The information below is mostly taken from emails from Mike.

TMD

Texian Market Days will be held Sat. October 24, 2009. We are welcome to arrive Friday if we wish and stay until Sunday. Mike has persuaded the 15th Texas to be Federal this year, so we get to wear our gray for a change.

Liendo

Mike acknowledges that there has been discontent and lack of interest in Liendo's stale scenario, but promises this year will be different. He knows that it has inspired the 1st Texas guys to want to attend (as Federals) again. We have been invited to camp with the 1st in the trees or we can camp in our usual spot next to the RRB (Rifles, please post your preference to the Yahoo group).

Mike Bringhurst met with the folks doing the special effects/pyrotechnics for Liendo and they are the same ones that worked on the movie "The Alamo", so they know their stuff and will supply effects to impress the reenactors as well as the spectators. There will be safety zones on the field (which we will help monitor to keep everyone excluded) to supply the effects and explosions. Mike says it should be like nothing else we have done and will be impressive.

Mike has also contacted Colonel Yokubaitis (Red River Battalion) and discussed the battle scenario changes. The Colonel said they are encouraging the RRB to attend. Captain Bringhurst believes that if everything goes as planned, the event should be fun, & different. The organizers are excited & the pyrotechnics will be better than the sky rockets last year.

Battle of Galveston Galveston:

The Galveston Historical Society is behind the event all the way. Mike believes that if this event is successful, that they are looking at the 150th anniversary and hoping to get state funding to put on a really big show. This January will be a test drive to see how well things go and how receptive the audience will be. This is one of the two important Civil War battles in Texas that we can actually participate in that is historical rather than fictitious. For that reason, the 1st expects everyone will want to be Confederate (the 1st Texas wants authentic impressions and this is why they want the Texas Rifles to be part of this event). The event will need Federals and the 1st is considering offering all the military to play both sides of the battle on alternate days, giving more guys a chance to be CSA. Mike said the 1st Texas doesn't care for bringing two uniforms to one event, but since the "Baggage train" won't be too far away, it may be necessary. We will not have to break down and move camps. For the first event, not more than 200 reenactors are expected. Local hotels are also signing up for discount rates for reenactors and their families for the weekend.

FOUR TEXAS CANNONS

or

The Tale of an Alleged Midget, a Giant, and Two Missing Ladies

The Texas Revolution of 1835 to 1836 was a memorable and bloody struggle marked both by acts of heroism and ugliness; just what one expects from a war. Since the Texians won this revolution against tremendous odds and merged the land of Texas into the surging westward movement of the United States, the Texas Revolution has become part of "our" history. This war has grown in mythic proportions since it ended. Four cannons played a significant roll in this struggle. One began the war, one played a distinctive roll in the war's most memorable battle, and two ended the war. This article is a brief recapitulation of the military careers of these four cannons.

Cannons in the early military history of our continent occupied a unique place in the minds of the soldiers that used them. They were expensive to make and use, required special transportation vehicles and draft animals to move, and fired projectiles which could not made in a bullet mold at home. All were loaded at the muzzle, just as most firearms of the period were muzzleloaders. As symbols of military power, cannons were frequently decorated, given individual names and even inscribed with mottoes. One common European motto was, "Ultimate Argument of Kings" usually expressed in Latin for greater impact on impressionable minds. For an army or cause to deploy cannons meant that you had to be

taken seriously. Your cause was significant, potent and powerful. Real armies, and real soldiers, had cannons. It was the one period weapon which had no counterpoise; cannon firing solid or exploding balls could out range hand weapons, striking from a position of invulnerability beyond rifle range. At close range cannons fired loads of smaller shot variously referred to as langrage (a polite French word meaning of sacks of scrap metal), grape shot or canister. These loads turned the cannon into a huge shotgun and could sweep away whole companies of soldiers in one shot, as happened at the Battle of the Alamo. In short, cannons were prestigious, desired and feared.

The first "cannon" of the four memorable Texas Revolution cannons is the Gonzales cannon. I put the word cannon in quotation marks because this cannon as currently displayed is somewhat farcical and not very threatening. It is a midget cannon, 22 inches long and made of iron. Its homemade carriage sported two solid wood wheels sawn from tree trunks on a recycled cart axle. The bore was not much larger than the standard military smoothbore musket of the day. It apparently had no cannonballs to fire and certainly none that exploded. In 1831 it had been given by the Mexican Army to the citizens of the town of Gonzales, probably to frighten away Indians by making a noise louder than a shoulder arm. As hostilities with the Texian colonists became imminent, the Mexican Army came to Gonzales to retrieve their property. The Texians resisted the Mexicans under an impromptu flag which stated, "Come and Take It." The cannon and other more effective weapons were fired at the Mexicans and one Mexican soldier was killed (probably not by the cannon). That started the Texas Revolution. Later during the Texian march to attack San Antonio, the home made wheels rotating on the wooden axle made a loud screeching noise and repetitively caught fire due to friction. The cannon was unceremoniously dumped in a river. In 1936 boys swimming in the river found the cannon barrel and it was displayed in the Gonzales Post Office until moved to the Gonzales Memorial Museum. This is the current accepted story.

At least one author who saw the actual Gonzales cannon in person in 1835, Noah Smithwick, described it as an old six pounder field cannon, not midget cannon. A six pounder would be normal field artillery for the period. Armies typically traveled with six, nine or twelve pound cannons. This meant that the weight of the round solid iron cannon balls used as ammunition by these cannons weighed approximately six, nine or twelve pounds respectively. The reason that the Mexican Army was probably willing to loan this full size cannon barrel to the Texian settlers was that the vent, the small hole at the breech with which the main charge was fired, had grown larger with corrosion. This made the cannon less effective when fired, not to mention more dangerous to the crew due to the explosive blast of pressure through the enlarged vent. A period powder horn scrimshaw does illustrate the Gonzales Cannon as a full size artillery piece requiring horse drawn transportation. This type of cannon would be potentially repairable, worth owning, worth fighting over and is something that the Mexican Army would actually want returned. Obviously, the cannon on display as "The Gonzales Cannon" which started the Texas Revolution does

not match any of these criteria. Catholic frontier missions sometimes had small bore cannons with which to scare-off hostile Indians. The cannon found by the boys in the river and on display is probably one of those. A Texas colonial era piece, but not the "The Gonzales Cannon." That field piece may still be in the river.

The second cannon in our study of four cannons of the Texas Revolution is the iron 18 pounder cannon used by the Texian defenders of the Alamo. For land-based artillery this cannon was a giant, weighed two tons and was nine feet long. Eighteen pounder cannons were generally too heavy to be pulled over hills, through mud and across rivers. They were more commonly used on ships whose flat decks and gun tackle made handling such heavy pieces more practical. The largest cannon used by President/General Santa Anna's Army in the Texas campaign were 12 pounders, so unlike what John Wayne would have us believe in his movie about the Alamo, the largest cannon in the siege was actually used by the defenders, not the Mexican Army. This 18 pounder could be fired with solid cannon balls or langrage. It had been brought to Texas by the New Orleans Grays; a volunteer outfit from New Orleans wearing (guess what) gray uniforms. This dominating and intimidating cannon was positioned at the southwest corner of the fort. Col. Travis answered the Mexican demand for surrender on the first day of the siege with a shot from this 18 pounder cannon. It was used with greater effect against Mexican troops attacking the west side of the fort in the pre-dawn assault on March 6. While firing to the northwest its position was captured by Mexican soldiers attacking from the south. It was then turned and fired at the Texians. Before the Mexican's evacuated San Antonio following the Texian victory at the Battle of San Jacinto, the artillery captured in the Battle of the Alamo was rendered useless. The 18 pounder had its trunnions and cascabel smashed-off. It now sits on display outdoors on the Alamo grounds.

The final cannons of note in the Texas Revolution were two in number. They were the gift of the people of Cincinnati to the Texas revolutionaries and suitably engraved. These were 6 pounder bronze cannons named the Twin Sisters. The citizens of Texas should always be grateful to the citizens of Cincinnati, because their gift to us was the right thing, at the right time in the right place. When Sam Houston's Army attacked the Mexican army across the soggy low ground of San Jacinto on the afternoon of April 21, 1836 they dragged the Twin Sisters with them. The Twin Sisters were wheeled and fired into the barricade hastily thrown-up by the Mexican soldiers as a defensive work. The loads of langrage shredded the barricade and the soldiers behind it, leaving a gap in the defense of the Mexicans through which the attacking Texians flowed unimpeded. The result was a one sided massacre and a Texian victory. Following the victory at San Jacinto the Twin Sisters became the property of the Republic of Texas. When statehood was achieved in 1845, the artillery of the republic was turned-over to the United States Army. The U.S. Army stored the Twin Sisters at the nearest army arsenal at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. There they stayed until Texas seceded from the Union in 1861. Texas formally requested the return of the Twin Sisters from Louisiana and they were returned to

the land in which they had won renown. Both guns were subsequently emplaced in the Confederate fort opposite Galveston Island. With the end of the Civil War in 1865, the Twin Sisters were seized by Federal troops and were stored in Harrisburg area of what is now Houston near the train station prior to being transported north. There they were recognized by returning Confederate soldiers who considered it insupportable that these two icons of Texas independence and victory be taken from Texas (again) by the U.S. Army. Texas patriots liberated (stole) the two cannons at night, buried the barrels nearby and rolled the gun carriages into a (Bray's?) bayou. With time the location of the burial site became lost. Decades later, when one of the now elderly participants in the theft was brought to Houston to identify the site of the burial, he could/did not. Things had changed too much. So, to those of you reading this that are of an archeological mind, I present a challenge; find the Twin Sisters! They should be buried within a short distance of a bayou in the Harrisburg area near the 1865 train station site. A short distance because each cannon barrel may have been about five feet long and weighed around 884 pounds. This assumes that they have not been lost to us by being excavated previously and dumped as junk in a landfill. After you have won renown by finding the Twin Sisters, have a go at finding the Gonzales Cannon.

John Keahey, 3/10/08



John Keahey as a New Orleans Grey standing in front of the replica 18 Pounder cannon at the Alamo 169th event (site of the recent Alamo movie).
