



The Tyrants' Foe

Newsletter of the Texas Rifles



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March 20, 2011



The Captain's Dispatch



Greetings to all the members of the Texas Rifles family from your new Captain. As I tried to express at the meeting, I am extremely honored and humbled by the confidence the membership has shown in me. I will do everything in my power to live up to the high standard of excellence set by the Captains that have preceded me. Please always feel free to contact me at any time with any concerns, issues or suggestions that you might have for the Texas Rifles or the hobby in general.

As many of you already know from the annual meeting, our continued use of Henkel Square in Round Top was questionable due to the possible sale of the site. It is now official that the site has been sold. Rumor has it that the site went to a developer that is going to turn the houses into boutiques/shops. This makes a nearly perfect site for events and meetings no longer available for our use. This is unfortunate as there are very few places that are so perfect for 19th century interpretation, are centrally located, allow reenactors free reign and do not charge for use of the site.

However, another possibility exists for a civilian event. I'm confident that the Civilian coordinator will discuss in more detail this possible alternative for civilian living history events. Very briefly; the site is Millard's Crossing* Historic Village in Nacogdoches (millardscrossing.org). Holly, Frank, Kevin and I visited the site on Saturday March 12th and spoke to the site Director (Susie Lower) about possible civilian living history events. Mrs. Lower

was interested enough in Holly's presentation that she said she would present the information and our desire to interpret the site to the Millard's Crossing Board of Directors. If they agree and we can get a weekend that the site doesn't have a paying client, we may have a new town to interpret. It will not be Henkel Square, but we can make it into a site as memorable for us as Henkel has been. I do want to point out that Mrs. Lower's interest in the Texas Rifles is in no small part due to the wonderful booklet of Texas Rifles information and pictures that Holly put together.

Unfortunately, even if Millard's Crossing works out as a site for living history, it does not lend itself to our annual meeting. We need to find a place for the meeting and reserve the weekend ASAP to insure it occurs in January, as is customary. I have begun communication with Winedale to see if there is any possibility of returning there for our annual meeting. I'm unsure if they are any more open to having politically incorrect Confederate reenactors than they were, or if we will be able to afford their price. Depending on what I find out from Winedale, I will also contact the George Ranch and/or Jesse Jones to see if either location would be willing to have us for our meeting. If anyone has a suggestion as to a possible meeting site, I would greatly appreciate it if you could post it to the yahoo group or contact me directly.

I apologize to the membership for the delay in updating the TR website. Hopefully, the technical issues have been resolved and the New & Improved website will be up soon. Many thanks to Lieutenant Attaway for taking over the website. We also need the TR brochure updated, which I will try to complete soon.

For many of our members, the sesquicentennial events have already successfully begun with Twigg's surrender. The big event this year, which I'm sure EVERYONE is planning on attending is the Max Effort 150th of "Wilson's Creek" (<http://www.wilsonscreek150.com/>) on August 12th-14th, 2011. Frank Marek has purchased material for the company battle shirts and should be taking orders soon. You are not required to purchase a battle shirt for the event, but they should look great and were what the well-dressed Confederate had at the battle. These battle shirts will be distinct to the Texas Rifles. Wilson's Creek is our chance to kick off the 150th as a company with an event that is relatively close, while also getting cool new shirts & supporting preservation. The event proceeds will go to a museum, battlefield preservation & education (see website). A Red River Battalion has scheduled an associated Muster on July 23-24th. The site of the muster has yet to be determined. If you can only make one, then of course come to Wilson's Creek.

We also still have 2 events scheduled for the Spring. We are attending both of these as Western Federal. The events are the Battle of Port Hudson (March 26-27th) (MAX EFFORT) and the Battle of Port Jefferson (May 7-8th). Both events offer something unique compared to most of our events. Port Hudson occurs on the actual battlefield and also includes a Saturday morning tactical up and down the trails of the Battlefield park. This skirmish is always interesting and fun. For those intrepid soles, a ghost hunt on Saturday night has also become popular. Port Jefferson, while not a historical battle, has gained in popularity due to the hard work of Mike Bringhurst and the 1st Texas. After a parade in town, a street battle occurs. Many members have done this battle in the past and now have their reservations. I just want to let you know that the street battle is more scripted, has significant civilian interaction and is a lot more fun. There are also no more battles over cars or motorcycles. They block off the streets for the battle and show appreciation to the reenactors! I hope everyone will try to make these events. I attended both last year and had a great time!

Finally, I want to thank all the members for the effort they put forth for the Texas Rifles. Without this effort, the Texas Rifles wouldn't exist and the same can be said for the hobby. I look forward to serving with all of you in the field this year. We can make it as good a year as we want! As always, "To Tyrant's, Never Yield!"

Your Servant,
Don L. Tucker
Captain, Texas Rifles

Lieutenant's Inkwell



The History of the History

We are now upon the 50th anniversary of “re enacting” or living history which we can trace to the centennial of the WBTS. Interestingly, most graduate level history courses are concerned with the history of what was thought about the events of history as much as it is concerned with the events themselves. The past does not change, only our interpretation of it does. Let us take a brief look at the history of the study of the war itself and a perspective of the living history hobby.

The post war generation has their view of the war subject to the specter of the “bloody shirt”. This was predominantly a Republican party tactic of holding the Democratic party responsible for the Civil War, and to show any sympathy for anything Confederate was to betray the blood of good men who died to save the Union, with the more extreme orators taking a blood covered shirt the supposedly belonged to a slain Federal soldier for dramatic effect. This attitude formed the basis for the attitudes displayed during Reconstruction, and the resurgence of the Democratic party in the South leads to the disputed presidential election of 1876, which resulted in a Republican President and the end of Reconstruction. (note that the current Texas Constitution dates from 1876) for the next 20 years, the war becomes the subject of some national reconciliation, primarily led by the veteran’s organizations, which leads to some sympathy for the individual soldiers of the South.

The next turn in interpretation of the WTBS occurs as a result of the war with Spain 1896 to 1898. The poor condition of the state militias (in the South due to various disarmament laws aimed at the Klan and in the North due to using militia units for strike breaking and to suppress labor violence led to a decline in membership) led to the use of Civil War vets to lead the volunteer units raised for the war. News coverage from Cuba was particularly sympathetic to ex Confederates – “Fighting Joe Wheeler” moves inland was big news and “regulars and Rough Riders, representing the young manhood of the North and South, fought shoulder to shoulder, unmindful of race or color, unmindful of whether commanded by an ex-Confederate or not, and mindful only of their common duty as Americans.” John J. Pershing quoted in the Washington Post.

This sympathy for the South, led to the “Lost Cause” view of the war, in which the war is seen as the South trying to preserve its culture and heritage from encroaching modernity. This played to the romantic notions of the antebellum South, plantation culture and rural yeoman farmers, combined with a streak of stubborn independence. Due to underlying racial tensions in the country as a whole, this view was a particular

justification to the attitudes that led to Southern secession and views on race. Two cultural events form the bookends of this view of the war – the film “Birth of a Nation” marks the beginning of this view of the war, and concludes with the publication and filming of “Gone With the Wind”.

Running alongside, and slightly behind this view, was the start of academic historical research, with an emphasis of history being the influence of economic factors on events – or the school of “economic history”. This view of the war is a result of economic trends – the inability of the South to develop economically, especially compared to the North as it industrialized. Labor productivity could not increase in the South because of the inability to end slavery because of racial theory, while the North became increasingly prosperous by manufactures. The South breaks away from the Union before it became nothing more than a poor backwater with no economic power and little political influence – the North having faster population growth meant the House of Representatives should become greatly imbalanced in favor of the Northern states in the future.

The Southern sympathizers also took an economic view with the study that the economic factors, if left on their own must have resulted in emancipation because the cost of slavery would have become excessive. Once the profit went out of slavery, it would end on its own. Had the abolitionist not interfered in the politics of the South, slavery would have ended on its own. The most recent look at economic history has looked at the effects of the tariff policy of the federal government, the proportion of the tariffs paid by the Southern states relative to the Northern states. The idea being that the South was the primary tax payer for the federal government, and the war is a result of the Southern states incapable of keeping federal tariffs low, while the North could not let the South secede because of the loss of revenue to the federal government.

Post World War II study has concentrated on various social and cultural factors that led to the war, and this leads us to the consideration of living history. This form of historical activity combines the study of social history (people and societal norms), hobby, and restoration projects starting with Colonial Williamsburg. The start of living history is the placing of buildings and artifacts in context by demonstrating their everyday use. The proliferation of information available in terms of diaries, memoirs, and printed material made it possible for almost anyone to study history in various forms.

As a hobby, we date to the Centennial celebrations of the WTBS, in which people who were interested in the war sought some form of personal experience – or the ability to reconnect with the past via personal experience. While popular to hold those efforts of the 1960s in disdain by the living history community today, were it not for those events, we would not be where we are today. There were the occasional participants of extremely high authenticity – it was all original gear, but the most was the some way to participate with what they could get – being there more important than the physical artifacts.

The lack of historical accuracy in the portrayals of the Centennial was a mistake the leaders who turned their attention to the American Revolution Bicentennial were determined to avoid. The re-created units focused on leaning the clothing and artifacts in use during the 1770s and members of the hobby set about to provide the needed material. It was in this period, that the idea of re-enacting took hold as a hobby with even entire families participating, and the Reagan review of the re-enactors at Yorktown is one of the high points of the hobby.

The 1980s were a period of increased commitment to historical accuracy and research, so that the physical impressions would be credible and the first strivings toward “museum quality” impressions. The hobby also started to branch off into the entire panoply of American history – name the date, and there is someone somewhere trying to portray the period. We are now at another milestone in the hobby – WTBS Sesquicentennial, Bicentennial of the War of 1812, 175th of the Texas Revolution, and the Centennial of the first World War. We will find out if as a society, we have changed from personal experience and learning by doing, or have transitioned to “virtual reality” in which we live vicariously.

Because the Sergeant Says So



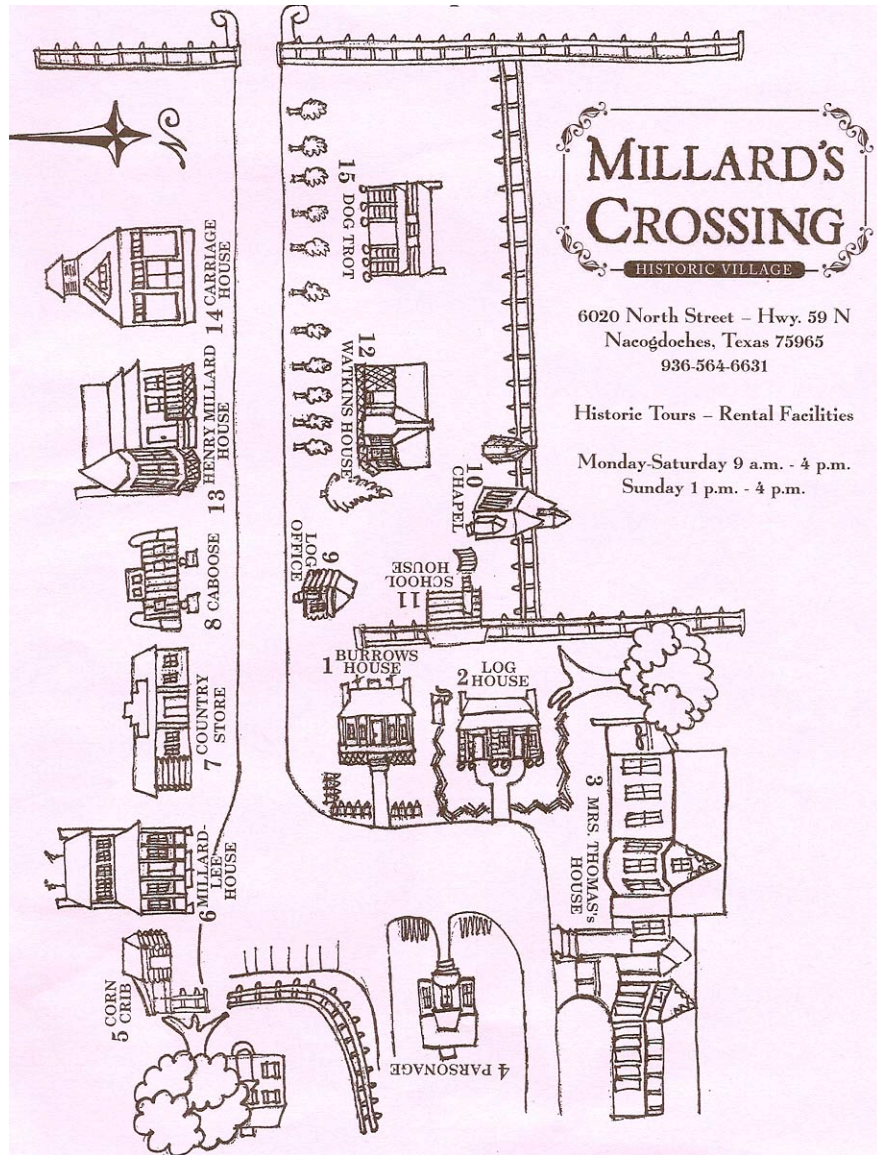
Introducing our new First Sergeant, Dusty Lind! A man of integrity, skill, knowledge, and a heart for enforcing the rules; he is a man not to be trifled with! The reason, likely as not, he was not able to submit an article is he certainly keeping us all safe by keeping hardened criminals in line. One look at him and you know he is to be obeyed.





From the Home Front

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We few, we happy few, we band of brothers

“We few, we happy few, we band of brothers” is one of the well-known lines from the St. Crispin's Day Speech of Shakespeare's *Henry V*. (1598).

SPOKEN BY KING HENRY V:

This story shall the good man teach his son;
And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,
From this day to the ending of the world,
But we in it shall be remember'd;
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,
This day shall gentle his condition:
And gentlemen in England now a-bed
Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,
And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks
That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.

Over time, the term ‘band of brothers’ has come to describe any group of intrepid and brave warriors. As I have always had an interest in ships and naval battles, my 1st exposure to the “We Few” statement came from the quote of Admiral Horatio Nelson in his description of the Captains that served under his command at the spectacular British victory at the Battle of the Nile.

I admit that I never had the opportunity to serve my country, so I can only imagine what Lord Nelson meant, or what it means to real soldiers to have their “Band of Brothers” With that said, I would like to point out that in our own small way, we too are a “Band of Brother’s” (& Sisters). “We Few” each hold dear a love of history and a strong interest in the events that we call, among its many names, The War Between the States. We come together as a “Band of Brothers” to most certainly have fun, but also to learn and to teach from our research and experience.

It’s hard to describe to someone that hasn’t reenacted, what it’s really like to have reenactor friends. People that you know and trust. We are certainly not the real military, but how do you explain to someone who has never stood in the line of battle, or been on a march, what it’s like. After multiple events and especially after long marches, you come to know and respect your comrades of all ranks. You know they are present out of a strong desire. We must face the fact that this is an expensive and time consuming hobby which takes a commitment that most people can’t or won’t make. Whether you know it or not, “We Few” are participating, and through that participation – making better, a hobby that is not for the masses. Because of this, I salute each one of you and am proud to call you “Brother”.

With the 150th events, we have an opportunity (what could very well be a final opportunity), to experience battles on a grand scale. Brother (& Sister), I ask that you dedicate yourself to these opportunities. Read again the words of King Henry V and consider how many of his statements could apply to our participation in the Texas Rifles and Civil War reenacting. The upcoming events will give us many more experiences that we will always treasure, so make them your Saint Crispin’s Days. So I say to you, **“We Few, We Happy Few, We Band of Brothers”!**

Your Servant,
Don L. Tucker
Captain, Texas Rifles



From December 2004 Tyrants' Foe - Lieutenant John Keahey, Texas Rifles

Full Scale

The Civil War era is not my favorite time period to reenact. Actually, I prefer the American Revolutionary War. The uniforms are more attractive, the weapons more demanding, fife and drum corps adds period music to the unit, civilians have a more integrated role and the tactics more structured. When I lived on the east coast I reenacted the Revolutionary War during the Bicentennial of that conflict. My unit was atypical for the time in that it required that its members purchase two complete kits; the 43rd Regiment of Foote (British) and the 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment of the Continental Line (American). What a concept; asking your members to purchase two uniforms! Of course, Rev War kits are more expensive. This was back in the 70's and 80's, when having a uniform made of the correct materials was considered to be authentic. The authenticity bar has been raised since those times and costs are higher.

During the Bicentennial (200th anniversary) years our regiment grew to around 200 members including artillery, Light Company, Pioneers and a strong civilian contingent. We combined with two other American units with similar uniforms to form a full scale American regimental organization. We fielded over 250 men in a nine company regiment with all the associated period staff officers, artillery, music and civilians just as an American regiment did during the Revolution. It was full scale. By full scale I mean that each man in the ranks represented just that, one man. We did not field 60 men and call it a regiment, or field 120 men and call it a Brigade. The largest Rev War event I attended was the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown in 1981. Presidents Reagan and Mitterand were there. Also there were 5,000 participants including myself, my wife, my sister, my cousin and my mother. It was the largest 18th century military encampment since the 18th century. There is no reenacting experience in the world like wearing a red coat with forty-two buttons and laced buttonholes, white piped clayed belts and a goatskin knapsack; being lead by white gloved officers in dazzling silver laced uniforms, the Sergeants carrying halberds to straighten the already straight ranks, and the polished brass on the Brown Bess muskets shining like gold in the sun. Marching into battle beneath the King's and Regimental Colors while the regimental fifes and drums play, "British Grenadiers." Ah! Just thinking about it makes me want to bayonet a rebel!

Those times are gone. Now a large Rev War event draws a couple of hundred guys in fifty different uniforms. There are no large units, no composite regiments, nothing approaching full scale. Authenticity has improved, but organizations have shrunk to the "mess" level (I don't consider those two developments as related). Participants can not experience the life of a soldier in an army. After an American Revolutionary War presentation at a local museum, I was approached by an audience member. He belonged to a French and Indian War Unit with members in Houston and in Louisiana. He was absolutely confident that I would want to join them since I had some experience in the period. His "regiment" consisted of four (4) guys. I asked him if there were any larger units active. This guy, almost exploding with enthusiasm, responded that I could join the 60th Royal Americans. Their members were scattered all over the Mississippi Valley, but at some events they fielded twelve (12) men! I think you can see the issue here. As a Civil War reenactor I have attended an event with 29,000 participants. I belong to a company strength organization. At the last event I attended (Franklin), our regiment was a full scale representation of the original 6th/15th Texas Consolidated Regiment. We did not have to close our eyes to imagine the numbers, battles and maneuvers; we had them and did them!

There is something to be said for small, authentic units. The Outpost Event in which the Texas Rifles participated was challenging and instructive. However, the primary experience of a French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War or Civil War soldier was being a small part of a big organization. He was part of a company which was part of a regiment (that he was very proud of and that was his primary identification in the army) which was attached to a brigade. He routinely was around hundreds and/or thousands of fellow soldiers. He was required to know his drill so that he could be maneuvered as part of a larger tactical unit.

So, while the Civil War is not my favorite time period to reenact, it offers something that no other recreated period can offer to participants... full scale. So, the next time the First Sergeant yells, "Fall in" and you find your place in the company ranks, savor the moment! You are doing something that most reenactors in other periods never get to do.



Comments from Battalion

Greetings Gentlemen,

I typically don't like to rant and rave about stuff, nor pass along negative or disheartening news from, or regarding, higher command structures (brigade, division, or alliance level). That's the type of stuff that we as battalion officers deal with and try to keep from burdening the men in our ranks, unless absolutely necessary. However, I felt the following information and comments were in order.

If you are like me, you have been waiting many years with great anticipation of the 150th Civil War Anniversary events to roll around, with thoughts of high quality memory-making mega events dancing in your heads. Well, the time for those events is here...or just about here.

Unfortunately, for these anniversary celebrations there will be no help from outside the hobby in hosting and coordinating the events. By outside help, I am referring to our national, and in most cases state and local governments, as they did help for the centennial celebrations. In fact, a lot of the current public opinion is against the "celebration" of these events and would like to do nothing short of sweep them under the carpet.

Therefore, this is the time, the most important time I would emphasize, that all reenactors, leaders, and organizers in the hobby work together, put aside any past differences, and avoid creating any new ones, so that we can all work to make the sesquicentennial events the most successful they can be! If we all do not work together at this important time, then forget it.....they will not be successful, or worst of all may not even happen, and we will only have ourselves to blame!

I know to all of you this seems pretty obvious, but what most of you do not know is that there is a lot of bickering going on at the higher levels of our hobby, mostly the division and alliance level. Past issues between some high level leaders and event organizers are coming back to rear their ugly heads, greatly affecting some, and potentially most, of the BIG events both you and I have so patiently looked forward to. Most of these "issues" are argued back and forth via email, of which your battalion leaders are undesirably made privy. In most every case these issues are ones that make you scratch your head and wonder "What are they thinking?" or "Can't we all just get along?". It is a sad fact that these people cannot let old issues die and work together. It is also a sad fact that the adults in our hobby choose to act like children fighting on the playground, instead of adults working together for the benefit of the hobby they supposedly care about. But the most sad fact of all is that these people do so seemingly without any regard for the people their bickering affects the most, the people they are supposed serving: you and I !!!!!

All this makes our job as battalion leaders that more difficult. Not only do we have to worry about our own battalions well being, but also what events there will be (or NOT BE) to go to, and what higher level commander(s) is going to cause something to happen that puts the events and all we have worked for in jeopardy because of some petty argument. Sometimes it's enough to make you want to throw in the towel. It definitely makes you long for the days when you were not at command level and weren't aware of such "issues".

The good news is that even with all this, the big events will go on. Yes, their "issues" might have some affect on some aspects of certain events, but they will go on. And while I realize that we all can't affect or change the goings on at the brigade, division, or higher alliance level, we do have control at our company and battalion level. I can also promise you that your battalion staff will always look toward you best interest and provide you with the best experience we can at every event.

Therefore, what I ask of you is to keep up the good work and relationships that we have always enjoyed in our companies and battalion, as this is what has always made us so successful. Doing so is more important now than ever. Officers and NCOs, please keep in mind that we are in our positions to serve the men in our ranks. The actions and decisions we make directly affect the men we serve; our friends! Always execute your duties with the same concern you would expect of your leaders. Privates, your cooperation, dedication, and above all patience and understanding is what this "volunteer" hobby is founded on. Without these attributes and your willingness to follow your leaders the hobby would never work. I would also ask that you keep in mind the difficult job your leaders have in always making sure that their decisions and actions are for your benefit. To us all, if a situation arises, work through it as friends, and seek help from your leadership if necessary. We are always here to help. Never let a situation progress till it pushes you to the breaking point of leaving the hobby; as we have all waited too long for the coming events to let that happen. But above all we must never let our "issues" affect the men we serve, or each other.

I know I'm preaching to the choir here. Everyone of you have always exemplified my previous points. For this, and on behalf of the battalion staff, I give you my most sincere thanks. The only thing I could ask is that everyone please keep up the good work, and together let's make the sesquicentennial the best experience it can be for us all. After all, each and everyone of you have worked hard for it; let no one ruin it!

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you in the field.

I remain, your most obedient servant,

Col. Fred Yokubaitis
Red River battalion, Commanding



Texas Rifles 2011 Schedule

Dates	Event	Location
January 22-23, 2011	Texas Rifles Annual Meeting	Henkel Square, Round Top, TX
February 12, 2011	Twiggs Surrender (150th)	The Alamo, San Antonio, TX
February 12, 2011	Jesse Jones Park	Humble, TX
March 5-6, 2011	Battle for El Camino Real	Madisonville, TX (North of Huntsville)
March 26-27, 2011	Battle of Port Hudson	Zachary, Louisiana
May 7-8, 2011	Battle of Port Jefferson	Jefferson, Texas
July 23-24, 2011	RRB Muster for Wilson's Creek	TBD
August 12-14, 2011	Wilson's Creek (150th)	Wilson's Creek Battlefield, Republic, MO
September 24-25, 2011	Battle of Fort Crawford	Hallsville, Texas (East of Dallas)
October 8-9, 2011	TR Henkel Square Wedding	Henkel Square?
October 22, 2011	Texian Market Days	George Ranch, Richmond, TX
November 19-20, 2011	Plantation Liendo	Hempstead, Texas
November 19-20, 2011	Imprisoned on the Frontier	Ft. McKavett
January 7-8, 2012	Battle of Galveston	The Strand, Galveston, TX

Schedule - CONTINUED

Dates	Impression	Also Attending	Attendance Rating
January 22-23, 2011	Confederate		Max Effort
February 12, 2011	Texas Militia	RRB & 1 st TX	Company Effort
February 12, 2011	Confederate	TR & 13 th U.S.	Individual Attendance
March 5-6, 2011	Western Federal	1 st TX	Individual Attendance
March 26-27, 2011	Western Federal	RRB & 1 st TX	Max Effort
May 7-8, 2011	Western Federal	RRB & 1 st TX	Individual Attendance
July 23-24, 2011	AOT (Battle Shirts)	RRB	Company Effort
August 12-14, 2011	AOT (Battle Shirts)	RRB & 1 st TX	Max Effort
September 24-25, 2011	Army of Tennessee	RRB & 1 st TX	Company Effort
October 8-9, 2011	Civilian		Max Effort
October 22, 2011	TBD	TR & ?	Company & Civilian Max Effort
November 19-20, 2011	Western Federal		Company Effort
November 19-20, 2011	Federal Prisoner		Individual Attendance
January 7-8, 2012	Confederate	1st TX	Company Effort

Additional Information

March 26-27, 2011	Battle of Port Hudson	http://www.crt.state.la.us/parks/iphudson.aspx
August 12-14, 2011	Wilson's Creek (150th)	http://www.wilsonscreek.com/
November 19-20, 2011	Plantation Liendo	http://www.liendo.org/civilwarweekend/civilwar.html



John Keahey won the Drill Competition by his excellent form!



The Shooting competition was fierce!



But in the end Bo Ramires won the cup!



I think it's now called....



The deadline for submission of articles for the next Tyrants' Foe is June 17, 2011.

To Tyrants Never Yield!