



The Tyrants' Foe

Newsletter of the Texas Rifles



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☆ Company G ☆

The Captain's Dispatch



We are back from Gettysburg and now preparing for Chickamauga, which will quite probably put the premier events of commemorating the 150th anniversary of these momentous events in our history. Gettysburg featured several scenes that we should long remember. We also had several members who made special efforts to make the event, and it was great to see you again in the field. Especially memorable was the opportunity to make the transit from the Texas Memorial in to the Devil's Den at the Military Park.

For Chickamauga, we will be back to the usual AoT impression. There is still some discussion on our camping area – It does not look like we will be moving camp during the event. A reminder to check the RRB website for maps of the site, as they will be posted there when available.

We also need to maintain our proficiency in the military skills, and will try to work in some drill time – just to make sure that we do not forget what we need to know. Musket caps have been procured in quantity, so we should be Ok for a while.

We will return to Pioneer Farms the second weekend in October for our fall civilian event. Please note that Liendo is the weekend before Thanksgiving – the schedule for this year now posted on the Liendo website.

Use the rest of the summer to prepare for Chickamauga, and think about improvements you want to make for your impression. Also, Frazier Bros. has a few Enfields in stock, with the good quality bands and one piece ramrods for a very attractive price – about \$725.

Your Servant,
Tommy Attaway
Captain, Texas Rifles



Four Days In The Field and Such A Small Haversack!

As many of you are aware the event in Gettysburg will be four days. I looked at my small little haversack and thought "How will I ever survive, I will starve to death?" I did some online research, coupled with my past knowledge of camping and came up with a few ideas. Then I thought about it and another factor came into play, the weather. The typical weather can be in the high 80's with humidity to match. Food can spoil quite easily and the summer heat make having a robust meal the last thing on our minds.

So what can we do? Farb out and eat at the vendors? Well they are about a mile away from us? Use an ice cooler? Well we wont be in a static camp the entire time. That really narrows it down to one option. Do what our ancestors did.

First cook in the cool parts of the day. You can cook for your lunch in the morning and stuff it away till then. Eat a later supper once the heat of the day has passed. In colder times during the year we warm ourselves on the camp fires. The last thing we want is one of us becoming a victim of heat due to slaving over a hot campfire. Seek shade not the frying pan during the heat of the day.

Ok, now what? your haversack is kind small and your pack is kinda full, so how about sharing? If your bringing a frying pan, ask a mess mate to bring a cooking pot. Have the third person bring some extra fruit or potatoes for the three of you.

Now what exactly to cook and eat? Period bacon, and dried meat were cured. Today's bacon is not the same. I have discovered the New Braunfels Smoke House does sell period cured bacon, beef and ham. They are online. This will keep in the heat. Dried fruit is light weight and period correct. You can also find dried veggies which are also period correct. Cornmeal and rice are light weight and easily can be cooked up. Some of us will of course make room in our haversacks for our coffee. Sugar and spices were sometimes carried in the tails of frock coats. Id suggest small bottles or rolling in period paper (such as painters papers). Im also planning on bringing some dried sausage links. I can fry them up which will produce grease. Then I can add an onion, and a diced up green tart apple. Finally a bit of cinnamon. A period correct meal, cooked in one container with little space in the haversack. A period drink to top it off? How about blackberry tea? Dry the leaves, boil and steep, then let it cool.

This time of year in Pennsylvania a lot of vegetables would be coming into season. The Rebel Armies was also freely "shopping" at stores along the way and visiting the "Fat Dutchmen" and their farms to trade and barter. You could look at some of these of fresh vegetables, but you have the weight factor to consider and the heat due to spoilage. There is a period account of a soldier who had a gunny sack attached to his belt during the march. Of course once in battle he tossed it away along with his blanket keeping only a pair of socks in his belt. If you want to use this option of the gunny sack, eat this food first. Once the camp moves you can roll up the gunny sack in your pack or bedroll.

Although some products are period correct and might be available in the town of Gettysburg I would avoid canned food, just for the weight factor alone. If you must have it id suggest again eating it one day one before we head out.

There are some folks who require a special diet and needs. Folks there is nothing wrong with taking care of your body if needed. This is a hobby and your health is paramount. That being said, there is a real serious need to replace our fluids, before and after the battles. Someone suggested the sports drink "Propel", is the top rated drink. Nothing wrong with this as long as we remember the wrappers. Im going to buy some and put some in a period correct container.

There is a treasure trove of information online about period cooking. The weather, and the movements will make this a challenge for us. The most important thing we can do to overcome this is to increase our water consumption and despite the heat, remember to eat.

I Remain YOS
Lt. Dusty Lind



Attention!

I'm sorry I missed Gettysburg. It sounds like you fellows had a good trip and I am sure you all represented Texas well. I am planning on going to Chickamauga and hopefully everything else on our schedule for the rest of the year.

I really didn't know what to write for this article, but in preparing for Chickamauga the idea came to me. I have been looking in my picture books to see if I can improve my impression for the event and thought I'd offer my encourage you all to never stop studying and improving your impression. Now and then in reading a book you can come across little nuggets of information concerning uniforms and equipment but it's very often the picture books that help the most. Unfortunately, some of the best pictures of Confederates are pictures of casualties, but these too teach us a lot about what the men might have been using or wearing in a particular battle. Echoes of Glory and the Time Life collection are very good and most of us have these. A few others that I have that help a lot are:

Faces of the Confederacy by Ronald Coddington

Portraits of Conflict, A Photographic History of Texas in the Civil War by Carl Moneyhon and Bobby Roberts

Civil War Album compiled by Davis and Wiley

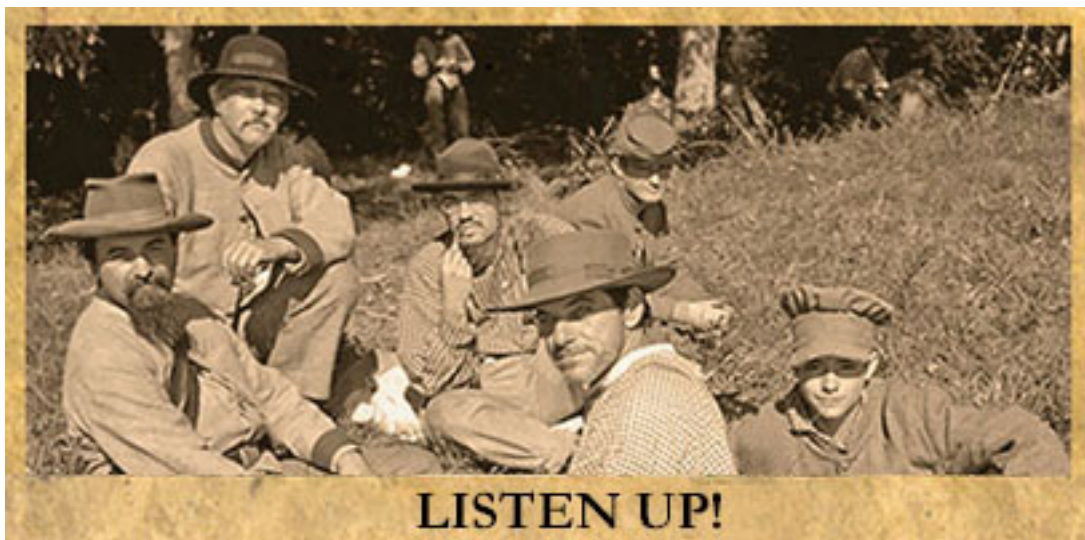
The first two of these books offers photos and short stories of the men captured in each of them. The album is a HUGE book put out by the Civil War Times magazine and has almost 4000 original pictures, many of them of soldiers and sailors but also landscapes, equipment and towns.

It is my opinion that we should base our impressions by the history books and original photos rather than simply by what is available on sutler row. Remember that they are out to make a buck and accuracy isn't always a top priority. Check them and their products out BEFORE you spend that money! Never stop being a student in this time period. Far fro being "hardcore" this simply keeps us at the top of our game and able to represent Texas and these men whose memory we seek to honor.

You may now stand at ease.

F.J.Marek

1st Sgt of Texas Rifles



Wagons

In our "campaigns" of the last year and a half, we have had various experiences with a wagon train, none of them pleasant. I thought it might be of interest to look at the historical record of regimental supply, 1861 to 1865. The figures used will be for the regular army, and from this we can extrapolate to US volunteers, and make reasonable guesses about the state of the Confederate quartermaster.

Supply is at its basic level a mathematical function. The regular infantry company had a theoretical maximum of 95 (consisting of 1 captain, 3 subalterns, 1 orderly sgt., 4 sgts., 4 corps., and 82 private soldiers), and each man was expected to consume 3 pounds per day in rations. Allowing for other consumables, an infantry company will consume some 300 pounds of supplies a day. This company also has company property to be transported, that will not be carried by the soldiers. This baggage consists of

the company desk, officer baggage (80 pounds per company grade officer authorized), tentage, and other authorized items that might be issued to the company.

The regiment (battalion on campaign) was expected to consume between 2 and 2.5 tons of supplies per day. With 21 wagons, 150 mules, and 2 horses comprising the wagon train, this task is easily managed. A wagon could be expected to haul at least one ton. For example, on the 1862 Peninsula campaign, the 100,000 man Union Army had some 1100 wagons total. This was also easily workable because the wagons were not expected to cover long distances – 20 miles in a day was considered typical according to the staff guides of the day. For the most part, supplies were expected to be moved by boat or train. This emphasizes the critical role played by navigable rivers and later, the railroads in the war – that was how America moved goods.

The situation for the Confederacy was more dire, with many fewer wagons available, and for the most part, wagon trains consolidated at brigade level. Of not to us Texas, the wagon masters for the Texas Brigade of the ANV were black – and also members of the veteran's association after the war.

Your Servant,
Tommy Attaway
Captain, Texas Rifles



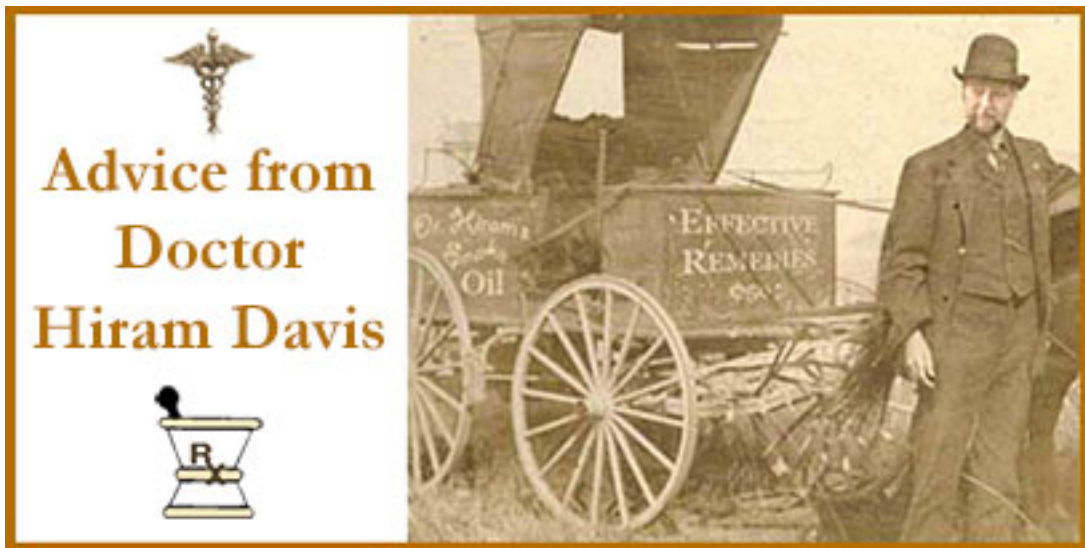
By HolliBeth Marek

The summer is coming to an end and we begin to prepare for the fall season. Our next Civilian event is at Pioneer Farms the weekend of October 12th. The theme of the event is “A Day in the Life”, which will make for an interesting weekend. I am sure we all have ideas for our interpretation for the weekend. The only part of the weekend that will be pre planned is the lunch meal on Saturday and the drill. The rest is left up to the individual participants.

Texian Market Days is the weekend of October 26th. Deleta and I will be cooking in the kitchen again on Friday and Saturday, and we welcome anyone who wants to join us. I know a good number of our members no longer get excited about TMD, but it is a good opportunity to educate the children who come out to see us. How will they learn if no one is there to teach them?

Liendo is the weekend of November 23rd, which rounds out our year with a wonderful weekend full of good friends and good fun. I always look forward to camping with Debbie, Bob, and Karen, and watching the battle. The most fun for me come in the moments when I can block out the spectators and immerse myself in my impression.

I believe the living history is my favorite part of reenacting. It feels good to know that I am able to pass on our history to those who might otherwise never hear about it. This time period that we love seems to not be taught in schools as much as it should be, and Hollywood typically gives us horrible history lessons. So it is up to people like us to teach the younger generations about a time in history that should never be forgotten.



“Buy and take Hiram’s All Purpose Medicine!”



Civil War Nurse administering Hiram’s Snake Oil to Pvt. Rick Hall.



TRAGETY AT GETTYSBURG



**The death of brave Pvt. Kip at Devil's Den!
May he rest in peace.**
- Lesson to be learned, keep your head down! -



Gentlemen,

In recent years the practice of snuff taking is once again gaining popularity among men as well as women. Much has been written about the advantages of nasal snuff over products that deliver tobacco smoke. However, our study shows that women snuff users, after long-term abuse, develop a form of chronic rhinitis, as a consequence of which they develop blocked and stuffy noses. We conclude that nasal snuff is not a suitable practice for women because it subjects them to constant and annoying sneezing and sniffing.

More importantly there is the issue of it being a severe violation of acceptable social behavior by women in polite society! Such a spectacle of unfeminine behavior is to be avoided at all costs.

Gentlemen, if your wife is indulging in such behavior I strongly urge you to take your responsibilities as the God given head of your household and use what ever means, short of breaking the law, to put and end to such practices by her. Your family and society will be better off for it.

I thank you for your attention to this matter.
The Editor

An Example of How Our Women Should Appear in Polite Society

