



The Tyrants' Foe

Newsletter of the Texas Rifles



Volume XXXIII

June 23, 2014



★ Company G ★



The Spring campaigning season is now past and we are well into Summer. Rifles participated in two 150th Anniversary events in Louisiana, Ft. Martin Scott, and some other presentations at the Folklife Festival, and Klein.. We have also added members to our rolls, and that is a welcome addition.

As I mentioned last time, the other 150th Anniversary event will take us to Virginia where we will portray part of the Texas Brigade as they repelled multiple attacks. This event also promises an interesting scenario as we will be attacked by a unit of US Colored Troops.. We are also working with the site staff at Ft. Martin Scott to do something unusual – having as one of the interpretive points being the making period of repairs and some construction work about a couple of the buildings on the site. Bring period tools.

In the fall, after our return from Virginia, we will have TMD and another civilian event at Pioneer Farms. Unless we can work up a suitable scenario at TMD, we will be primarily civilian there as well. Our friends in the 1st TX are interested in TMD, so we may end up with a military scenario after all. The last scheduled event for the year is Liendo, and the 1st US is attending, which should boost the numbers of Federals, and might make this year's event more interesting.

We now have the hot part of the year in which to prepare ourselves with the last push for the 150th events. There is more talk about doing an event at Palmetto Ranch to bring the commemoration (such as it has been) of the war to a close. In most of the talk so far, we would be attending as Federals.

I am still working on the gallery portion of the website – so pass along your photos of past events especially of the years from 2000 to 2010. One additional project that I wish to complete this year, is to create an archive of our past newsletters and make them available via the website.

I ask that we produce the next Newsletter after our return from Virginia.

Capt. Tommy Attaway



With the upcoming event in Virginia I thought I would write a few lines about trench warfare in the Civil War. There is not a lot on the internet or published out there about this with the exception of some writings on Petersburg.

But why did they entrench? One of the big reasons was the minie ball. Generals had finally discovered that the range and the accuracy of these rifles muskets meant a smaller force dug in could hold off a larger force. Massed cannons of large caliber could knock down whole companies in one shot.

There had been earlier battles in the war that had shown the destructive power of an entrenched force such as the stone wall at Fredericksburg and even Pine Mountain. But there had also been trials and errors with trench warfare. Chattanooga had the soldiers entrenched but the men were spread too thin and entrenched on the crests of hills versus the correct military crest. Franklin was another hard lesson, by placing men in front of the field of fire of others. The Federals had to hold their own fire or hit their men, but also allowing the Confederates to advance right behind the Federals. Vicksburg and Port Hudson had been sore lessons for Federal Forces about attacking entrenched Confederates.

By 1864 there were lessons learned and they were applied outside of Richmond. General Lee knew had the ability to entrench his men in depth. He had the ability to shift troops within his lines quickly. He also had the men constantly improving their works. So how was he defeated?

One by constant pressure upon the Confederate Troops. Another was trying to stretch the lines by moving further and further around the flanks, thinning the lines. The Confederate transportation system was breaking down slowly, with no means to replace and repair, food became scarce.

The Shenandoah Valley was the breadbasket for the troops. Again more Federal pressure to reduce these foods for the Confederate Forces. General Sheridan claimed he would make a crow carry his own rations across the Shenandoah Valley and he came pretty darn close.

In a last gasp effort General Lee sent troops to threaten Washington itself in an effort to break the siege, but to no avail. I am sure you know the rest.

Lt. Dusty Lind



It doesn't seem to long ago that the Texas Rifles adopted the Texas Brigade as our primary impression. Through diligent research a 1st class uniform/equipment list was made and our impression as campaigners exceeded even some of the "hardcore" units back east. Now the opportunity is on us again to represent the Texas Brigade in Virginia. it may take a little thought and planning but I believe we can once again have that 1st class ANV impression.

The first thing anyone will notice will be your hat and jacket. the hat is a pretty simple issue if you wear a civilian slouch hat because they were pretty much all the same across America at this time. Whether period correct straw or felt, watch for quality. If you only paid \$20 for a felt "crusher" or "aussie" hat from Walmart,

your impression will suffer.

Another option is the CS issue kepi or forage cap or a US Hardee hat. (captured, of course!) Just remember to watch for quality before you buy it. As a company, I don't think the Texas Rifles suffer.

My thoughts on the jacket are really two sides of a coin; what is best versus what is affordable. The BEST jacket based on time and theatre of war is what is known as a Richmond Depot Type 3, or RD3. This is mostly a re-enactor's term and photo evidence shows some variation but is best described as a short jacket, 6 piece body, untrimmed, made of blue/gray wool kersey. (Capt. Attaway's jacket is a good example) This jacket can also be used for a Houston Depot jacket because the descriptions of both are similar. IF you were in a buying mood, this would be the best jacket for the Virginia event. HOWEVER! Our old RD2 jackets are still a good choice. If you still have yours, wear IT INSTEAD of your Columbus Depot jacket. If you don't have yours anymore or never had one let us know. There are a few in the Quartermaster supply and there are a few still with past members who are not going. We can try to get you set up but don't wait till the last minute! My own opinion is that a civilian overshirt or sack coat will make for a better impression than a Columbus jacket.

1st impressions mean the most and your hat and jacket are the 1st things people will notice. For other ANV impression ideas, look up our old Eastern Theatre CS Uniform and equipment guidelines for details about accoutrements, personal gear and other items to round out your ANV impression. See y'all in Virginny!!!

FJMarek
1st Sgt of Texas Rifles



Poor Bobo!



Civilian Report

It looks like we have found another home away from home in Fort Martin Scott. Fort Martin Scott has turned out to be a great fit for the Texas Rifles. We have been there twice and enjoyed both visits. In March we attended the Frontier Days. Karen made a delicious supper in the fireplace for all to enjoy. We demonstrated knitting, quilting, and spinning for the spectators. Those who attended enjoyed the event. In May the Texas Rifles hosted a living history of the fort. Sara made a wonderful venison stew on an open fire, everyone enjoyed the meal. At both events we were treated to Sara's homemade biscuits, they are delicious. We had a number of spectators who were interested in our hobby and we voted in four new members to the group, John, Sara, Rita and Russell. In reading the email that Tommy posted in regards to Fort Martin Scott, it looks like we have been invited back to enjoy the site. A future event there could be a workday with period tools. Even being in the month of May, the weather was not hot and miserable. Though we did get a little damp, the weather was quite nice. With the proximity to town there is easy access to Walmart and HEB for supplies, and restaurants to enjoy after the event is over. Thank you to Debbie and Bob Russell for introducing us to the site. I hope to see all at the next event we have at the fort.

As the spring season has ended, we have a break before the fall season begins. The next civilian event is TMD in October. It is an optional event, but good for recruiting and educating the children. November 1st and 2nd we are at Pioneer Farms for our fall event. This event is hosted by the Texas Rifles; more details on the event will be posted at a later date. November 22nd and 23rd is Liendo.



HolliBeth Marek, Civilian Coordinator





From the Mind of Tommy Attaway

Gentlemen, Be Seated!

With this phrase, the most popular form of entertainment for most of the 19th Century was underway. The Minstrel Show began in its early form in the late 1820s, when Tom Rice, put on blackface and performed on stage with a fiddle and the character he created named Jim Crow acted the part of an elderly slave.

The basic premise of the entertainment was to portray blacks in a stereotypical manner of having child like personalities, improperly using English for a humorous effect, and providing a vehicle for making commentary they would not normally be considered proper in polite society – using the idea of blacks commenting on issues present in the “white” society. The minstrels also took on characteristics of other forms of entertainment, singing popular songs, and telling jokes as in a “medicine” show.

Daniel Emmitt (yes the composer of Dixie) modified the minstrel show format in the 1840s, by introducing three other characters and musical instruments. He added a banjo player, Mr. Tambo, who plays the tambourine, and Mr. Bones, who plays two animal long bones. This format allowed for more musical variety and interaction among the players for jokes and commentary of a humorous nature. At this time, many minstrel shows took on the black character into the names of the shows as well, with names such as The [City] Ethiopian Company.

Edwin Christy, who had formed the Christy Minstrels in 1843, modified the show format in 1850, to the form it would use for the next 100 years (the last known minstrel show took place in 1965). The fiddle and banjo were combined with other instruments to form a small orchestra. The line was introduced, which featured an odd number of performers. Mr. Tambo and Mr. Bones remained on stage as the “End Men” in the far left and right positions of the line of players. The character of Mr. Interlocutor was introduced, who did not perform in blackface, was placed in the center of the line of players, and performs the role of the Master of Ceremonies who sets up the next act for the audience, and often serves as the “straight man” for the jokes and sketches. The remaining line men assisted in singing the songs, and in some jokes or sketches played the role like the chorus in an ancient Greek play.

A minstrel show would typically last well over two hours and be divided into three parts. In the first part, the line would perform. The line entered from one side of the stage, singing a song while marching and dancing around the seats on stage. At the end of the song, the players would be in front of their seats, Mr. Interlocutor in the middle, Mr. Tambo and Mr. Bones on the opposite ends, and the remaining number of players evenly divided between Mr. Interlocutor and the end men. At this point, Mr. interlocutor announces "Gentlemen, be seated." And the show begins. The only speaking parts in the first part are Mr. Interlocutor, Tambo, and Bones, the other players form the chorus. A series of jokes and songs, comprise the first part, and the minstrels end the first part with a song, marching and dancing around the seats, and exiting at the side of the stage.

Here is an abbreviated first part of a show:

Opening Song : Kingdom Comin'

Say, darkies, hab you seen de massa, wid de muffstash on his face,
Go long de road some time dis mornin', like he gwine to leab de place?
He seen a smoke way up de ribber, whar de Linkum gunboats lay;
He took his hat, and lef' berry sudden, and I spec' he's run away!

De massa run, ha, ha! De darkey stay, ho, ho!
It mus' be now de kindom coming, an' de year ob Jubilo!

He six foot one way, two foot tudder, and he weigh tree hundred pound,
His coat so big, he couldn't pay the tailor, an' it won't go halfway round.
He drill so much dey call him Cap'n, an' he got so drefful tanned,
I spec' he try an' fool dem Yankees for to tink he's contraband.

De massa run, ha, ha! De darkey stay, ho, ho!
It mus' be now de kindom coming, an' de year ob Jubilo!

De darkeys feel so lonesome libbing in de loghouse on de lawn,
Dey move dar tings into massa's parlor for to keep it while he's gone.
Dar's wine an' cider in de kitchen, an' de darkeys dey'll have some;
I s'pose dey'll all be cornfiscated when de Linkum sojers come.

De massa run, ha, ha! De darkey stay, ho, ho!
It mus' be now de kindom coming, an' de year ob Jubilo!

De obserseer he make us trouble, an' he dribe us round a spell;
We lock him up in de smokehouse cellar, wid de key trown in de well.
De whip is lost, de han'cuff broken, but de massa'll hab his pay;
He's ole enough, big enough, ought to known better dan to went an' run away.

De massa run, ha, ha! De darkey stay, ho, ho!
It mus' be now de kindom coming, an' de year ob Jubilo!

Int- Gentleman, be seated

Bones- Mr. Interlocutor, Mr. Interlocutor, I gots a joke to tell!

Int- Mr. Bones, do tell your joke.

Bones.—You remember that very handsome watch I lost five or six years ago?

Int.—Yes, I recall the occurrence.

Bones.— You remember how I looked high and low for it, and could not find it anywhere?

Int.—I remember your diligent and exhaustive search.

Bones.—Well, yesterday I put on an old waistcoat that I hadn't worn for years, and what do you think I found in the pocket?

Int.—Your watch. Do let me congratulate you.

Bones.—No. I found the hole that I must have lost it through.

[At the conclusion of the “punch line” Mr. Tambo and Mr. Bones play their instruments and grin – showing all the teeth they can and close their eyes and shake their heads]

Int- And now ladies and gentlemen, we will perform a song by Stephen Foster

The sun shines bright in the old Kentucky home,
'Tis summer, the darkies are gay,
The corn top's ripe and the meadows in the bloom,
While the birds make music all the day.
The young folks roll on the little cabin floor,
All merry, all happy and bright:
By'n by Hard Times comes a knocking at the door,
Then my old Kentucky Home, good night!

CHORUS

Weep no more, my lady,
Oh! weep no more to-day!
We will sing one song for the old Kentucky Home,
For the old Kentucky Home far away.

They hunt no more for possum and the coon
On the meadow, the hill, and the shore,
They sing no more by the glimmer of the moon,
On the bench by the old cabin door.
The day goes by like a shadow o're the heart,
With sorrow where all was delight:
The time has come when the darkies have to part,
Then my old Kentucky Home, good-night!

(CHORUS)

The head must bow and the back will have to bend,
Wherever the darkey may go:
A few more days, and the trouble all will end
In the field where the sugar-canes grow.
A few more days for to tote the weary load,
No matter, 'twill never be light,
A few more days till we totter on the road,
Then my old Kentucky Home, good-night!

Tambo.—I saw you in the railroad restaurant this morning. Did you get anything to eat?

Int.—Not very much; they had very little there to eat.

Tambo.—Yes. That is as advertised.

Int.—What do you mean?

Tambo.—Why, didn't you know they've been advertising reduced fare on that railroad?

[At the conclusion of the “punch line” Mr. Tambo and Mr. Bones play their instruments and grin – showing all the teeth they can and close their eyes and shake their heads]

Int- And now ladies and gentlemen, we have our final song of this part of the program.

I wish I was in the land of cotton,
Old times there are not forgotten;
Look away! Look away! Look away! Dixie Land.
In Dixie's Land where I was born in,
Early on one frosty mornin,
Look away! Look away! Look away! Dixie Land.

I wish I was in Dixie, Hooray! Hooray!
In Dixie's Land I'll take my stand
to live and die in Dixie.
Away, away, away down south in Dixie.
Away, away, away down south in Dixie.

Old Missus marry “Will de weeber,”
William was a gay deceiver;
Look away! Look away! Look away! Dixie Land.
And when he put his arm around 'er,
He smiled as fierce as a forty-pounder,
Look away! Look away! Look away! Dixie Land.

I wish I was in Dixie, Hooray! Hooray!
In Dixie's Land I'll take my stand
to live and die in Dixie.
Away, away, away down south in Dixie.
Away, away, away down south in Dixie.

His face was sharp as a butcher's cleaver
But that did not seem to grieve 'er
Look away! Look away! Look away! Dixie Land.
Ole Missus acted the foolish part
She died for a man that broke her heart
Look away! Look away! Look away! Dixie Land.

I wish I was in Dixie, Hooray! Hooray!
In Dixie's Land I'll take my stand
to live and die in Dixie.
Away, away, away down south in Dixie.
Away, away, away down south in Dixie.

Now here's to the health to the next ole Missus
An' all the gals that want to kiss us;
Look away! Look away! Look away! Dixie Land
And if you want to drive away sorrow
Come and hear our song tomorrow

Look away! Look away! Look away! Dixie Land.

I wish I was in Dixie, Hooray! Hooray!
In Dixie's Land I'll take my stand
to live and die in Dixie.
Away, away, away down south in Dixie.
Away, away, away down south in Dixie.

Dar's buckwheat cakes an Injun batter,
Makes your fat a little fatter;
Look away! Look away! Look away! Dixie Land.
Then hoe it down and scratch your gravel,
To Dixie's Land I'm bound to travel.
Look away! Look away! Look away! Dixie Land.

I wish I was in Dixie, Hooray! Hooray!
In Dixie's Land I'll take my stand
to live and die in Dixie.
Away, away, away down south in Dixie.
Away, away, away down south in Dixie.

The second part of the show would typically be an interpretation of a play with minstrel characteristics – an example of a Shakespeare performance

Romeo, Romeo, where for art thou, Romeo

I gots his art right here

The third part consisted of speeches and soliloquies where incorrect words would be used for humorous effect.

By the early 1900s, Mr. interlocutor was also appearing in blackface, and musicians may be placed in stage behind the line. The rise of vaudeville led to the decline of the minstrel show, which was finally ended with the Civil Rights movement.

It is also worth noting that minstrelry was extremely popular in the Northern States prior to the war, much to the dismay of Frederick Douglas. *Blackface performers are, "...the filthy scum of white society, who have stolen from us a complexion denied them by nature, in which to make money, and pander to the corrupt taste of their white fellow citizens."* — Frederick Douglass





Guest Article

Who is the “Bad Seed”

During May of 1864, the Texas Home Guard in Fredericksburg, Texas experienced what could only be considered an embarrassing and confusing event. The Assistant Adjunct General of the Confederate State of Texas, Otto Gray, showed up with a Texas Ranger in tow to give the post commander what can only be described as a good old fashioned scolding. This originated from a letter sent to Mr. Gray, and then to the Governor himself, outlining the abysmal behavior of some troops under the command Captain Engelbert Krauskopf.

This where this gets both interesting and confusing. The letter was sent by Krauskopf's second in command, Lieutenant Jacob Luckenback. In the letter he discussed how the men went into town and harassed the citizens demanding free food and beer as well as “bothering” the ladies of the town. He also named a ringleader, one Private Hiram Davis. Due to this, Mr. Gray demanded that Davis be incarcerated immediately and that Krauskopf also discipline the rest of his command.

The incarceration took considerable effort on behalf of Gray and Ranger Jim Stowbridge as Davis threw a fit which mirrored delirium tremens including the shakes, grabbing things and some biting. No help came from the members of Krauskopf's command as Gray and Ranger Stowbridge put Davis into a cell themselves.

Upon leaving the jail, Assistant Adjunct General Gray and Ranger Stowbridge were accosted by Krauskopf and were forced and gunpoint to leave the fort. Words were exchanged and threats of losing his post were thrown at Krauskopf who stood his ground and moved them along.

What will happen from this event is still pending as Gray took the next stage to Austin and Ranger Stowbridge still lingers in Fredericksburg, though avoiding the fort.

To compound this whole event, later in the day, Private Davis acquired a weapon from somewhere and began a campaign of retribution. He began to quietly secret himself about the fort firing at Lt. Luekenback. A small troop of men were gathered and Davis was finally subdued and thrown back in jail. So, he was let out of jail for crimes against the citizens of Fredrickburg, but put into jail for crimes against his command. Again, the incident remains embarrassing and confusing to this reporter and we await further developments. James Tanner





