



The Tyrants' Foe



Volume XXXXI

Newsletter of the Texas Rifles
Celebrating 32 Years of Excellence

Jan. 2019



On the 19th of January, the Texas Rifles return to the Winedale Historical Center for our annual muster. The center will be providing the meals – Breakfast at \$6, Lunch at \$10, Dinner at \$14. Thus, \$36 for the entire weekend of meals, and we will need to have a reasonably firm headcount now. We will be renting the center, so it will be vital that we raise funds at our auction. As of the date I write this, confirmed attendance is a bit low, and the number of attendees will influence as to our ability to continue to rent a location for muster.

At the meeting we will be setting our schedule as part of our normal business, and we will have several small events available which will require us to make decisions as to which sites and events we can support. A partial list as of the end of December is:

Feb 2-3	Canton
Feb 9	Jesse Jones
Mar 2-3	Battleground 1863
Mar 30-31	Goliad
Apr 6-7	Ft. Blakeley
Apr 20 -21	San Jacinto
May 18-19	Raymond
Oct 26	Texian Market Days
Nov 23-24	Liendo
Dec 7-8	Prairie Grove

As you will note, the fall is fairly open, so we have the opportunity to put on an event at Ft. McKavett, conduct a civilian event, or participate in TexRev such as Come and Take it in Gonzalez.

I will post the event schedule for muster shortly. I will use the opportunity of having an area oriented to meetings to bring back some of the activities we used to do such as presentations on various topics related to the time periods we portray. I hope this will be of interest to the members and help make attendance at the muster enjoyable.

The Texas Rifles – keeping history alive.
Capt. T. Attaway



Greetings!

This year marks a return to our roots with the change in venue for the annual Texas Rifles muster and business meeting back to Winedale. I remember fondly the Winedale meetings of old from my first few years with the Rifles. I'm looking forward to bunking together again as a group, having the meals and meeting in a comfortable conference room, drilling and maybe getting back to having a tactical.

With this return to our roots, it is a good time to consider the direction of the organization moving forward. What type of events do we want to attend and which specific events do we want to support in 2019? Do we want to stick with our current impressions (Trans-Miss Confederate and Western Federal)? Does authenticity need to be addressed (are

we comfortable with where we are)? Is now a good time for another Texas Rifles Renaissance? I would like all the Texas Rifles to think about these questions for discussion during the business meeting.

I've been lax this last year in performing my duties as Lieutenant and will rectify that for the coming year. I want to give recognition to Captain Attaway and the rest of the Executive Board for bearing the load in 2018. 2018 was a lighter year than normal, event wise. It would be great if everyone would give some thought prior to the meeting if they have heard of any interesting events we could attend in 2019 outside of the events we typically go to each year.

For group consideration, the Red River Battalion events for the year include:

Battleground 1863*,	Camp Mabry, Austin, TX	March 2-3
Fort Blakely,	Fort Blakely, AL	April 5-7
Shenandoah 1864,	Lovettsville, VA	Oct 4-6
Liendo,	Hempstead, TX	November 23-24

The battalion will be attending 1863, Blakely and Liendo as Federal this year to even out numbers and to participate with the best groups at the events.

*Event also serves as Battalion Drill.

Lastly, I would like to recognize and thank Rick "The Crow" Hall for all his effort in putting together the newsletter. It's a tough job, herding cats, to get the articles in and formatted to look presentable.

Your Servant,
Lt. Don L. Tucker
Texas Rifles

Editor's Note: Don's complimentary last paragraph was written on his own volition without coercion or bribery. In addition, no person herded into submitting an article for this newsletter was injured in any way. Thanks Don!

- The Crow





Since I recently had knee replacement surgery, I thought an article about Civil War era surgery might be of interest, at least to me.

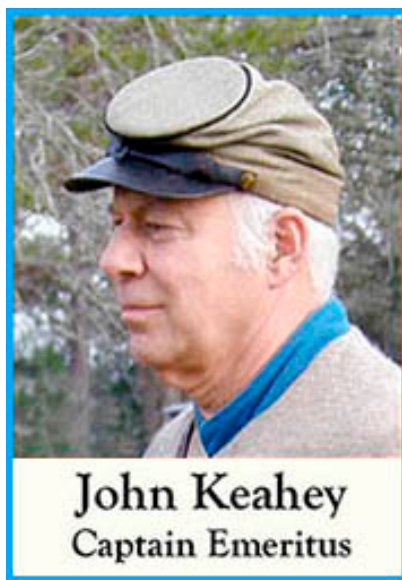
In August 1862 during the Battle of Second Manassas campaign, Major General Dick Ewell was wounded when a Minie ball struck his left knee. Refusing treatment so other nearby wounded soldiers could be treated, he didn't receive treatment until taken to the rear by ambulance several hours later. There Dr. Hunter McGuire, Stonewall Jackson's medical director, treated him the next day. Witnesses to the operation relate that Ewell was sedated with chloroform and the doctor then used a scalpel to cut around his leg just above the knee. In his drug induced fog, Ewell feverishly issued orders to troops but didn't seem to feel pain until the bone saw was utilized and he threw his arms into the air and screamed "Oh, my God." The kneecap had been split in two and the bullet went downward into the marrow for several inches while splintering bone in its wake. Ewell eventually recovered from the operation and returned to duty many months later.

Statistically speaking, a Confederate general was more likely to require medical treatment than a private. Almost one out of four died in the war compared to 1 out of 10 Union Generals. Approximately two out of three Civil War wounds treated by surgeons were to the extremities because few soldiers wounded in the head, stomach or chest survived long enough to make it back to a field hospital

The amputation process was relatively simple. After a circular cut was made completely around the limb, the bone was sawed, through and the blood vessels and arteries sewn shut. To prevent future pain, nerves were then pulled out as far as possible with forceps, cut and released to retract away from the stump. Finally, clippers and a rasp were used to smooth the end of the exposed bone. Speed was essential to prevent shock and blood loss. An amputation of the knee was expected to take just three minutes.

The mistaken perception that Civil War amputations were performed without anesthesia can be partially attributed to the fact that chloroform, the most common means of anesthesia, did not put patients into a deep unconscious state. Bystanders nearby would hear patients moaning and being restrained, but patients such as General Ewell reacted as if in pain but had no memory of it afterward.

Amputation was often preferred not only because of shock and blood loss, but because of the fear of gangrene setting in.



AFTER ACTION REPORT: PRAIRIE GROVE 2018

Prairie Grove was a battle fought in northwest Arkansas on December 7, 1862. Two Federal brigades attacked a Southern division that occupied a high ridge outside the small farming and mill town of Prairie Grove. The battle was essentially a draw, but the Confederates retreated during the night after the battle leaving the Federals in possession of the battlefield. The Federal went on to occupy the town and used the mill to grind flour for themselves. The battlefield is now a state park and much of the landscape remains unchanged and rural.

Prairie Grove is about a nine-hour drive from Houston, but the reenactment is on a much larger scale than anything else available to us within that driving time. Four Federal battalions of approximately 75 men each were supported by ten artillery pieces. The

Confederates fielded slightly more troops. Being a state park, we were allowed to march, camp and fight over the same ground as in the real battle. No one told us what could, or could not, be said to the public. This event is held bi-annually, and the battle reenactment alternates years with the other major Arkansas Civil War battle reenactment at Pea Ridge. We were well received by everyone; the locals, park staff and fellow reenactors in spite of our blue coats.

Both Pea Ridge (in March) and Prairie Grove (in December) reenactments are held close to their original dates, which makes the weather questionable; wet to cool to downright cold. This was my first time to participate at Prairie Grove, but stories from other members told of cold and even snow. This year's weather was a challenge. Friday was comfortably warm with none of the predicted light rain, so travel and set-up was unhindered. But as also predicted, a line of thunderstorms passed over the area around midnight. These were strong storms with lightning, roaring winds and rain. Every shelter tent was blown down and our "A" frame tent was ripped and partially blown over (with us in it). After the excitement of the storms, came clear sky and a temperature drop. Saturday night hit a temperature low of 35 degrees, but with a re-built tent, plenty of straw, overcoats and good blankets we slept warm. With bright sun the temperatures were comfortable during the two battles.

What made this event different was how it was organized on this end. I have been dissatisfied with Civil War reenacting for years. While this hobby has produced enduring comradeships and many memorable moments, with the decline in numbers has come also a decline in the standards of many units, including the Texas Rifles. I don't go to events for the opportunity to drink and eat. I go to events to educate the public, educate myself, and experience some of what the common soldier did; preferable on the same ground that he experienced it. As a group the Texas Rifles has not promoted that philosophy for years. There are many opinions as to how this evolved, but that is not the goal of this article. There are others who feel the same, scattered through the units with whom we typically cooperate. An invitation was put out to those people to attend Prairie Grove as a composite authentic campaigner company. What was wanted was participants who could authentically march, fight, camp, eat issue type food and do it all under whatever the current conditions were (within reasonable limits). This concept was not meant to belittle anyone else's efforts. The idea was not to form a new unit or join another one. The idea was not to exclude anyone. The concept was to return to what attracted us to this hobby in the first place. The concept is to attend a couple of events per year, as a composite authentic campaigner unit where being an officer is a punishment, not a birthright.

The concept works! Our composite company at Prairie Grove was assembled from several units; some local, some not. Houston area had four former or current officers serving in the ranks as privates. No one left due to bad weather. We marched about 1.5 miles just to get to the battle site, and then fought up a steep hill. We did demonstrations for the public; a knapsack inspection so they could see a soldier's kit,

and bayonet drill. We did company drill so that we all performed the same movement to command. When this group fired a volley, it wasn't snap, crackle, pop like breakfast cereal; it was a single loud "VOOM" that told the world that these were trained troops and brought a thrill to me that I have not experienced for years. We had young guys and old guys like me in the ranks. The only real criteria to participate was a proper attitude and the willingness to try. There were opportunities for those not inclined by health or mindset to campaign style to do the normal mainstream activities at Prairie Grove; so, in the end, no one need feel excluded. All Texas Rifles members, military and civilian, could participate at an event such as Prairie Grove, but not under the same conditions or sites.

The next event for this concept is a seven mile preservation march in May near Raymond, Mississippi. If this concept appeals to you, consider attending. We will be Confederate and there will be no battle.

Jmk, 12/4/2018

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

Forage Caps

There was developed in various European armies the concept of an issue off duty hat that could be worn in a tent, slept-in on cold nights and more comfortable to work in when on a detail. These hats were called various names such as Fatigue Cap, Forage Cap, Bonnet de Police, or Barracks Cap. For the purposes of this article I shall refer to them collectively as Forage Caps.

It was the gun which made body armor impractical for the typical foot soldier. A mounted soldier had a horse to carry him, and any armor issued to him. Body armor was still worn into battle during the World War I by French heavy cavalry. But for the man who had to carry all his protection and weapons on his own two feet, armor ceased to be practical as firearms increased in effectiveness. Helmets came and went in military style. They were used in western armies until the latter half of the 1600's and later re-appeared during WWI. Helmet wearers typically purchased/stole/acquired a knit cap to use when the helmet was not worn. Taking the helmet's place in the 1700's was a broad brimmed felt hat which was very practical for a soldier in the field; ask any cowboy or farmer. But broad brimmed or tall military hats are not very practical for people living in an "A" framed enlisted man's tent.

In 1664 the Dutch had surrendered New Amsterdam, which became New York. That made all the European Atlantic coastal colonies British except Canada and Florida. Military fashion at the time was still broad brimmed hats, but the brims tended to droop

when saturated by rain and that was un-military looking to the official mind. So the cocked hat came into being; the brims were lashed to the crown in one or two or three places. You still could not work in it or wear it in a tent, so last year's uniform coat was cut-up to make a foldable, flat lying cap. It typically was made of the basic uniform color (red in the British Army, white in France and Spain, dark blue in the German speaking states) plus trim pieces made from the facings. In shape they resembled a cloth version of the classic dunce cap formerly used in education to encourage greater dedication to learning; a long pointed affair. Being made of weathered wool, the pointed top simply laid down flat alongside the head. This was a comfortable hat in which to march, sleep, cook, pack in a knapsack, and swing an axe. The drawback was that it gave no sun protection to the face. This sort of cap was an item of issue in the British Army by the 1740's and was used through 1815. Soldiers recruited in the colonies followed British practice as far as they were able. There were no American regiments on establishment in the British Army except the 60th Royal Americans, but it was American in name only. Regiments recruited to serve the various colonial governments, such as Major George Washington's Virginia Regiment of 1754, were generally so under-funded that hats were not issued, let alone forage caps. This same trend was present in the American Revolution. I know of no documented American Revolutionary War forage cap issued to a US soldier. They may have been, but the hats and/or documentation no longer exist.

With independence, the US Army was reduced to as little as two companies. The army was expanded to cope with frontier wars and a second war with the British. A simple forage cap may have been issued to US Regulars, but again, none have survived and no documentation of their use has survived. The era of long full cut uniforms containing multiple yards of fabric was ending. Military fashion, which typically followed civilian fashion, had shrunk the uniform coat down to a tight fitting tail coat, which even if they were not worn-out in service did not provide enough material from which to cut a forage cap. Now forage caps had to be purpose-made as part of a clothing contract.

The first known US Army forage caps which do exist are from the 1821 Uniform Regulations. These had a leather visor, vertical crown band, and were topped with a large diameter flat circular wool piece gathered into the crown band. The top was decorated with one large pewter button and divided into triangular sections by dyed cord. Some modern reenactors refer to it as the "pizza" cap. While offering sun protection to the eyes, it could not be packed away conveniently, but it was certainly better than wearing a bell crowned leather shako constantly. It is possible some of the New Orleans Greys (NOG) wore these caps in the Texas Revolution of 1835-36.

New regulations were adopted for the uniform of the US Army in 1832. Gone were the grey wool Winter Fatigue Jacket and grey trousers (which may also have been worn by the New Orleans Greys). It was replaced with a similar jacket and trousers made of sky blue kersey. Worn with the fatigue uniform summer and winter was a new P1832 Forage Cap made of thin black-dyed leather. It resembled an upside down feed bag, but it could be folded flat and packed in a knapsack. This was the issue forage cap for

the US Army during the Texas Revolution and probably was worn by the “deserters” who joined Houston’s army and fought at San Jacinto. A letter from a Texian serving at Goliad described the New Orleans Greys there as wearing “seal skin caps.” They may have been wearing something similar to the US issue forage cap.

In 1839 the 1832 Uniform Regulations were modified for the US Army with a new forage cap. The caps were now made of dark blue wool with a leather visor, crown band and a padded top. Most had a neck cape to protect the back of the neck in cold weather. Nicknamed the “Blucher” or “wheel” cap, it resembled the cap used by the Prussian Landwehr during the Napoleonic Wars. This was the most comfortable and practical forage cap ever issued by the US Army in the 19th century. These caps were worn extensively by the US Army in the Mexican American War of 1846-48. They lasted into the Civil War era in militia use and the Confederate authorities imported “wheel” caps by the thousand across the Mexican border.

Forage caps were not issued under the new Uniform Regulations of 1851; the US Army had gone cheap. Soldiers were now expected to wear their dress uniform shakos on all occasions of duty; full dress, combat or fatigue. The P1851 shako was made of wool stiffened with paste board and had a leather visor and chin strap. It looked like a Civil War era forage cap scared stiff. It was. As the paste board could soften into a pulpy mess if soak by rain, the cap was provided with a rain cover and cape. This cap was inexpensive (cheap), could not be slept in, and would fall off the head on work details. The soldier was issued seven shakos over the period of his five year enlistment. Soldiers on both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts came up with a solution to this cheap piece of official folly; they removed the pasteboard side stiffener and crushed the shako down. In short they invented their own forage caps by damaging government property. For shame! I know that all you ex-servicemen are as astounded as I am that such a desecration of government property would be committed. The US Army responded in a very uncharacteristic way; they adopted the crushed, unstiffened and simplified P1854 Shako as the new forage cap in 1855 along with the Hardee Hat for the dress uniform.

So, the forage caps worn in their hundreds of thousands during the Civil War, the cap which distinguishes the Civil War soldier from earlier or later soldiers, the cap worn both by the Northern and Southern Armies, the cap we all own, was originally created by vandalizing and squashing a cheap P1854 Shako. This, dear reader, is where the hat we all wear came from.

Jmk, 7/5/2018

P.S. The kepi, which the forage cap resembled, was a French invention and the product of a totally separate evolution. It was worn in the Civil War era by officers and more stylish regiments. It was briefly used after the Civil War as the dress uniform hat. jmk

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

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All right boys and girls, it is quiz time! I am going to show you a list of the regulation Federal uniform items issued during the American War Between the States; your mission (should you chose to accept) is to decide which uniform item(s) originated in the United States and which are the result of foreign influence in clothing design. Go!

Canton flannel Drawers, Canton flannel Undershirt, wool Socks, domet flannel Shirt, Trouser, Sack Coat, Neck Stock, Frock Coat, Forage Cap, Hardee Hat, Great Coat, bugle horn infantry Insignia and Jefferson bootee Shoes. For extra credit, I will throw in an easy one; Shelter Half.

Answer; the one clothing item of issue in the US Army of the mid-19th century which originated in the United States was (drum roll please)...the Hardee Hat! Every other item in the list above originated in another country, principally France.

William J. Hardee was a distinguished officer in the United States Army from 1838 until his resignation from the US Army in January of 1861. In his career he was the Colonel of the 1st Cavalry Regiment, Commandant of the United States Military Academy at West Point from 1855 to 1860, author (actually translator) of the influential tactics manual, "Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics for the Exercise and Manoeuver of Troops When Acting as Light Infantry or Riflemen," first published in 1855. During his career he successfully submitted to the QM the idea of a black, fur felt, wide brimmed hat with a tall flat-topped crown. This hat was associated in name with both Captain Hardee of the 2nd Dragoons and the man who ultimately approved it, then current Secretary of War the Honorable Jefferson Davis (yes, THAT Jefferson Davis), so the hat was known both as the Hardee Hat and the Jeff Davis Hat. Hardee resigned his commission and in March 1861 joined the Confederate States of America's Army. He rose in CS service to the rank of Lieutenant General and Corps level command. His hat remained an item of Federal issue, but for obvious reasons was no longer referred to as the "Jeff Davis Hat."

Hardee's hat derived from the experience of the US Army on the prairies of the mid-continent area after the Mexican-American War which ended in 1848. Now for the first time, United States troops had to patrol and hold a vast area that included several groups of indigenes peoples who did not want to be held or patrolled by the United States troops, or any other troops, for that matter. Particularly the Comanche Tribes in Texas. The P1839 Forage Cap was a good hat, but its strong points do not include protection from the sun. The answer came in a grey felt wide brimmed hat that did offer protection from the weather. It was developed during the Mexican-American War for an infantry unit, but was never issued and placed into storage when that conflict ended.

The hats were found by Col. Harney in 1853 and issued to his 2nd Dragoon Regiment on an experimental basis. To prove to its soldiers that the Army had not gone soft, or forgotten that a soldier's uniform should carry with it a certain air of the impractical (particularly European style impractical), said hat had hooks on the brim so that one or both sides of the hat brim could be hooked-up to vertical position. This innovation permitted the soldier to be sunburned on the side of his head of his choice, or he could hook-up both sides in imitation of a French admiral: always a desirable quality on a sun drenched, treeless prairie a thousand miles from saltwater. This same style fatigue hat would re-surface after the Civil War.

As far as I know, none of these grey hats has survived, and they are known only from description. But there was no ignoring the fact that a wide brimmed hat was more practical than say, the cheap P1851 Shako. So in 1855 the US Army took a giant leap of practicality and adopted for issue to its troopers in the 1st and 2nd Cavalry Regiments Hardee's hat as their dress uniform hat. It was not French and therefore not fashionable. It had no leather strap to keep it on your head, say when you were riding a horse, as cavalymen were prone to do, but being very tall in the crown meant that there was plenty of vertical space for the display of hat cords, branch of service insignia, company letter and regimental number. Sort of like a tapered shako with a wide brim. If cowboys wore a five gallon hat, then Hardee Hat was at least ten gallons. The Army decided that the mounted soldiers should loop-up and pin the left brim of their hats with an eagle pin. This made it easier for the mounted soldier to knock his hat askew (or off, remember no chin straps) when he moved his saber to the Shoulder Arms position on his right side with the blade vertical. In 1858 the Hardee Hat became the dress uniform hat for the entire army. Having heard the anguished cries of its cavalymen about damaged and lost hats, now the infantry looped-up their hats on the left where the Shoulder Arms position (Scott's Tactics) or Support Arms (Scott's and Hardee's Tactics) would not hit it and the mounted soldiers looped theirs up on the right (still no chin strap).

This was the dress uniform hat for the US Army from 1858 to 1872. It was extensively worn in the western theater regiments during the Civil War with little or no insignia nor looped-up. In the eastern theater the Iron Brigade worn their Hardee Hats on all occasions of duty and made themselves famous as the hard fighting Black Hat Brigade. Some skilled enlisted men use their ability to lower the crown of the Hardee Hat to, "a single story affair."

They were very stiff, very tall and very strapless, but they were "Made in USA". That is where the Hardee Hat came from.



A Few Photos From The Battle of New York Creek – 2009





Thanks to everyone who contributed to the making of this edition of the Tyrants' Foe Newsletter. Without you it would be nothing. Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is scheduled for March 31, 2019.



To Tyrants Never Yield

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location	Rating	Impression
January 19, 2019	Annual Muster	Winedale, TX	MAX	CS



