



# The Tyrants' Foe

Volume XLVII

Newsletter of the Texas Rifles  
Celebrating 33 Years of Excellence

July 2020



Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's been a long, disappointing, stressful and very boring spring for most of us and as we enter the summer doldrums, it doesn't look like things are going to improve anytime soon. However, we must move forward in our planning for the remainder of the year in the hope that they will. With that in mind, the Executive Board has been staying busy working to make the group and our event schedule the best that it can be.

**Item 1:** We have not been as diligent as needed in training recruits and new members in the proper method of field cleaning muskets or in insuring that cleaning is performed at events. To address this issue, all members will be tasked with the responsibility to insure that loaner muskets (both unit owned muskets and member loaned muskets) are properly cleaned, inspected and returned to the loaning party at the end of an event. Specific orders to this effect have been prepared and approved by the Executive Board to be followed going forward. These new orders are included in this Newsletter and will also be on hand at future events. I request that all members read this order carefully and follow its directives. Please direct any questions or concerns regarding the orders to myself and the rest of the Executive Board.

**Item 2:** With the uniting of The Texas Rifles and the 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. in January, our strength in the field has increased to the point where a change in the Non-Com rank structure is appropriate. At Lieutenant Attaway's suggestion, the Executive Board will appoint a 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant at each annual muster in January to serve for the coming year.

According to Lt. Attaway, a good rule of thumb for sergeants, as used by the old Confederate Guard, was for typical field strengths of:

10 men = 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant  
20 men = add a 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant  
30 men = add a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sergeant

The Executive Board will move to appoint a 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant prior to the next event. In addition to filling the role of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant in the field, he will also be responsible for the unit musket cleaning kits and also the unit 1<sup>st</sup> Aid kit (to be prepared by the Executive Board).

We request that **all members interested in serving as a Corporal** please submit their name to the Captain during July. From this list, the Executive Board will appoint a 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant for the remainder of this year based on experience and event attendance.

**Item 3:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Aid kit will be maintained by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant between events and carried by him or his designate during events. The kit will consist of a small haversack containing: a modern 1st aid kit along with pain, itch and allergy meds, wrap bandages and some period rags to cover non-period bandages.

**Item 4:** Two musket cleaning kits will be prepared by the Executive Board and/or a volunteer for use during and after events. Both cleaning kits will be maintained/re-stocked between events by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant.

1) A field musket cleaning kit in a small Sergeant's bag carried by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant will contain: oil, cone tool, picks, brushes, worms, slotted patch holder, ramrod puller, patches and extra parts [cones, clean out screws] and anything else deemed appropriate for use in the field.

2) A larger boxed kit (in a rifle ammo box) specifically for the final cleaning and maintenance of muskets at the end of an event (for both loaner and member muskets) which will contain: additional oil (including spray oil), additional patches and rags, additional tools (screw drivers, pliers, etc.), pipe cleaner, brass brushes, a bore scrapper, hydrogen peroxide, spring vice, and anything else appropriate.

#### **Item 5 (Upcoming Events):**

1) **Fort McKavett (Labor Day Weekend, Sept 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2020):** This is a Texas Rifles/13<sup>th</sup> U.S. United Company Hosted post-Civil War event. A late-war Federal kit or civilian impression is appropriate. There are numerous scenarios to interpret. With Lt. Attaway's permission, I've asked the editor (Rick Hall) to include a portion of an article written by Lt. Attaway for last year's pre-event newsletter. All the material in this article applies to this year's event. Please note the following:

- a. **A volunteer(s) is needed to serve as company cook** for the event. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would be interested. All other duties will be deferred for the event and fatigue details will be supplied as assistants for preparation and clean-up
- b. As of now, the only scenario's/roles that I know have been spoken for are Company Clerk (Pvt. John Tyler) and sutler (Frank Marek).
- c. If you find a scenario/role on Lt. Attaway's McKavett Army Post list or think of an alternate role, let myself and the Executive Board know to reserve the role.
- d. In addition to our members, we are inviting our friends from the Red River Battalion and the Texas Brigade to join us for the event. If you have someone (or a group) that you think we should invite, please notify the Executive Board. Only the Executive Board is allowed to send event invitations.

2) Proposed **Pre-War Civilian Event** (on or about Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020): A Texas Rifles/13<sup>th</sup> U.S. United Company Hosted event. More information to follow.

3) **Prairie Grove, AK (Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2020)**. The Red River Battalion is forming a single combined company (30-40 men) from RRB members to join the Western Federal Campaigner Battalion at Prairie Grove. This event is held bi-annually on the actual Prairie Grove battlefield. Some of us have attended previous reenactments at the state park battlefield and a number of Rifles attended two years ago with a RRB combined company which fell in with the same Western Federal Campaigner Battalion. As I understand, they are an authentic unit in both appearance, drill and comportment.

**Please note: I have been given the singular honor of commanding the combined RRB Company this year at Prairie Grove.** As your Captain and as Captain of the RRB Company attending Prairie Grove, I humbly request your consideration in attending this event as a campaigner Federal soldier. I would greatly appreciate the support of The Texas Rifles/13<sup>th</sup> U.S. United Company. It would be great to have a strong unit presence at the event. It also gives us another chance to be in the field after a very sparse event year. A company cook will be preparing food for the event. Battles as well as drill and camp life will be as authentic as possible. More information will follow and I'm happy to discuss the event.

**Item 5 (Drill):** One final note. At future military events (except possibly Fort McKavett), we will be doing regular company drill to brush off the rust (these will be 1-2 short [30-45 minute drills]) each day to improve our skill and appearance on the field of battle. The

drills will include both company drill and skirmish drill. We will also be holding daily awkward squads for Manual of Arms training of recruits and new members.

**Item 6 (Final Thoughts):** I hope everyone is safe and doing well. Like many of you, I am greatly looking forward to getting back in the field with my pards. At this time, it is unclear what the future of Civil War reenacting will look like. I will not address politics, but current events are very concerning and in my humble opinion show the need for those of us with an interest in history to try and understand what happened and why. This isn't always easy to do, but multiple reliable sources (i.e. not Wikipedia or Facebook) should be used to develop that understanding (just my 2 cents).

Finally, when the Covid19 situation improves, in addition to the events listed above, we should try to get together for small drills, live fires or even (if possible) another movie night.

Your Servant,  
Capt. Don L. Tucker  
The Texas Rifles/13<sup>th</sup> U.S. Combined Company



Please read the following orders.

**Attention to Orders Regarding the Cleaning and Inspection of all Loaner Muskets:**

The following orders are being issued after it was necessary to do extensive repairs to both of The Texas Rifles/13<sup>th</sup> U.S. United Company loaner muskets. Both muskets had frozen cones and were completely blocked below the cones. To return the muskets to usable condition, it was necessary to use penetrating oil, heat, and a bolt remover over approximately a two-week period to extract the old cones and new cones were required. To ensure that no member of the unit (including the Quartermaster) will be required to clean a loaner musket/s, the following orders go into effect 01 July, 2020.

By order of the Company Commander and with approval of The Texas Rifles/13<sup>th</sup> U.S. United Company Executive Board, the following directives are to be followed at all times unless specifically countermanded with an event specific written order by a Company officer or the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant.

1. The Company officers and the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant will be made aware of the loan of any musket for an event attended by members of the Company. This notification will

include both Company muskets distributed by the Quartermaster or any muskets loaned by a member of the unit if that member is not attending the event.

2. No loan of Company muskets will occur if a Company member in good standing is not attending the event to oversee the musket.
3. No Company muskets will be left in the possession of a recruit or any member of the Company not in good standing outside the period of the actual event.
  - a. Company loaner muskets must be returned to the Quartermaster after cleaning. If the Quartermaster is not present, a specifically designated member will take possession of the cleaned musket for later return to the Quartermaster.
  - b. Member loaned muskets must also be returned to the Quartermaster or a specifically designated member at the end of every event for return to the loaning member.
4. All loaner muskets will be thoroughly field cleaned by the borrower under the direct instruction of A) the recruit sponsor, B) the Quartermaster, C) a Company officer D) the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant or E) an officer designated instructor, prior to the borrower being allowed to leave an event.
5. Required steps for field cleaning include:
  - a. Thorough rinsing of the barrel with water (preferably hot) or hydrogen peroxide (if hydrogen peroxide is used, the barrel must be rinsed well with water).
  - b. Barrel should be thoroughly swabbed with patches/rags until little powder residue is seen on the used patches (using a slotted patch holder or a musket worm).
  - c. Barrel should be oiled (synthetic whale oil, Breakfree, etc.) with a patch using a slotted patch holder or a musket worm (do not over oil).
  - d. Cone/nipple must be removed with a cone tool after every event.
    - i. Use a nipple pick, wire &/or pipe cleaner to clean out inside of cone.
    - ii. Use a nipple pick &/or pipe cleaner to scrape out all of the bolster area under the cone. DO NOT oil under cone or in cone.
    - iii. Use a wire brush to clean away all fowling from the cone and the musket area around cone.
    - iv. Return cleaned cone to cleaned musket using a musket tool. DO NOT overtighten the cone into the musket.
  - e. Remove any remaining fowling from the musket and oil all exposed metal.
6. All borrowers must have the musket inspected and returned to the responsible party (see directives) prior to leaving the event.

By Order of:  
Captain Don L. Tucker  
The Texas Rifles/13<sup>th</sup> U.S. United Company  
01July2020



**The following was taken from Captain Tommy Attaway's July 2019 "The Tyrants Foe" article and is repeated here as it is directly relevant to our Labor Day - Capt. Don L. Tucker**

**(September 4-6, 2020) Ft. McKavett event:**

Looking back at the past three months, we had a few members make the trip to Alabama for Ft. Blakeley. The threatened downpour failed to occur and this let the event take place without undue influence from the weather. In my view an above average event, notable for attracting many of the higher quality groups in the hobby today. Members of the Rifles also participated in two events local to Houston in May, serving with our friends in the 13<sup>th</sup> US Infantry.

In the past month I have had contacts from living historians who have moved to Texas and are looking for a like minded group of friends. This is certainly one method of recruiting and building on our legacy as an organization. As valuable as such new members will be, we still face the challenge of appealing to younger people who have a sense of history and a desire to experience more of the past than can be obtained from the written word or video.

Our next event at Ft. McKavett will allow us to do something we have not done in quite some time. The Texas Rifles will host a pure living history event, with no drill planned or ammunition to be fired. This will be pure garrison life of the immediate post war Army. Fortunately, the park staff is very supportive of living history, and fully understand what we wish to accomplish with this event. We will portray D company of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry that has recently arrived to resume the operation of Ft. MsKavett after the war.

Ft. McKavett is located near an older Spanish fort on the trail leading to El Paso. It was originally constructed by the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry, and named for an officer of the Regiment killed in the war with Mexico. In the Spring of 1868, the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry and 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry returned to Ft. McKavett to find "one mass of ruins". As we are portraying an 1868 date, late war Federal gear is the impression for the event. The next change in Army uniforms and equipment did not take place until the early 1870s.

As of March 1868, the military situation in Texas consisted of the following activities: The 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry operating from Ft. Clark and Ft. Concho were engaging the Kickapoo Indians, while the 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (Ft. Griffin and Ft. Richardson) were operating farther north against the Comanche. The 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry is operating in west Texas (Ft. Davis and Ft. Stockton). Four Infantry Regiments are on occupation duty in Texas (17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup>, 41<sup>st</sup>). A gap in

the line of forts extending from the Red River to El Paso requires Ft. McKavett to be occupied and reactivated.

As a pure living history event, we will have the possibility of portraying various scenarios to illustrate various points about life on an early Indian wars military installation. A few of the ideas I have in mind follow:

### **Post Civil War Regular Army Post**

Scenario: Post Headquarters

Activities: Portray the daily routine in the HQ building such as receiving reports, preparing reports for department of Texas, dispatch of messages. Guardmount.

Participants:

1. Officer of the Day
2. Sergeant of the Guard
3. Corporal of the Guard
4. Orderly
5. Post Commander (Optional)
6. Regimental Adjutant (Optional)
7. Regimental Sergeant Major (optional)

Interpretive Points:

- A. Show the role of the fort system of frontier defense for western settlement and expansion
- B. Explain the staffing of an Army installation – regiment and company assigned number of soldiers assigned, and civil establishment

Items Required:

1. Desk
2. Chairs
3. Paper
4. Forms
5. Writing materials

Scenario: Officer Quarters

Activities: Meal Preparation, sewing, writing letters, social interaction with other officer families

Participants:

1. Lady
2. Children (Optional)
3. Laundress (Optional)
4. Striker (Optional)

Interpretive Points:

- A. Show space allocation for families – Lieutenant has one room, Captain has two rooms in a quarters, etc.

- B. Social stratification of regular Army between ranks – officer class as ladies and gentlemen, NCOs, and the private soldiers
- C. Isolation of families from a lifestyle to which ladies married to officers were accustomed

Items Required:

- 1. Furniture such as bed, table & chairs, table ware, clothing, trunks

Scenario: Raise National Standard

Activities: Flag is raised to begin the day's activities

Participants:

- 1. Corporal
- 2. 4 Soldiers

Interpretive Points:

- 2. Show daily activity in an established military post
- 3. Time required 15 minutes

Scenario: Retreat Ceremony

Activities: Lower the national standard at the end of the day, with company parade

Participants:

- 1. Company Commander
- 2. 1st Sgt.
- 3. 2 Corporals
- 4. 14 Privates

Interpretive Points:

- A. Demonstrate the end of the day activity – respect shown to the flag
- B. Time duration of less than 30 minutes

Items Required:

- 1. Music playing "To the Color"

Scenario: Soldier's Mess

Activities: Cooking of Rations

Participants:

- 1. Soldier designated as company cook

Interpretive Points:

- A. Show what soldiers ate
- B. Illustrate the mess concept

Scenario: Laundry

Activities: scrubbing, hanging, returning laundry

Participants:

- 1. Laundress
- 2. Soldier (optional)



Interpretive Points:

1. Laundress authorized for 20 soldiers
2. Provided official sanction for a soldier to have a wife, being officially discouraged for soldiers to be married

Items Required:

1. Wash tub
2. Soap
3. Water pail
4. Scrub board
5. Stick
6. twine
7. line
8. clothes pins

Scenario: School

Activities: lessons, recitation, older ones helping younger ones

Participants:

1. Teacher
2. Any number of children

Interpretive Points:

3. Illustrate community aspect of a military post
4. One hour sessions interspersed by play

Items Required

1. Readers
2. Slates
3. Chalk
4. tables
5. chairs
6. books

Scenario: Fatigue Detail

Activities: Contruuction

Participants:

1. NCO (could be park personnel)
2. as many as 8 soldiers

Interpretive Points:

- A. Forts were built by the soldiers themselves
- B. NCO in charge of work detail does not do labor
- C. Soldiers wear jackets inside out to protect them for service

Items Required:

1. hand tools
2. lumber
3. nails
4. whitewash

## 5. brushes

Scenario: Forage Party

Activities: Gather Firewood

Participants:

1. Corporal
2. as many as 4 soldiers

Interpretive Points:

- D. Firewood was source of heat for warmth, cooking, and washing
- E. NCO in charge of work detail does not do labor
- F. Soldiers wear jackets inside out to protect them for service

Items Required:

6. axes
7. chopping block

Scenario: Company Tailor

Activities: Repair and alteration of uniforms

Participants:

1. Private as tailor
2. soldiers as customers (optional)

Interpretive Points:

- A. Uniforms were a source of pride for NCOs
- B. Uniforms were patched consistently for longest possible use on campaign
- C. Soldiers provided much of their labor and talent for the necessities of life
- D. Tailor used his skill to trade for services (excused from other duties)
- E. NCOs had their uniforms custom fit for best appearance

Items Required:

1. Uniforms in need of repair
2. needle & thread
3. Scissors
4. pins
5. chalk

Scenario: Baseball

Activities: Sunday afternoon entertainment

Participants:

1. 18 players
2. Spectators

Interpretive Points:

- A. Sunday was the only non work day on post
- B. Demonstrate popular recreation
- C. Similarity between baseball of the 1860s to today's game

Items Required:

1. Bat

2. Baseballs
3. Bases (sack with dirt)

Scenario: Croquet

Activities: Game played in “officer’s country”

Participants:

1. Up to 6 ladies and gentlemen or children
2. Spectators

Interpretive Points:

- A. Show class differences
- B. Ladies did not engage in many “strenuous activities”
- C. Family recreation

Items Required:

1. Croquet Set
2. Rule book

Scenario: Saturday Social

Activities: NCO social to which selected post personnel are invited

Participants:

1. All NCOs
2. Post Commander
3. Selected Officers
4. Privates as serving personnel (officially)

Interpretive Points:

- A. Learn social customs such as dance steps
- B. Illustrate the social aspects of post life

Items Required:

1. Recorded music
2. Dance guide (instruction)
3. Area
4. Lighting

Scenario: Sutler

Activity: Outlet for non government issued items

Participants:

1. Sutler
2. Customers (any number)

Interpretive Points:

- A. Method to obtain items needed by soldiers and families not provided by Army
- B. Only official source for alcohol
- C. Relationship between sutler and post commander very important factor
- D. Only source of credit for soldiers

Items Required:

1. Can goods

2. Dry goods
3. Beverages
4. Barrels
5. Tin ware
6. Glass ware
7. Ready made clothing

Scenario: Music

Activities: Play musical instruments and sing

Participants:

1. Musicians
2. Audience

Interpretive points:

- A. Self made music as an integral part of lifestyle
- B. Period popular music

Items Required:

1. Instruments
2. Sheet music

Scenario: Games of Chance

Activities: Card and Dice games at sutlers

Participants:

1. Soldiers
2. Civil Card Shark (optional)

Interpretive Points

- A. Common activity for soldier was gambling and card play
- B. Gambling taking place in barracks was subject to punishment "maintaining gaming tables"
- C. Soldiers were frequently in debt due to low pay and forms of entertainment enjoyed

Items Required:

1. Card decks
2. Dice
3. Various games
4. Certain beverages
5. Sutler area

Scenario: Pay Call

Activities: Monthly Pay for enlisted men

Participants:

1. Pay officer
2. 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant
3. NCOs
4. Privates

Interpretive Points:

- A. Illustrate pay scale for soldiers
- B. Show effects of various deductions for sutler, uniform overdraw, laundress
- C. Show “purchasing power” of 1860s economy

Items Required:

1. Pay book for the company
2. Accounts for Sutler and laundress
3. Currency

Scenario: Court Martial

Activities: Conduct military trial

Participants:

1. Judge (officer senior to accused)
2. Jury (2 other officers senior to the accused)
3. Defendant
4. Defense Counsel (officer)
5. Prosecution (junior Lieutenant)
6. Witnesses
7. NCO as court reporter
8. NCO as bailiff

Interpretative Points

- A. Isolation tended to exacerbate perceived slights into official incidents
- B. Military justice system different from the civil system

Items Required:

1. Pen and paper for transcript
2. Gavel
3. Bible for oath
4. Table and chairs

Scenario: Civil complaint

Activity: Civilian complains about conduct of one of the members of the post

Participants:

1. Officer of the Day
2. Merchant or
3. Farmer

Interpretative Points

- A. Military members on post subject to military law, not civil law
- B. Complaints depended on will of post commander to be resolved

Items Required:

1. Officer of the Day refers complaint to individual's commanding officer



2020 continues to be a bust what with this edict and the next restricting the ability to hold events and now being more difficult to plan due to the degree of uncertainty. This leaves us to contemplate what the future of living history to look like in the future. One of the appeals of living history is the use of the senses. The smell of the camp fire, the feel of natural fabrics, the taste of recipes almost forgotten is a key element of making an experience the audience will retain in memory, and therefore learn something about the past. Electronic media must work through only sight and sound, limiting the richness of the experience.

While the future may be digital, for us, it is the means by which we connect the digital future to the analog past. We provide that perspective of how and why we got to where we are today. We need to master the digital spectrum in order to create interest in the past, and to be receptive to a more sensory experience. Our challenge is to be able to use current communication means to provide motivation to have a real world experience to a generation that views the digital world as their reality. This requires that the experience we provide as living historians to be of such a quality that the audience finds it so extraordinary that it influences them to realize the importance of what the digital world lacks.

I should soon have an install date for dedicated internet connection, which will put the website back online and available. We will have the ability to completely master our web content and communications with each other.

With the uncertainty of the schedule for the rest of the year, we are preparing to host our own events, site permitting for Labor Day weekend (Ft. McKavett) and the weekend prior to Thanksgiving with the loss of the Liendo event. One of the lessons that we should learn from the end of Liendo as an event is that the site won't take a financial loss resulting from history events for long. This should be a warning as to how we need to conduct and present events in order to keep historical sites viable from an operations and maintenance standpoint.

The Texas Rifles  
Keeping History Alive  
Lt. Tommy Attaway



## **INSTRUCTION for SKIRMISHERS**

As we frequently serve on the flank of the Red River Battalion, we have the need to be able to skirmish. Recalling our past drill session, it should be worth reviewing the manual for Instruction for Skirmishers. So we should begin with a reminder of a few general principles viz.-

**4. Every body of skirmishers should have a reserve, the strength and composition of which will vary according to circumstances.**

**7. The reserves should be placed behind the centre of the line of skirmishers, the company reserves at one hundred and fifty, and the principle reserve at four hundred paces. This rule, however, is not invariable. The reserves, while holding themselves within sustaining distance of the line, should be, as much as possible, in a position to afford each other mutual protection, and must carefully profit by any accidents of the ground to conceal themselves from the view of the enemy, and to shelter themselves from his fire.**

**8. The movements of skirmishers will be executed in quick, or double quick time. The run will be resorted to only in cases of urgent necessity.**

**11. The officers, and, if necessary, the non-commissioned officers, will repeat, and cause the commands to be executed, as soon as they are given; but to avoid mistakes, when the signals are employed, they will wait until the last bugle note is sounded before commencing the movement.**

**12. When skirmishers are ordered to move rapidly, the officers and non-commissioned officers will see that the men economize their strength, keep cool, and profit by all the advantages which the ground may offer for cover. It is only by this continual watchfulness on the part of all grades, that a line of skirmishers can attain success.**

The first consideration we have is deployment, which occurs by the flank if the company is already on the line that will be established as the skirmish line. Or forward if the company is behind the skirmish line to be established. I think it much easier to deploy by the flank than deploying forward, so my practice as Captain was to advance the company to the line to be established for the reserve, and halt. Next is to break the company into platoons, and advance the platoon to be deployed as skirmishers to the skirmish line and then halt the platoon. This positions the skirmishers to deploy by taking intervals on the first or last file, depending on whether we are on the right or left flank of the battalion. The alternative is to deploy forward, but this depends on having another officer to manage the other platoon not skirmishing and position it as the reserve, or if on the left and we do not have another officer, then the Captain ends up commanding the second platoon ..... Or, stated differently, a small company without a sufficient number of officers and sergeants may have a challenge deploying forward as skirmishers when on the left flank of the battalion. Therefore I thought it wise to only go with one deployment method using the fewest number of commands that had to be learned. Personally, I'd rather that we be able to do five maneuvers very well, than do ten maneuvers poorly. But that is just me, others might want to score more "re-enactor points" by conducting more exotic maneuvers.

That being said, let's look at deploying in more detail –

**17. Whenever a company is to be deployed as skirmishers, it will be divided into two platoons, and each platoon will be subdivided into two sections; the comrades in battle, forming groups of four men, will be careful to know and to sustain each other. The captain will assure himself that the files in the centre of each platoon and section are designated.**

**18. A company may be deployed as skirmishers on its right, left, or centre file, or on any other named file whatsoever. In this manner, skirmishers may be thrown forward with the greatest possible rapidity on any ground they may be required to occupy.**



As a practical matter, we would deploy on the right or left file. Center file would be for drill or for some reason, we were deployed out from the center of the battalion. Deploying by the flank – (first we are going to go by the manual, then by what I try to do for simplification). We are going to assume we are the right flank company of the battalion.

The company is at the halt. This presents our first challenge because we will need to deploy to the left, and therefore, must use the second platoon as skirmishers because we are already on the skirmish line, and if we use the first platoon, the second platoon is in the way, and would have to be ordered to take at least three paces to the rear before the first platoon could deploy.

**37. The company being at a halt, when the captain shall wish to deploy it by the flank, holding the first platoon in reserve, he will command:**

**1. *Second platoon-as skirmishers. 2. By the left flank-take intervals. 3. MARCH (or double quick-MARCH).***

Here we need to know how many comrades we have in the platoon, as the interval to try to attain is 20 paces between comrades. The first set of comrades on the right stand fast. After reaching the 20 pace interval from the comrades to the right, each set of comrades halts and faces the enemy. As soon as the comrades to the left have cleared 10 paces, the stationary comrades deploy the front rank one man 10 paces to the right, rear rank one five paces right, rear rank two stands fast and rear rank two five paces left. No other commands are required.

There is an optional command to extend or close intervals so many paces on the right, center or, left in order to have the skirmishers cover the desired frontage.

The skirmishers are now deployed and can advance, retreat, take obstacles, fire and so forth.

Now we will look at deploying forward as skirmishers in the direction of march. We start the action with the command: **1. *First platoon - as skirmishers. 2. On the left file - take intervals. 3. MARCH (or double quick - MARCH).***

**First platoon has to take intervals on the left file because second platoon is currently marching to their left and there is no room to deploy. Thus the Lieutenant has to order the second platoon to either halt or mark time in order to allow the platoons to separate, and the fourth sergeant to deploy to the left of the platoon and move into position of the left guide for the skirmish line.**

**25. At the command *march*, the left group of four men, conducted by the fourth sergeant, will direct itself on the point indicated; all the other groups of fours throwing forward briskly the left shoulder, will move diagonally to the front in**

double quick time, so as to gain to the right the space of twenty paces, which shall be the distance between each group and that immediately on its left. When the second group from the left shall arrive on a line with, and twenty paces from the first, it will march straight to the front, conforming to the gait and direction of the first, keeping constantly on the same alignment and at twenty paces from it. The third group, and all the others, will conform to what has just been prescribed for the second; they will arrive successively on the line. The right guide will arrive with the last group.

26. The left guide having reached the point where the left of the line should rest, the captain will command the skirmishers to halt; the men composing each group of fours will then immediately deploy at five paces from each other, and to the right and left of the front rank men of the even file in each group, the rear rank men placing themselves on the left of their file leaders. If any groups be not in line at the command *halt*, they will move up rapidly, conforming to what has just been prescribed.

Notice that this has a great deal of movement, being directed by various NCOs, who need to know their business, and this is the method that has all of the comrades taking the five and 10 pace movements at the prompting of the platoon commander.

So, the summary here is that the typical company size of re-enactors today makes it very difficult to conduct skirmish drill by the book because it takes more than just a company commander and first sergeant that have some proficiency at drill. The company is managed by platoons and sections and the drill requires each of those officers and NCOs to know the part they play and are present in the company.

Deploying forward and don't have a third or fourth Segt? Then you will have an unanchored flank. Use the second Segt I instead? Better have a Lt. to command the second platoon. As mentioned previously, the workaround using what we have is to make a couple of modifications based on the actual numbers on the field.

Lt. Tommy Attaway





## Once Upon A Time

Once upon a time, your First Sergeant was an enlisted sailor in the U.S. Navy, so I am going to turn to a letter written by another U.S. sailor, George M. Newton, who was a brick mason from Grafton, Massachusetts, born on October 14, 1839.

Newton enlisted in the Navy on April 11, 1861 and wrote the following letter while a sailor on board the U.S.S. Minnesota .He uses “meramack” or “merrimack” when he mentions the CSS Virginia. He also interchangeably uses “Monitor” or “errricerson battery”—a reference to the turreted ironclad’s inventor, John Ericsson—when he mentions the Union vessel that fought the Virginia to a standstill. And no, i don’t spell as badly as it looks. I am typing this as he wrote it.



“Dear Father and mother and the rest of the folks

I thought I would drop you a few lines to let you know I was alive, and not even wounded. I suppose you have heard that we had a fight. I will give you a short account of it, there is so much work to be done, that I have not time to write much. Saturday at one O clock three rebel steamers came around the point and started for Newport News we slipped our cable, and

started for them, a tugboat went alongside the Roanoke and took her in tow, when we came in range of the rebel battery's at Swells point, they opened upon us. we returned the compliment. our shots most all fell short. they had rifle Guns, one of there shot's struck our main mast and made an ugly hole in her. when about two miles from Newport news, and under a full head of steam, we went aground, about the same time, the Cumberland went down. Meramack run into her bow on. at the same time the Cumberland let fly a whole broadside at the Merama[ck] without appearing to do her any damage.

The Cumberland immediately went down, as she went down she let fly her pivot gun, showing her spunk to the last. at the same time some of the Cumberland's men jumped on to the Meramack to board her, but it was no use, her sides were just like the roof of a house, and greased at that. the men would slide off into the water. some of them I hear tried to throw some shell's into the Meramack's smoke stack so as to blow her up, but none went in. about the same time two rebel steamers came down from Richmond, and run by the battery at Newport news, and took part in the fight. after sinking the Cumberland they commenced to fire at the Congress. the Congress ran aground so that the rebels had it most all there own way.

The Congress kept up a steady fire upon them, but it was no use. after having lost half of her men, she raised the white flag and left her—after setting her on fire. there we was trying to free the ship, but she was fast and hard in the mud, but when we could get a chance to fire, we let fly. the rebel steamers returning the complement as soon as they finished with the Congress, they made for us bow on. consequently we could only use three guns to an advantage, our pivot on the spar deck and two guns on the gun deck that were transfered from the Broadside ports to the bridle ports. the Meramack headed directly for us. our guns wer aimed well, making good shot's the enemy hauled off,

somewhere damaged. I rec[k]oned one of there steamers, I took to be the yorktown, must have been badly damaged, with some loss of life, as our shots struck her in good shape.

Once in a while they would come in range of our broadside guns. then we would give it to them. every time that we could get in range of them, we would let fly, taking good aim. this ended the first days engagement. our loss in killed was three and a number of wounded some mortally. our ship was damaged somewhat, the balls, and shells going through us, and all around and over us. the enemy hauled of I should think about seven O clock, to commence again the next day. we stayed by our guns all night, not knowing how soon they might be upon us. as soon as they hauled off commenced to tear down the commodores cabin, for to transfer a couple of guns to the steam ports. one of the guns was mine. we was called the guard of honor. we expected the enemy would come around our stern, and rake us fore, and aft.

They troubled us none during the night. we was to work all night, trying to get the ship off. we had six or eight steamers, and tugboats, alongside of us, doing there best together us off, but it was no use. we put a lot of beef, and pork, on board of the steamers, to lighting us, and sent off two heavy safe's I suppose filled with money, and valuable papers. Sunday morning. At daylight this morning we had breakfast (if you call it breakfast) of hot coffee and hard bread, (the sun came up in big shape denoting a good day. ) I forget to mention that last night about ten O clock the erricerson battery came to our relief a queer looking object she was, you had better believe we was glad to see it, for we were all bound not to be taken prisoners.

Our captain sung out to the Officer of the erricerson and says I am glad to see you the officer of the ericcerson made answer. I think some one else will be tomorrow; (meaning the

merrimack). the burning of the congress last night was a handsome sight. about midnight her forward magazine blew up the handsome sight that I ever see the air was filled with combustable matter. dont ever tell me ever again about fireworks. the Roanoke got aground, but soon got off, and then left for the roads again. the st Lawrence came up to our help towards night, and fired at the yorktown. then she went back to the roads, leaving us all alone, till the battery came to our assistance. about 8 O clock this morning the rebels fired a gun for a signal to advance.

Our ship layed broadside on they was comeing (they advanced cautiously, trying to make out what that round tower an a raft was, I suppose) the steamers were loaded with troops, the calculations being to board us, about nine the merrimack let fly at us, then the erricerson battery went out to meet her, then commenced what you may call a bomb proof fight. the officer of the monitor kept steaming round, and round, the merrimack, every now, and then, giving her a shot, the merrimack returning the complement. during the fight the monitor got in range of pig point battery and paid her respects to that battery. she then hauled off, to along distance, when she observed the yorktown and Jamestown heading for us so as to take us astern she immediately made for them. when they put back, and stayed back the rest of the day but not before the monitor had given them a few shots. the merrimack then got in range of our guns, when we opened on her, she returning the same.

About three O clock she took to her heels and left, her parting shot went through us close to the water line, and through the shell room, and up through the deck. the water commenced to rush in, when our captain told the men to get there bag's and hammocks, and put them aboard the tugs, alongside of us, and jumped aboard ourselves after taking everything that we could carry away of any value. we took all our firearms with us.

finerly the leak was stop'ed and all hands went aboard again, excepting those aboard the white hall, which steamer had pushed off. we then commenced to throw our spar deck forward guns overboard to lighting the ship. we throwed overboard eight of them. then the tugs and steamers (the S.R. Spaulding was one of them) made fast to us they succeeded in slewing us round but could not get us off. we was to work till three in the morning and finerly got off and started for the roads.

The second day we had no one killed outright, but some mortally wounded, and a number slightly. we are to work now putting thing's to rights. we had ten shots come through us, and a lot of them hit us. they fell thick around us, and it is a wonder that we had no more killed, or wounded. the ericerson battery came is [in] season to save a great many lives and proberly the ship, for the rebels would never have taken this ship, for everything was ready to blow her up, if it came to that. we have a Captain that we all like, and who is afraid of no rebel steamer that ever floated, or battery. he is every inch a man. I wish I could say as much for out 1st Luit. but I can of our 2nd. a coward I despise.

The asst. sec. of the navy Mr [Gustavus Vasa] Fox came on board of us, after the merrimack hauled off. he came on board of us from off the monitor we shall proberly have to go to N.york or Boston to get repared, and take on board some more guns in place of the one's we throwed overboard. I lost my bag of clothes, excepting what is on my back. my hammock is safe, my bag of clothes were thrown on board the whitehall, and after she pushed off from us she started for fortress monroe being on fire in her coal bunkers the fire was put out, as they supposed, but the fire burst out again, and about half of the bags on board of her was burned, mine being one of them. (but I have my head still, and hands.) the congress lost about one half of her men, the number of men on board of her at the time being about 390.

The Cumberland had about 200 killed and wounded. the Cumberland and congresses crew are on board here also the R.B. Forbes crew so we are crowded somewhat. the Captain of the monitor say's that the last shot he gave the merramack went through her at the waterline. anyway she hauled off. pretty well damaged. the monitor looks like a long raft with a smokestack in the centre. the merrimack look'es like a four roofed house.

There is an english man of war in here the Rineldo the Captain of her wanted to go down inside the monitor, but it was a no go, for him. he call'es the two batteries the yankee devil's. the Roanoke starts for New York today. we expect the steven's battery in here every day now I must close for there is work to be done, and we are all up in arms I have given you a short account of the fight in a hurry. I have seen some bloody sight's, one case in particular where I see a man's head flying away from his shoulders now I will bid you good bye, till I see you, or hear from you, you have my permission to have this put in the paper if you think it will pass muster. I will write more next time, if I write.

G.M. Newton

It was our captain's intention if we had not run aground to have run into the merrimack under a full head of steam and tipped her over if he could."



Best regards,  
First Sergeant Frenchy



## From the Home Front



### ***“THE UNION SOLDIER IS THE BEST FED MAN IN THE WORLD...”***

Ever wonder what the politicians in Washington or Richmond thought about the rations given to their soldiers during the Civil War? Testaments from Surgeon General for the Union Army noted the Union soldier was the best fed man in the world wherein Quartermaster Montgomery Meigs stated that the Union soldier was the best fed soldier in all of history! For the every day soldier regardless of politics, we can argue that this is simply not the case. Although depending on commands, some units were better off than others. The soldier in the field would more likely summarize the politics of their rations to what came to be known as the “Lieu thereof” or “Or” system of getting rations. On paper, soldiers’ rations consisted of so much in bread, meat, coffee and various vegetable and meal articles. Yay-Sounds delish! Right? Now comes the reality of the *Lieu thereof* system. In this system the soldier would be supplied with substitutes for the rationed items based on what could be afforded by supply train as well as the surrounding area/community. As the war carried on into 1863-64, this *Lieu thereof* mindset quickly changed over to be more commonly referred to as the *Or* system of rationing. Common references note that a soldier’s rations to consist of 12 ounces of pork *or* bacon *or* salt pork *or* 20 ounces of “Fresh” *or* salted beef. The bread ration would consist of 18 ounces of fresh bread *or* flour *or* 12 ounces of hardtack *or* 20 ounces of cornmeal. As for vegetable and produce supplements each company of 100 men were to share 8 quarts of beans *or* peas *or* 10 pounds of rice. And because its well known that a soldier needs their daily cup of coffee to seize the day, each company would share 10 pounds of coffee *or* 20 ounces of dried tea.

Not surprising, soldiers on both sides began to forage for food in an effort to keep fed. Union Captain Samuel Fiske of the 14<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Infantry while on his way to Sharpsburg, Maryland to fight in the battle of Antietam noted, “Acres and acres of soldiers, but not an acre of corn, or potatoes, or fruit, or anything else eatable within a

circle of two or three miles.” As the war carried on foraging became the order of the day both while on the march as well as encamped. In a letter home Pvt. William Richardson of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry told his parents of how he and his fellow soldiers dined on “hardtack and a piece of Secesh sheep which we knocked in the head for entering our lines and then refusing to take the oath.” Accounts show that as the policy tactics of Unconditional Surrender Grant and Uncle Billy Sherman’s “Scorched Earth” emerged throughout, foraging became more and more prevalent to the soldier’s livelihood.

### **5<sup>th</sup> New Jersey Hell-Fired Stew**

In true foraging style enlist every able-bodied man in camp to acquire the following items;

- • Beef
- • Salt Pork or Bacon
- • Potatoes
- • Tomatoes
- • Garlic
- • Onion
- • Or any other vegetables that can be found
- • Hardtack or bread or crackers or flour

Cut up all foraged ingredients into bit size chunks using a blade from your haversack. Make sure to cut up all vegetables that contain juices in the pot so you don’t lose any of the juices. In a tin crush to break apart your hardtack using the butt of your musket. If flour is found then substitute about a handful of flour for the hardtack! Add all ingredients to a pot with barely enough water to cover the vegetables. Cook and stew over a campfire until potatoes are done. For thicker stew add more flour.

#### **FOOTNOTES**

- i Charles Pierce Roland, *An American Iliad: The Story of the Civil War*, 2nd ed. (Lexington, Ky.: University Press of Kentucky, 2004), 95.
- ii U.S. War Department, *Revised Regulations of the Army*, 1861 (Washington D.C.), 243.
- iii Stephen Sears, *Landscape Turned Red: The Battle of Antietam*, 1st ed. (New York, NY: Mariner Books, 2003), 5.
- iv Pvt. William Richardson to parents, July 3rd, 1862, Jones, *Richardson Letters*, 51.
- v William C. Davis, *A Taste for History: The Culinary History of the Blue and the Gray*, Lincoln, Ne.: University of Nebraska Press, 2003), 144.

Trisha Akers,  
Civilian Coordinator



## Scuttlebutt Within The Ranks

When was the last time, we as living historians had a chance to have a conversation with a veteran who we portray as a living historian? I'm going to go on a limb here and say "never". The American Heritage College Dictionary defines "Living History" as being a noun and states that it is, "*Any of various activities involving the re-enactment of historical events or the recreation of living conditions of the past*". Our hobby allows us to not just enjoy the camaraderie of our events but also entrusts us to portray our roles as re-enactors to with the authenticity that defines the American of the Civil War era. As we acknowledge our roles of being living historians, we accept this responsibility of detail to authenticity. This measure of authenticity is that key ingredient of our hobby that is behind the scenes from our audiences, yet as Civil War enthusiasts we revel in the chance to learn more about those men, women and even children experienced by reading their words in diaries and memoirs.

Although, there are many sides to every story, there too is no one version of the historical record. There are, however, points of view. Taken individually, each point of view is invaluable to the insight(s) of the impact the war between the States was fought. Collectively, we can debate the reasons why the Confederacy sought a second war for independence as well as the Union's tenacity to preserve the nation. So, we then have two schools of thought. The first being the arguments of causes to the Civil War which I volunteer to leave to those scholars who'd rather research volumes of "scholarly" accounts, and the second illustrating the individual American which is where we as re-enactors come into being by passionately immersing ourselves into the 19<sup>th</sup> century American who lived through this era of history in one or more notable capacities. This license as a living historian may not be exactly as our impressions are just that, our impression of what was life as an American was like based on the point of view taken from our research of persons of a specific area or even household. History is recorded by a series of points of views that only when agreed unanimously agreed upon become taken as scholarly fact. Consider, the reasons for the Civil War for just a moment... The Confederacy argues something along the lines of "State's Rights" or political balances of power whereas the remaining Union argues something closer to slavery or Constitutionality of secession. About the only thing that either side agrees on is that history is written by the victors and read by the vanquished.

My latest read is, *Manassas to Appomattox: The Civil War Memoirs of Pvt. Edgar Warfield, 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry*. In it Warfield tells his story as a young man working as a clerk in an Alexandria mercantile store who enlisted into the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia and surviving the war only to die at the age of 92 in 1934. (yes, I peeked at the end!) At his funeral, a poem was read by its author, Roselle Mercier Montgomery titled,

### On the Death of an Aged Friend

*You are not dead – life has but set you free!  
Your years of life were like a lovely song,  
The last sweet poignant notes of which, held long,  
Passed into silence while we listened, we  
Who loved you listened still expectantly!  
And we about you whom you moved among  
Would feel that grief for you were surely wrong—  
You have but passed beyond where we can see.*

*For us who knew you, dread of age is past!  
You took life, tiptoe, to the very last;  
It never lost for you its lovely look;  
You kept your interest in its thrilling book;  
To you Death came no conquerer; in the end—  
You merely smiled to greet another friend!*

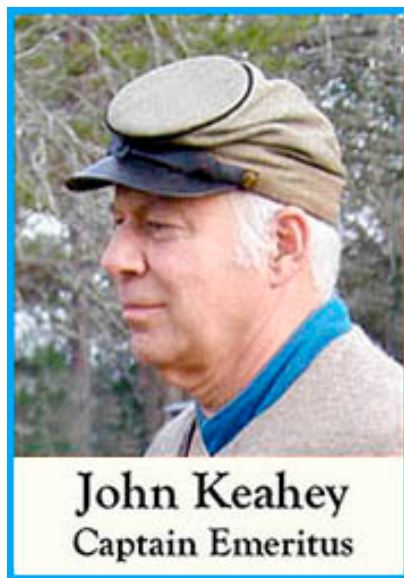
At the end of Warfield's funeral, the presiding pastor was quoted to say, "The march of another soldier is over. His battles are all fought, his victories all won, and as in other days he lies down to rest awhile under the arching sky, awaiting the bugle's call." Memoirs, diaries, personal letters etc. all give us an insight to the individual thoughts and emotions whereas other primary sources such as newspapers, general orders, proclamations and the like give us insight to social aspirations of the period.

In the May 2020 newspaper publication, Civil War News ([www.civilwarnews.com](http://www.civilwarnews.com)), two articles caught my attention. The first being the Roundtable News (page 6) and the other titled, Civil War Abolitionist, Orator, and Recruiter Resurrected (page 30). In the Roundtable article, two professors from Genessee College in New York immersed themselves as Generals Grant and Sherman to stage a dialogue within a 3 Act Play. This brought me back to my time at Colonial Williamsburg wherein we were required to be immersed with our historical character in order to educate an audience. This included using the period appropriate language, first person references etcetera that go along with the impression we were portraying. A skill that I have carried into my own history classroom. As to the second article, this article talks about the transformation although reluctant at first, of Mr. Nathan Richardson of Suffolk, VA into Frederick Douglass. For the last six years, Mr. Richardson has entertainingly educated his audiences as the American icon, Frederick Douglass. But here's the rub! Richardson utilizes a direct dialogue with the public as Douglass. Similar to the 80's mini-series "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSDIm2LqAes>) that depicts a dialogue between a former slave (Jane Pittman) who turns 110 years old in the early 1960's and tells her story to a reporter about her life.

There's scuttlebutt going around that we are currently planning a civilian driven event to replace the loss of November's Civil War Weekend at Liendo Plantation. This event proposed to set the stage for the debate over Lincoln's election to the White House in November 1860 and secession that soon followed. What then, would it take for us to get better prepared for such a civilian driven event? We've received resounding compliments of our impressions on the battlefield as well as in garrison such as Ft. McKavett! That said, we can consider the gauntlet thrown to bring our civilian impression up to the same par as our infantry impression(s). If anyone would like to open a discussion to get further civilian events planned, please be sure to contact Trisha, our Civilian Coordinator at [PJAkers2019@gmail.com](mailto:PJAkers2019@gmail.com) .

<https://crosswordlabs.com/instructions?embed=2020-06-28-110>

Pvt. Joseph Akers



## **WHERE DID THAT COME FROM? GREAT COAT**

The great coat was a relatively new item of issue in the 1800's. Before 1821 in the US Army, there were no great coats issued to enlisted men for cold weather protection. Rain protection had to wait until 1857 (for cavalry) and 1862 for the undeserving rest of the Army who served on foot. For the purposes of this article, we shall name all

garments with sleeves issued as cold weather clothing to enlisted men as great coats. This would include great coats, overcoats, watch coats and coats made from blankets (capotes). I will not include as “greatcoats” blankets used as coats, capes or cloaks. Officer’s garments, which were rarely issued by the government, were privately purchased by each officer and his choice reflected his own taste, fairly loose army specifications, sense of style and finances.

We can date the founding of the US Army to 6/14/75, or when the United States of America became a theoretical independent country on 7/4/76. Of course, it was not truly independent in reality until the British and their allies were fought to a standstill in the American Revolution and signed a peace treaty to that effect. There is no record of which I am aware of great coats being issued to American soldiers during the American Revolution 1775 to 1783. They may have been, but the records were lost. They probably never were, or at best in small quantities for men on outdoor guard duty. The best way to track what the document poor, impoverished American Army was supposed to issue is to study what their wealthier European opponents were wearing for cold weather, particularly the British Army from whom many of our military (and civil) traditions descend. The British Army in the 1700’s issued no cold weather garments; the multiple layers of heavy wool uniform clothing were supposed to keep the soldier healthy in all weathers. There is some basis of reality to this assumption. The uniform coats were generally knee length, made of heavy wool lined with coarse linen or more wool and worn over a lined vest. If it was very cold and/or rainy, the soldier was supposed to use his blanket as a cape; blanket pins were used to fasten the blanket sides together in the front to create a cape-like garment. After all, if the soldier was up and moving about, his blanket was not being used and the British tax payer should not have to pay for two separate cold weather articles! Five (5) “watch coats” were supplied to each regiment for the men on guard duty out of doors.

One could argue that this system worked in a moderate climate, but when troops were dispatched to immoderate climates with serious winters such Canada, up-state New York, and New England; this economically calculated risk to soldier’s health fell way short. As one dramatist had a British sergeant phrase it in an historical series, “Private, there are two types of weather in the British Army; too bloody hot, and brisk and bracing.” We can safely rank Canada in winter as “brisk and bracing.” Colonels of regiments could authorize enlisted men to button their lapels across their chests to more fully insulate themselves. The Canadian solution to address the wide gap between how the government uniformed its soldiers and what winter clothes they needed in reality was the capote; a hooded simple coat made from blankets. In winter any soldier who get a capote, by whatever means, used it. The American Revolutionary Army loved the concept, but lacked the blankets and sometimes even uniform coats to button over.

The system fell even shorter as military fashion shrank the uniform coat down to the coatee or tailcoat. The British Army went into tailcoats in 1797, the American Army before 1812. Tailcoats did not offer protection from the cold or rain from the waist down in the front. Various European armies began to issue great coats to supplement the cold weather protection of the tailcoat. The British in 1801 began to issue a medium grey wool greatcoat with a single cape and standing collar to all enlisted men. One of the

side effects of issuing the great coat was how it would be carried when not being worn. Knapsacks designed to carry only the issued blanket, extra shirts and shoes, now had to be replaced with knapsacks which had the capacity to carry/attach the greatcoat. The American Army had no such problem because they still did not issue great coats to cover the fashionable, but not very warm tailcoat. So American soldiers fighting in the northern areas in winter during the Revolution and War of 1812 had to use their blankets for additional warmth. To make matters worse, due to clothing shortages, many American troops serving in the northern states in 1812-14 were wearing what remained of their linen summer uniforms. The sickness, desertion and death rates must have been huge.

The first documented specification for a great coat for all enlisted men in the American regular army was in the 1821 Uniform regulations. The Trouser, Winter Fatigue Jacket and Great Coat were of dark grey wool mix with a cape and standing collar. In 1832 the color of these garments were changed from dark grey to sky blue. This is where the single caped sky blue Great Coat used before, during and after the American Civil War came from.

Jmk, 1/8/2019



## Civil War Era Apron

Submitted by J.M. Raffels

From: <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/lib-muse-article/william-alsobrooks-civil-war-era-apron>

“ Civil war era apron that belonged to William Millard Alsobrook from North Carolina. While he was serving in the confederacy, Alsobrook’s family was attacked at their home by plundering union soldiers. The soldiers came across Alsobrook’s Masonic apron and their leader, who was a Mason, then ordered his men to restore and replace everything as best they could to return the home to the way it was found. The apron was tacked to the door of the Alsobrook home and the Union soldier’s leader promised that anyone who bothered anything more would pay with his life.

From the memory of Mrs. Lydia Milner, great granddaughter of William Millard Alsobrook.





## Reflections In Time



An advertisement photo for Bellmead, TX (2004?). Among those pictured are Mike Bringhurst, Lee Chesney, and Rick Hall. Can you find them?



Perryville 2006. Lee Chesney prepares food for the Violet Crown Mess while Bo looks on. Pictured in the center background, Tommy Attaway practices standing at attention.



Gettysburg 2008



Ft. Mckavet 2010



Well, what can one say?



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Events for 2020

| Date                 | Event              | Location         | Rating     | Impression |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------|------------|
| August 7-9 Cancelled | Cedar Mountain     | Rapidan, VA      | Individual | CS         |
| September 5/6        | Ft. McKavett       | Ft. McKavett, TX | MAX        | US         |
| October 24           | Texian Market Days | Richmond, TX     | MAX        | US         |
| November 11          | Veteran's Day      | Houston, TX      | Company    | US         |
| December 5/6         | Prarie Grove       | Prarie Grove, AR | Individual | US         |

### Events for 2021

| Date       | Event         | Location     | Rating | Impression |
|------------|---------------|--------------|--------|------------|
| January 16 | Annual Muster | George Ranch | MAX    | CS         |



**To Tyrants Never Yield!**



**Thanks to everyone who contributed to the making of this edition of the Tyrants' Foe Newsletter. Without you it could not exist. Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is scheduled for midnight October 25, 2020. – The Editor**

**STAY HEALTHY AND PRAY FOR A VACINE**