



# The Tyrant's Foe

Newsletter of the Texas Rifles

Volume 57

Celebrating 38 Years of Excellence

June 2025



## Captain's Post

**After our Spring campaign season, we are now into the Summer pause, with our next event at Ft. McKavett the last weekend in September. more about this event later in the newsletter.**

**We have had contact from prospective new members who found us via the website. this is evidence that the website matters and that I need to put more effort into a refresh of the website. It is also evidence that we need to be ready and able to incorporate new members into the group. Our survival depends upon this. Fortunately, we have a quartermaster stockpile to facilitate this, while we have also had more donations of gear.**

**This leads to another idea which was briefly discussed at Jefferson, and will also be mentioned in more detail later in the newsletter.**

**I was reminded of how to effectively merge our portrayal of the people of the past with the events of the present by this remembrance by a visitor to Colonial Williamsburg shortly after Virginia allowed the carry of handguns:**

**"Summer of 2002**

**The girlfriend, (now wife) and I decided we wanted to have a long weekend away from the hustle and bustle of NOVA and relax. Being a colonial history buff I wanted to travel down to Historic Williamsburg and give her a guided tour as she had never been there. Being as it was going to be a bit of a drive for us, and as I had recently been indoctrinated into the whole open carry experience, I wanted to see if this would be a location I could open carry at. An extensive look at their website did not net me any information as to permitted or restricted, so I decided to try my luck and ask once I got down there.**

**On Saturday morning we left our hotel room and with Glock secured to my holster and on my belt, we drove to Colonial Williamsburg. We headed into town and first came to the blacksmiths shop. The smithy was busy pounding away at a piece of iron and chatting with only 2 other tourists who seemed to only have a passing interest in his work. I walked over to him and asked him for a moment of his time, which he was only too happy to give me. In a low voice I said I was legally carrying a firearm but wasn't sure of Williamsburg's policy and could he tell me if it was allowed or forbidden. In a tone twice as loud as I had, he answered me. I'll try to recall his response as best as I can:**

**"That good sir is one of the important questions now being asked by the brave men of the Continental congress. Should we as free men and women be allowed to carry arms and armament to protect the very vestment of the good Lord, namely that of life and liberty. Do we have the right to protect our lands and lives against a tyrant and his army which care not for our safety and our children, but only for coins to be placed in his coffers. Nay good sir, stay your pistol upon your person and be ready to answer the call to fight not only for freedom and liberty, but for our homes and for principle"**

Needless to say, I was smiling from ear to ear. I would have accepted a simple "It's allowed" but the smithy went all out to answer a question and to weave it into a historical context. It was to date the **SECOND** best response I had ever had. The **FIRST** best came an hour after the experience with the smithy.

We were walking down the main street, looking at various arts and crafts being offered (her idea) and enjoying the scenery. I got a glance or two with the Glock 17 on my waist, but mostly we were ignored. Ahead we saw a squad of British soldiers marching up the street and being led by a Major who was dressed to the nines. As they got close, one of the conscripts in the middle pointed over to me and proclaimed loudly "Sir! That colonial is armed, shall we detain?" The Major stopped the squad and looked at me. Again, I'll try and recall his response as best I can. While slowly walking towards me, he announced:

"No, Mister Danvers, while his majesty has proclaimed that any possession of pistol or musket is forbade and forbidden, these rabble pose no serious threat to either King nor Crown. For these colonist to believe they could ever stand up to the might of his Majesty's fine fighting men would be madness and that of sheer folly. No. . .we will allow this one to keep his pistol." The Major then leaned in very close to me, so that only I could hear him and whispered to me "For now."

He then walked back to the front of the squad and marched them along back down the street."

This vignette illustrates what we should strive to do in our portrayals - bring the people of the past into the present, thereby giving the people of the present a window into the past.

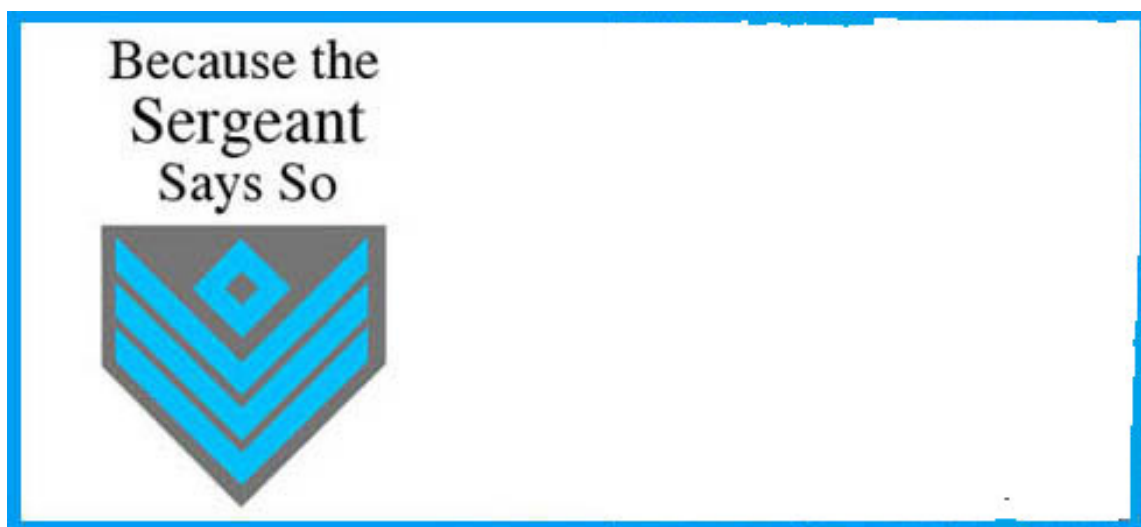
**Keeping History Alive**





**Lieutenant's Inkwell**

**Pending assignment**



**1SG's Rants**



## **Recruiting Duty**

If anyone has a referral interested in the Texas Rifles, contact:  
Jim Richardson @ 832-673-8393, Houston



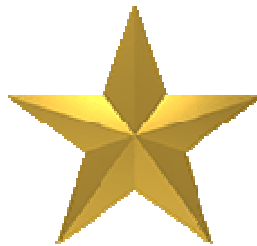
## **Pleasant Hill, Louisiana**

**Some of our members participated in the this event, held the second weekend in April. The main attraction for this event is that it is held on the original battlefield, which is privately owned land. Ownership has passed to the succeeding generation, which portends a slightly different event relationship with the event sponsors. Time will tell how this works out for the future events.**

**We attended as Federal (as we usually do) which this year and as usual work with our friends of the RRB with whom we usually serve. Attendance was rather light, and we took all of the RRB and formed a combined company. Fortunately**

**at this level, we generally work together well, but with people serving in positions that they normally do not perform, did present a challenge or two, and is a reminder once again as to why we need to recruit more members and the ease with which we operate within the RRB.**

**As has become a habit, we are the unit that is closest to the spectators. This is really a tribute to how well we portray the soldiers of the period compared to most other units on the field. We have a reputation for high standards that we must maintain and having learned as much as we have about how things were done in the war, pass on that knowledge.**



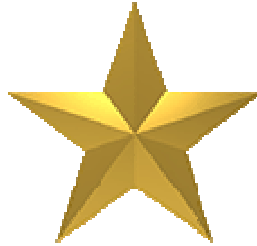
### **Jefferson, Texas**

**We attended this early May event as an individual effort due to our plans for Vicksburg being frustrated by the 1-13 Infantry of the US Army not attending First at Vicksburg this year. In order to encourage the RRB units to attend, they took the field as Confederate, while we attended as Federal. This meant that we worked with the TMVI which is unusual for us. This presented a challenge or two as we use Casey's tactics as Federal, while the TMVI usually Confederate use 1855 Hardee's, which we don't, as we use the 1862 Hardee's as Confederate. The best way for us to solve this problem is recruiting and attendance at company strength.**

**We camped in the park just a few blocks away from downtown, which is a prime location. Due to previous rains, the ground was somewhat soggy, but firm enough, unlike the ground designated for our friends in the 1st Texas. The usual scenario for the weekend took place with the downtown street battle Saturday morning, the afternoon battle at a new location this year, and dinner provided Saturday evening. Several other events held in town as part of the**

**history weekend in which we usually do not participate, and the final battle on Sunday afternoon.**

**The event shows the sponsors having more support from the civic organizations in town as part of their heritage weekend, and this may help get this event back on track as the Spring War Between the States event in Texas.**



### **Memorial Day, Houston National Cemetery**

**We have been doing this ceremony for several years, with us now only firing at the opening to mark the start of the event. We were a couple of people short this year to make a full size color guard for the parade of colors, and we had much more bearable weather this year.**

**Also present was a cannon crew to help give notice to the start of the event.**

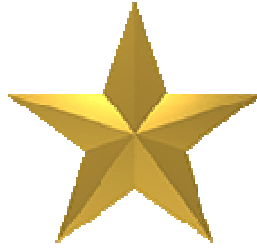
**This is the effect we were hoping to achieve:**









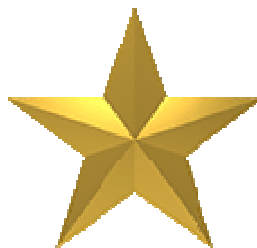


## **An Idea to Gain More Prominence for Our Group**

**At Jefferson, the topic came up of how to get students more interested in history in general and living history in particular. One of our teachers mentioned that there was interest, but one of the obstacles is the venue needed to get the demographic, meaning Black students, a means to accomplish this goal. Clearly in this period in history, we are talking the United States Colored Troops regiments and the Buffalo Soldiers of the Indian Wars. As a group, we have the expertise to be the mentors in creating such a group, and doing the training and supplying the White Officers that those organizations have.**

**Summary was to look at what it would take to form such a group from the public school perspective. And I happen to know someone interested in the Buffalo Soldiers history who is a pastor with business interests in the Houston area, and I have started conversations with him about this idea.**

**Therefore, consider the possibility that we may have an African-American adjunct to partner with in bringing this part of our military history to life. This aspect of the history of the US Army has really gotten almost no mention since the movie Glory from the 1990s, and would help form a more complete view of this time period.**



## **Ft. McKavett 27 and 28 September**

**This will be our next event, and I am working with the park staff to develop the scenarios for the weekend. In any case, we will be living in the barracks and quarters, and eating period rations.**



**As has been the experience in past events, a competent cook can make the issue ration quite palatable, although it would become quite boring over time. Thus one of the activities on post was establishment of unit gardens, and under drawing rations, to use the funds saved on creating pies or cakes as a supplement to the ration.**



**One of our objective with this event is to demonstrate that the soldiers spent the vast majority of their time maintaining the physical infrastructure of the fort. Infantry units spent almost no time engaged in military activity, unless actually out on campaign.**

**The military installations were on the whole built by the soldiers themselves under the direction of an Engineer Officer, and a few civilian tradesmen.**







**Every two months, the unit would muster for pay. One of the teaching points here is that the amount of money deducted from the pay of the soldier for various reasons every month could easily end up with the soldier being paid just over half of what he was earning in a month.**



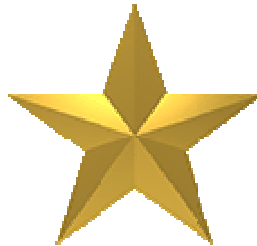
**Part of this withholding was an attempt by the Army to motivate soldiers not to desert, and complete their enlistments. At the end of an enlistment, a soldier would then get his final pay, which would then exceed \$300 in an era where land could be had for less than \$1 per acre and a horse cost \$150.**

**All of the improvements that the Army tried to put in place in the 1870s to improve the life of the soldier, still had little impact. The desertion rate was frequently at 20% a year as there were too many opportunities for a man on the frontier to lead a better life than that of a soldier.**

**"The Army consists of men of low character, and generally Irish."**



**Invitation to participate in this event will also be going out to our friends in the Red River battalion.**



**Let's try for a September 15th deadline for the next newsletter's articles so we can get one published for September 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**Please email me at [joseph.a.alamia@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.a.alamia@gmail.com) with any and all articles. I'd love to start a book review/recommendation section if someone would like to contribute (preferably Civil War or Texas Revolution related).**

Joey

