



The Tyrant's Foe

Newsletter of the Texas Rifles

Volume 58

Celebrating 39 Years of Excellence

March 2026



Captain's Post

Another Muster has taken place and the Texas Rifles are now in our 39th season of events. We had new members attending and I hope that our post Covid low is now behind us and we make like the Phoenix and emerge from the crash to carry on the traditions and knowledge of those who trod the path before us.

We are now well into the Semiquincentennial of the American Revolution. That is to say the 250th Anniversary of the events that created our nation. Although we as a group do not work in this period, it is where the concept of authentic living history took root during the Bicentennial. I expect these events to renew

interest in our past and inspire a new group of people to gain an interest in living history, and is a potential for us to rebuild the membership. hardly a week goes by without some contact generated via our website. Many of the contacts are for events or information that will not result in a new member, but it does stress the importance that having a non Facebook site is critical for maintaining our image, and is the way people find us. For example, I have been invited to do a Mexican War appearance at a Texas Historical Commission sponsored event. Given the influence that organization now has on historical sites in Texas, a good relationship with them is important to having quality living history events in places we may want to go.

As you will read in the Muster report, Joe Akers has been appointed our recruiter, and cards have been created to pass out at our activities with his contact information and our website address. This was one of the things done by the 13th Infantry before the merger, and I thought it a great idea. It has taken us far too long to adopt the concept for our use and I already have ideas for an improved version after the current set of cards is exhausted.

I am now heavily engaged in the group planning of the 165th Anniversary national events. The first of these will be 1st Manassas to be held the weekend of 16/17 May near Culpepper, VA. Please help spread the word to all of our friends, as this will probably be the largest event of the year. A great deal of local support, including the American Battlefield trust is behind this although the event will take place a few miles away from the actual location of the battle. See <https://www.165th.org> and refer others there.

See you in the field.

Keeping History Alive

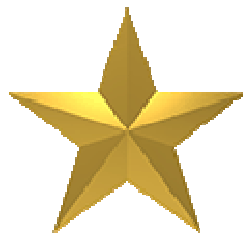




Lieutenant's Inkwell

Welcome everyone to 2026. This year has already started out busy with Muster and a living history event in College Station as well as a few folks taking part in the 190th Anniversary of the Goliad Massacre. Coming up there's still Pleasant Hill (or P-Hill as the cool kids call it), Jefferson and 165th Manassas before the summer hiatus. Please reach out if you have any questions about events, rides or loaner gear (not only am I the LT but I also serve as QM, so the earlier I know you need something the better). Huge welcome to Ben Mathison and Geoff Marberry for coming out and jumping on board. It was great to meet y'all in College Station and I'm looking forward to working with y'all at future events. This summer is like to host a cartridge roll for the Houston area folks (all are invited of course). I'll nail down a tentative date soon and burgers and brewskis for all. It'll be a good time to get some work done and hang out during the summer doldrums. Let's keep working for the future and recruiting. (Joe Akers is killing it by the way). See you all soon.

Joey



Because the
Sergeant
Says So



1SG's Rants



Recruiting Duty

If anyone has a referral interested in the Texas Rifles, contact:
Joe Akers @ 254-633-7450, Recruiter



Commeration of the Battle of Galveston

On January 3rd, members participated with our friends from the Sons of Union Veterans at the annual ceremony to pay tribute to the battle and the namesake of the Lea Camp. This year, the National Commander was also present, Sons of Confederate veterans and other groups as well to pay tribute to those participants in this commemoration. The Lea Camp has participated in many of our events, and it is entirely fitting and proper for us to assist in this noble effort to remind others of this moment in the history of Galveston.

I think it unlikely that we will see another battle of Galveston re-enactment event. The commercial development renders the original location unsuitable for the roar of cannon and musketry. Thus, the events of January 1, 1863 are most likely to be remembered by doing this ceremony.



2026 Annual Muster – Heritage Village New Braunfels

January 17th was the 39th Annual Muster of the Texas Rifles, which took place at Heritage Village in New Braunfels. This location has now become our Muster home, and will be for the foreseeable future. The school is the meeting location and bunkhouse, somewhat replicating the way we used the Winedale site for some 20 years.

The meeting was called to order at 10AM due to travel underway to the venue. As always, the first order of business was to collect dues from current members present in order to establish the quorum. The three first time attendees were introduced, and as there were no new members present who met the criteria for voting into membership, old business was concluded.

The meeting then moved on to the new business on the agenda. The first order of new business was the election of the military officers. Motion was made, seconded, and passed to retain the existing military officers for the year until the next Annual Muster. The floor was then opened for nominations for the open office of Civilian Coordinator. Richelle Hammond was nominated, seconded and voted in by acclamation.

The Executive Committee having been constituted according to our Bylaws, and with a quorum of the Executive Committee present, the following matter was taken up by the Committee. Treasurer Rion Braddock stated that he was resigning the office, and wished to have a successor appointed, in order that the accounts could be turned over to the said new Treasurer. Chris Strzelecki agreed to assume the role and was appointed to be the new Treasurer. The Executive Board having been reconstituted according to Texas Rifles Bylaws, the meeting continued with new business.

Joe Akers appointed as recruiter, replacing Jim Richardson.

Tommy Attaway directed officer reports to be summarized and included in the next newsletter:

Captain's Report: 2025 had a modest schedule based on the strength of the unit and number of retiring members and need to recruit. the emphasis was on living history presentations that did not require large numbers present in order to have a successful event. While suggesting continuing that course of action as a recruiting tool, there would also be events of scale that we need for members to attend in order to maintain the knowledge of how to function as a unit and as soldiers in the field.

Suggest the 165th Anniversary Coalition events as the focus for large events. Officers reminded to get their part of the newsletter in on time to meet deadlines for publication. We have had a problem with our mass email distribution list in that many of the free providers of email (gmail, yahoo, etc.) are blocking our emails for not originating from a commercial source - working on a upgrade of the existing software to solve this issue.

Treasurer's Report: Purchases of items from people retiring from the hobby and the lack of auctions held for the previous two years have taken the treasury balance down to just over \$1000. Thus the need to be more careful in the expenditure of funds this year and should have the attention of the new

Treasurer. Members wishing to pay dues may send a check to me at this address:

Chris Strzelecki

5811 1st St.

Crosby, TX 77532

Individual dues are \$12 and family dues are \$18

Checks can be made out to the Texas Rifles.

I am in the process of getting me listed as the new Company Treasurer at our bank. We are very thankful for the years of service given by Rion by acting as the Company Treasurer.

Military Authenticity: Equipment list has been revised and copies of the new list distributed to first time attendees, and members present. New list:

TEXAS RIFLES Military Recruit Kit List

This document is to assist our members in obtaining kit items that are of authentic make, conform to unit impression guidelines, and show a commitment to quality on the part of the vendor. These items are approved by the Authenticity Committee and in our opinion represent the best investment for purchase, as there will be a market for used items, should the member decide to retire from the living history hobby. Items are listed in priority of purchase in order to allow a new member to participate with the primary Confederate impression, mindful that we also play Federal troops as well. As we have some items to loan, those items are placed in a lower priority than if you were having to start from nothing.

1. Shoes – your size is probably not available for loan (such is army life) and a good fit allows you to march and fight with less discomfort. Suggest US pattern shoes as the first purchase. Best quality from Bob Serio (<http://www.missouribootandshoe.com/index.asp>) other possibilities are South Union Mills or S&S Sutler of Gettysburg (<https://ss-sutler.com/index.htm>)
2. Musket – the newest among us have first call on loaned weapons, so this is something to purchase as soon as you are able. The 1861 Springfield and bayonet is suggested as your first musket purchase. This model of musket

was used primarily by the US Army, but frequently captured by the Confederate troops, making it possible to use in all of our impressions.

3. Hat – an item of individual character and if your size is not to be had by loan, a constant item of frustration to keep on your head. Best quality from Tim Bender for civilian styles, or Frank Marek (fjmarek@sbcglobal.net) and John Keahey (musketman51@comcast.net) for military styles.
4. Socks and Underwear – clothing will feel more comfortable with correct underclothing, which will keep the wool from contact with your skin. This is one area where you may want to get something fast now, and upgrade later. Check with John Keahey or S&S Sutler of Gettysburg
5. Shirt – a civilian style shirt made with advice from our civilian advisors or a US issue shirt made by John Keahey or Frank Marek. Most sutler shirts use buttons that are too large and have other odd things about the fabric or construction.
6. Trousers – properly made trousers and suspenders will allow you to sit and bend without undue stress on the seams or buttons. Frank Marek for suspenders and either John Keahey or Frank Marek for trousers.
7. Mess gear and Haversack – you will want at a minimum, plate, cup, and spoon and somewhere to keep it. Best quality tinware is from the South Union Mills, and haversack from John Keahey.
8. Confederate Jacket – our standard is termed a “Columbus Depot” style, which consists of a somewhat natural gray jeans 6 piece body, one piece sleeve with blue collar and cuffs. John Keahey and Frank Marek will make a jacket with better period construction techniques than is sold by sutlers.
9. Canteen – the tin drum style is a typical Confederate style canteen. Suggest S&S Sutler of Gettysburg as the source, or John Zaharias (Button Baron), with Jarnigan (<http://www.jarnaginco.com>) as a backup.
10. Accoutrements – belt with buckle, cap box, cartridge box, and bayonet scabbard. Suggest federal boxes with Confed belt, buckle, and scabbard for starters. Best quality for boxes is from Bob Serio, and John Keahey for belts and scabbards.

You are now equipped in light marching order, which is how you will fight at events. The following items allow you to live in the field for a short period of time and represent most of the items a soldier would possess.

1. Blanket – either a civil style or a blanket “obtained” from the battlefield from a US soldier Check with Frazier Bros.
2. Ground cloth – a painted piece of canvas with grommets which attempts to provide protection from moisture. John Keahey is the best source.
3. Shelter half – another item originated with the federal quartermaster, which found a new home in rebel ranks. John Keahey is the best source.
4. Knapsack – this allows you to carry more gear with you in the field, and probably the US model “double bag” is your best first purchase of a knapsack. John Keahey is the best source.

Sutlers:

BS – Bob Serio (Missouri Boot & Shoe)

CD - Jarnigan

FB – Frazier Bros.

FM - Frank Marek

JK – John Keahey

WM – Wisconsin Museum

Item	Approved Sutlers	Impression
Weapons w/ bayonet		
M 1816 Convert Percussion		ANV, TM, WT
M 1842 Springfield	FB	TM, WT

Item	Approved Sutlers	Impression
P 1853 Enfield	FB	ANV, TM, WT, US
M 1855 Springfield	FB	US
M 1861 Springfield	FB	ANV, US
Uniforms & Clothing		
RD2 Shell Jacket	JK	ANV
CD Shell Jacket	JK	TM
Houston Depot Jacket	JK	WT
Overshirt	FM, JK	TM, WT
Commutation Jacket	JK	ANV, TM, WT
Commutation Frock	JK	ANV, TM
1851 Sack Coat	JK	US
1851 Frock Coat	JK	US
1851 Sky blue Trousers	JK	US
CS Depot Trousers	JK	ANV, TM, WT
Commutation Trousers	JK	ANV, TM, WT
Shirt QM	JK	US
1851 Overcoat	JK	US

Item	Approved Sutlers	Impression
Socks	FB	ANV, TM, WT, US
Drawers	JK	ANV, TM, WT, US
Braces	FM	ANV, TM, WT, US
Shoes US Pattern	BS, CD, FB	US
Shoes CS Style	BS	ANV, TM, WT
Shoes English	BS	ANV, TM
1858 Forage Cap	JK	US
CS Forage Cap	JK, FM	ANV, TM, WT
Waistbelt & Buckle		
GA Frame style	BS, CD	ANV, TM, WT
Snake tongue frame	BS	ANV, WT
US 1855 pattern	BS, JK	US
Cartridge & Cap Box		
US 1855 pattern	BS, CD	US, ANV
Baton Rouge	BS	TM, WT
Houston	BS	WT

Item	Approved Sutlers	Impression
Bayonet Scabbard		
Springfield 2 rivet	CD, FB	ANV, US
Enfield	CD, FB	ANV, TM, WT
Canteen		
US 1851 Pattern	FB	US
CS Tin Drum	FB	ANV, TM, WT
CS Wood	FB	ANV, TM, WT
Haversack		
US 1851 Pattern	JK	US, ANV
CS 3 button	JK	ANV, TM, WT
Knapsack		
US 1855 Double Bag	JK	US
Kibler Mex War Style	JK	ANV, TM, WT

Item	Approved Sutlers	Impression
Mess Ware		
Plate	FB, WM	All
Knife / Fork / Spoon	FB, WM	All
Cup	FB, WM	All
Shelter		
US "Gaede IIa"	JK	US
US "Gaede IIIb"	JK	US
US Pattern Blanket		US
Blanket	FB	ANV, AOT, TM, WT
Painted Ground Cloth	JK	ANV, AOT, TM, WT
Gum Blanket		US
Camp Items		
Hatchet or Axe		ANV, AOT, TM, WT, US
Tentage		ANV, AOT, US
Bread Box		US

Item	Approved Sutlers	Impression

Contact Information for Sutlers

Bob Serio (Missouri Boot & Shoe)

951 Burr Crossing Road

Neosho, Missouri 64850

<http://www.missouribootandshoe.com/index.asp>

(417) 451-6100

C & D Jarnagin, POB 1860, Corinth, MS 38835

<http://www.jarnaginco.com>

662.287.497

S&S Sutler of Gettysburg

<https://ss-sutler.com/index.htm>

717-338-1990

Frank Marek

fjmarek@sbcglobal.net

John Keahey

musketman51@comcast.net

John Zaharias

<https://www.buttonbaron.com/>

The Button Barron

P.O. Box 3561

Gettysburg, PA 17325

(717) 337-3500

BUTTONBARRON@worldnet.att.net

South Union Mills

<https://www.southunionmills.com>

L. D. Haning & Co.

<https://www.ldhaning.com>

This led to a wide ranging discussion of how to recognize quality, authentic items, and Robert's rules were suspended to allow for a floor open to all for the range of topics along this need for education.

The next item of new business was the schedule for the year until the next scheduled Muster. Robert's Rules were again suspended to allow for open discussion.

The following events were voted on to the schedule as Maximum effort events:

Port Hudson 28/29 March

Pleasant Hill 11/12 April

Jefferson 2/3 May

1st Manassas 16/17 May

Veterans Day 11 November

2027 Muster 9 January

It should be noted that Annual Muster is now changed to the second Saturday in January to better coordinate with the Heritage Village schedule. Please take notice and adjust your personal schedule accordingly. This is a change from our traditional third Saturday in January.

The following events were voted on to the schedule as company level events (we expect the company core of at least one officer, one Sgt., and one Cpl. to be present):

Memorial Day May 25 Houston National Cemetery

Ft. McKavett September 5/6

Franklin October 3/4

History Day October 10

The following events were voted on to the schedule as individual events (we expect some of us to attend and will fall in with friends who will have established units):

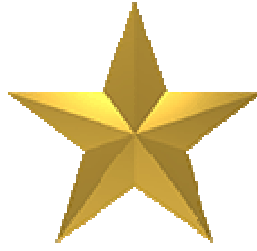
Museum of the American GI March 21

Prairie Grove December 5/6

Galveston January 2

Motion to Adjourn passed at 11:50 AM as there was no further business.

After lunch, a couple of drill sessions were held. Concentration on School of the Soldier for our new personnel and School of the Company for NCOs.



Museum of the American GI

The muster is when we set our schedule for the year as part of our annual business meeting. Known and probable events for consideration are:

March 28/29 Port Hudson, LA

March 28/29 Presidio LaBahia

April 10/12 Pleasant Hill, LA

May 2/3 Jefferson

May 15-17 The 165th Anniversary of the Battle of First Manassas - at Brandy Station battlefield

May 25 Memorial Day Houston

September 4/5 Ft. McKavett

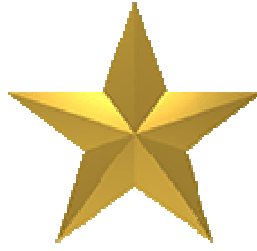
October 2/4 Franklin, TN

November 11 Veterans Day Houston

November 13 Heritage Village Living History

January 2 Battle of Galveston commemoration

January 9 Annual Muster



Pleasant Hill, April 11/12, Pelican, LA

This event is held on privately owned land that is part of the battlefield. this battle was the next day's action after the Federal withdrawal from the action at Mansfield. The weekend is a local festival in which the reenactment plays a large part. The physical address for the event is : 23271 LA-175, Pelican, LA 71063. The event website: <https://battleofpleasanthill.com/>

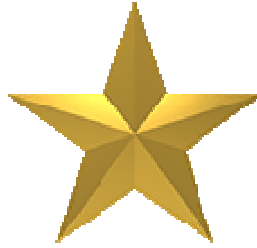
Please register on the website as an individual and let me know you have registered, so I can do the group registration as 13th US Infantry. We will combine with the same unit we were with at the Museum of the American GI, as we will not have enough members to form a company.

Based on current projections, it will be one large campground behind the sutlers as in years past. When you arrive, there will be a dog trot cabin which is the check in location. From there, we camp at the right rear (southeast) corner of the camping area. The event provides breakfast Sat and Sun, along with dinner Sat evening - so you get value for your registration dollars.

In many ways, I refer to this as a battle and BBQ type event. You may camp as authentic (or not) as you wish as we are not portraying troops on campaign. Almost every degree of authenticity will be present, and our objective is to try to give the spectators some idea of period combat. Artillery and Cavalry will be present, but the scale of the action is rather small compared to the historical reality.

If possible, car pooling is suggested. It gives the opportunity for our new members to spend more time with the old hands. It is one of the ways we carry on with the history and traditions of the unit.

Please let tommy_attaway@yahoo.com know if you can attend.



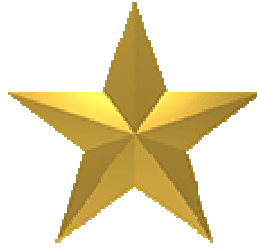
Jefferson, TX May 2/3

This is now the largest 1861-1865 period event in Texas. In some ways it is a Texas Version of Pleasant Hill without the history of being an actual scene of war action, but had a period civil history. The event is part of the town's Spring tourist draw, so gets a good deal of advertisement in north Texas. So, from my point of view, this is another battle and BBQ event, not a real dive into history. We will attend as Federal and will combine with our friends in the 1st Texas who are also attending. Register as 13th US Infantry here: <https://battleforjefferson.com/> Check in at Lion's Park Gazebo when you arrive for the event, which is probably the Confederate camp area.

Our camp area will be designated and communicated in a few weeks. We usually camp in town at a park a few blocks away from forming for the parade, and the downtown food and evening activities. We have a bonus activity organized by a couple of our members at this event.

There will be a town street battle Sat morning, we will be transported to the battlefield for the afternoon battle and then again for the Sun afternoon battle - or drive there for the fast getaway on Sunday afternoon. As a rule, the event is not popular with sutlers, so bring everything you will need.

Please let tommy_attaway@yahoo.com know if you can attend. Again, car pools make sense for this, as we camp in town where parking will be limited.



1st Manassas May 16/17

This will be the big 165th anniversary event of the year. First the bad in addition to the effort required to get to Virginia to attend the event. Like most large sites of major importance, we will not be on the hallowed ground where the actual events took place. We will actually be on another battlefield, and may not dig fire pits, and have to be careful about tent stakes being driven too far into the ground.

Then there is the good news. We have been fortunate to have the use of the battlefield owned by the American Battlefield Trust, which will give the property to the Commonwealth of Virginia after the event. We have support from the county, the tourist board, and other event sponsors to make the event look like an excellent start for this anniversary cycle. Local governments and civic organizations have gone out of their way to be helpful and promote the event.

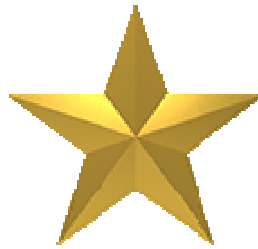
On to the details.... The location will be 13000 Saint James Church Rd. Brandy Station, Virginia. The scenario will be on Saturday the action of the battle to Harvey House Hill, then the action after that will be portrayed on Sunday. This will not be two sides dividing up and having a mock battle - it will be an attempt to recreate what actually happened on the field as best we can.

We are attending as Confederate and I do not yet have the unit assignment, but I will be one of the Regimental commanders, so you will be well looked after if you can attend. Upon arrival, check in at the registration tent, you will then be directed to the camp and parking. Camps will be static, so once set up, that is it for the weekend. Water will be distributed to the camps - has to be because of the scale involved. The battlefield will be gently rolling, so it will replicate well the actual ground on which the battle took place.

These anniversary events will be well worth the effort it takes to attend. This will be the closest we can get to the experience our ancestors had on the field

in terms of the scale, noise and sensation. The 165th events website is now up and registration is active. The website address is: <https://www.165th.org>

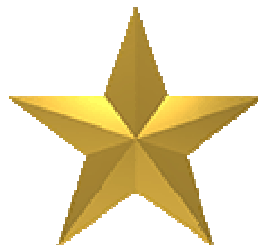
In the past, our attendance back East established our reputation in the living history community, and these events serve to maintain and enhance our reputation for being an authentic, quality reenactment organization. And this reputation is why I have become a part of the coalition conducting these anniversary events.



Memorial Day May 25

Again we have been invited to parade colors and fire the opening volley. however, this year, our Sons of Union Veterans friends have been invited to the Washington, D. C. parade, so we will need to make up in numbers for those who will make that journey.

Plan to be at the National Cemetery by 8:30, so we can sort out the color guard and get to our place in the parade order. All you will need is parade order - musket and accoutrements. We should be done and on the way out by noon.



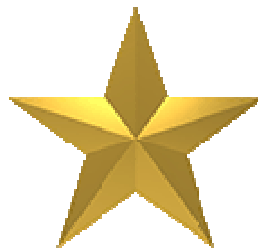
Message from Mike Simms:

I was a Civil War re-enactor years ago when I lived in Virginia and have a "de-farbed" 1861 Springfield musket with sling and bayonet I'm looking to sell. I think \$950 is fair for the musket, bayonet, and sling. Including some pictures. It's not spotless, but it's pretty clean you can see the Armi sport is removed from the top of the barrel. No polyurethane was also removed from the wood.





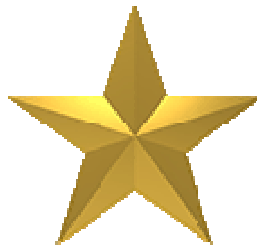
Email robertmsimms51@gmail.com



A Special Message for Our Long Time Members

It is my sad duty to announce the passing on February 12th of long time member and Texas history reenactor Steve Trowbridge. From the start of the 150th anniversary of Texas Revolution and 125th anniversary of the War Between the States events, Steve was there and a good friend to many of us in the hobby.

He will be missed by his hundreds of friends and acquaintances in the living history community. Farewell Unkle Jimmy.



Let's try for a June 15th deadline for the next newsletter's articles so we can get one published for June 30th.

Please email me at 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

