



The Tyrant's Foe

Newsletter of the Texas Rifles

Volume 58

Celebrating 39 Years of Excellence

June 2026



Captain's Post

The Spring campaign season has past and we are now in the Summer pause preparing for the Fall campaign. We have gained new members and have five more potential members who have attended a max effort event this year. Our membership will be growing this year and I expect the trend to continue in the years to come. We have sufficient loaner gear to outfit four to six recruits, and in short order, should be back to fielding a small company, or forming the nucleus of a typical sized company of the last two years of the war.

The Quartermaster duties will be transitioning to one of the members we have gained this year, Geoffrey Marberry. Retiring reenactors have donated gear to

us, and it is being sorted out for storage, repair or in case of non infantry gear, possible disposal. The loaner gear needs to be functional to allow for our guest participants to concentrate on learning the skills of the soldier, rather than gear repair. Because of the anticipated need to keep track of all of the gear we have, it was necessary to split this duty off from one of our existing officers, and I appreciate Geoffrey volunteering to take on this responsibility.

You will read more about our Spring events in the rest of the newsletter. I would remark that our efforts to maintain our reputation and also work with the living history community as a whole are working well for us. We can attend any event we wish and be welcomed. This is a claim not to be taken lightly, as unfortunately, the personalities of various unit commanders have been a limiting factor in staging good events or adversely impacting attendance at what should be quality events.

As mentioned previously, I am heavily engaged in the group planning of the 165th Anniversary national events. The first event put on by the coalition was 1st Manassas, held the weekend of 16/17 May near Culpepper, VA. I was generally satisfied with the event - more detail later in the newsletter. I was happy with the organizational aspects - site, camp, water, wood, sutlers, and trash provision worked well. I really liked how the battle was sequenced and planned. I thought we fell short on the execution on the battlefield. We are now working the schedule of future events, so units can plan on a good series of 165th anniversary events. One of the challenges is obtaining access to good sites, and we have an advantage in that we are working with the American Battlefield Trust. After this event, they have confidence in us, and are likely to be site hosts for many of our events. We are also working on making the coalition a permanent alliance of reenactors for this time period. See <https://www.165th.org> and refer others there for the coalition activities.

See you in the field.

Keeping History Alive



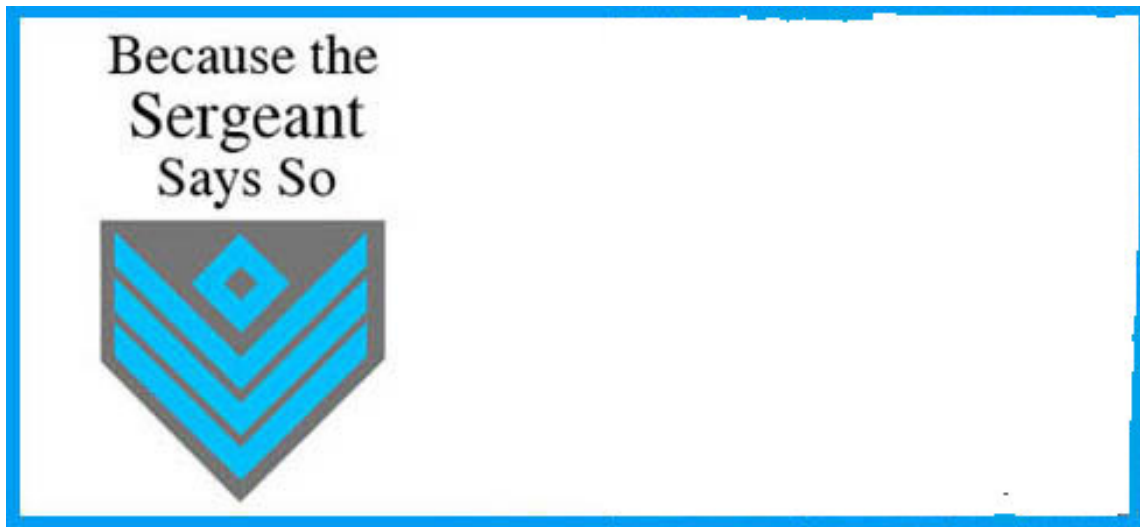
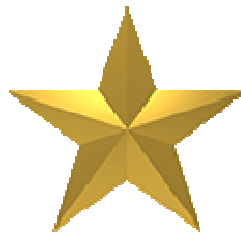


Lieutenant's Inkwell

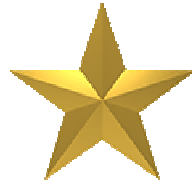
This has been a very busy year already, As far as events have gone, we have had members attend our annual Muster in January, Jefferson, Pleasant Hill, living history at the Museum of the American GI in College Station, 1st Manassas and a Memorial Day Ceremony with members of the SUV. We have had a good recruiting year as well. Welcome to Geoff Marberry, Ben Mathison, Ryan Hall, as well as a couple of familiar faces looking to reconnect. We have a busy fall ahead of us with events at Fort McKavett, Franklin, Prairie Grove, Veterans Day Ceremony and parade and a living history event at our muster location in New Braunfels. I am also hosting a cartridge roll at my house on July 18th (please see Facebook for more details as far as time and address) to prepare for our fall/winter events. Please RSVP so I can know how much food to buy for everyone. I want to add a special thanks to Rob Williamson and Greg Lind (both former Captains of the Texas Rifles) for their generous donation of many quality items for our loaner gear. It is most appreciated and it was good to chat with both of you again. I am looking forward to the fall events and as luck would have I am clear (as of now with work for all upcoming events). I am going to make special effort to keep my schedule clear for Franklin and Prairie Grove. I am trying to keep our Facebook page updated as far as events and everything else going on with the group. I am encouraged with our new members and

even a few who have expressed interest for future events. We are on the right track and growing which is important to our groups continued existence. I am also excited to transition my role of quartermaster to Geoff Marberry, whenever I can find time to get everything to him. If you need items or know someone interested in attending, we have plenty of gear to loan out so don't let that be a show stopper. We will get them kitted out and in the field. Looking forward to seeing y'all in the field soon.

Joey



1SG's Rants



Recruiting Duty

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



Invitational Event - Frontier Fest April 4

Tommy Attaway

Fort Martin Scott in Fredericksburg is now a Texas Historical Commission property. In April, they hold an invitational only event that is primarily THC staff and interpreters, with selected invited participants. I was invited to participate in the program this April as 1848 to 1850 US Infantry. Bad weather was a detractor to the event and park visitor attendance, but I got to share time with many of our friends and fellow history people who work for the THC.

The THC is clearly working on bringing the site back to its short period of time that it was a military installation, and the city park / cowboy scene is out. I'm looking forward to doing this again next year, but April is getting really crowded with events. THC must be getting budget from somewhere, as a number of historical properties are under their control, and at least there is maintenance if not

improvements to be made. I'm probaly most concerned about the impact this is having on Presidio La Bahia. I have mixed reports about this year's Fannin event.

The Fannin Massacre event has for years been a high quality event, and in my opinion the best living history event in Texas. It would be a tragedy for it to lose the characteristics that have made the event what it is.

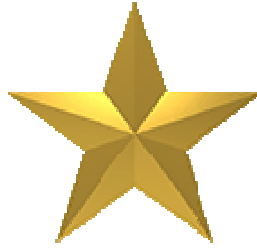


Pleasant Hill, LA - April 11 / 12

We participated in this event combined with a unit from the TMVI as Federals. We had worked with these two units before at the March Museum of the American GI event.

I thought in some ways, the event was better than last year, if only for the fact that after the battles, we did not have to go back on the field and pick up cartridge paper. We were combined with two of the TMVI smaller units to form a company. This was a bit of a challenge as the TMVI drills somewhat differently than we do.

The battles as far as they go are essentially two lines shooting at each other. There is no real attempt to portray the events of the battle that we are there commemorate. That is why I refer to these types of events as battle and BBQ. For the organizers and host unit, this event is significant to them, but for us it is just a weekend in the woods.



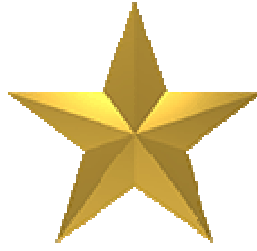
Jefferson May2-3

This is now the largest event in Texas, and like Pleasant Hill, is hosted by the same unit and the local tourist board is the main organizer with help from those who put together Pleasant Hill. Saturday morning has a downtown skirmish with battles in the afternoon on a nearby property. This is a "made up" event as Jefferson did not have any Federal encroachment during the war.

This time we combined with all of the Red River affiliated units to form a 40 man company. This gave us an opportunity to drill at something of typical company size for most of the war. The opportunity was taken to teach and improve our ability to perform the by company into line maneuver with greater skill. In one of the battles, we actually performed this maneuver competently, which was nice to see for a change instead of a disorganized scramble. Because units have gotten so small for so long, many of the duties and skills required of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sergeants now need to be relearned.

Again, we were portraying Federal troops, as we tend to do in and around the states that border Texas. Given the aforementioned, another battle and BBQ event that is having a back and forth on the value of the reenactors having a back and forth on whether the event should provide a meal and charge extra for that, or the cost is part of a registration fee.

Most importantly, the event served as the backdrop for the wedding of two of our members, and that added to the importance of the event considerably. Also, in an unusual turn of events, we had members at the dance in part as an adjunct to the wedding. It was also an experience for two exchange students to observe this part of American culture.



First Manassas, May 16-17 Culpepper, VA

This event was the first event put on by the newly formed Anniversary coalition. It was a test of how quickly the coalition members could put on a national event, having 5 months to make it all come together. The event went as well as it did due to the assistance of the American Battlefield Trust who owned the land, and the local and county governments who saw the event as a tourist draw. Most of the members of the coalition are reenactors who have decades of experience in reenacting and usually an additional organizational skill.

For me, one of the attractions for this event was the attempt to portray how the battle actually took place. Saturday was the action of the battle up to Harvey House Hill, while Sunday would be the stand of Jackson's brigade and the Confederate counter attack that drives the Federals from the field. This take unit commanders with a slightly different skill of coordinating action to give the proper effects on the field, rather than practicing unit command in a free flow battle situation.

Administratively, I thought things went fairly well. With a short time to get word out about the event, and the timing was after many units had already set their schedule for the year, so attendance was light for a national event. Registration worked and check in had a slight glitch for those that registered online, but that was worked through. Campsites were laid out well, would probably add another water point or two if it was done over. Other facilities were in place and functioned well. I arrived Thursday before the event to help sort out problems, but had little to do in that regard.

We had hot weather for the event, to add to the historical experience and I ended up being a staff guy for Bee's brigade. So, Saturday was being attacked and being flanked by the Federals, this caused units to break and be forced back one by one toward Henry House Hill, with Louisiana Tigers trying a counter charge that fails. One of the lessons coming out of this was our communications and coordination issues. Brigade and division commanders

had radios to coordinate the major actions and the radios sometimes worked, the Cav guys were then used as couriers, and many of the horses were skittish, and orders were not transmitted correctly. Battalion and company commanders were slow to execute, and I suspect some were trying to provide the "fog of war" experience to their troops by not passing along all of the details of the scenario. This led to a couple of things that went outside the bounds of the safety we want to have at events.



The number of spectators on both days took up most of the space allocated, so the event drew nice sized crowds. Sunday found Bee's brigade organizing itself, while Jackson's brigade stood firm against Federal attack. Then the Federals were flanked, causing units to break until the rout becomes general. Again, commanders were slow to execute, and other commanders were trying to fine tune everyone's position which cause delay and put us on the field for some 90 minutes, and we had some heat cases. Compounding this was that the most senior Confederate commanders are mobility impaired because of age

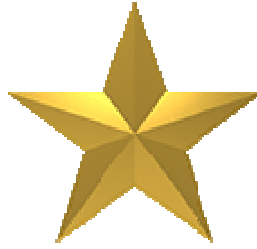
and infirmaries - so I got ample exercise trying to get orders executed and units to move. It was no doubt about it 1861.



As a summation, the units that make up the Red River battalion are as good as anybody out there, and better than most. We can field company commanders that can promptly execute commands, We can field a battalion staff that can get companies to the right place at the right time. That is valuable.

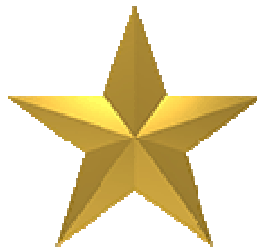
The American Battlefield Trust was happy with the event - it was a demonstration of what happened on land they own which assists their mission of education. They are very willing to have the coalition have events on battlefield trust properties. This is a solution to our problem of not being able to do events on battlefields owned by the government. We can have events where they happened.

The coalition is planning a more permanent structure and setting the calendar of events for the rest of the 165th anniversary cycle. This will make for larger and better events going forward.



Memorial Day, Houston National Cemetery May 25th

Once again we took part in the ceremonies of the day, firing a volley and parading the colors. The method of the parade has changed, I'm guessing in order to accommodate more participants. Thanks to our friends from the SUV, we had a full strength color guard and music.



Items for Sale

Message from Brian Ford (210) 589-5543 beford@gvtc.com

I have divided all of my individual items into Lots for anyone who might like to purchase only a specific Lot or select Lots. The price I ask per Lot is in the last column ("My Price per Lot"). However, it is my *earnest* hope to sell all Lots in one total package to one or more buyers, and so I add this special offer to whomever who wishes to buy everything:

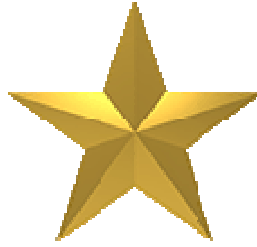
Special Offer for all Lots: Lot Nr. 1, Springfield, FREE to the person (or persons) who would like to buy the total package!!

(see yellow highlighted price at the bottom of the spreadsheet for all Lots, that is, for the total package)

Lot Nr.	Description (median Market Price listed in parentheses) [Note: All items are replicas and are used]	Total Median Market Price	Reduced from Market Price	My Price per Lot
1	Rifled-Musket: Euroarms 1861 US Springfield, 3-band, .58 cal - <i>excellent condition, blank fired only</i> (\$1,372) with black leather sling (\$35) made by Dixie Leather Works, and with a muzzle tompon (\$12)	\$1,419.00	55%	\$638.55
2	Revolver: Pietta Remington Model 1858 New Army Revolver, .44 cal - <i>excellent condition, blank fired only</i> (\$450) with spare second cylinder (\$125)	\$575.00	60%	\$230.00
3	Sword: 1850 Model saber with tassel (\$195)	\$195.00	50%	\$97.50
4	Federal Officer's: Belt (\$165), revolver holster (\$75), cartridge box (\$45), and eagle plate breast buckle (\$25) made by Dixie Leather Works; and custom made boots - size 9 (\$245) with plain spurs (\$25) and spur straps (\$20 pair)	\$600.00	70%	\$180.00
5	Federal Enlisted Man's: Black leather cartridge box (\$65) with tins inside (\$35) and brass US plate on flap (\$40); shoulder strap (\$30) with brass US plate (\$27); and canteen with navy blue cover, cork, and white cotton shoulder strap (\$50); waist belt (\$25) with brass US buckle (\$31) with cap pouch (\$27), and bayonet with sheath (\$125)	\$455.00	70%	\$136.50
6	Federal Enlisted Man's: Black tarred cotton haversack (\$40), steel messplate stamped US (\$14), two homespun cloths (\$3 ea), musket field repair kit with three tools (\$30 ea) with spare musket cone (\$20), housewife sewing kit (\$20), wallet (\$20) with reproduction currency (\$5), and heavy steel cup (\$35); and custom made black tarred cotton knapsack with black leather straps and brass buckles (\$125), and a black gum blanket (\$65) over a gray blanket (\$65) rolled on top (inside includes one cotton water bucket (\$15), one bed sheet (\$10), one white shirt (\$10), and one pair of undergarments (\$10))	\$487.00	70%	\$146.10

7	Federal Enlisted Man's: Navy blue frock coat (\$375) with 3-year service chevrons (\$5 ea), and brass shoulder scales (\$45), navy blue trousers (\$60), suspenders (\$27), black leather waist belt (\$25) with brass eagle buckle (\$35), and plain Hardee hat (\$25)	\$602.00	60%	\$240.80
8	Federal Enlisted Man's: Navy blue sack coat (\$150) - well worn; navy blue vest (\$70); white shirt (\$10); sky blue trousers (\$110), suspenders (\$27); and McDowell forage cap (\$37)	\$404.00	80%	\$80.80
9	Federal Enlisted Man's: Sky blue greatcoat, lined - made by Regimental Quartermaster, <i>finest quality</i> (\$315)	\$315.00	50%	\$157.50
10	Confederate Officer's: Black leather sword belt made by Dixie Leather Works with eagle tongue-in-wreath brass buckle (\$125)	\$125.00	60%	\$50.00
11	Confederate Elisted Man's: Russet leather cartridge box stamped SELMA ARSENAL (\$85) with tins inside (\$30); waist belt (\$75) with Georgia frame (square) brass belt buckle (\$55); cap pouch stamped SELMA ARSENAL (\$45) made by Dixie Leather Works; and large canteen with gray jean wool cover, cork, and white cotton shoulder strap (\$70)	\$290.00	50%	\$145.00
12	Confederate Elisted Man's: White cotton haversack (\$35); steel messplate stamped CS (\$14); homespun cloth (\$3); wallet (\$20) with reproduction currency (\$5); The Army Psalmist (hymns and psalms) (\$3); and Custom made black tarred cotton knapsack with russet leather straps and brass buckles (\$190)	\$270.00	80%	\$54.00
13	Confederate Elisted Man's: Nr. 3 jean wool Alabama shell jacket with navy blue collar and cuffs (handsewn on, easily removed) with brass "I" buttons (one Texas button) custom made by Ms. Terry Parker [chest 42", arms 21", waist 32"]	\$330.00	55%	\$148.50
14	Confederate Elisted Man's: Jean wool trousers (\$130) with floral suspenders (\$33), two vests [one jean wool with brass buttons (\$90), and one natural cotton with wood buttons (\$45)], and one homespun shirt (\$30)	\$328.00	80%	\$65.60

15	Variety of Acoutrements: Brogans with pegged sole (\$75) and heel plates (\$20), size 9 - well-worn; brass hat pins Infatry bugle (\$10), three numbers (\$2 ea), and three letters (\$2 ea), and six brass (\$1 ea) & four wood buttons (\$.25 ea); two shirts (\$30 ea); two undergarments (\$10 ea); two pairs of wool socks (\$15 ea); one pair of wool gloves with trigger finger cut off (\$17); three pillow-ticking supply bags in small, medium, and large (\$20); hair comb (\$10); toothbrush (\$9); two boxes of Lucifers (matches) (\$2 ea); wooden tompion (\$9); two small bars of soap (\$1 ea); small tin of lip balm (\$2); beeswax candle (\$3); deck of cards (\$10); and knife-spoon-fork combination (\$13)	\$333.00	80%	\$66.60
16	Camp Gear: Stainless steel mucket (boiler) with lid and handle (\$55) and small cast iron skillet (\$10); two large wool blankets (\$65 ea); one black gum blanket with gromets (\$65); one-half white cotton shelter tent with gromets (\$58); two camp stools (\$20 ea); and custom made black painted wooden chest with brass clasp and sliding drawer inside (\$180)	\$538.00	60%	\$215.20
17	Reading Material: Hardbound Books: Hardee's Rifle & Light Infantry Tactics, Vols I & II (\$20 ea); and The National School of the Soldier (\$15); Paperback Books: Heitman's Simplified Hardee's Skirmish Drill with Regimental Guard Mount (\$5); Hardee's Rifle & Light Infantry Tactics (\$5); Hardee's Instruction for Skirmishers (\$5); Parade, Ispection, and Basic Evolutions of the Infantry Battalion (\$15); and Manual of Bayonet Exercises (\$15); and Newspapers: four Harper's Weekly newspapers (\$5 ea)	\$100.00	60%	\$40.00
18	Powder & Caps: (<i>Note: For sale to someone within 200 mile-radius driving distance from San Antonio, TX</i>) 50 cartridges each with 60g of Goex FFg black powder (\$25), two 10-Cartridge Arsenal packs (\$ 10 ea), and two tins of Nr. 1081 musket caps each holds 250 caps (\$25 ea)	\$60.00	20%	\$48.00
Total of Median Price for Lots Nr. 1-18		\$7,426.00	Total of My Price for Lots Nr. 1-18	\$2,740.65
Buy Lots Nr. 2-18 and get the Springfield for FREE!				\$2,102.10



Ft. McKavett September 4-5

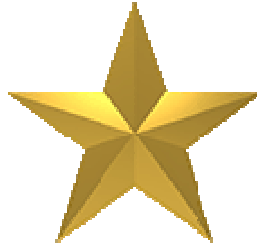
Again we have been invited to garrison the fort as when the post was put back in operation by the 35th Infantry. We will stay in the barracks, and portray garrison life. Our friends of the RRB and others we serve with are invited to attend with us.

I am working on the site for the scenarios. The muster for pay has proved popular, and I expect some fatigue duties to represent the reality of garrison life for the soldier of the Indian Wars.

Goal of mine for this iteration is to introduce the role of the commissary sergeant to the scenario, the issue of rations signed for by the company commander and handover to the company cook. Would also want to have the purchase of items from the commissary by families and officers as this time period is the start of the modern commissary system in the Army.

The usual will apply about impression items. Only bring .58 cal Springfield muskets (1855, 1861, or 1863 models) and issue soldier gear. If you don't have the item, no problem, as that is part of the scenario.

This is a different style of event as we have buildings to use, and nothing resembling a battle. It is a view into the life of an Indian Wars Army fort, and thus the frontier regular Army. Some of the traditions of the modern Army start during this period and we can show the link of the past to the modern.



Franklin October 3-4

Change from the schedule - we will be attending Franklin as Federal. We go to national events as Confederate as a rule, but not this time. We will have a van to get us there and back with estimated cost of \$100 per person. Notify Tommy Attaway if you want a seat in the van. Also the location of this event has been changed to Georgia. As I mentioned previously about the importance of having well organized national events

For registration, we will be portraying the 100th Ohio, with the Mary Todd's Rifles. Additional info about the guidelines, which will be strictly enforced right up to the moment we take the field

100th OVI Infantry Regiment

THESE KIT & IMPRESSION GUIDELINES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED

***Headgear**

- A) 1858 Forage cap 100 hat brass on 25% of caps - 60%
- B) Black slouch hat - 40%

***Jackets**

- A) US Enlisted Frock - 85%
- B) US Fatigue Blouse - 15%

***Trousers**

- A) US Issue Sky Blue Trousers (WITH NCO STRIPES) - 100%

***Shirts/Drawers/Socks**

- A) US issue
- C) Civilian

***Shoes**

- A) US Issue Shoes
- B) US Issue Boots
- C) Civilian shoes/boots

*Cartridge Boxes, Cap Boxes, Belts, Scabbards

- A) Cartridge Box - US Issue 1857 with plates and sling
- B) Cap Box - US Issue 1850
- C) Belt -1856 pattern
- D) Scabbard - US Issue 2 rivet scabbard

*Knapsacks

- A) US Issue Double Bag Knapsack
- B) Bedroll

*Canteens

- A) US 1858 canteens with leather strap

*Haversacks

- A) US 1851 Pattern Haversacks

*Blankets

- A) US Issue 1851 Tan/Light Brown
- B) Contract Blankets (mouse gray/brownish green)

*Ground cloths

- A) US Issue Painted Ground Cloth
- B) Private Purchase Rubberized Ground Cloth

*Tentage US Shelter halves for enlisted. A Tents for officers and staff if desired.

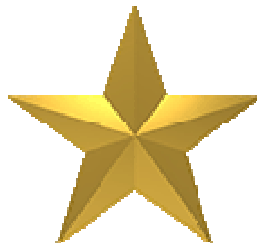
*Weapons

- A) British Enfield
- B) US 1861 Springfield
- C) Austrian Lorenz

The official returns for the 100th OVI list the following:

Upon forming in August 1862, the 100th Ohio Infantry was issued low-quality caliber Austrian Lorenz Rifles. Due to their poor condition, these were replaced in early 1863 with "war-worn" Pattern 1853 Enfield rifle muskets

<https://atlantacampaign.com/>



Colonial Williamsburg

As part of the trip to the First Manassas event, I stopped by Colonial Williamsburg. Although not the time period we portray, this is the pioneer of living history and the manufacture of reproduction items needed to support historical interpretation. One day was allocated for the visit.

Every historical site has one or two days of the week they are either closed or have a reduced program due to the need to give the staff a weekend as it were. The major off day for Colonial Williamsburg is Wednesday. I timed my visit so that I was there on a Wednesday. Additionally, setup was being conducted for the TODAY show to broadcast from Williamsburg on Friday. In addition to having fewer of the craftspeople that I wanted to talk to present, the Governor's and Capital were also closed. The good news was that thanks to Home Depot, I played the veteran card and got in free. I make that a stand off.

One of the interesting points of Williamsburg is the mix of historical and modern and how that is managed in a historical setting and district. It appears that just over half of the buildings in the historical district are privately owned, and while the historical facades are maintained, the interiors feature modernizations to make the houses habitable. Menus are mostly modern, with a couple of venues featuring the historical fare, for the more either adventurous or historically minded. It's not going to be cooked in an open fire kitchen anyway

For me, the highlight was talking to the craftspeople. Being Wednesday, the tailor was not there, so I could only chat with the apprentice. She was three weeks in and only allowed to work on shirts. Those garments only have straight seams and are felled, so that makes the start of learning to sew by hand as those are the easiest things to do. There are a number of materials on hand in the shop, but didn't have the opportunity to discuss how they were sourced. One of the lessons, re-enforced by the cabinet maker was that while items could be manufactured using only original methods and like materials, when the end effect was more efficiently produced using modern materials, they were used if the result was the same. In this example, using sandpaper for wood finishing instead of ray skin, which was the 18th century technique of wood finishing and prep for staining or painting.

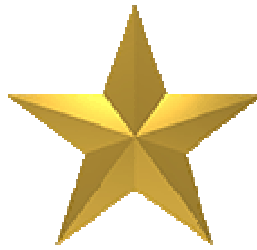
The most impressive part of the operation to me was the scale of trades represented. Shoemaker, tailor, joiner, cabinet maker, brick making, wood worker, vat dying textiles, blacksmith, gun maker, wheelwright, and so on

enables the venue to really represent a town and the look of an 18th Century economy, with taverns, inns, shops, and of course, the vignettes being portrayed are the bonus. In conversation, the crafts people said that most of the effort is in making items for Colonial Williamsburg use and the occasional museum reproduction - there is almost no capacity for individual sales

That being said, I did hit the bookstores for documentation of how the restoration and preservation work of the site came about, and in the retail bit for the tourist trade, some of the same makers who supply 18th century living history were represented, so I picked up a couple of French and Indian War items.

The major downside for me both at Colonial Williamsburg and at Montecello, was the inordinate emphasis on slavery. It was there, but I think the modern view fails to place the slaves in to the context of the society in which it existed. That is the purpose of the living history experience - to try to recapture the culture and spirit of the past. The contrast between past and present is one of the teaching points - how are we the same and how are we different.

As one of my Profs in grad school said: History never changes. Only our view of it does.



Let's Look at Some Images!

This conflict was the first one in our history to be well documented with actual images of the participants in the field. There is much to learn in creating our impression from a careful study of period images.

There are a couple of things about the study of the images - time and place. What may be appropriate for 1861 may not be for 1865: look for how the similar scenes change over time. The words always and never are to be used with care: as in they always, or they never. If it was possible, someone, somewhere probably did it. The question we should try to answer is how common was ?

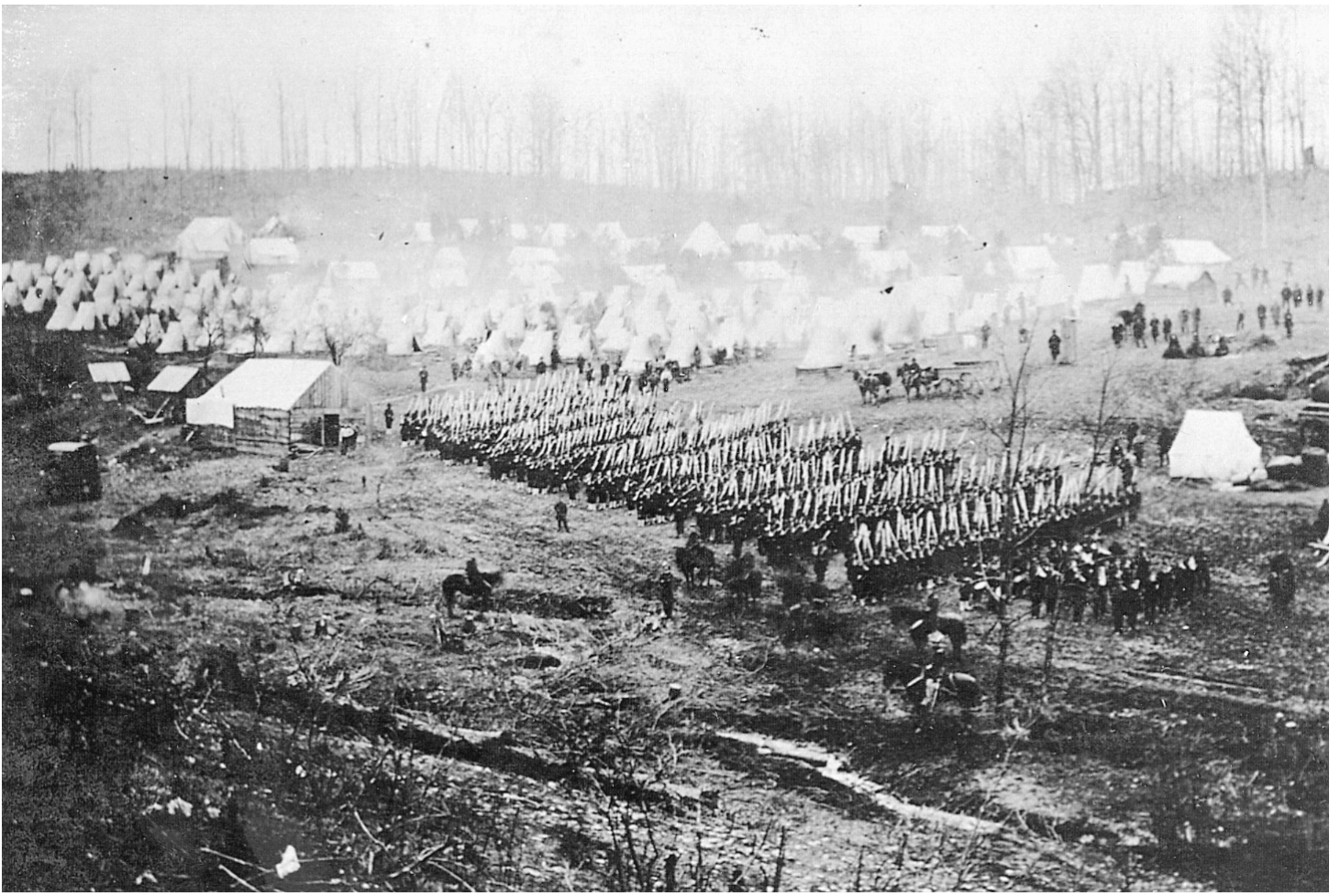
Camp scene - note how shelters were created. Look at the amount of bummers and regulation shirts compared to non military. Also note the layout of the company street.



Here we have a look at a regiment's camp. Note the use of A frames, the men are wearing knapsacks. Wall tents for regimental staff in the back. Note the column of companies as the typical way a regiment forms in camp.



Regiment formed in column of companies at right shoulder shift - note the muskets are almost perpendicular and do not lean over much. Also note the dark blue trousers and gaiters. Note the size of the band and the companies number about 40 men each.



Everybody knows there were no families in camp Impressions are about time and place. What works for 1861, may not work for 1865. Look at how many material goods have accumulated here. And button that top button!



Parade rest and note the variation in hand positions.



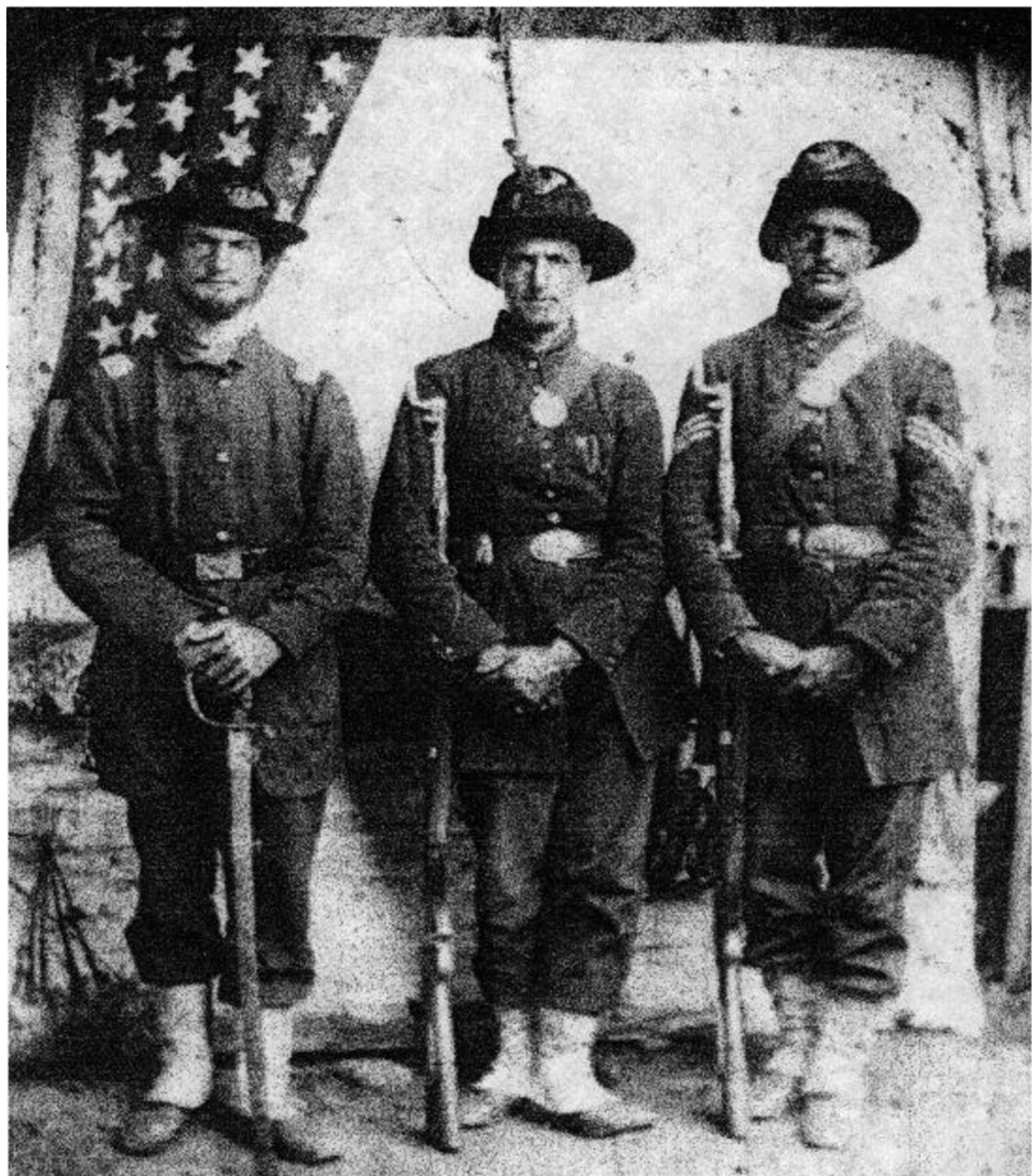
Support arms - note how far back the muskets lean. They don't - because you don't want to hit your neighbor in formation in the head.

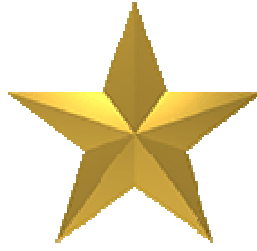


Shoulder arms in rear open order. The band is on the right and dark blue trousers have not yet disappeared. You can find several 1863 images with troops wearing dark blue trousers. Probably an inspection - check out the percentage of slouch hats. How many officers are wearing frock coats ...



In place rest. More dark blue trousers and gaiters .





The Field Grade Officer Impression

Most of our efforts have been focused on portraying the common soldier, how he dressed, what he ate, and how he lived in the field. For years, in this hobby, that has been the mark of the "authentic" meaning I am trying as closely as possible to replicate the experiences those men had.

The field grade officer presents a different set of challenges. Regulations in the US service provide an allowance for fuel and forage for three horses, as the Army makes a key distinction between the ranks of Captain and Major, which provide for those field grade officer to have considerably more comforts than the men or company grade officers.

With this in mind, I set about for the impression for my role at First Manassas. The easy part is the wall tent, so I had the tent I loaned the organization returned. we also have an extra fly, but I did not use it in the setup at camp, as the scale of units was small. Other items to complete the impression were field cot, folding table, folding chairs, and field chest.

I was curious about how much space all of the stuff would use in one of the regimental wagons. The wall tent and poles are being transported anyway, so how much baggage is a senior officer's load adding to the transportation requirement? Summary was that the additional space wasn't that much. The cot when rolled was about the same space as an A frame tent, and the chest, table, and chairs took a bit more space than the wall tent and poles.

Thus, it seems that the space and weight requirements for two wall tents accommodates the baggage of a field grade officer in the wagon. Another alternative is that the officer brings two horses, and the other horse might serve as a pack animal to reduce space needed in a wagon, or bring along more "stuff".



Test before painting chest and table.

The campaign bed came from South Union Mills. This is a mid 19th Century design that requires a minimal amount of woodworking, and essentially bed ends go through an end board. Then through the tops of the legs and all held in place by a peg. There is not much to fold, and no really small easy to lose parts.

When set up the view is thus:



The table came from Top Hat, and folds to under 5 inches thick:



The camp chest was harder to come by. Dixie gun works sold a suitably sized chest, with dowel used to join the wooden sections. However it came with modern brass hardware attached with modern screws. That had to go. The Lock and Box Shoppe supplied the forged metal I wanted (I was going for an earlier 19th Century look). I decided to keep the brass edge protectors, so found the suitable "brass tacks".

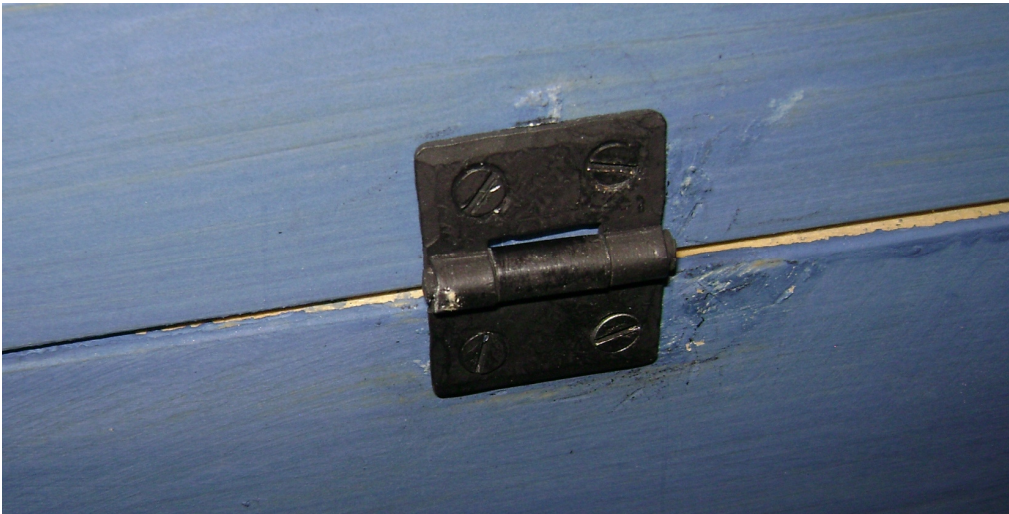
The brass was taken off, the holes filled with wood filler, and then the forged nails were used to attach the fittings. 19th Century style cut nails would also be correct, but I wanted a bit of a earlier look. Then I procured federal blue milk based paint, which dried very quickly in the hot weather, and then on with the metal fittings.

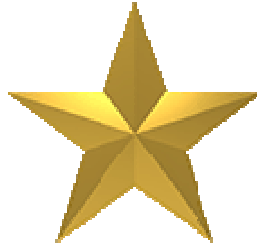


The chest does a very good job of holding cookware, plates, and other officer implimentaria.



More detail of the forged hardware:





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

