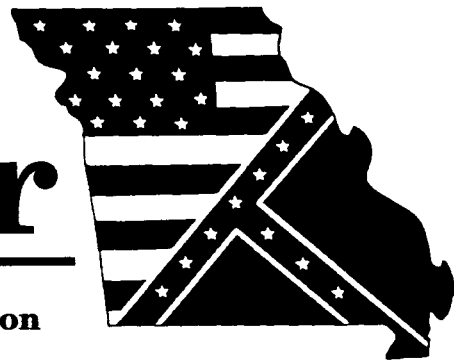


The Western Campaigner



Journal of the Missouri Civil War Reenactors Association

Editor: David Christy, day 405-758-3255; home 758-3886; FAX 758-3255

May, 1995



President's Corner



by John Beck

It is hard to believe it is the fifth month of the '95 reenacting season and already a part of the association's membership have been on the campaign. The Holmes Brigade and other Federal contingencies gathered for their annual spring muster at Ft. Scott, Kansas.

It would seem that James "Red Leg Lane" Beckner set the woods on fire. If "Red Leg Lane" Beckner is not burning out honorable Missouri farms, he will turn on his own clan. Once a pyromaniac, always a pyromaniac, or once a "Red Leg" always a "Red Leg."

A large majority of the Confederate 4th Battalion traveled to Ft. Blakely, Ala., to participate in the 130th anniversary of that siege. It was an honor to be invited and also to command the garrison there. The event took place on the same date, day and time of the original siege. At the battle of Ft. Blakely the Missouri Brigade made it's last stand and pasted into the pages of history. The experience was a hallowed one, as we were in the original entrenchments.

A number of items came about with the Ft. Blakely event that we can all learn from. The event sponsors had worked for two years to make this event a reality as this will probably be the last time the event will come about due to land developers wanting the sight. The event sponsors needed to bring this to the forefront and prove to the park service that reenactors could be trusted and be worked with to keep the sight pure. These objectives were met but with difficulty.

There were two battalions for the event, the 4th Battalion and another Confederate contingency from Alabama, Florida and Georgia. Bringing these personalities together was

quite the task. This contingency battalion wanted to run their own program opposite the event sponsors and command structure. Just before the final siege, the Georgians pulled from the event saying that they did not do large battles. They had come to campaign in the woods and wanted to be totally separate from the event sponsors' wishes.

This caused more than one problem. This idealism ran against the published program, communications were nil, and safety was low since these people ran their own campaign. These actions jeopardized the future of Ft. Blakely, the integrity of their own unit as well as the other units upon the field. Most importantly, there was no honor for those who have marched before us. This was Lexington, Missouri, all over once more.

There is room in the hobby for everyone--civilians, scenarioed events and campaign events--but we must all be on the same sheet of paper. This sheet of paper should be preservation through historical interpretation. This can be accomplished through communication, cooperation and remembering what our objective and purpose is. We must keep in mind, that the event should always be the primary focus, not the individual ego.

The MCWRA is much further

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Event Updates



Maysville May 27-28

The Maysville, MO event set for May 27-28 has a new contact person in Rod Archdekin of Crowley's 3rd Missouri Infantry (1-816-233-9985).

The MCWRA sanctioned event is expecting about 300 participants, will provide all regular amenities, includes several provided meals, and has a parade set on Saturday.

To get to the site (from south) take I-35 to Missouri 36 West, and then on to 33 north into Maysville. Go west on Highway 6 approximately 8 blocks and find the signs for the site, which is about 3/4 of a mile from that point.



Moore's Mill updates

Plans are progressing towards providing members of the MCWRA with a first rate event at the Battle of Moore's Mill reenactment July 14-16, located 7 miles east of Fulton, MO, near Calwood.

The maximum event has scheduled two guest speakers--Juanita Leisch and Les Jensen. Leich is a nationally known expert on ladies and civilian clothing of the 1860's, and an author, who will be autographing copies of her new book, *Who Wore What: Women's Wear 1861-65*.

Jensen is chief of collections at the Center of Military History for the U.S. Army, and was an editor of the Time-Life's Civil War series. He is considered an expert on CS jackets and the depot system.

Limited edition souvenirs will be available at the event, including a commemorative book with info on the Kingdom of Callaway, a bronze campaign medal and a key chain.

Units who have not returned their

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Members

- Send all dues and address changes to MCWRA Treasurer Scott Hughes, 8124 N. Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64118.
- Send all newsletter items to *The Western Campaigner*, David Christy--Editor, P.O. Box 669, Waukomis, OK 73773.

The President's Corner . . .

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ahead than other reenactor associations, but if we do not continue to strive to benefit the whole by working and communicating together, we will dwindle down to individual egos, and this must not happen. We must continue to work together and honor those who have marched before us.

Once we lose sight of this objective we might as well hang our accoutrements up. Those of us who have been in the hobby for a number of years must remember that we all started out ignorant and that we were not experts in the beginning and neither are we now. The learning process never ceases. We must work with the new enlistees and educate, not criticize.

If it were not for the new enlistees and the rank and file, there would be no hobby. Without the hobby, there would be no preservation or historical interpretation. Let us all focus on the events and not individuals. Let us preserve the integrity of the individual units and let us guide, direct, and educate, not criticize. Once you point a finger it will be pointed right back at you. There is no better than the MCWRA and let all of our efforts be to protect that integrity and heritage.

It is early in the season, but we must be thinking about the upcoming elections for president-elect and other offices in November. Those who seek an office should bring their names forth for the August MCWRA meeting. If you are going to nominate someone for an office, please check with them first. Think seriously about the direction you want to take the association with your nomination and vote. Any questions regarding the election or the nominations, please contact secretary Janet Hussey. Janet will be taking nominations and will work with the panel to count the election results. The panel will consist of secretary, treasurer and president-elect. Any questions, contact any of your board members.

The August MCWRA meeting is our planning session for the 1996 season events. Please bring your proposed events to this meeting. As a goal for the association, we should have an event schedule put together by October 15. If you are in need of an event packet, please contact the treasurer, Scott Hughes. Event sponsors must remember to be flexible, there is no physical way we can do 12 events in September and October.

As always, remember there is no better than the association's rank and file. If it were not for you, there would be no MCWRA or "the hobby."

Lillard & Stamps Special Effects

Call or write for information on the use of pyrotechnics to enhance your reenactment. 816-862-8602.

Calendar of events



Complete information as to contact person and phone number of sponsor or sponsoring unit, amenities, schedule, map or directions, will be included here or in stories in *The Campaigner*, as they are made available from event sponsors.

Event highlights for 1995 . . .

- May 27-28: Maysville, MO (**Sanctioned**) Contact Rod Archdekin, 3rd MO, 1-816-233-9985
- May 27-28: Southwest Missouri Invitational (listed)
- June 10-11: Columbia, MO (**Local**) Contact Karen Ramey, 314-874-7636
- June 23-25: Stand Watie Retreat (*The Last Surrender*) Ft. Towson, OK (listed). Contact Whit Edwards, 405-521-2491 (day)
- July 8-9: Dept. of the Army Corps of Engineers. Contact Henry Johns.
- July 14-16: Fulton, MO *Battle of Moore's Mill* (**Maximum Effort**), Contact Mark White at 816-246-7950 or write: *Battle of Moore's Mill*, PO Box 487, Fulton, MO 65251.
- August 4-6: Glasgow, MO (**Maximum Effort**) If you are a unit commander and did not receive a registration packet, write or call. Glasgow Reenactment Committee, c/o City of Glasgow, 100 Market St., Glasgow, MO 65254 (816-338-2377)
- August 19-20: Lone Jack, MO (**Maximum Effort**).
- August 19-20: Battle of Cape Girardeau, Defense of Helena, Ark., Ft. Kaskaskia State Historic Site, Chester, Illinois. Contact Ted Mueller 618-826-3035.
- August 26: MCWRA calendar planning meeting, 10 a.m. at Jefferson City Library.
- Sept. 9-10: St. Charles, MO (**Local**). Contact Bob Smith.
- Sept. 23-24: Ironton, MO, *Battle of Pilot Knob* (**Sanctioned**), full amenities, powder ration. Contact Terry Cadenbach 314-629-0530 after 5:30.
- Sept. 30-Oct. 1: Cabin Creek, OK (**Maximum Effort**). Contact Whit Edwards, 405-521-2491 (day).
- Oct. 7-8: Centralia Guerillas (**Maximum Effort**). Contact City of Centralia 314-682-2139.
- Oct. 14: Humbolt, KS, border warfare (**Local**), contact Bev Miller 316-473-3315.
- Oct. 27-29: Nashville, TN, national event (listed).
- November: MCWRA Board Meeting, Jefferson City, MO



1996 Tentative Event Dates . . .

- April 20-21: Davisville, MO (local), contact Ken Settlemoir, 84th MO.
- June 14-16: Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, MO (**Maximum Effort**), contact Steve Dasovich 314-884-3495.
- June 22-23: Civil War Encampment, Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer, Grand Island, Nebr., contact Gail 308-385-5316.
- July 13-14: Cole Camp, MO (**Maximum Effort**), contact Susan Kyle, 5th MO, 816-668-3090, or 816-668-4416.
- July 20-21: Honey Springs, OK.
- September, second weekend, Frederickstown, MO (**Maximum Effort**)
- September: St. Charles, MO

Scott Hughes reports treasury in very good shape

(Because of the large membership, MCWRA minutes are mailed to Board members and then published in full in *The Western Campaigner* for general information.)

The location of the meeting was changed from Lohman's Landing to the Library, and was held March 11.

Meeting was called to order by President-Elect Steve Allie as President John Beck was unable to attend.

The following Board members and unit leaders signed in as attending: Steve Allie, President-Elect; Thomas Mabry, NW 15th Arkansas; Bob Beanland, Wade's Missouri Battery Volunteers, CS; E. Beanland, Wades Battery, Bud Marvin, 3rd MO Cavalry; Jim Beckner, Board of Directors; Ed Matewell, 1st Arkansas Cavalry, USA; Terry Cadenbach, 4th MO Cavalry, USA; Fred Norris, American Civil War Medical; Linda Cantrell, Board of Directors Association; Seve Dasovich, Holmes Brigade; Ted Prater, 4th Missouri Infantry Bill Dedmon, 4th Missouri Infantry; Merle Prince, 3rd Engineers, Regiment; D. Michael Gooch, Elliott's Scouts, Co. A, CSA; George Hawn, 8th MO Cav, CSA; Dave Roiggeman, Fort Davidson; **Scott Hughes**, Board of Directors/Treas.; Ken Settlemoir, 8th MO Cav, CSA; Janet Hussey, Board of Directors/Sec.; Larry Shackelford, Cole Camp, MO; Henry Johns, Board of Directors; David Smith, Board of Directors; Susan Kyle, Cole Camp, MO; Robert Smith, 9th MO Sharpshooters, CSA; Walt Larson, 1st MO Light Artillery, Co. M; Walt Yancey, Big River Volunteers; Jerry Lee, 5th MO, Co. A, CSA; Charles & Karen Zeller, The Town.

Secretary Janet Hussey led the pledge of allegiance. As the minutes had been published in *The Western Campaigner*, reading of the minutes were waived, but the following corrections were noted:

- Erwin's 6th MO, Company A, taken off probation, were sponsored by the 4th Missouri and not the 5th.
- "The Town" is the official unit name. Jim Beckner moved that the minutes be approved as amended; Bob Smith seconded. So moved.

Treasurer Scott Hughes reported that dues were coming in rapidly and the treasury was in very good shape, but did not have current balance with him. Jim Beckner suggested that this report be accepted and that the current balance would be reported in *The Campaigner*. (UPDATE: The current balance on hand as reported by the treasurer is \$12,738.00. The 1995

insurance premium is still to paid out of this amount, and memberships continue to come in.)

Scott Hughes moved and Bud Marvin seconded that the 8th Missouri Cavalry be taken off probation. Motion passed.

The following units were placed on probationary status:

- Northwest 15th Arkansas Regiment, Infantry, Company A, CSA - sponsored by 4th MO Infantry.
- Elliott Scouts Dismounted Cavalry, CSA, sponsored by Shelby's 5th MO Cavalry
- 9th Kansas US Cavalry, Company G, sponsored by 4th MO Volunteer Cavalry, USA

Old Business

Steve Allie explained that a motion had been tabled at the November meeting regarding the possibility of MCWRA paying the liability insurance rather than the event sponsor. This would allow the MCWRA to have more control over the events, and also remove the burden of insur-

ance payment from smaller event sponsors. The MCWRA treasury is in a position to assume these insurance payment. MCWRA current insurance covers only ten events per season, and those ten events will be the ones covered in 1995.

Event sponsors over and above these ten covered events would have to pay their own MCWRA coverage (this is yet another reason for event sponsors to get dates and requests in early) or possibly could be added into the coverage by vote of the Board.

It was again restated that this insurance is only liability coverage if a spectator is injured by an MCWRA member during an event. Maximum, sanctioned and local events voted on by the Board at the planning meeting can be covered by insurance. Listed events are NOT covered and are published merely for the information of the membership. National events cannot be insured by the MCWRA as the insurance company feels MCWRA does not have enough control over such events.

After discussion on this matter, Henry Johns moved that MCWRA

pay the insurance for events on the schedule for 1995 and continue to do so until policy changes or the treasury cannot bear the burden. Terry Cadenbach seconded; motion carried.

New Business

The date for the Columbia living history event was moved to June 10-11. Dennis Faught moved and Henry Johns seconded that it be calendared on that date. Motion carried.

During the planning meeting, MCWRA voted to list Lone Jack as a maximum effort if the date could be moved to August 19-20. It was reported that this date was tentatively scheduled; membership should watch *The Campaigner* for final announcement. Henry Johns moved, and Jim Beckner seconded that IF Lone Jack is indeed scheduled for August 19-20, MCWRA will support it as a maximum effort.

Henry Johns announced that the Department of the Army Corps of Engineers was planning a Civil War event on July 8 & 9 and asked that it be listed. Contact Henry for additional details.

An event in Malvern, KS sponsored by 4th MO was requested to be listed; for further information contact George Hill 812-264-2557.

St. Charles, MO will have an event on September 9 & 10, 1995. Bob Smith was happy to announce that activities will again be located in the riverside park. They requested that St. Charles be listed as a LOCAL event and they will pay their own insurance. Bob Smith moved, Henry Johns seconded and the motion carried.

Charles Zeller reported on a listed event in Chester, IL in Kaskaskia Park on the River; August 19-20, 1 lb. powder to first 200; contact Ted Mueller, 618-826-3035.

Fred Norris reminded the membership of the Wilson Creek Moonlight Tour.

President-Elect Allie again reminded those attending of the importance of firm dates when sponsors request a maximum event listing. In order for the MCWRA to encourage large attendance at maximum events, enough time must be allowed between maximum events so that reenactors can realistically be expected to participate. Once those dates have been voted on, a rescheduling is unfair to other events which received votes on

*MCWRA March
meeting minutes*

Tentative '96 MCWRA event schedule announced

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their status based on the dates involved.

Case in point, Lone Jack 1995 was voted on as a maximum event with the contingency that the date be changed, and with that possible change in mind, Glasgow was given a maximum event vote. However, had the date not been changed, both events would have lost attendance. Date rescheduling also makes it difficult on latecomers who plan even listed events based on the published calendar. It was also discussed that maximum events be limited to a certain number each season so that MCWRA members can make every effort to support maximum events.

To reiterate the categories: MAXIMUM events indicate that 800 or more reenactors are expected and can be provided for; that both sides and all types of units are invited; and that the activities, setting etc. are within MCWRA standards. MCWRA members are strongly urged to participate.

SANCTIONED events fall within MCWRA standards for setting, authenticity, etc. but are not able to accommodate the large numbers and/or the scenario does not include certain units for one reason or another (no room for artillery or cavalry, for instance).

LOCAL events are similar in criteria to Sanctioned events, but on a smaller scale. However, the "local" designation must be voted on by the Board. "Listed" events are any type of event or living history which are listed in *The Campaigner* for the information of the membership. They are not insured by MCWRA, or are required to follow any particular MCWRA guidelines, and the MCWRA does not vote on these.

Henry Johns suggested that the newly formed Event Council meet and decide the number of maximum events per season, more precise calendaring requirements, etc. and report back to the Board and membership.

A DNR representative was present at the meeting; he and interested parties were to meet after the

MCWRA meeting regarding Pilot Knob. Unless otherwise notified, Pilot Knob is still scheduled for September 23 & 24.

1996 Events

The following events were requested to be placed on the 1996 tentative calendar and to be published in *The Campaigner* so that membership and possible sponsors will have a better idea of the event season in advance:

- April 20-21, 1996 - Davisville MO, LOCAL, contact Ken Settlemoir, 8th MO
- June 14-16, 1996 - Jefferson Barracks (St. Louis MO) MAXIMUM, contact Steve Dasovich 314-884-3495
- July 13 & 14, 1996 - Cole Camp MO, MAXIMUM - contact Susan Kyle, 5th MO, 816-668-3090; 816-668-4416
- July 20 & 21, Honey Springs OK,
- September, second weekend, Fredericktown MO, MAXIMUM
- September, St. Charles

1st MO Light Artillery, Company M, requested that their unit name be officially changed to 3rd Battalion, 1st MO Light Artillery.

Henry Johns brought up a subject to be presented to the membership for consideration. Because current MCWRA membership consists of many non-Missouri residents who are very active, it was suggested that the organization's name be changed to "Midwest" Civil War Reenactors Association -- allowing the logo, etc. to remain the same. It would probably not require a lot of paperwork with the State of Missouri's incorporation as it could be listed as Missouri Civil War Reenactors Association d/b/a as Midwest Civil War Reenactors Association. This will be further discussed at the general membership meeting before being put to a vote.

The calendar planning meeting will be held at the Jefferson City Library at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 26, 1995.

Terry Cadenbach moved, and Henry Johns seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted,
Janet Hussey, Secretary*

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to the number of member units, readers are reminded it is cost prohibitive to mail minutes to each unit leader. Access to complete minutes will be through *The Campaigner*. If unit leaders need additional specifics, contact a Board Member, who will receive unedited minutes in the mail. The section on event categories is stressed and important to ALL.)

MCWRA event updates

Continued from page 1

postcards are asked to send them to the event committee ASAP and final registration forms are being accepted. Contact Mark White, 816-246-7950 or write: Battle of Moore's Mill, PO Box 487, Fulton, MO 65251.

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Glasgow event highlights

The max effort event at Glasgow, MO August 4-6 is being sponsored by the Glasgow Historical Society and Collins Battery.

US and CS infantry, artillery, cavalry and civilians are needed, with Friday registration set from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. At 7:30 p.m. that evening, the reenactment of the events that took place at Glasgow from Sept. 14 to 21, 1861 will come alive.

Drills and demonstrations will be held throughout Saturday morning, with a parade set at 10 a.m. for all participants through downtown Glasgow.

A ladies fashion show will be held on the lawn of an antebellum home at 11:15 a.m. and at 2 p.m. all units will come together on the battlefield for the reenactment of the 1864 Battle of Glasgow. A wine tasting tent will be provided, along with modern craft

vendors, and period displays and demonstrations on Water Street.

At 3 p.m. the Platte Purchase Players will present "Soiled Dove Revue" at the outdoor period saloon on Market Street.

There will be a twilight firing Saturday evening, followed by a period ball on the antebellum home's lawn, with music by the 4th Artillery Quadrille Ensemble.

Normal amenities are being provided, with powder to the artillery, ice and free admission to the ball for all reenactors registered. The historical society is providing a home tour Saturday and Sunday for the town's antebellum homes, with a fee charge.

Campsite and battlefield will be the same as the 1992 event on 50 acres, with parking in a 15 acre field across the street from the campsites and battlefield. Modern camping will be in a lot adjacent to the East Acres Motel 500 yards from the site.

Period sutlers planning to come to the event should make their checks payable to the Glasgow Reenactment.

For more information contact the Glasgow Reenactment Committee, c/o City of Glasgow, 100 Market St., Glasgow, MO 65254 (816-338-2377) or the committee, c/o Flower Bungalow, 609 First St. (816-338-2020).

The Editor's Notebook

by David Christy



Letters to the Editor



Save the flag project

Sue Riddler of the 9th Missouri Civilians passed along this item. A "save the flag" project overseen by the Michigan Capitol Committee and Bureau of Michigan History has undertaken a program to preserve, research and display 230 Civil War, Spanish American War and WW I battle flags.

They have 160 CW flags, but are missing the flag of the 2nd Michigan Cav., which fought several battles in Missouri. The group is looking for the loan of one of the regiment's flags, or a picture of one of the flags.

Anyone in MCWRA with any help along this line, contact Tri-Cities Historical Museum, 1 N. Harbor Drive, Grand Haven, Michigan 49417.

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Bugle requests info

The *Bonnie Blue Bugle* has requested that the event sponsors of the Maysville and Lone Jack events **send information on their events** to the newsletter of the Confederate Ladies Organization (CLO).

The *Bugle* is edited now by Karen Zeller, 522 E. Washington St., Belleville, IL 62220. Outgoing editor is Sue Riddler, who did a fine job in that capacity for the *Bugle*.

As an aside, *The Campaigner* would like to urge ALL event sponsors to send out info on their events to *The Campaigner* at least four months prior to the event. It would help to get information out in a timely fashion to as many reenactors as possible. It appears the system of sending info to unit commanders does not always reach "the troops" in time to be of any benefit in pre-planning to attend these events. This editor gets a large number of calls each month from members who have been unable to get necessary info. The great majority of events are really good about getting their info out early, but some seem to lag until the very last minute, and this publication can't report what it doesn't get in the mail, by phone or FAX.

I received several issues of the newsletter of the 15th Arkansas Inf. and the 14th Alabama Infantry. This is another well done, newsy sheet that is invaluable on an individual unit scale in keeping the various unit members in contact and in the know.

Dear Editor:

Before someone writes in wondering what we are doing with mountain howitzers in a cavalry unit let me explain. I joined the Army in 1964 and went through basic infantry training at Ft. Wood. I was then sent to Ft. Sill for artillery survey training, then advanced artillery survey training, then to Officers Candidate School.

My father, an old first sergeant, thought second lieutenants were the lowest form of life on the earth, so after completing the first two parts of the training, I dropped out and was sent to Korea as a surveyor for the 1st Cav. We were a fast moving Honest John unit, on alert all of the time.

During that time I served as a forward observer and part of a fire safety team. From Korea I was sent to Fort Carson, Colorado, for a short time. From there I was sent to Fort Gordon, Georgia, for military police training and then back to Fort Carson for duty. I first did regular patrol duty but was then assigned to the stockade as the sergeant in charge of maximum security cells. From there I was sent to Alaska as a desk sergeant and then back onto a survey crew for the Army Map Service.

What I am trying to say is that I have a great deal of military experience, and I try to look at each problem from more than one point of view. I know from experience that rules are bent if not broken when necessary, and the one who does bend the rules is either a hero or a heel, only time tells.

I have found that during the Civil War, one reason the men west of the river lasted as long as they did is because they didn't fight by the rules. Now this is how this country got its freedom in the first place, but when the ancestors of those first freedom

fighters did the same thing in the Civil War, they were viewed by the other side as heels, not heroes. We could have mistaken those dissenters as British if they hadn't been standing on American soil and waving the Stars and Stripes.

I cannot prove that the 3rd Missouri Cavalry Battalion had any mountain howitzers, but they could have, and that is why we have them in our unit. I believe I also have the experience, as a technician with a degree in electro-mechanical technology and 20 years experience, to build and train a crew to safely operate these guns.

Now don't misunderstand me, I do make mistakes, but don't get in my face and be wrong and expect me to keep quiet as I have done in the past. I won't.

These mountain howitzers will be run with a four man crew, without horses for now. You can assume that the fifth and sixth men are in the woods with three horses. We are using the Manual For Light Artillery for our standards, and we are building our guns from original plans. We have at this time two guns built and three in the planning stages, two of which are started.

Each gun will be assigned to its home company, two in Pleasant Hope, one each in Mountain Grove, Fair Grove, and Willow Springs. We hope to have each gun pulled by one horse at some time and followed up with a horse with two ammo boxes.

Bud Marvin

3rd Mo. Cav. Batn. Arty.

For Sale:

1852 Godey's Ladies Book. Beautiful fashion plates, all intact, binding excellent, scuffs on the leather. 378 pages. Paid \$130. Asking \$130. (417) 325-4404.

Help Preserve the Heritage of "THE KINGDOM OF CALLAWAY"
by participating in the 133rd Anniversary of:

THE BATTLE OF MOORE'S MILL

JULY 14-16, 1995 located 7 miles east of Fulton, MO
(near Calwood)

MCWRA MAXIMUM EFFORT EVENT

Sponsored by: The Battle of Moore's Mill Planning Committee, The Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society. For more information call: 314-641-1111 or 816-246-7950, PO Box 487, Fulton, MO 65251

Host and Military Command: Erwin's 6th MO Infantry, Co. A, CSA and D.H. McIntyre's Callaway Guards

- 2 battle scenarios, on-going medical scenarios, period dance & band, memorial service, special guest speakers, many amenities

Letters

Dear Editor:

As a four year member, I have witnessed a drastic change in the publication that you currently edit. Perhaps this change has escaped the eyes of the old, or for those who are new, may not know just what it was like when I first joined.

I used to look forward to reading the newsletter and often felt enlightened from its contents. Now, it often lies unread, collecting dust with other articles in my room.

Perhaps, a better title would be, *The Western Complainer*, as that is all that seems to reach my attention (along with extremely long editorials by John Beck and Bud Marvin).

I am tired of seeing the back-stabbing letters and frequent mudslinging that goes on in the paper. It would seem that this childish behavior demonstrated by several members, would be better suited towards supermarket tabloids.

I realize that this is not your fault and that you can only print what is sent to you. The blame resides in those egomaniacs, who love nothing more than to gripe and see their names in the paper.

My challenge to them is to settle their differences outside of your publication, or to enroll themselves in an institution which might better suit their intellectual capacity, like a day care center. Also, try to go at least one month without printing any of their garbage. Many of us will thank you.

*Respectfully submitted,
Pvt. Joseph Furtak
E/4th Mo. Inf.*

To Whom It May Concern:

For the last six years the Missouri Legislature has appropriated \$50,000 a year for the Missouri Civil War Markers Program. Jim Denny was supposed to work nearly fulltime on this program. For this work, he was to receive \$35,000 a year of the aforementioned amount.

What do we have to show for this money and supposed work? Two or three markers! There is no excuse for such meager results! The Department of Natural Resources has not done what it was supposed to do!

Please take a few minutes to write a letter protesting this lack of action. Address your complaints to David A. Shorr, Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, P.O. Box 1776, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176. We Civil War historians and enthusiasts have been cheated! Let's put a stop to it. Write today. Thank you.

*A Concerned Citizen,
Jim Beckner*

The Editor's Notebook by David Christy

USCC offering book

Parting Words For Our Soldiers is the latest book reproduction produced by the U.S. Christian Commission, according to Terrance Hall of the 4th Missouri Infantry.

This book was given to each soldier as he prepared to return home after serving in the Civil War. It is now possible to receive a copy for yourself by writing to the U.S. Christian Commission at 2801 Flag Ave. North, New Hope, MN 55427.

The price of the book is \$12 plus \$1 for shipping and handling.

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Nodaway County event

Nodaway County, Mo., will be celebrating its 150th birthday during Sesquicentennial Celebration activities Sept. 7, 8, 9 and 10, 1995, at the Maryville Municipal Airport.

A special feature of the Sesquicentennial Celebration will be the living history demonstration area. Groups are encouraged to come and participate in the festivities and demonstrate skills and encamp in the area.

Sept. 8 will be school days in the living history area. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., all area Nodaway County schools will be coming to view and learn by watching the living history demonstrators. "Wandering characters in uniform" are encouraged to be a part of the day.

Demonstration commitments already include candlemaking, spinning, weaving, wood carving, corn husk doll making, Scherenschnitte, cidermaking, wheat weaving, basket making, broom making, blacksmith, old machinery presentation and more.

Other activities to be featured include a Sept. 9 Sesquicentennial parade, beginning at 10:30 a.m., in downtown Maryville; rodeo and horse shows; music presentations; hot air balloon lift-off; historical pageant; community exhibits; and church services.

Inquiries and additional information about the Nodaway County Sesquicentennial Celebration may be obtained by contacting: Carolyn Elswick, P. O. Box 188A, Maryville, MO 64468 or 1-800-748-1427.

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Fashion show and tea

The Glasgow event, scheduled for August 4-6, will include a fashion show and ladies tea among the many activities. As coordinator of the fash-

ion show, Janet Hussey of the Confederate Ladies Organization, would like to invite all interested parties to participate.

"To entertain and educate the public, it would be helpful if there was a wide variety of styles, including men, women and children," she said. "Such items as a wedding gown, various degrees of mourning, unusual items, originals, and a dress-down would be most appreciated."

Ms. Hussey would like to hear from interested parties (with a description of the apparel) in advance, if possible, so that some pre-organization and numbers involved can be arranged. However, last-minute participants will also be welcomed. More information will appear in future issues.

Anyone interested or needing more information should contact Janet Hussey, 1481 State Route 0, Fayette MO 65248; 816-248-3426.

★★★

Old Washington event

The fifth annual Old Washington Civil War Weekend is set for Sept. 8-10 at the Old Washington Historic State Park in Washington, Arkansas.

The theme of the weekend is a wartime town with the enemy at its gates. A pre-registration packet is available by contacting Keenan Williams (501) 777-1355 after 7 p.m.; Randy Sinyard (501) 777-1968 after 7 p.m., or Terry Waggoner, Old Washington Historic State Park, PO Box 98, Washington, AR 71862 (501) 983-2684 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.)

A Saturday tactical is planned, as is a torchlight dance, an authentic Methodist Church worship (built in 1861), followed by a cavalry competition.

The climax will be Sunday at a 1 p.m. recreation of the battle of Prairie D'Ann.

Full amenities are planned, and the park restaurant will serve meals for the weekend.

For Sale:

1 Grey mix frock coat (unworn) Size 40-42, \$100; 1 pair grey mix trousers, like new (worn twice), size 38 w/36" inseam, \$40; 1 Federal forage cap, unworn, size 7 1/4, \$20; or sell as a complete set for \$140. Also, 1 Confederate grey sack coat, like new, size 40, \$40.

The Editor's Notebook

by David Christy



1996 President's Ball

The Confederate Ladies Organization (CLO) has set Saturday, March 2, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. as the date and time for The President's Ball, with everyone in MCWRA invited to attend.

The grand event will be held at the elegant Lodge of the Four Seasons, Osage Beach, Missouri. Music will be provided by the nationally renowned Saxton's Coronet Band. Dance instructions will be provided from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and ticket prices will be \$20 per person. An hors d'oeuvre buffet will be provided.

Tickets may be obtained from Karen Zeller, 522 E. Washington St., Belleville, IL 62220. To reserve accommodations at the lodge, call 1-800-843-5253 and state that you are attending the Civil War Ball. Room rates will be \$69 if you are planning to stay Saturday only, and \$59 per night if you plan to stay Friday and Saturday.

Deadline for tickets and reservations will be February 1, 1996. The CLO asks that you book early as reservations made after the deadline cannot be guaranteed the group rate or room availability.



Encampment July 22-23

The 10th annual Platte Bridge Encampment is set for July 22-23, commemorating the 130th Battle of Platte Bridge Station.

Co. I, 3rd US Volunteer Infantry Reorganized, is sponsor. Recreation of daily life of the military and civilian population through living history will be held at the 1865 frontier post. All amenities will be provided, including seven authentic meals for a \$5 registration fee, along with hand crafted medallions, powder, and caps. The 4th Artillery Quadrille will play at an emigrant dance.

All branches of service (Union), emigrant civilian impressions and period sutlers are welcome.

Contact James Marrah, 5030 E. 16th, Casper, Wyoming 82609 (1-307-237-0091).



Missouri Brigade

The Missouri River Press of Columbia is offering *In Deadly Earnest*, a book covering the Missouri Brigade by Phil Gottschalk at \$25 postpaid (\$20 each in orders of four or more from your unit).

The 562 page book has 15 maps and 36 photos in a 6x9 cloth bound cover. The book blends 16 diaries, personal

papers and 142 eyewitness accounts of the famed brigade. The book also won the 1992 Douglass Southall Freeman Award for the best work in Southern history.

Send orders to Missouri River Press, 1664 Highridge Circle, Suite B, Columbia, MO 65203 (314-446-3764).



Gettysburg musical

The Gettysburg Theatre in Branson, MO has begun to present Gettysburg Musical Drama which is performed daily between March 29 and Dec. 23.

Showtimes are 2 and 8 p.m. daily (8 p.m. on Tuesdays, and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$17 per adults and children 6-12 \$8, with children under 6 free.

To reserve tickets call 417-334-8400. The theatre is located on Highway 248 west from US 65 in Branson, or east off the Shepherd of the Hills Expressway.

The drama is billed as a powerful, moving story of faith, family and patriotism, set to music in a stage presentation, and is also billed as entertainment for the entire family.

To write about the show, contact Gettysburg Theatre, 2211 St. Hwy 248, Branson, MO 65616.



Monnett conveys land

The Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, Inc., has conveyed ownership of nearly 100 acres of the Civil War battlefield site at Byram's Ford on the Big Blue River to the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Dept.

The signing ceremony was held April 29 at Loose Park. The ceremony culminated 12 years by the preservation organization in acquiring important parcels of land which saw heavy fighting between Union and Confederate troops Oct. 22-23, 1864.

Plans are for the KC Parks & Rec. Dept. to operate the battlefield site as a historic city park.

In 1991 the Monnett Fund received a \$21,000 challenge grant from the Assoc. of the Preservation of Civil War Sites, Inc., which allowed the preservation of an additional 40 acres to go with the nearly 60 it already owned.



Chester, Illinois event

The Randolph County Bicentennial Committee will host a CW reenactment Aug. 19-20 at the Ft. Kaskas-

kia State Historic Site, near Chester, Illinois (south of St. Louis), on the battles of Cape Girardeau, MO and the defense of Helena, Ark.

They need US and CS troops (full scale artillery, cavalry and infantry), and will provide all amenities, a Civil War Ball with music by Rose of El-A-Noy Minstrels, in the setting of the rustic shelter on Garrison Hill, overlooking the Mississippi River.

A ladies tea is planned at the Pierre Menard Home State Historic Site. They will provide a pound of gunpowder for the first 200 participants as well.

For info contact the committee at PO Box 332, Chester, IL 62233 or Ted Mueller, 618-826-3035.



Thanks to civilian groups

Jim Beckner, who acted as civilian coordinator at the Pea Ridge event May 4-7, reported receiving a good deal of compliments about how the civilian camp was organized and how the civilian events continued to be schedule despite the mud, which was a major problem at the event.

"A lot of credit goes to Chuck Zeller, who helped me a lot, and to 'The Town' people," said Beckner.

Letters

To: John Beck . . . Sir--

We would like to take this time to thank you for helping to organize an outstanding event at Pea Ridge, Ark. It was well organized, the volunteers were all helpful and polite, and the campsites were fine. We were able to attend two of the battles and they were both outstanding, even though we got wet. The one on Saturday was great, and we think that we were able to put on an outstanding show for the spectators. We would also like to apologize that we were unable to stay for the show on Sunday.

We felt that due to the weather that we had already received, and that which was forecast to come into the area on Sunday made it imperative that we leave in front of the storm. The fact that two of the three members in our truck had to be at work on Monday also was a portion of the deciding factors. We had a great time, and look forward to working with you again in the future.

Major George A. Schulz
1st Sgt. Rick Chromosta
Cp. Lewis Elmer
Frontier Battn. Battery page 4

Hate groups soil, abuse Confederate Battle Flag

by Charles Walthall

The next time you see a hate group abusing the Confederate Battle Flag, give them a copy of this message:

The time has come to tell you
What you have done ain't right
You've torn down Southern symbols
And you visit in the night.

You took Old Southern Glory
And draped it 'round your hate,
set fire to wooden crosses
behind hoods which hide your face.
Of all the things we need today
Your message sure ain't it
What sense is random violence
And relishing disgrace.
You took the Southern battle flag
And threw

it on the ground. To try and save a doomed consort
Of racist ghouls and clowns.
Time it moves on forward
And shelters fools like you
From honor, truth, and loyalty
To a flag: white, red, and blue.

Listen for a moment of what a Battle Flag, it means
The flag above my nation of which Southern soldiers sing:

St. Andrew, a Christian soldier who followed Christ on earth
Shared the fate of being nailed To a tilted Cross-type post.

Chosen for the Confederacy
After the Union ran aground
For throwing out the Constitution
And burning Dixie down.

My father gave his life,
For the Southern cause of gray.
His widow took their children
And taught us all to pray.

I'll take our flag and raise it
In the place it ought to fly
Above battlefields and public schools
And State Capitol's, up high.

Yes, Southern shows of beauty
To let you know we stand for honor, truth, and loyalty
And are men who hand it down.

We hand it to our children
To teach them who they are
Reminding all of sacrifice
For Andrew's Cross of Stars.

So if by chance you missed
The point I've tried to make
I'll state, it once, real loud and clear
So there's no mistake:

The next time that you see me
All dressed in Southern Gray
I might just have to shoot you
'cause War's declared today.

Letters to the Editor

An open letter to the membership of the MCWRA:

During the Leetown Battle at Pea Ridge '95, I had the misfortune of receiving a close range musket blast from a Rebel soldier. The blast, from approximately ten feet, caught my forage cap and a portion of my forehead. Needless to say, it burned like sin. Had the blast been a couple of inches lower, or I a couple of inches taller, I might not have the eyesight with which to write this letter.

I am not writing to preach about safety or even that occasional stupid blunder that gets someone hurt. I am writing, however, to say thank you to the several anonymous boys in gray

who saw what happened and rushed to my assistance.

I want to also mention Mark Strother of the Holmes Brigade. Mark refused to leave my side until I was eventually released from the first aid station. It was these guys who washed off my forehead, got help and kept me calm until the Paramedics arrived.

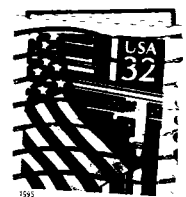
For their compassion, care and brotherhood, I am very grateful.

It was these great guys who provided, once again, that whether you wear the blue or the gray, it really does not matter. Underneath the colors, we are all brothers. Again, thank you, boys, and God bless you.

*John B. Terry
Holmes Brigade, U.S.V.*

The Western Campaigner

P.O. Box 669
Waukomis, OK 73773



The ruins of Richmond-- Main Street, spring 1865.

Window to the past...

First Class Mail