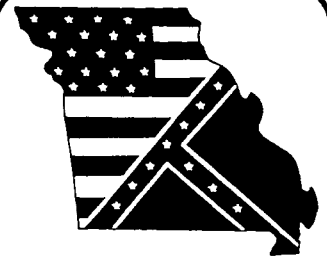


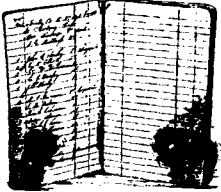
# The Western Campaigner

Journal of the Missouri Civil War Reenactors Association

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April/May  
1997



## The Editor's Notebook

❖ by David Christy ❖

### April and May issues combined to save \$\$\$

You will note that the April and May issues have been combined into one. This will be the case periodically through a year. Sometimes there is not enough material turned in to warrant an issue for just one month, other times, as is the case this time, an MCWRA officer requests a combined issue.

This also allows the MCWRA treasury to build back up when dues money come in slowly. This issue was combined at the request of MCWRA treasurer Scott Hughes, but it just so happens it turned out to be a good two month period to combine *The Campaigner*, since almost no news articles appeared in my mail box in late March or throughout April.

Scott has advised me that he is working on the 1997 MCWRA membership directory. The directory should be out sometime later this spring or in the summer.

### More newsletters hitting editor's desk these days

I've been seeing some more new company newsletters of late. The latest just hit my desk (which is covered with so much debris and old correspondence as to do justice to the old editor in the comic strip *Shoe*. And by the way, I too have discovered I am no longer able to get up to speed, much like *Shoe*. My wife

keeps reminding me that immobile is not a speed).

*Reveille* is the newsletter of the 3rd Missouri Cavalry Co. A (dismounted) CSA, and is edited by 1st Lt. G.D. Moody (417-759-2998).

I also received a copy of the non-partisan publication, *The Missouri Woman*, edited by Sharon Barrale. She can be reached at FAX 314-838-8994, or E-mail: SGB1861@aol.com

Sharon is a member of MCWRA who put out her first issue in April. She bills the publication as the "only non-profit, non-partisan ladies newsletter in the area."

The first issue had hints to dress-makers from Godey's Lady's Book and Magazine of May 1858, and included drawings, and a pattern diagram of a dress. Also included was a new 1859 style of dressing the hair and how to make a cap, with a pattern. You can write to *The Missouri Woman* at #15 Barrington Dr., St. Peters, MO 63376.

Also, *The Border Star*, the publication of the CW Round Table of Western Missouri edited by Harold "Sonny" Wells, has a new address: 17216 NE 134th Terrace, Kearney, MO 64060 (816-628-9910).

I can't emphasize too much to quality of the newsletters and the articles out their in MCWRA-land. Its nice to know individual editors and units are continue to "take care of their own" with these publications. I've seen some top notch, informative articles and how to stories this past year. Keep up the good work!

### Upcoming Events

#### St. Charles, Missouri, event slated Sept. 6-7

The 10th anniversary of the St. Charles, Missouri, living history event will be held Sept. 6-7 at Frontier Park, a mile-long Missouri River park adjacent to the St. Charles Nationally Registered Historic District.

Battles are set for both days, with infantry, artillery, cavalry and period civilians welcome.

Amenities will include straw, water, large porta-johns, five catered meals, an anniversary gift, a street dance, Sunday church service and a \$50 bounty for the first 10 canon (limit 2 per unit).

Over 100 shops and restaurants are located just a block from the camp site. There will be plenty of convenient parking.

Pre-registration is strongly suggested to secure meals and gifts to the MCWRA sanctioned event.

The 9th Missouri Battalion Sharpshooters will host the event, sponsored by the St. Charles Convention and Visitors Bureau, the St. Charles Special Business District and South Main Preservation Society.

If you have questions and for sutler reservations call Sue Riddler at 314-947-0165 days or 947-7669 evenings.

Unit and individual registration should be mailed to Sue Riddler, c/o Media Magic, 1390 S. 5th, St. Charles, MO 63301.

Lose an item at an event? Have extra gear to sell or looking for something? Send in a small notice to *Western Campaigner*, P.O. Box 669, Waukomis, OK 73773.

# Was Shiloh national event a waste of our time and our money? No!

by Dan Kessler

4th Missouri Infantry CSA

Somewhere in time, it's late evening on the 7th day of April, and the famous hard fought Battle of Shiloh is coming to a close. Soon it will be only a memory in the minds of all mankind.

Like our brothers of yesteryear, I am dirty, exhausted, but grateful that it's behind me and even more grateful that fate smiled down on me and allowed me to survive. Unlike my brothers of yesteryear, I made my plans more than a year ago and dreamed of Shiloh as what I hoped would be a mirror to the bone thriller of Spring Hill of '95.

Like the sure victory which lay at the foot of the Confederate army, our Shiloh just wasn't to be. Or was it? I've often said "if you're only going for the battle, then you're wasting your time."

On Saturday, as the rain and our hopes of another glorious battle continued to fall, we all watched in horror as the mud began to rise. Soon, the realization set in that our hard fought battle would be against another foe, and I would find proof once again, that reenacting (at least for me) is not just for the battles, but for the camaraderie and oneness which I feel while in the midst of my brothers.

As the war cry was sounded and the tent stakes were struck, it began to happen all around us. Men began to join into one common cause. As in the past, our efforts, our struggles, our cursing of the rains and the mud began to forge us into one . . . one united cause . . . one mind . . . one spirit, and our interest of self melted away only to be replaced with the need to see that all who joined us in our cause would find success and victory.

So, as I sit here dirty, exhausted and dreams replaced with disappointment, I ask myself--was this a waste of time and money?

Absolutely not! I went with high hope of creating wonderful memories which would last me a life-time. I came home with more than I could ever expect.

Thank God for the opportunity to

share in such a wonderful hobby. One which will allow me to time travel into another era at my leisure; to enjoy the company of many fine people with like interest and to experience the oneness in cause which most of the world now longs for.

P.S.: After surviving countless reenactments under similar conditions, I wonder if we should change our name from Army of the Trans-Mississippi to The Army of Trans-Mississippi Mud Mules.

## LOST

At Prairie Grove, Arkansas -- Enfield bayonet scabbard. Can identify. Lost on parade ground between Confederate camp and parking area Sat. afternoon. Contact Harold Cox, Rt. 7, Box 763, Joplin, MO 64801 or call 417-782-1907.

## New Blue & Gray Book Store open to reenactors

Carolyn Bartells and Joann Childs Eakin opened up the Blue & Gray Book Store in April, and are offering it as a hang-out for CW reenactors.

The new shop is located at 116 W. Lexington in Independence, MO. Reenactors and Civil War buffs looking for books of the period are invited to check out the new book store.

## Thank You

We would like to thank all the reenactors that attended our reenactment--The Battle of Indian Creek--April 19 and 20. Without your support we would not have had such a great event. Hope to see you all at our next one. Thanks again.

"Mud Puppy"  
Family of Ed & Donna Madwell

If you find a mistake in a listing below, please advise this publication immediately.

# 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 by event sponsors.

## 1997 Event Dates:

JUNE 14-15: COLUMBIA, MO. Living history, skirmishes, amenities. Contact Karen Ramey 573-874-7636 (Local).

JUNE 21-22: JEFFERSON BARRACKS, ST. LOUIS. Sponsored by Jeff City Civil War Hist. Assoc. and St. Louis County Parks. Call Nancy Herndon 314-631-4849. (Maximum)

AUGUST, DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED: MCWRA Planning/General membership meeting.

SEPT. 12-14: MOORE'S MILL, FULTON, MO. All amenities, prepared meals, sponsored by 6th MO. Contact Mark White, PO Box 487, Fulton, MO 65251 (816-246-7950). (Sanctioned)

SEPT. 20-21: LEXINGTON, MO. State Guard, battle of hemp bales, downtown scenarios, tour, dismounted cav., only 500-600 reenactors. Contact Janea Fuller. (Sanctioned)

SEPT. 27-28: LEASBURG, MO (near Pilot Knob). Infantry, cavalry, artillery. Sponsored by 7th MO and Leasburg Historical Soc. (Sanctioned)

OCT. 4-5: MELVERN LAKE, KS (Topeka). Mid-war, contact Dave Smith.

OCT. 24-26: SPRING HILL, TN. National event, contact John Beck.

POSTPONED TO FEBRUARY OR MARCH, 1998: (Camp Gibson). Campaign style, contact Willie Huckabee. (Maximum)



# New blood, new life tied to unit education

by David C. Chuber  
3rd Missouri Infantry

In my 20 years plus of reenacting, I have seen the good and bad times. I have seen times when units were up to 1861 wartime strength and at their Appomattox levels. The reason for much of the up and downs has been that some units and their leaders have lost the focus of their original goals and have become stagnant.

For some, politics and personal power have clouded the real reasons we reenact. Units start out for the same basic reasons--that is, to portray a historical unit/organization, learn more about the history, become an authentic representative and finally educate others about the greatest conflict in our history.

Today, units are failing in these goals and need to reevaluate themselves. Units are failing in their recruitment efforts because of the lack of company guidance and sponsorship. Units are not fulfilling the recruit's needs which are the reasons we started reenacting in the first place.

To fulfill the recruit's needs, the unit must take the lead. The first goal that the unit should set for its members is authenticity. It is my belief that every unit and living history organization should have an "authenticity committee" that will research and provide quality control for the unit.

This committee should also develop "new members guidelines" or a handbook telling new recruits how to acquire the appropriate unit uniforms and accouterments. This committee should also be the keeper of patterns, unit history and all historic "holy grail" items.

Failing to provide the new recruit this information will lead to his hesitation to join the unit or his loss of interest. The blame is on the shoulders of the old timers and the commanders for not passing down the knowledge to the new recruits. Without the passing of knowledge, recruits will take twice as long to become authentic, and may make unneeded and costly purchases.

Without satisfying the thirst for history, a recruit may join for the

short time thrill and eventually lose interest. Reenactor's units are their own worst nightmare. The hobby/unit will not survive on the adrenaline rushes of battles alone. Today, units are losing membership and some reenactors are portrayed as weekend camping organizations with a loose generic militia structure, or worse--a sort of military motorcycle gang.

New recruits can help themselves by reading the R. Lee Hadden book entitled *Living the Civil War*. I also believe that there are too many FARB items being sold to new recruits who don't know any better!

There is no better proof that an item was used than the study of original items or CW photographs. I recommend the National Historical Society's multi-volume series entitled *The Image of War*. Also, the Time-Life series, *Echoes of Glory*, *Arms and Equipment of the Union/Confederacy* are outstanding.

For the reenactor who doesn't like to read or look at photos, then the VHS tape from Will Gorgas shows the ins and outs of Civil War uniforms and should prove to be quite helpful.

Then for the unconventional approach try going to a museum. Here in the Midwest there are two that I highly suggest for soldiers and civilians doing reenacting between 1850's to 1865. The *Arabia* in Kansas City and just across the state line the *Bertrand* in Desoto Bend Park, Iowa, have on display period camp gear, cloth, bottles, foodstuffs and weapons. Still, with all this information, it remains the responsibility of the unit to "raise the recruit."

Another reason that good recruits leave units and the hobby is the political "back-stabbing" and squabbling that they see from the commanders. This is the fastest way to run off a good reenactor and tarnish the hobby's image.

Everyone needs to reevaluate their reasons for reenacting. It's time to get back to basics! The political problems of our hobby could be eradicated if the leaders were rotated annually, or at least on a regular basis. There would be less complaints if everyone has a change

to be in charge.

This rotation should also be among staff officers, not just commanders. This would allow everyone the opportunity to benefit from the learning process of reenacting. This educational process comes into a unit only when the leadership changes.

Learning the different jobs or positions is something all reenactors should want on their resumé. It is called education through experience! It is a lot easier now than in the 1860's and it should be fun.

By giving everyone a chance to learn and grow in their understanding of this hobby, reenacting will live a long life with much more participation.

## Tableau entertainment in need of actors for Columbia, MO event

The "tableau" or frozen picture was a popular form of entertainment in the 19th century. These "performances" consisted of live actors posed in various tableaux representing historical events, Biblical stories, or current stories.

The actors held their positions while poetry and/or songs were performed, and then the pose changed to a different part of the tale. These tableaux were popular at civilian gatherings on the home front, but were also easy to set up in camps when possible to cheer up and inspire the troops.

A tableau entitled the "Five Faces of Woman" has been prepared which could easily be performed at the Columbia, MO event June 14-15. The cast consists mostly of women and children, and well-known songs and props which would already be in camp would be utilized. A minimum of rehearsing time would be required.

If you ladies and children (and a few gentlemen) are interested, contact Janet Hussey of the CLO and she will pass the information along to the Columbia organizers so they can publicize it. She may be reached at 816-248-3426. You are asked to give your name and unit so she can find you at the event.

## Westport 64 seeking relatives of Union vets

Westport 64, a camp of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, has recently been established in Kansas City, MO. If you are a descendant of a soldier, sailor, or Marine who served the United States of America during the War of the Rebellion of 1861-1865, you are invited to join this Patriotic and Fraternal Order.

The purpose of the camp is to perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic, and the men who served the Union. This is done through the preservation and research of documents and records pertaining to the GAR and its members, doing honor at various events to all who have patriotically served this country in war, and teaching patriotism and the duties of citizenship.

If you are interested, and if you have the time every once in awhile to devote to a civic project, you are asked to join.

For more information, contact

John J. Martin, Commander of Westport 64, Sons of Union Veterans, at 816-966-9496.

## Frontier Days June 7-8

Reenactors for Frontier Days June 7-8 at Rice-Tremonti Home located at 66th and Bluemont in Kansas City, MO, are wanted, according to John J. Martin of the 2nd Missouri Infantry, Co. K, CSA.

The Friends of the Rice-Tremonti Home Assoc. are endeavoring to purchase, preserve and restore this historic 153 year old home that sits on the Santa Fe Trail, and was one of the few pro-Southern homes in Jackson County, MO, that survived Gen. Ewing's Order #11 in August of 1863.

This is a small site and only 3.6 acres remain of the original 520, but it will easily accommodate 30-40 troops with a little left over to skirmish on. Several cannon are also being sought to help in the effort.

If you can help, contact John Martin at 816-966-9496.

## 1st Texas host for Old Military Road event planned for June 7-8

The Talihina Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring Civil War skirmishes on the The Old Military Road June 7-8 in Talihina, Oklahoma.

The schedule of events includes registration and setup beginning on June 6 at 1 p.m. Two generic battles are set for both Saturday and Sunday, and there will be a bounty for all artillery, both US and CS, for the both the largest Federal infantry and Confederate infantry participating both days and for both the largest Federal cavalry and Confederate cavalry participating both days.

Civilian and special impressions are welcome. There will be a Saturday night meal, a dance, a parade and the usual amenities.

The 1st Texas Infantry will be the host unit for the event.

For more information contact Ron Miller at 405-332-4379.

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