

The Long Roll

The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of the Union Army Veterans

July, 2003

Greetings

Our reenacting unit has really been busy! We have recruited at two events, held our first drill and grown to sixteen official members. Last month I reported in these pages that the UAV had eleven official and seven unofficial members. The "unofficial members" are those who have expressed an interest in membership but when asked to send in a membership application, nothing happens. They have been reminded at least twice via e-mail. The five unofficial members are:

Henry Ayala, Steve Hardy, Todd Holzaepfel, Mike Meehan, and Frank Molinets. If you know any of these guys, try to light a fire under them to send in their application. Our next activity is the 4th of July Parade in Arlington this Friday morning. More information will be later in the newsletter. I would like to tell you that Mr. Tom Stuart of the 9th Texas Infantry unit has graciously loaned us regimental and national colors (flags). New member, Chuck Toney, an ex-9th Texas member, was instrumental in acquiring the loan of flags so that we would look good in the parade. Right now, we have at least seven members who told me that they will participate. That does not count my wife and fellow UAV member, Patty, who will be driving our support vehicle behind us while we march. It is not too late to come out for the parade, the more the better!

Sad News

For those of you who are former 1st U.S. members, you probably know Bob Fuhrman of Lindsey, Texas. If you know Bob you probably also know his team of percherons (draft horses) named "Dick" and "Harold" that pulled his Army supply wagon. I was notified on June 17th that "Harold" had been injured somehow and had died while being treated by a veterinarian. I have no other information. I am sure that the loss of Harold is a large blow to Bob. Knowing that big guy, I know that he will appreciate a hug from his friends when next you meet.

Happy News

Last December 17th, President Bush signed into law the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2000 (H.R. 5125). This law authorizes

an expenditure of up to \$10,000,000 per year through 2007 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to act as matching money for battlefield preservation. You must know by now that one of my goals in civil war reenacting is to do everything that I can to help keep now-privately held battlefield land from being "destroyed" by developers.

The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) bought almost 2,100 acres of endangered battlefield land last year, spending more than \$7,500,000.

You and I will have to redouble our efforts for the CWPT (and other preservation groups) to raise the necessary \$10 million now necessary for each of the next five years. UAV members, in the last two weeks, have already raised \$100 and have sent the money to the CWPT.

Texas Frontier Forts Muster Report

This annual event was held at the historic Fort Worth Stockyards in early May. Due to the length of last month's newsletter, this report was delayed. This "muster" is an event where all the Texas frontier forts send representatives for two days of living history and education.

There were ceremonies, cannon and musket firing demos, and educational programs. I have to report that we were fed better at this event than any other that I can remember. We received a very fine breakfast buffet at the Stockyards Hotel each day. Risky's BBQ served lunch on Friday and the famous Reatta Restaurant served us on Saturday. Between feedings, we manned the recruiting tables, answering the many questions about our display materials and performed musket firing demos. Thanks go to UAV members Robert Cowgill (Saturday), brand new member, Matthew Doyle (Friday), and Mark Reis (Friday) for helping man the area. I wish to report that both Robert and Matthew each got off at least three rammed blank shots per minute while their competition, firing a breech loading '73 "Trapdoor" Springfield (the common indian wars rifle), never got off the fifteen rounds they are supposed to get. Robert was so fast that he was capping for a fourth round when time was called. We got seven new prospects at this event and have already converted one into new member Jennie Leatherman of Forest Hills, Texas. She told me that she saw our display only by accident since she and her family were at the Stockyards for her grandmother's birthday dinner. The UAV was the only civil war reenacting unit present.

Circle Ten Council's Scout Show Report

On Saturday, May 10th, I set up a display at the Scout Show held at Dallas' Market Hall. If you have never been to a Scout Show, it is quite an experience. Thousands of Scouts (youth) and Scouters (leaders) attend this event and do everything from sampling Scout cooked food to climbing a rock wall. From learning how to make a

rope to watching a video of Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico (the Scout nirvana for hiking and camping skills). We got eleven prospects from this one day event, two of which attended our June 14th drill.

Spring Campout Report

On Saturday, May 17th, Parker Brown and a friend, and Matthew Doyle and his girlfriend, Celeste, joined Patty, the kids, and me at my family ranch. We camped out in modern and period tents, ate modern food, fired minie balls from our rifles at the "Sand Pit", fished (Matthew caught a 1# black bass), and sat around the campfire, just relaxing.

No cell phones, fax machines, and luckily, no chiggers, mosquitoes. or poison ivy. Just lots of fellowship.

Texas Scottish Festival Report

On June 6-8 the UAV had a recruiting/living history display at the annual Texas Scottish Festival held at UTA's Maverick Stadium in Arlington. We were given a very good spot, near a large performance tent. Thanks goes to the following for manning the display area:

Parker Brown, Matthew Doyle (all 3 Days!), prospect (now new member) Chuck Toney, and to my wife and children (who add beauty to anything they are around). Also, special thanks to member, Bill Hathcoat for the loan of the canvas fly for shade. Additional thanks goes to 1st U.S. member, Art Ogle, who came by our display early on Sunday morning before I arrived and replaced the stakes that had pulled out during the early morning rain storm. I was surprised by a friendly visit from Don Gross and William Ray of the 1st U.S. Infantry, after they had closed their booth down for the night on Saturday. The music was awesome in the various areas and no doubt more members will attend next year to get in on all the fun. We had seventeen prospects during the 2-1/2 day festival, six of which attended our June drill. One prospect, "Aussie" Andrew Bass, is one of our newest members.

July 4th (Friday morning)

The 39th Annual Fourth of July Parade in Arlington begins at 9:00 am but we must line up at the UTA parking lot before 8:00 am. Those who arrive after 8:00 am will have to park a mile away (UTA's Maverick Stadium) and ride the shuttle bus, possibly missing the start of the parade. If you like, you may meet Clark at his home at 7:00 am. We will leave the house at 7:15 am SHARP! The Star-Telegram estimates a crowd of 40,000-50,000 spectators lining the two mile route through downtown Arlington. Check out the parade's website: **www.arlington4th.com** At press time, we had at least seven members who plan on attending. There will be a support car following

us in the parade in case anyone has to fall out. They will ride in air conditioned comfort for the rest of the parade, if necessary. Tom Stuart, a member of a "sister" reenacting unit, the 9th Texas Infantry, has graciously loaned us flags for us to us. Afterwards, parade participants are invited to come over to the Kirby's home where lunch will be served.

July 26th (Saturday morning)

DRILL! DRILL! DRILL! (Boy, do I need it) to be held at 8:00 am at River Legacy Park just west of the intersection of N. Cooper St. and NW Green Oaks Blvd. in Arlington. Please call for directions.

August 9-10 (Saturday, & Sunday)

Fort Stanton is hosting a two day tactical about twelve miles northeast of Ruidoso, New Mexico at 6,500 feet elevation. This is well west of Roswell. The most unusual thing about this event is that the Bureau of Land Management is paying reenactors 15 cents per mile of travel. Round-trip! I guess they really need reenactors! The web site address: www.nm-scv.org/FtStantonEvent.html The event is for experienced reenactors, only. You must have a complete fatigue uniform and sleeping gear to be prepared for this event. The web site tells you that the days will only reach into the 80's and the nights in the cool 50's! The grass will be green in the mountains due to the July and August rains. The tactical will entail about five miles of marching with full knapsacks. If there is enough interest, a few of us may car pool out there. It might be an experience.

August

The exact date TBA (to be announced) in the August "Long Roll". Monthly drill, location to be announced but believe me, it will be early in the morning on a Saturday! We need to expand on what we did at our June drill, to include, fixing bayonets, stacking arms, and fire by rank and file.

September 19-21 (Friday evening, Saturday, & Sunday morning)

The Kaufman County Living History Weekend and Civil War Ghost Walk to be held on the grounds of the Old Kaufman County Poor Farm. The site is at the intersection of State Highway 34 & FM 1388. There will be no battle reenactment but instead, a full schedule of living history presentations to the public. This will be a living history encampment/recruiting event for our unit. Reenactors are needed to portray Union soldiers at the fund raising "Ghost Walk" on Saturday night. See the website of the historic "Poor Farm" at:

www.poorhousestory.com/TX_kaufman_county Also see the

web site: **www.kaufmancounty.net** Our host, Kathey Hunt, wrote: "We guarantee this is something so original and profound that you will NOT want to miss being a part of it". There is a need for women to portray not only nurses but soldiers. So, that means our female members will be needed more than ever! We also need musicians who can play period arrangements on period instruments. Vocalists are needed too. A parson portrayal is needed in a vignette for the "Ghost Walk". Tarnation! Everyone is needed! The event is open to the public on Saturday from 9:00am to 3:00pm for living history presentations and from 8:00pm to Midnight for the candlelight Ghost Walk. The UAV is one of only a handful of reenactment units invited. Be sure to attend and support this fine effort by Kathey.

September 26-28 (Friday evening, Saturday, & Sunday)

The Battle Reenactment of Middle Boggy, near Atoka, Oklahoma. This will be our unit's first Frontier Brigade event. Watch for more information in the August issue of "The Long Roll". The event website is: **www.civilwaralbum.com/atoka/reenact.htm**

October 3-5 (Friday evening, Saturday, & Sunday)

Granbury Civil War Reenactment to be held on the original (old) site SW of Granbury, Texas (approximately 1/2 hour drive from Fort Worth). Battle reenactment/Living History Encampment/Recruiting Event. This is the next LOCAL battle reenactment we will attend. More information will be in upcoming issues of "The Long Roll".

October 24-26 (Friday evening, Saturday, & Sunday)

Heritage Days Festival in Crockett, Texas. Reenactment/Living History Encampment/Recruiting Event. More information in upcoming issues of "The Long Roll". This is the same weekend as the large Murfreesboro (Spring Hill) reenactment in Tennessee. UAV members should contact Clark as soon as possible with their preference of these two events.

November 4 (Tuesday evening)

The Richardson Public Library will host Ken Burns, the producer of the acclaimed PBS series, "The Civil War". Tickets are \$25 per person (does not include parking). Make your checks payable to "Friends of the Richardson Library" and mail to: Friends of the Library 900 Civil Center Drive Richardson, TX 75080. Or, you may call them with credit card information or to ask questions at (972) 744-4350.

November 21-23 (Friday evening, Saturday, & Sunday)

Plantation Liendo Civil War Weekend to be held on the beautiful,

historic grounds surrounding the old civil war era Texas cotton plantation house. Near Hempstead, Texas (southwest of Bryan/College Station). Reenactment/Living History Encampment/Recruiting Event. More information in the September issue of "The Long Roll".

January 10th, 2004 (Saturday)

Members of the UAV have been invited to a period "Grand Ball" (party) by the host, the 9th Texas Infantry (CSA). The ball will be held at the YWCA in downtown Fort Worth on Saturday, January 10th, 7:00 pm - Midnight. For registered ball participants who are not familiar with the period dances, dance instructions will be held at the Restoration Church in Euless from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm the same day. You must be at least 14 years old to attend this formal ball. Victorian period ball gowns for ladies, period dress military uniforms or period formal civilian attire for gentlemen. (This is a white glove affair) The Frontier Brigade Brass Band will perform period arrangements of popular civil war era music. The cost is \$45 per person and the deadline is November 15th. Make your payment checks payable to the "9th Texas" and mail to Mrs. Cindy Stuart 2809 London Lane Flower Mound, TX 75028. Any questions may be directed to Cindy by calling her: (972) 539-0141. If you have never been to a period formal ball, this will be a highlight of your reenacting career!

March, 2004

The second battle reenactment of Cross Timbers (tentative) to be held on private land north of Gainesville, Texas.

Spring, 2004

Pleasant Hill, Louisiana will have a reenactment at the battlefield state park to help raise funds and awareness of the open pit mining operation that is endangering this historic site.

May 2004

Bellmead, Texas biannual civil war reenactment weekend, just north of Waco, Texas

Living History Report

On Wednesday, June 18th and the following Wednesday, June 25th, members of the UAV were asked to perform civil war history to Cub & Webelos Scouts and Scouters of the Circle 10 Council. These presentations took place at the Collin County Youth Park near McKinney, Texas. Special thanks goes to new member, Andrew Bass (both dates), Parker Brown, Glen Hargis, and Jay Weber for giving up an evening at home to teach civil war living history. The June 18th

group was about 250 Webelos Scouts (4th & 5th graders) and the June 25th group was about 350 2nd & 3rd grade Cub Scouts. The Circle 10 Council was holding it's annual summer day camp. The Scout leader in charge of dinner entertainment told me that we were the best received presenters since last year's hit, R/C airplanes. Council Executive, Joel Ross, presented \$100 which was mailed to the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) in our unit name, to buy endangered battlefield land.