

The Long Roll

The Electronic Newsletter of the "Union Army Veterans"

May, 2003 Issue

Greetings

With this, our third newsletter, I wish to thank all of you for your support. Since the last issue, the UAV has gained more members, making the unit twenty strong! Now, with these numbers on paper, my biggest challenge is to get you to show up on the field. Only by YOU attending a UAV event will the unit gain the credibility and respect that a new unit needs. It is now up to you to show your support. With the spring reenacting season over, our next local reenactments will be this fall. Be sure to read the Upcoming Events section for more information. This does not mean that we will go into hibernation, oh, no. I have loads of activities planned for this summer. I have written this newsletter a week early since we have an important event coming up next weekend. The 2nd Annual Texas Frontier Forts Muster will be at the Fort Worth Stockyards May 2-3. It will be a heavy public interaction living history event. We will also be recruiting at this event.

Texas Frontier Forts Muster

First, thanks to member, Mike Vance of Rockwall, for pointing us to this event. Set up will be this Friday morning, May 2nd, somewhere along East Exchange Avenue, the main drag in the Stockyards. We have been invited by the Ft. Richardson park manager to help represent that fort, but that will be determined Friday morning dependent upon certain space considerations. I really need to know who is coming and what size tent they will set up. We will camp out Friday and Saturday nights. I have been told that there can be no cooking fires, but they plan on feeding us two meals per day and there will be food vendors available for other times. Those of you who are experienced reenactors should attend because it will be heavy public interaction. We can really shine at this event for we will be the only civil war era infantry unit. The UAV has been invited because of my Texas Parks Dept. historical interpretation experience. There will be loads of civil war era cavalry, there, since there will be a cavalry competition that weekend. There will be loads of "injuns" too, since the "Quanah Parker Commanche Pow Wow" will go on, nearby. You know what that means. Yep, we will have to save the cavalry's a** when they get pounced upon by them Commanches! Those of you who are new to reenacting may come out with your family. If we know you are coming, we may be able to put a coat on you and hand you a musket with which to drill. And, ladies, you have a role, too! There were "wimmin" in the old West, don't ya know? And "Chilluns". too! Those of you who can attend Friday will be greatly appreciated because Friday is the usual school day. We will be involved with the infantry drills and demos both days. Please shine all brass and black all leathers since we will be portraying the Regulars, the "Guardians of the Frontier". The schedule is as follows:

9:00am - Camps Open

10:00am - Flag Raising Ceremony

10:30am - Infantry Demonstration (pistols and muskets) That means us!

11:00am - Artillery Demo

11:30am - Arrival of Steam Train and passenger cars from Grapevine

(Tarantula Train). The cars will be searched for deserters before it leaves for its return trip! And, other things! (about this time the cattle drive will leave the Stockyards for the pastures)

11:45am - Military Parade

12:00am - Cavalry Demo

1:30pm - Infantry Demo (drill and firing)

2:00pm - Artillery Demo

2:30pm - Cavalry Demo

3:00pm - Infantry Demo (drill and firing)

3:45pm - Military Parade (cattle drive will come into the Stockyards during this time)

4:30pm - Artillery Demo

5:00pm Retreat (Flag Lowering Ceremony)

6:00pm - Camp Closes to the Public

There will be period music both days. Saturday, the Heritage Brass Band will play Noon - 6:00pm.

On Saturday only, at 7:00pm there will be a period ball with dinner for \$25 per person, open to the public as a forts fundraiser. I am trying to get a clarification from the host whether reenactors will have to pay the full price for this. I will e-mail all members in a few days the latest updates on this event.

Scout Show

At 8:00am on Saturday, May 10th (the day before Mother's Day) we will set up a recruiting/living history display at the Circle Ten Council Boy Scouts of America's annual "Scout Show". If you have ever been a Scout or a Scouter, this is something to see. Those of us in uniform will get in free. We will be inside this time, unlike previous appearances for another unnamed unit. Those experienced reenactors, who like to talk about civil war history, are needed the most. The Scout Show runs from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

Spring Campout

The UAV will hold a modern family campout/unit muster at my family ranch in Cook/Montaque Counties (about an hour's drive north of Fort Worth) on Saturday May 17 for one night. Arrive around noon on Saturday and leave for home on Sunday morning, if you like. This fun non-period event is meant for all of us to get together to meet all the other members and have fun. You may camp with modern tents and all the gear or you may camp with civil war gear, just no wool uniforms, please. Some of us have loaner tents for those who have no camping gear. Just get with Clark to reserve space. In case of rain, we will postpone one week. We will be in an area of the property surrounded on three sides by Spring Creek, Turkey Creek, and Spring Lake. **The lake is stocked with bass, bluegill, and catfish and since it is a private lake, no fishing license is required and there are no size or quantity limits as there are at public lakes.** You may even bring a small boat, if you like, but be sure to bring tackle and bait appropriate for what you want to catch.

Many youngsters have caught their first fish on the banks of this lake. (The fish are really dumb....I have caught bluegills with kernels of canned corn). Bring your black powder muskets and pistols for we will have a live fire activity at the property's sand pit. Ted Cross, a respected marksman and black powder expert, will attend and he will have live ammo, powder, percussion caps, etc. for sale. He will also hold a short talk about the care and firing of black powder rifles and pistols. Also, Glen Hargis and I will be teaching a short, informal seminar on civil war camping techniques with, not only an eye towards historical accuracy, but an emphasis on comfort for the modern man. You will learn that you do NOT have to get wet, cold, or

uncomfortable at night, at civil war reenactments, in order to be period correct "unless you really want to". The camping spot is secluded and primitive, so bring insect repellent, two gallons of drinking water per person (treated well water is available at the ranch house if you forget), chairs, sunscreen, whatever food and drink you like, and anything else that will make you comfortable. Toilet paper will be provided but the facilities will be primitive (out in the woods). We plan on having a nice campfire Saturday night and there may even be a hay ride after dark, if there is any interest. So, if any of this interests you, pack up your kids and gear and come on up with us. Contact Clark for more information about this event and for a map or directions to the ranch.

Memorial Day Ceremony

Member, Mike Meehan, has received an invitation for the UAV to attend the Memorial Day service at Restland Memorial Gardens at the intersection of Greenville and Walnut in Dallas. Set up will be 8:00am - 9:30am (gates open at 10:00am) and will last until 3:00pm. More details will be sent via e-mail in the next couple of weeks, so if you are interested in this heavy living history event/ceremony, be watching for it. No doubt that the Operation Iraqi Freedom casualties will be remembered this year. There can be no better way to show our appreciation for their ultimate sacrifice than for us to attend to honor them.

UAV Incorporation, or, "To Be, or Not To Be a 501c3"

by Mike Meehan

That is the question. Do we want to go the route of becoming a nonprofit organization or simply to be a club?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of being a nonprofit corporation? I have been tasked into pursuing these and other questions, over the last few weeks. This unit is at that fork in the road and has the opportunity, now, to decide upon which route to take.

There are many advantages to being a nonprofit corporation. I believe the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages. A nonprofit corporation takes on the aura of professionalism. This leads to a more positive public relations image when competing with other groups, giving your nonprofit an advantage. Nowhere is this more readily apparent than in fundraising efforts. Only nonprofit corporations can apply for federal or state grant money and solicit money from corporations with the understanding that the giver will be able to write his donation off as a tax deduction. The incorporation also allows a bank account, referencing your Federal ID, to be used. If the UAV decides to incorporate as an educational nonprofit, the next question is what will be our target size and organizational structure? But, let's not fall into the trap of being too narrowly focused. So, the goal should be to become a broad based nonprofit with different kinds of military and civilian living history groups. The obvious advantage to being broad based would be that it would allow the UAV to attract a wider range of living historians, creating more opportunities for new members to be involved, more fundraising opportunities, creating more diverse activities for our members, and stimulating a larger segment of the public. It is common knowledge that a narrowly defined nonprofit has a more difficult time raising funds, recruiting new members, and gathering public support for their projects.

There are even more reasons why our unit should pursue nonprofit status. I would like to discuss this subject, confidentially, with the members at an upcoming event. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 14th at Old City Park near Downtown Dallas. After the short drill session, we can sit down and discuss this. We need your input. Please make time to attend.

Announcement

New member, John Demby, has volunteered to design the UAV's new web site, "unionarmyveterans.org". ("UAV.org" was already taken!) He and I will be working

to make this the best civil war unit site anywhere. It will be up and running in the next two weeks, so watch for an e-mail from me announcing that it's ready. A big UAV thanks and a hug goes to John for not only designing the site for free, but paying for our "name" for two years!

Upcoming Events

May 2-3 (Friday & Saturday)

Texas Frontier Forts Muster at the Fort Worth Stockyards in North Ft. Worth. 9:00am - 6:00pm both days. Encampment/Living History/Recruiting Event. We will be heavily involved in the infantry drills and firing demos. There will be something to do for ALL members. See the above newsletter article for more information.

May 10 (Saturday)

The Circle Ten Council's (Dallas and counties north) **annual Scout Show** at market Hall in Dallas. 10:00am - 3:00pm. (set up at 8:00am) We will have an inside booth space set up as a living history display. Good talkers are needed. This will be a recruiting event, also.

May 17 (Saturday)

The first annual **Spring Muster** to be held at the Kirby (Rocking K) Ranch in Cook/Montague Counties of North Texas. Modern family camping trip. Dress for the weather, but please, no woolen uniforms at this event. More information, above, in the newsletter article. We may visit Dog Island at midnight to see the ghosts. Don't miss it!

May 26 (Monday Holiday)

Memorial Day Ceremony and Living History Event 10:00am to 3:00pm at Restland Memorial Gardens in Dallas, Texas. Honoring those fallen veterans of all wars. Ceremonial/Recruiting Event. More information will be e-mailed to all members, soon.

June 7-8 (Saturday & Sunday)

The Texas Scottish Festival will be held at Maverick Stadium in Arlington (UTA area) celebrating all things Scottish. Bagpipes. Hagsis. Scotch. Irish Beer? The UAV, as Civil War reenactors, will be portraying the 79th NYVI (a Highlander Regiment). More information will be in the June newsletter.

June 14 (Saturday)

Drill at Old City Park and UAV membership meeting to discuss the incorporation of the unit as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit educational corporation. If we do this incorporation thing, all your IRS allowable

reenacting expenses with our unit will be tax deductible. See Mike Meehan's article later in this newsletter. More information about the drill and meeting will be in the June newsletter.

July 4 (Friday Morning)

The annual **Arlington Independence Day Parade**. I have requested an early start due to us being modern men wearing woolen uniforms on a hot day. Light (but sharp) marching order for this ceremonial event.

September 19-21 (Saturday & Sunday)

The Kaufman County living History Weekend and Civil War Ghost Walk. The original event has changed (the battle reenactment has been canceled due to lack of funding). To be held on the grounds of the Old Kaufman County Poor Farm. This event is by invitation only and will be heavy public interaction. The Ghost Walk will need experienced UAW reenactors to do vignettes relating to the civil war. The UAW has been invited due to our past support of the Mexia, Kaufman, and Granbury reenactments. More information this summer.

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

Granbury Civil War Reenactment (10th Annual?) to be held at the original (old) site near Granbury, Texas.

Reenactment/Encampment/Living History/Recruiting Event. More information will be in this summer's newsletters.

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

Heritage Days Festival in Crockett, Texas. Reenactment/Living History/Encampment Event. More information in future newsletters.

November 14-16 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday)

Plantation Liendo Civil War Reenactment to be held on the beautiful, historic grounds around the old civil war era cotton plantation house. Near Hempstead, Texas (northwest of Houston).

Reenactment/Living History/Encampment/Recruiting Event.

"Reading the Old Photos"

If you are like me, you take out the magnifying glass to see the detail in civil war photos in books in your collection. In this way, have I discovered many things usually hidden to the less observant. I call this "reading the old photos". Ms. Carla Davidson of the American Heritage Magazine "reads" old photos as the master that she is. A recent (April/May issue) of American Heritage Magazine has an article

by Ms. Davidson under the column title: "Reader's Album". She related her experiences with a simple inquiry into a certain Lacey family on the internet. She heard back from a man in Alabama who had some old period photos in his possession, originally owned by his wife's now long deceased grandmother who had lived in upstate NY.

Three photos he e-mailed to her were worthy of note. They were a single one of a man named Daniel Lacey, a single of his wife, Libby, and a single photo of their twin daughters, named Lucy and Libby.

The last photo was the most intriguing. The current owner of the photos had never really paid much attention to the dark stains around the edges of the photo of the twin infant girls. He just assumed that the stains were normal aging, though this photo is the only one so singularly marked. The background on the family portrayed in the three photos is as follows: There was once a woman who lived near Niagara, NY, Libby Goodman, known years later as "the beautiful, but tragic Goodman sister" who had married a neighbor, named Daniel Lacey, around the start of the Civil War. About a year into their marriage, she bore Daniel beautiful twin girls, as evidenced by the photo. Shortly after the birth, Daniel went off to fight in the war. The girls were seated in a ornate Victorian chair at the photographer's studio and had their "image taken" so that a copy could be sent to their father, far away. Daniel received the photo, for on one June evening in 1864, while on picket duty in the trenches surrounding the city of Petersburg, Virginia, he stopped to take out the photo of his beloved daughters. It was at that instant that a Confederate sniper fired a musket ball into his head, killing him instantly. It was said that his wife, Libby, never recovered from the loss of her husband and less than a year after the death of her soldier hero, the twins were being cared for by relatives. Four years later, Libby passed away on October 1, 1869, exactly eight years after her wedding day, leaving forever, the twin girls. At least one of the twins lived long enough to marry and have children of her own, for the Alabama man's wife is the great grand-daughter of Libby McCoy (her married name, supposedly). The photo that was heavily stained, carried the life blood of the father who dearly loved his children and was never meant to see them again. I hope that if there is truly a heaven for believers, that this beautiful family was finally reunited. Such are some of the stories you hear when you "read the old photos".

The USS Monitor Update

Most of you are aware that the U.S. Navy aided the recovery of parts of the world's first U.S. ironclad, named the USS "Monitor" a year or so ago. The turret and other items have been raised from the depths, saved from further deterioration, and are now being conserved

(stabilized) on the East Coast. These items will be put on display when the conservation process is complete. A little background with a subject that is not well known: The "Monitor's" rotating turret was fitted with two 11 inch Dahlgrens (instead of the planned 12 inch Dahlgrens) in early 1862. These guns came from the screw sloop USS "Dakotah". One of those 11 inchers that was raised has an interesting story behind it, that is playing out 140 years later. When the "Monitor" was being towed down the East Coast in a storm, the ship was taking on water to the extent that the pumps could not keep up.

During this time, one Union sailor by the name of Francis Butts was in the turret charged with bailing out water, by hand, from the turret (it is evident that he failed to save the ship with his duty). The story he later told was that he was so annoyed by the wailing of the ship's cat, in the turret with him that fateful night, that he finally put the cat into one of the Dahlgren's barrels and kept the cat in there by shoving in some wadding (I had read, a while back, that what he really put in the bore was the gun's tompion, the barrel "plug", instead. Whichever he used, the cat may still be in that gun barrel, though, in much changed form, of course. Now, I am not a cat fancier but I am very interested in whether that cat's remains are found when they open up that naval gun. I wonder.....will you be interested in "the rest of the story"?

And, Speaking of Old Warships Dept.

If you are interested in old U.S. Navy ships, boy do I have an announcement for you. For the first time since the Battleship USS "Texas" (BB-35) was berthed in a slip in the San Jacinto Battlefield State Park in 1948, the ship is offering a behind the scenes look at the old gal. Usually when you visit the ship, you pay your fee and walk aboard, sometimes there is a volunteer docent aboard to give personal tours, sometimes not. Well, for a donation of \$20 you are able to take a very exclusive well guided tour of areas of the ship that are off limits to the usual visitor. These tours are called "Hard Hat Tours" due to the industrial hard plastic hat you are required to wear while on the tour. The tours are about four hours in length and take you to, among other areas not open to the public, inside the starboard "gun house" inside turret two, the magazines under turret three, the plotting room deep inside the ship's armored "citadel", inside the "wheel house", and through one of the boiler rooms. These tours are held quarterly and book months in advance. By the way, I have been a naval historian for over twenty years and since 1992 have been a volunteer historical interpreter for the Texas Parks Dept. (the caretaker State organization) aboard the battleship. I have led these tours before.

Many come from all over the U.S. and on one of my tours, in January, two men from Sweden were present. I had to turn down the ship's

request for my services on May 3rd since I will be attending the "Texas Frontier Forts Muster" with you guys. For more information about these special tours, contact Barbara Tankind at the ship (281) 479-2431 or if you have the patience to type in the long site address: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/battlesh you can read all about the ship.

Dedication Ceremony Report

On Saturday, April 5th, the UAV was represented at the monument dedication ceremony for civil war veterans who are buried in Los Creek Cemetery in Jack County. At this secluded country cemetery, located on private land, was dedicated a CSA Service Marker for the grave of Wylie Gunter of Thompson's 1st Frontier Texas State Troops, CSA and a CSA Service Marker for the grave of Joseph Fowler of the same Confederate unit. Also, a Federal Service Marker was dedicated for the grave of Daniel Laycock of Company I, 1st Tennessee Mounted Infantry, USA. Additionally, near the entrance to the cemetery, the dedication of the large granite "War Between the States Memorial Monument" honoring those veterans on both sides who eternally rest there, was dedicated. I was honored to be chosen to carry the National Colors during the flag ceremony. A Boy Scout Explorer Troop, the 4th U.S. Cavalry (Dismounted), fired the musket salute. Following this ceremony, we drove to Oakwood Cemetery within the city limits of Jacksboro, Texas to dedicate an Indian War Service Marker at the grave of Calvin Gage. Without the tireless, selfless work of heritage organizations such as the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), the Daughters of Union Veterans (DUV), the Sons of Union Veterans (SUV), and the Children of the Confederacy, these graves and countless others across our nation, would go unrecognized. I, for one, will always strive to answer their call for support by being present at all grave marker dedications.

"The Battle of Perryville: The Fight for the Heartland" DVD Report

I received my prepaid copy of the 2002 national reenactment event, the Battle of Perryville, Kentucky about a month ago, over five months after the event. It is approximately 92 minutes of run time with the use of period still photos interspersed with video footage of the reenactment battle. No, I did not see myself in it but I noticed two local fellow reenactors, members of the unit I was in at the time.

"General" Mark Dolive, of Fort Worth, Texas, the then outgoing Frontier Brigade Colonel and present First Federal Division commander, is seen for a moment using binoculars. And, another reenactor, Brook Thomas of Elgin, Texas is seen "somewhat lost" as the battalion left guide. The reason for my characterization is that he

is shown alone, glancing to his right, noticing that the battalion is apparently leaving him, and showing him quickly moving, off camera, to his rightful place. These two were the only reenactors that I know and that I noticed in the video (DVD). Every reenactor likes to see himself perform and I am no exception. However, this video marks a milestone in reenactment videos since it was the first time that I had seen a DVD option rather than the usual VHS tape offered. Did I like it? Well, in a word, "NO". It spends 55 minutes of the total time telling the state of Kentucky history leading up to the battle. I would have rather seen more modern reenactor battle footage, like me "gettin' kilt". Hey, my well practiced chest hit at Wilson's Creek made THAT video! However, this video will probably make a good visitor center movie at Perryville State Park because that is what it looks like. But, for this reenactor who spent the time and money to go to it, and bought the video, it was a waste of my money. By the way, at the end, was the reenactor "dedication": "...and thanks to the thousands of living historians whose dedication to preserving the memory of our American heritage made this film possible."

Fort Wagner is Lost!

Most citizens believe that all the civil war battlefields are saved for posterity as either a National Military Park or as a State Park. That is sadly, not true. As a member of the Civil War Preservation Trust, my money goes to help CWPT buy endangered battlefield land.

Endangered, you say? How is it endangered? Well, modern development (building booms) are constantly encroaching on this sacred land. Most of the civil war battlefield land is privately owned.

When these owner's die or need money, they sell their land to developers. The developers turn the land, usually crop or grazing land into malls, housing developments, or business parks. The latest issue of the CWPT's monthly magazine announced the loss of Fort Wagner.

This time, not to development, but to coastal erosion by the sea. This earthen fort near Charleston, South Carolina, the July 1863 battle for which was so prominent in the movie, "Glory", has disappeared into the Atlantic Ocean. Sadly, the site of Fort Wagner had been listed by the CWPT as a Priority IV Battlefield, "highly significant, but too late to save". In this instance no amount of money could save her once the ocean reached her walls. Other, nearby Morris Island works continue to be endangered by development.

Cartridge Party Results

Thanks goes to Robert Cowgill, Matthew Doyle, and Mike Meehan who gave up a Sunday afternoon to roll blank cartridges for the unit to sell to fellow UAV members. Also, further thanks goes to Mike for

donating a one pound can of black powder to be used for this project.

The UAV now has 12 arsenal packs of blank cartridges for sale at \$2 per pack of ten blank rounds each. The tubes are made of period correct paper and have the historically correct outside arsenal wrapper, reading "St. Louis Arsenal 1861". Additionally, the rounds are made correctly with the proper dimensions of height and thickness to facilitate quick loading and firing at upcoming events.

Additionally, for those who wish only the most authentic blank cartridges in their box, Clark also has some very special arsenal packs that are packed with ten hand tied-end cartridges, hand-dyed outer wrappers, and the correct trapezoid of percussion caps in each pack.

They look exactly like the St. Louis Arsenal manufactured ones in the "bible for reenactors", the famous *Echoes of Glory* (Union) book, so that they may be used in living history presentations without fear of being called "farb". These sell for \$5 per arsenal pack.

Both the \$2 packs and the \$5 packs will be available at upcoming UAV events, as a fundraiser project. As always, UAV members may receive the correct paper for cartridge tubes from Clark, free upon request. The sheets of paper are 24" x 36" and can make at least 40 trapezoids per sheet.

Swap Meet

For Sale by member, Parker Brown: Good Slightly Used Federal Uniform and Equipment Items.

Sack Coat Size 46/48 Tall \$50; Sky Blue Kersey Trousers (slight seat wear but no holes) \$50; Haversack \$20; Cartridge Box (w/sling?) and tins \$70; U.S. Brass Belt Plate (no belt) \$1; Cap Box \$20;

Hardee (Dress) Hat with blue cord in size large \$20; Forage (fatigue) Cap Size Large \$30; Springfield (Rifle) Tool \$5; Canvas Suspenders One Size Fits All \$16; Contact Parker at parkerbrown2000@yahoo.com or (940) 483-8031.

For Sale by Ted Cross: any grade "Goex" Brand authentic black powder (Clark's favorite!) One Pound can for \$10; A plastic "tin" (new federal regulations) of 200 (not the old 250) "Dynamit Nobel" Brand (German) percussion caps for \$9. Prices good while current stock lasts. Ted lives in West Arlington and may be reached only by phone: (817) 429-6317. Shipping not available, you must pick up at his home or arrange for reasonable delivery; Clark can deliver your order to you at our next event, if you send money first.

For Sale by Ted Cross: "Parker Hale" Brand '53 Enfield Rifle Musket.

Blued. Parker Hales were made from the original patterns (tools) from which the original rifle muskets were manufactured in the nineteenth century. This brand Enfield is considered the best of the reproductions in regard to accuracy and authenticity. Lovingly cared

for by Ted, a firearms collector. Also comes with an ORIGINAL Enfield bayonet and rifle sling. \$700. Also for sale: An additional ORIGINAL Enfield bayonet for \$100.