

The UNION STANDARD

January 2008

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The Newsletter of the 1st United States Infantry, The Regulars

First event for 2008: January 12th

We will be gathering on January 12th for our annual first drill of the year. As usual we will meet after our drill to discuss, debate and vote on the 2008 calendar. What is unusual is that we will drill at the Farmers Branch Historical Park. Please arrive around 8:30am, so we can start to drill at 9am sharp.

An additional email will be sent out as we get closer to the date with driving directions.

<http://www.ci.farmers-branch.tx.us/ParksRec/Historicalpark.html>

1st U.S. Calendar

2008

January

12th Drill and 1st US meeting (voting on 2008 calendar), Farmers Branch Historical Park

February

8th – 10th Battalion Muster, Fort Washita, Oklahoma

March

28th – 30th 145 Anniversary of the Battle/Siege of Port Hudson, Louisiana

*Note: **Bold** are scheduled maximum effort events. *Italicized dates are available events or recruiting activities. **See website for full event calendar****

2008 Proposes Calendar

Men of the 1st, the Board has examined the events for next year and these are our recommendations for 2008. If you have any comments or recommendations please bring them to the January drill. We will discuss them and vote on the final schedule then. See you at drill in January.

J. Kevin Doughtie

Proposed Schedule for 2008

January 12th Drill, Farmers Branch Historical Park

February 8th-10th Muster, Fort Washita, OK

March 29th-30th Port Hudson (Baton Rouge, LA.)

April TBA Texas Forts Muster (Ft. Worth Stockyards)
****DATE HAS CHANGED**SEE ADDITIONAL LIST BELOW****

May 16th-18th Battle of Westport (K.C. Mo.)
****Possible North South Alliance Event****

August TBA Social

September 27th-28th Honey Springs OK

October TBA Drill or Tyler TX

November TBA OCP

December 6th-7th Prairie Grove AR

Below are some additional events for 2008 that are up for discussion and vote.

February 16th Twiggs Surrender (San Antonio) Saturday event only (morning and afternoon)

April 12th & 13th Muster with the 9th Texas at Fort Maybury Austin ****we're invited****

May 3rd & 4th Fort Chadbourn Days ****open invitation****

May 10th & 11th Texas Frontier Fort Days (Fort Stockyard) ****New Dates****

June 27th – 29th Gettysburg 145th invitational event
****Billed as reenactor event**limited to 2,000 each side****

July 4th – 6th Gettysburg 145th National Event

September 19th – 21st Chickamauga 145th

November 22nd & 23rd Liendo, Texas

Glen Hargis Rackensacker Award – Don Gross Recipient

December 8th marked the seventh presentation of the Glen Hargis Rackensacker as Don Gross was presented the 1st U.S.' most prestigious award. The ceremony was conducted at the Dallas Heritage Village at Old City Park. Past recipients of the award conducted the ceremony and they are Glen Hargis, Rick Brockman, Don Gates, and George Hansen. The formal ceremony contents are listed as follows.

Rick Brockman reads:

At the March 7th, 1998, Awards Ceremony at Samuell Farm, a new tradition within the 1st U.S. was instituted. In recognition of Glen Hargis 30 years of service to reenacting the Union Cause in North Texas, a new award was named in his honor. The Glen Hargis Rackensacker award is presented to the soldiers who have made a continuing and substantial contributions - time not money - to the unit over the years. What makes this award unique is that all future members will be selected by members who previously received the award.

The award itself is the white Maltese Cross, the emblem of the 2nd Division, 5th Corp. Company G of the 1st U.S. served in this Corp during the war. Afterward the White Cross came to represent all Regulars, regardless of where they served, at various reunions. The Cross is to be worn during formal or social occasions and those wearing it are to be recognized as "First Among Equals."

The first recipients of this signal honor are:

Glen Hargis
Gregg Benefiel
George Hansen

Subsequent recipients to receive this award are Mark Dolive, Rick Brockman and Don Gates.

Glen Hargis reads:

Comrades:

In time of war it is a given that mistakes will be made. It has ever been so in the past and is so now. No matter when that "now" is reckoned to be.

I, myself once led 500 men a mile out of their way on a simple march back to camp. I used to refer to this as "My 500 Mile Mistake" but it has been pointed out that since each and every one of those poor ground-pounders had to retrace his steps, it was in fact a 1,000 mile mistake.

In a similar blunder, the guiding lights of our movement have named a signal honor after me, "The Glen Hargis Rackensacker Award." In their defense, it is only fair to note that at the time, all those years ago, it was felt that my demise was

eminent and only swift action could do me honor ere I kicked it The fact that I stand before you now, demonstrably not dead, is a strong indication that predictions of any sort are, at most, chancy affairs.

Oh well, once the fat's in the fire it's long past retrieving.

So then, pressing forward to the business at hand:

Because of the time and toil he has invested in our cause

Because of his sweat equity you could indeed say

We call **Don Gross** FRONT AND CENTER to become a marked man.

Don Gates reads:

I am proud to announce that Don Gross is the seventh recipient of the Glen Hargis Rackensacker Award. Don's First U.S. Infantry service record is one which is unparalleled in the unit as his most significant contributions are:

- Joined Nov, 1994
- Son, Adam, appointed Lance Cpl March 1996
- May 1996 Don appointed Corporal by General Order #6
- June 1996 appointed member of Planning Committee for regional & national events.
- Sept 1996 appointed as an Instructor to review Casey's & Dom Bello's "Parade, Inspection & Basic Evolutions of the Infantry Battalion" and then place a course of instructions for the 1st US NCOs.
- Major contributor to the Union Standard newsletter with articles pertaining to:
 - After-action reports
 - Descriptions and explanations of company/battalion maneuvers
 - Company events
- Feb. 1997 elected 1st Sgt, Co. A, for '97 – '99 term
- 1998 Outstanding NCO Award, Co. A
- NTRS Secretary 1997 - 1999
- Elected Captain, Co. A, 1999 – 2001
- NTRS Secretary 1999 – 2001
- Elected Captain, Co. A, 2001 – 2003
- NTRS President 2001 – 2003
- Elected Senior Officer, 2003 - 2005
- NTRS President 2003 - 2005
- 2005 appointed 1st Battalion Commander, Frontier Brigade
- 2006 elected 1st Battalion Commander, Frontier Brigade

Don's most significant contribution to the First US is that in 1997 he authored the current NTRS Bylaws. "3 cheers for Don Gross, hip-hip hooray, hip-hip hooray, hip-hip hooray."

Glen Hargis' Reenacting Career
40 Year Anniversary

2008 marks the 40th year Glen Hargis has served as a Civil War reenactor in the North Texas area. Glen states that sutlers or near authentic clothing and equipment were almost nonexistent in 1968 as the uniform piece most sought after were the trousers from Sears, Roebuck & Co. Glen was one of four North Texas Reenactment Society officers listed on the 501 (c) (3) nonprofit application when the organization was formed in 1976. Glen has served at every officer and NCO rank for local and regional reenactments and was a major contributor to propelling Civil War reenacting in Texas and nearby states as a viable hobby and a spectator interest. He excels at Living History using his profound period knowledge and remains as the 1st US' premier "story teller."

A certificate was awarded to Glen Hargis at the recent Dallas Village Heritage outing. The document commemorates his 40-year service record and was signed by all attending NTRS members. The certificate verbiage is printed below. Without a doubt, Glen continually serves as the First U.S.' most treasured asset.

**TO ALL THAT SEE THESE
PRESENTS,**

GREETINGS

Whereas, 2008 marks forty years of service and dedication to Civil War Reenacting by

Glen Hargis,

the North Texas Reenactment Society hereby acknowledges and celebrates this major milestone.

Whereas, His devotion to authenticity, studious practice of the military arts and exercises, and his incessant love of living history makes him unparalleled within the reenacting circle.

Therefore, We the members of the North Texas Reenactment Society, attaching our signatures hitherto, do declare, recognize and witness Mr. Hargis as the most supreme of all Reenactors.

Presented on this day, the 8th of December 2008.

Texas and the CSA

Just prior to the American Civil War, elected delegates met in convention and, in an act whose legality was later upheld by the Texas Legislature, authorized secession from the U.S. on 1 February 1861 by a thundering majority. Texas voters later overwhelmingly approved the measure in referendum, and the state was accepted as a charter member by the provisional government of the Confederate States of America on 1 March 1861. Partly due to its distance from the front lines of the war, a major role for Texas was to supply hardy soldiers for Confederate forces (veterans of the Mexican-American War), especially in cavalry.

Texas was largely considered a "supply state" for the Confederate forces until mid-1863, when the Union capture of the Mississippi River made large movements of men or cattle impossible. The last battle of the Civil War was fought in Texas, at Palmito Ranch, on 12 May 1865, well after Lee's surrender on 9 April 1865 at Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

Texas descended into near-anarchy during the two months between the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia and the assumption of authority by Union General Gordon Granger, as Confederate forces demobilized or disbanded and government property passed into private hands through distribution or plunder.

Juneteenth commemorates the announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation on 19 June 1865 in Galveston by General Gordon Granger; nearly 1-1/2 years after the original announcement of 1 January 1863. President Johnson, on 20 August 1866, declared that civilian government had been restored to Texas. On 30 March 1870, although Texas did not meet all the requirements, the United States Congress readmitted Texas into the Union.



Field Cookin

Recently McFuddy treated the company to a true culinary delight, an early Christmas dinner at old city park. This year's effort was by all accounts vastly improved over the questionable quail or was it a dubious duck he tried to foist on the men last year. The source of his success this year may well have been the gentle but firm assistance of Mrs. Thomas, the company's laundress and frequent gastronomic savior. It also may have been that this year McFuddy confined himself to a creature with which he is more familiar. Not that he is known to have a pair of hip boots but he has been known to drone on endlessly about some juvenile sheep and some school girl named Mary. What ever the reason the feast was fantastic. We dined on roast leg of lamb with roasted potatoes and carrots and a side order of very tasty stew. Dinner was followed by coffee and pie, apple and pumpkin. Perhaps the most unusual feature of the entire feast was the hors-d'oeuvres. The men were presented with an assortment of bite size treats never before seen in the field at the same time. Everything from apples, mushrooms and mushroom dumplings to stuffed celery along with pickles and olives and more cheese than even George could eat. It was truly a great way to celebrate the holidays. All of which reminded your humble scribe of some tasty holiday recipes

The utensils required to prepare these recipes include a small and medium nesting pot and a large (12" minimum) cast iron skillet, a large tin bread pan, a spit for roasting, three covered stoneware crocks, clean jars for bottling, a cloth sieve or jelly bag, and a basting drip pan if you don't want to use the skillet for double duty. As always a large wood spoon is a handy utensil for these recipes. Also needed are a basting brush and a potato masher. The recipes are "Roast Turkey", "Mushroom Dodsups" and a variation of "Kentucky White Gravy". All three are taken from our favorite "A Taste for War", Stackpole Books, 2003, author William C. Davis.

ROAST TURKEY

First prepare a stuffing of skillet fried pork sausage, adding the meat and its fat to one beaten egg and mixing in the bread pan with one diced onion and enough dried bread crumbs to form stuffing balls. Pluck and clean the turkey, and then loosely pack the stuffing into the breast and body cavities. Stitch them closed, tie the wings to the body, and dust the bird with flour. Push the spit lengthwise through the bird, and then set it next to a blazing fire with the (cleaned) skillet or basting pan under it. Turn and baste the bird with melted butter for 15 minutes per pound. When about half done, dust¹ it with flour once more, and continue to baste with butter and roast until golden brown. Serve garnished with whatever is at hand, including sausage, dumplings, and boiled or roasted vegetables, and with gravy (see below)

KENTUCKY WHITE GRAVY

Add chicken stock or water (if these are a lot of basting juices) to the drippings in the basting pan to make a one quart mix. Pour the mixture into the small nesting pot and bring to a simmer. Add two tablespoons of butter and after it has melted, gradually stir in three tablespoons of flour until smooth. Continue to simmer and add cream slowly to bring the gravy to the desired thickness. Then flavor with a little Dogsup (Worcestershire sauce or vinegar may be substituted).

MUSHROOM DOGSUP

Line the bottom of a stoneware crock with mushroom caps, and sprinkle salt over them. Place another layer of mushrooms, salt over them and repeat until there are at least half a dozen layers. Let stand for 2-3 hours; then mash the mushrooms into a pulp in the crock. Cover, and let stand for two days, stirring and mashing again at least once or twice a day. After two days pour into the other stoneware crock, and add a half ounce of allspice and one and a half ounces of whole black peppercorns. Cover tightly and set in the medium nesting pot half full of boiling water for at least two hours. Pour and sieve the mixture into the other crock, using the sieve cloth or jelly bags. Do not press on or squeeze the mushroom pulp. Simmer the clarified solution in the crock until the liquid is reduced by half and has become very thick. Skim off any scum and pour the clear liquid into jars. Cover and let them stand overnight. Strain again with sieve cloth or jelly bags until the liquid is completely clear. Add one tablespoon of brandy for every pint of Dogsup. Again, let stand covered over night and strain in the morning. Bottle and store in a cool dry place.

*Y.M.C.S.
Cooky*

FRAZER BROTHERS **The Official Sutler of the**

1st U.S. Infantry

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