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# The UNION STANDARD

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April 2002

Vol. 10, no 4

## *The Newsletter of the 1<sup>st</sup> United States Infantry, The Regulars*

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“..... having for duty 56 enlisted men of the company. Of these, 4 were on guard, 1 baker, 2 teamsters, 4 prisoners, 3 cooks, 1 hospital attendant & 1 orderly & 40 men on parade. These men were on inspection in uniform except that some had dark & some light blue pantaloons and were well equipped for the field, in excellent order in every respect. They passed in review in quick & double quick time well. Went thro’ the light inf. Drill well and at skirmishes & thro’ the manual of the bayonet exercise well. And at target 6’ x 22” at 100 yards, 32 men, one round each, made 20 hits; at 200 yards made 18 hits; at 300 yards 9 hits. Equal at 100 yds. to 62 \_ percent, 200 yds. 56 \_ percent, 300 yds. 28 percent, the best ball practice I have seen.”

The above is from the report by Col. Joseph Mansfield, Inspector General, of Co K, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry, stationed at Fort Lancaster. Mansfield was on his final trip through Texas in 1860/61 and it serves as a good introduction to our drill this month.

From this extract a great deal can be discerned about life in the regular army on the Texas frontier just prior to the civil war. Guard mount, cooking, time in the guardhouse, and drill. We will be reliving a small part of this as we hold our drill at Fort McKavett on April 13/14. Fort McKavett was at one time home to four companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry after the Civil War. We’ll be living in the barracks where our namesakes lived and drilling where they drilled. This presents a unique opportunity to connect with our roots and I for one wouldn’t miss it for the world. We have free run of this State Historic site. The unit is providing rations to all. Drill is scheduled to start at 12:00 on Saturday and will end at 12:00 Sunday. The accommodations are superior to Fort Washita and in all honesty I think you’ll find the food better. We will concentrate on skirmish drill to include firing kneeling and prone. By the end we’ll be able to deploy on the left, right, and center, and by either flank at the quick and double quick just like they did in the above report. Our goal is to make this a realistic 24 hours with an eye to keeping it fun. (I’ve heard that the officers can be easily bribed to dispense with guard duty.)

In May we will be attending Bellmead. This is one of the nicer local events. Held on the north side of Waco its close enough to go down for just the day if you’re so inclined. Bellmead on Saturday is our drill for May. We should have a large turnout for that and I encourage you (especially the newer guys) to stay for the weekend. The folks in Waco know how to treat reenactors right. Although a little out of the Metroplex we will be recruiting there too.

June finds us in Gainesville for the Cross Timbers Reenactment. This first time event will be campaign style for the 1st. The site promises to be one of the better layouts for a local event and the scenarios should be interesting.

Recruiting has taken a turn for the better. Work at the Irish festival netted several prospects and we’ve already signed up new recruits. Scott Johansen volunteered to take over recruiting and has already thrown himself into the thick of things. Way to go Scott! Thanks for taking this on.

From April to June there should be something for everybody!

*-God Bless the regulars*

Don Gross

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Join us on the same parade ground *THEY* formed on –  
Drill at Fort McKavett, West Texas  
Weekend of April 13<sup>th</sup>

(directions and info follow)

# 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Calendar

**2002**

**APRIL**

**13-14** Ft. McKavett (Home of the real 1<sup>st</sup> in TX)

**MAY**

**18-19** Bellmead (or Grapevine recruiting if invited)

**JUNE**

**1-2** Cross Timbers (Gainesville)

**JULY**

NCO school (Date TBD)

**AUGUST**

Live fire (Date TBD)

**SEPTEMBER**

**14** Drill or outpost Tactical

**OCTOBER**

**4-6** Perryville (far far away!)

**NOVEMBER**

**11** Veterans Day Parade

**DECEMBER**

**6-8** Prairie Grove Reenactment (Prairie Grove Arkansas)

and *ruaille buaille* of the Irish musicians and the horrible Stout ale they were forcing on us God fearing, temperate troopers left and right. The names of the your new men will more than likely appear here shortly. Till then, be appraised that the Irish Festival turned out to be an outstandingly good event for the recruiting effort. Thanks to all who helped by falling in, and boundless thanks to your man Clark Kirby for the quality of the living history display.

Saoirse! (Sayr-sha "freedom!")

Alloysius McFuddy

(Editor...temporarily sober...)

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## All Present or Accounted for!

by Conway Barton

The average Federal infantry company at Gettysburg consisted of 30 officers and men. The average Confederate company had 35 officers and men.

The largest Federal regiment at Gettysburg was the 37th Massachusetts with 662 officers and men in ten companies. The smallest regiment was the 33rd New York with just 60 men listed for action. The number of companies for this regiment were not listed. Other Federal regiments of note were the 20th Maine with 386 men in ten companies and the 10th US Regulars with just 93 men distributed in three companies.

The largest Confederate regiment was the 26th North Carolina with 875 officers and men in ten companies. The 43rd North Carolina had 624 men in ten companies. Two of the smallest Southern regiments were the 27<sup>th</sup> Virginia with 150 men in seven companies and the 5th Alabama with 131 men in just four companies.

All of these figures were taken before the battle began and were obtained from the new book "Last Chance for Victory, Robert E. Lee and the Gettysburg Campaign" by TCU professors Scott Bowden and Bill Ward. Remember these numbers the next time you find yourself drilling in a company with around 30 men. Our ancestors at

## ROLL CALL!!!!!! Roster Additions

They never tell me nuthin'....that's normal in an outfit, specially if you're a private. The only thing I get told regular like is when I have guard mount, when I have kitchen duty or when I'm due to get out of the guardhouse. But I KNOW very well we had some new faces at the March drill at Old City Park. There were 5 new fish up in front of the company by the end of the drill introducing themselves. FIVE new lads! Fresh pickings! Sorry, I lost my head there for a bit of a moment. I mean FIVE new lads, most of whom got a good look at us at the Irish Festival. That's an uncommonly good number of recruits. A large measure of thanks to all who put up with the *ri-ra*

Gettysburg made do with just such numbers  
"present or accounted for."

## Living History

(as of March 22, 2002)

### Saturday evening, May 4th

A living history training session will be held at Clark Kirby's home in North Arlington. Speakers will be Glen Hargis, Ed Prejean, and Clark. We plan on spending a couple of hours (total) going over first person impressions, civil war era medicine & diseases (and how to simulate them), and period songs. We still need a piano player volunteer (we have the piano). You will need a songbook. For those who do not have a copy of Clark's Union Army Song Book and plan on attending, you will need to contact Clark to reserve one. They are free to 1st U.S. members. A hamburger dinner will be served, so a head count would be very helpful.

### Saturday, May 11th

The Circle Ten Council's annual "Scout Show" at Market Hall. This is an outdoor recruiting/living history opportunity. Musket firing and cooking demos are encouraged. (editor's note...we got McFuddy at this one...is that warning enough?)

### Tuesday evening, May 14th

Clark & Patty Kirby are giving a first person civil war presentation for the members of the Arlington Genealogy Society at the downtown Arlington Public Library. We still need a couple of members who can come as Confederate soldiers.

### Saturday & Sunday, May 18-19

The biannual regional reenactment at Bellmead, Texas. Look for some living history surprises!

### Summer, 2002

Six Flags Over Texas has approached the living history coordinator to see whether the unit would be interested in reprising it's 2001 performances at the park. The dates and times will be more flexible this time since our presentations will not be in conjunction with any particular "festival". More information will be available in the next issue of the "Union Standard".

Clark Kirby (Living History coordinator)

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## What I Did As A Soldier

By Don Gross

Ever wonder what life was like for the regular army on the Texas frontier prior to the civil War? I'd say they spent a lot of time on fatigue duty. For example:

*Maj. Joseph LaMotte and two companies of the First Infantry established Ringgold Barracks on October 26, 1848.*

*On March 13, 1849, Capt. Seth Eastman of the First Infantry began construction of Fort Inge on the east bank of the Leona River west of San Antonio in Uvalde County.*

*On March 27, 1849, Capt. Sidney Burbank with companies A, B, and F of the First Infantry established Fort Duncan.*

*On March 1, 1850, Capt. Samuel M. Plummer and Companies H and K of the First Infantry occupied what became Fort Merrill on the south bank of the Nueces River in Live Oak County. The post was abandoned on December 1, 1855.*

*On June 20, 1852, Maj. LaMotte and Companies C and E of the First Infantry began construction of fort Riley (later named Fort Clark).*

*On August 20, 1855, Capt. Stephen Carpenter with Companies H and K of the First Infantry marked off the location of Fort Lancaster.*

*On October 4 1857, Capt. J.N. Caldwell with companies A and D 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry established Fort Hudson on the road from Fort Clark to El Paso (78 miles from Clark and 97 miles from Ft Lancaster).*

*In March 1859 Lt. Sherburne and Company H, 1st Infantry began construction of Fort Stockton.*

The above is from Texas & New Mexico on the Eve of the Civil War, The Mansfield & Johnson Inspections. This book, edited by Jerry Thompson, transcribes the reports of Lt. Col. Joseph E. Johnston and Col. Joseph Mansfield's to the Inspector General's Office on the welfare, efficiency, and combat readiness of the troops stationed in Texas and New Mexico between 1859 and 1861. One sergeant and ten privates from Co I, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry escorted Mansfield on his 3 \_ month inspection tour.

Their reports discuss everything from the physical condition of the forts, to the drill and appearance of the men, to the cost of forage and flour. Contained in their reports is a wealth of information on the details of life on the frontier as opposed to accounts of battles or heroic acts. In addition to building new forts much time was spent on escort duty with five to ten soldiers on any given escort. The following all are extracts from inspection reports on 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry units.

*The company books were all in order and written up, 20 discharges in 1860, 7 desertions in 1857, 1 in 1858, 2 in 1859, 4 in 1860. It is rarely a company has so few desertions. I think it a test in some measure of a judicious discipline. The bakery was a good adobe building thatch-roofed, & a good oven, & there was a first rate baker, & good flour, & bread excellent.*

*Pvt. Heitciker, K, 1<sup>st</sup> Inf., complains that extra pay as baker, to the amount of about \$30 has been withheld from him. Cos. H & K, 1<sup>st</sup> Inf., then forming the garrison, have since been separated. It would be but just to require each of these companies to pay Heitcoker the portion it received of the money due to him. (The Sec'y of War directed that he be paid)*

*One of the musicians on parade was a drummer boy only 11 years old, enlisted by authority, is entirely too young & will not drum well for several years. He fills the place of a good musician. He is the son of a sergeant.*

*Three wagons & twenty mules are allowed for the camp. Corn costs \$1.48 per bushel, hay \$15.00 per ton, &*

*wood \$7.50 per cord. Provision is brought in monthly from Fort Lancaster, except salt meat, of which there is a supply for almost two years. Beef is furnished by contract at \$0.10 per pound.*

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## April Drill – Fort McKavett

April drill is at Fort McKavett in Menard county. Drill will begin at 12:00 on Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> and end at 1200 on Sunday. At one time four companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> were stationed at McKavett. Drilling there gives us a rare opportunity to be where the unit we portray actually was. Sort of like reenacting on the actual battlefield (another rarity). While drill actually starts on Saturday there will be an advance party going down Friday afternoon. Anyone who can make it Friday is more than welcome.

Rations will be provided by the unit (that's no cost to individuals). If you haven't done so yet please contact your company commander to let him know when you will be arriving so we can buy food accordingly. Rations will be in line those typically found in garrison.

Uniform is heavy marching order with 40 rounds. Be sure to bring a blanket (and sleeping pad if desired). The barracks have wooden bunks for all. Lanterns or candles and any camp chairs will add to your comfort. Officers should bring cots or be prepared to sleep on the floor as the men's barracks are better furnished than the officer quarters. Keep modern stuff to the absolute minimum. For 24 hours we will strive to experience life as an isolated company on the Texas frontier in 1860. We will have an OD but no guard mount since we need everyone involved in drill. We will have the supplies to mark your gear. We will concentrate on skirmishing to include firing kneeling and prone.

Schedule as follows:

Friday: advance party

Dinner available for late arrivals

Saturday: Breakfast, post organization

12:00 Formation, roll call, inspection

Platoon Drill

Platoon Skirmish instruction

Firing kneeling and prone

Platoon skirmish to include firing

Company skirmishing

Musket cleaning and maintenance

Parade (close of the duty day)

Dinner

Shirt making, equipment marking

Soldier activities

Sunday Reveille, roll call

Breakfast

Pack up

Morning formation in heavy marching  
order  
Skirmishing  
12:00 depart McKavett

## Directions

There are two sets of directions.... one to get you almost there, and the second to get you up to and inside the gate. I'm thinking this is better than all those other times where the directions you get are just mostly right and put you in the geographic vicinity of the event, but don't quite put you in the parking lot for it! After that is further info concerning our stay. Hope to see your cheery faces at the fort!

## **The Approach.....**

The first object is to get to BROWNWOOD. There are three options depending on the individual:

**Take I-20 west to Cisco, South on 183 to Brownwood.**

OR

**I-20 west to the southwest corner of Fort Worth, turn south on 377 to Stephenville, continue on 377/67 to Brownwood**

OR

**Southwest out of Dallas on 67 to Stephenville, continue on 377/67 to Brownwood.**

From Brownwood---**South on 377 to Brady**  
From Brady take **190 west to Menard (17 miles from fort)**

At Menard continue **west on 190 to the junction of 864/1674**

At that intersection turn south (left) to the FORT.

## **The last hundred yards (or so...)**

### **Saturday Arrivals.**

From Menard, go West on US 190. Approximately 17 miles from Menard, you will see a sign for Fort McKavett, SHS (FM864), you will turn left at this intersection. The town of Fort McKavett is about 6 miles south of the intersection of FM864 and US 190. Just before you enter the town, you will cross the San Saba River at a low water crossing. At the top of the rise coming from this low water crossing you will see the Fort McKavett Trading Post on the right, followed by the Post Office and the shells of

two historic buildings. Several yards past the Post Office will be a gate in the Park's perimeter fence (on your right), which will be your point of entry. Look for the sign. Park outside the OOD Quarters and report to the Officer of the Day to complete the required paper work and receive instruction on park and TPW safety rules. Bring information about your Health Insurance providers in the event of an injury that might render you incapable of giving this information to Health Care professionals.

## **For Friday Arrivals:**

Directions for the Advance Party will be the same except they will proceed past the first gate. You will pass the rear of Captain's Row on your right, after which you will see a modern building which is the Park Superintendent's Residence, and you will enter the gate which is just past the Residence. This gate will be lit with a railroad lantern if you arrive, the Residence will be on your right and the Maintenance Building will be in an enclosure on your left. Depending on your time of arrival, there should be a member of Staff or a Volunteer in or near the Maintenance building. If not, park in the grassy area to the immediate left of the Residence and walk to one of the Officer's Quarters (either #10 or #9) immediately behind the residence. There should be a Volunteer in one or both of those buildings. Please do not disturb occupants of the residence or knock on the door. If you arrive after 10 PM, park in the area noted above and walk to Quarters Number 9, which will have a lighted lantern hanging on the verandah and a swallow tail "National Colors" style guidon out front, and knock on the door.

## **Further reading!!!!!!**

Gentlemen;

Have just returned from a week at Fort McKavett. Staff and Volunteers are eagerly anticipating your arrival at the Fort for your Muster on the weekend of April 12. There should be adequate room to billet all participants in the South bay of Barracks Number 4, NCO Quarters, and

OOD Office. There are 15 bunks in this barracks bay, and if needed, we can move some bunks from the North bay to the NCO Quarters and OOD with the understanding that any furniture moved would be moved back to their original location upon your departure. We ask that some individuals be designated to remain at the Fort after the event to aid in cleanup and replacement of any furniture moved.

Skirmish practice may take place either on the parade ground or north of the long barracks in the old Cavalry exercise area. If the Parade Ground is used, we would ask that a man be stationed near Officer's Quarters Number 2 (Southwest corner of the Parade Ground) to direct any visitors that may be coming from the Visitors Center away from the direction of fire.

Skirmishing may also take place in other areas of the park if you wish, but we would have to discuss which areas and establish rules and understandings for their use.

The two areas mentioned are those that are most convenient for Staff to supervise, and are regarded as those safest for participants and visitors.

Cooking may be done inside one of the bays of the ruins of Barracks Number 3 (On the North side of the parade ground). You may use one of the existing hearths in which to build a fire. We cannot at this time authorize fires inside any of the standing historic buildings, but the weather should be warm enough that fires in the buildings should not be necessary. We have a large supply of fire wood.

We recommend that all drivers top off their gas tanks in Menard, as gasoline in Fort McKavett is provided by one vendor with one pump (nearly an antique) and the supply is somewhat spotty. The advance party will have a different point of entry into the Park than that shown for Saturday arrivals.

You should bring Lanterns or Candles to light the OOD Quarters at night, and perhaps a lantern and holder to place outside. There are hidden electric lights in the barracks if you wish to use them, or you may light with lanterns. The use of open flame in the barracks is discouraged. There is a small chair and table with a pigeon hole

box in the OOD Quarters, but you may wish to add some other camp furniture of your own to establish the proper ambiance. Maps, pictures, or bulletin boards must be designed to be free standing. Stone walls cannot be punctured with nails, screws, or other fastening devices for any purpose. Bulletin boards, etc., may be hung from the porch ceiling joists outside of buildings using rope or twine only, and should be removed upon your departure.

As previously stated, Parks and Wildlife requires us to charge a fee for the use of the barracks and other buildings, but we have the freedom of establishing that fee. The fee has been established by Park Staff at \$1.00 per person per night, with no charge to the Advance Party for Friday night.

We do hope, however, that your members will take the opportunity to make donations to the Friends of Fort McKavett, or to our Lonestar Legacy fund. Donation boxes will be placed near your quarters for this purpose.

In order to prevent Visitors or unauthorized personnel from entering the North Gate, we will have to lock it if the OOD Quarters becomes unoccupied. We therefore recommend that Saturday arrivals plan their departures from home to arrive at the Fort between 9 and 10 AM in order to keep vehicular traffic through the post during operating hours to an absolute minimum. In order to facilitate this, we will waive the Friday night barracks fee for anyone arriving before dawn Saturday as we can consider them as being "Advance Party." Members arriving who find the North Gate locked, or those arriving after 11:00 AM, will have to proceed past this gate and the maintenance gate and enter the Park's main gate to report in to the Visitors Center for instructions. These late arrivals will not be able to unload at the barracks or drive through the park while visitors are on site.

We are looking forward to your stay, and hope this is the beginning of a long and mutually beneficial relationship.

Kent Vining  
Ft. McKavett Staff

## Selected reading from Customs of Service

### Take care of your Health

10. If you will drink spirits it is incomparably safer to do so *after* an effort than before, for it gives only transient strength, lasting but a few minutes. As it can never be known how long any given effort is to last, --and if longer than a few minutes, the body becomes more feeble than it would have without the stimulus, -- it is clear that the use *before* an effort is hazardous, and is unwise.
12. Stew or boil your meat always. Roasting and frying are wasteful and unhealthy modes for camp cooking (particularly frying).
20. Whenever possible, take a plunge into any lake or running stream every morning, as soon as you get up. If none at hand, endeavor to wash the body all over, as soon as you leave your bed; for personal cleanliness acts like a charm against all diseases, always either warding them off altogether, or greatly mitigating their severity and shortening their duration.
21. Keep the hair of the head closely cut, say within an inch and a half of the scalp in every part, repeated on the first of each month, and wash the whole scalp plentifully in cold water every morning.
22. Wear woolen stockings and moderately loose shoes, keeping the toe and finger nails cut close. Wash the stockings whenever soiled, and the underclothing once a week (and stay away from me...). Thoroughly dry both.
23. It is important to wash the feet well every night (not in the morning); because it aids to keep the skin and nails soft, to prevent chafing, blisters, and corns, all of which greatly interfere with a soldiers duty.
24. If the feet begin to chafe, rub the socks with common soap where they come in contact with the sore places. If you rub the feet well with

soap (hard soap) before the march, you will scarcely be troubled with sore feet.

28. If wet to the skin by rain or swimming rivers, keep in motion until the clothes are dried; and no harm will result.
30. Water can be made almost ice-cold in the hottest weather by closely enveloping a filled canteen or other vessel, with woolen cloth kept plentifully wetted and exposed.
31. While on the march, lie down the moment you halt for a rest. Every minute spent in that position refreshes more than five minutes standing or loitering about.
37. The men should sleep in their shirts and drawers removing the shoes, stockings, and outer clothing, except when absolutely impracticable. Sleeping in the clothes is never so refreshing, and is absolutely unhealthy.

There's some useful things for you lads. Keeping your feet healthy and getting a nice bit of a rest are always advisable. And you fresh fish wondered why we have a nice wool lining on our bloody canteens, and now you know. Use it!

But best of all, there it is lads... laying down during march is highly recommend. Fie on your officers if they get after you for it boys, tell them you read it in the customs of the bloody service...

## REMINDER

Newsletter contributions - E-Mail/Mailing submissions to **The Union Standard** – [D1stus@gte.net](mailto:D1stus@gte.net) or C/O Alan Prendergast, 1403 Barclay Drive, Carrollton Texas, 75007 (please help out by using Times New Roman font if available on your machine...)

Newsletter – contact George Hansen if you did not receive your newsletter, [beast1st@attbi.com](mailto:beast1st@attbi.com) or (972) 529-5349.

Address/Telephone changes – any mailing/e-mail address changes or telephone number

changes should be submitted to John Bowen,  
[bowen01@dellepro.com](mailto:bowen01@dellepro.com) or (972) 539-6167.

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