
The UNION STANDARD

Feb 2003

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

Dispatch from the Board

What an excellent drill in Arlington. We had 38 men present including six fresh fish and a visitor from the 173rd. Way to start off the year. The NCOs must have done a good job. The maneuvers at the end were for the most part well executed. Especially impressive was the forward into line from marching by the **left flank**. Well done.

At the end of drill we discussed and voted on events for the coming year. **February 8/9** is Ft McKavett; **March 29/30** is Beaumont Ranch, a first time event just south of Fort Worth; **April 5/6** is the Brigade Muster at Prairie Grove; **April 26** is a Tactical near Decatur; **May 17** is a max effort Drill in conjunction with Granbury; **August** will be the annual Live Fire; and **September 27/28** is Middle Boggy (Atoka), OK. We voted not to attend Gettysburg as a unit. The fall events (Oct. tactical, Camp Ford) were left open at this time until we get more information.

As you can see this entire issue of the newsletter is fairly devoted to Fort McKavett.

We are going back in time to February 8/9, 1861. This is an excellent opportunity to experience garrison life on the frontier without the boredom, drudgery, and poor food. We'll have the opportunity to learn and practice some of the skills the old regulars had that we normally don't get a chance to use. All of the background information presented is from the Official Records. Other information has been tailored to our presence at McKavett, but is in keeping with what was going on 142 years ago.

The absentee/proxy ballots are included in this newsletter. Use them if you are eligible to vote and if you can't attend the Ft. McKavett event. Get your absentee ballots to Steve Sanders by Thursday, February 7th. Proxy votes can be turned in to any regular member.

See you in the field.

Don Gross

Join us on the same parade ground *THEY* formed on –
Drill at Fort McKavett, West Texas
Weekend of February 8th
(Directions – Page 4)



1st U.S. Calendar

2003

FEBRUARY

7-9 Ft. McKavett, Texas (Secession!?! , WAR?)

MARCH

28-30 Beaumont Ranch, (Cleburne) Texas

APRIL

4-6 Brigade Muster, Prairie Grove, AR
26th Tactical – Vicinity of Decatur, Texas

MAY

17th Drill – **MAX EFFORT** – Granbury, TX

AUGUST

(TBD) Live Fire

SEPTEMBER

26-28 Battle of Middle Boggy (Atoka) OK

OCTOBER

(TBD) Tactical

NOVEMBER

(TBD) Camp Ford

RECRUITING for REGULARS

by George Hansen

It has been many years since I've written this column. The ranks within the First U.S. have noticeably declined in the past few years and attention must be paid to this, or else we'll soon become a one-company unit. The metroplex can provide us three Federal companies and it should be our objective to strive for that goal. It is my pleasure to again assume the recruiting reins and I call upon each of you to contribute in some fashion. Ask your friends, neighbors, business cohorts, or anyone you come in contact with who you think will enjoy our hobby. Seriously, don't you want to share your fun with others? The "Gods and Generals" movie should peak good interest and we need to tap into that resource. See my article elsewhere about recruiting at your local movie theater.

William Ray and I discussed at the January drill what upcoming local events offer the best recruitment opportunities and they are:

- "Gods & Generals"
- Irish Festival – March 1-2
- Beaumont Reenactment – March 29-30
- Granbury Reenactment – May 17-18

These are excellent possibilities and we must make the most of them. Irish Festival volunteers will be requested in a future e-mail so stay tuned.

I will soon put together a Recruiting Committee and if you would like to help, trust me, I can use it. The committee members will help at recruiting events (attendance is voluntary, not mandatory), suggest proposed recruiting events, and formulate ideas as to how we can best get more enrollees.

2003 offers to be a banner year for the 1st for shoring our ranks, but all of us need to roll up our sleeves and pitch in. Can we count on you?

"Gods & Generals" – Recruiting

The much-anticipated "Gods & Generals" movie release is scheduled for late January, early February. As with "Gettysburg," members of the First are asked to visit with the manager at your favorite theater and inquire about recruiting in full uniform when "Gods and Generals" is shown. Civilians are also encouraged to participate. It is probably best not to bring your rifle in order not to violate any local firearms' ordinances. Recruiting brochures will be sent for your use. Immediately contact George Hansen if you successfully secure a recruiting opportunity, as other 1st US members might be available to assist you. George's e-mail is beast1st@attbi.com and his phone number is (972) 529-534.

IRISH FESTIVAL – (special attention!!! McFuddy)

Never an event to be missed, especially if you like big dogs (arragh! - more like horses), traditional Irish music, Guinness or Harp beer and the genial company of the brothers Pat & Mike McFuddy, perennial recruiters at this event. We don't get as many Irish as *WE'D* like, but that never stops us from going! (Could it be the beer?)

My Friends of the 1st U.S.,

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate all of your kind words since my Dad's passing. The beautiful flower spray was greatly appreciated and all of your many cards and messages of sympathy has provided much comfort.

It's very gratifying to know that even in these days of fast-paced living and tight personal schedules you all were thinking of me and took the time to express your feelings toward my family. Typically I can say something about any subject at any time. Now words escape me, and what I say here is inadequate to express my affection for all of you.

Your friend and comrade,

Gregg Benefiel

Things Regulars Knew and Understood

The following is taken from August V. Kautz's *Customs of Service*. It's self-explanatory.

93. When sentinels are required to remain at their posts at all hazards, the soldier has no alternative except to die at his post if necessary. No nobler death can fall to the lot of a soldier; whilst no greater ignominy can befall him than desert his post in time of danger, when the lives of others are dependent upon the performance of his duty.

94. To be surprised, or to fall asleep, in times of danger, is a crime of the gravest character, and punishable by death. Sometimes, when popular violence is threatened, the courage and firmness of a single sentinel may intimidate and keep back a mob, whilst timidity and doubt might encourage them. True courage will defend the post to the last. No man can desire a nobler death than to die in the cause of right.

The general orders for all sentinels at all posts are:

I am required to take charge of this post and all public property in view; to salute all officers passing, according to rank; to give the alarm in case of fire, or the approach of the enemy, or any disturbance whatsoever; to report all violations of the Articles of War, regulations of the Army, or camp or garrison orders; at night, to challenge all persons approaching my post, and to allow no one to pass without the

countersign until they are examined by an officer or non-commissioned officer of the guard.

The men were expected to know the General Orders as well as the Special Orders that would pertain to their particular post and tour of duty.

A Primer For Guard Mount

The following are extracted from the US Army regulations.

399. Sentinels will be relieved every two hours, unless the state of the weather, or other causes, should make it necessary or proper that it be done at shorter or longer intervals.

401. The countersign, or watchword, is given to such persons as are entitled to pass during the night, and to officers, non-commissioned officers, and sentinels of the guard.

409. Neither officers nor soldiers are to take off their clothing or accoutrements while they are on duty. (This means for the entire time period you are on guard duty, normally 24 hours)

415. Sentinels must keep themselves on the alert.....They will carry their arms habitually at support, or on either shoulder, but will never quit them. In wet weather at secure arms.

418. In case of disorder, a sentinel must call out the guard. If the danger be great, he must discharge his firelock before calling. (You're loaded on guard duty)

424. After retreat until broad daylight, a sentinel challenges every person who approaches him, taking, at the same time, the position of arms port. He will suffer no person to come nearer than within reach of his bayonet, until the person has given the countersign. (Bayonets are fixed on guard duty)

425. A sentinel challenging, will call out – ***“Who comes there?”*** If answered – ***“Friend, with the countersign,”*** he will reply – ***“Advance friend with the countersign.”*** If answered – ***“Friends”*** he will reply – ***“Halt friends, advance one with the countersign.”***

For Corporals, Guard Duty is the most important duty they can have. He needs to know the duties of the sentinel and instructs the members of the guard in their duties.

Normally there is a corporal for each relief. It is his duty to parade the relief, instruct it, and post it. They need to make the rounds (check up on the sentinels) and report all neglect of duty. At night they pass the countersign to the sentinels going on duty. Afterwards, each sentinel passes it on to his relief.

The role of Sergeant of the guard is to supervise the corporals and do the paperwork. He is also responsible for any prisoners. The officer of the guard supervises it all to include making rounds.

Ft. McKavett Directions

The first objective is to get to BROWNWOOD. There are three options depending on your preference:

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 FM864/FM1674**

At that intersection turn south (left) & then 6 miles to the FORT.

.....

Elections to be Held

In accordance with the Bylaws the 1st US will hold its Bi-annual elections at the February meeting at Ft McKavett. Standards for rank were published and eligibility to vote is in the Bylaws:

Article IV, Voting.

1. Only dues paid Regulars, Recruits, and Civilians are eligible to vote.
2. Regulars and Civilians must attend four meetings in the previous year to vote.
3. Recruits who have been members for at least 60 days and attend one meeting during that time in the previous year can vote.
4. Regulars and civilians can give written consent for proxy voting to other Regulars.
5. Regulars and civilians can send an absentee ballot to the election chair prior to the election.

This year's elections are under the direction of Steve Sanders and the election committee of Beck Martin and Ed Prejean. There were enough volunteers to come forward and run so that there are at least two candidates for each position. For those not able to make the February meeting an absentee ballot or proxy statement is located in this newsletter.

Remember, your dues need to be paid up and you must have attended four meetings in the past year.

Article II, Organization.

A. Unit will generally be organized along the military rank structure found in the Regular Army of the 1860s.

B. Election of Officers, Board of Directors and Regiment Ranks:

1. The unit will elect a Board of Directors as follows: The military ranks will elect two company grade officers, six NCOs, and two military representatives at large. The civilian organization associated with the 1st US, with at least ten active members, may elect a representative at-large to serve on the board.

We are electing the Board of Directors, which is the governing body of the unit. Their job is twofold. They provide the legal direction for the unit (we are a 501 (c) (3), incorporated in the state of Texas) and, with the exception of the two members at-large, also have field command duties (officer or NCO). Every election year at the first board meeting following the elections the Directors elect from among themselves the corporate officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer).

REMINDERS

Newsletter contributions - E-Mail/Mailing submissions to

The Union Standard –

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 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 or (972) 539-6167.

Orders to Fort McKavett

Companies A and D 1st US will proceed to Ft McKavett for drill on February 7-9. Drill will officially commence at 1200 on Saturday and end at 1200 on Sunday. NCOs, Officers, key personnel, and all who can make it, should plan to arrive on Friday evening. We will occupy the barracks, OD shack, Sibly tent, and Officer quarters if needed. Rations are provided.

The men should have heavy marching order, knapsack or bedroll, (we will need it for a small portion of the weekend) and 20 rounds. Additional equipment should include: blanket and bedding; lantern; work gloves; camp furniture (if desired); and a cot (if you have one – there are approximately 24 beds available). Other garrison items such as musical instruments are encouraged.

For those arriving by dinnertime Friday roasted lamb will be served. There will be company stores available for late arrivals. There will be a bread issue from the bakery on Saturday. And its rumored that there will be a sweet treat Saturday evening.

Unit elections will take place Saturday evening.

Your attention is called to the following orders:

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY
Washington, January 18th, 1861

Lieutenant Co. W.H. Emory
COMMANDING OFFICER, FORT COBB:

SIR:

In pursuance of special instructions, dated Headquarters U.S. Army Jan 12th, you will direct one company of infantry of your command to march immediately to Fort McKavett, Department of Texas. For this purpose additional transportation will this day be sent you from the quartermaster's depot at Fort Smith.

You are instructed to determine if there remains any government property at Fort McKavett, any ordnance, ordnance stores, cavalry or infantry clothing, livery goods, wagons or other military stores. Officers in charge of the detail are to rendezvous with a company of infantry to be dispatched from the Department of Texas and cooperate with them in inventorying any equipment, and if necessary securing and removing if feasible. If military stores cannot be salvaged they are to be destroyed in place. Stores of civilian usage may be left at your discretion.

Owing to the delicacy of the situation with regard to the states in secession from the Republic you are, under no circumstances, to initiate military action. If in doubt you are to withdraw to Fort Cobb and await further orders.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E.D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant-General

SAN ANTONIO, January 27th, 1861

To the COMMANDING OFFICER, CAMP VERDE:

SIR:

I am directed by the commanding general of the department to address you as follows:

The secession conventions in several southern states have acted to secede from the Union. It is expected the State of Texas may follow suit. With that in mind you are to dispatch 1 company of infantry and transport to the location of Fort McKavett in the Department of Texas. There you will rendezvous with a second company of infantry to be dispatched from Fort Cobb, Indian Territories.

You are instructed to ascertain the presence of government property at that location that may be worthy of salvage. A proper inventory of such property is to be taken and forwarded to this office.

If it is deemed inappropriate to salvage any material on post you are to take all necessary action to ensure said property is destroyed or made otherwise unavailable for use by possible secessionist forces.

You are ordered to take whatever action necessary to secure and or destroy the material but must avoid conflict with State forces possibly in the vicinity.

By order of Brevet Major-General Twiggs:

W. A. NICHOLS,
Assistant Adjutant-General

Soldier Deaths at Fort McKavett

36 Enlisted Men Died between 1852 and 1859 while stationed at Ft McKavett. In 1852 there were 18, 1853-17, 1854-0, 1855-4, 1856-6, 1857-2, 1858-3, and 1859-0. The following list is from when the 1st was stationed at McKavett. Soldiers listed as “Temp on Post” were recruits that had not been assigned their permanent Company.

1855

Month	Died	Companies	Regiment
Jan	0		
Feb	0		
Mar	0		
Apr	0		
May	0		
Jun	0		
Jul	1	(1) “G”	2 ND Dragoons
Aug	1	(1) “C”	1 st Inf
Sep	1	(1) “C”	1 st Inf
Oct	1	(1) Temp at Post	1 st Inf
Nov	0		
Dec	0		

1858

Month	Died	Companies	Regiment
Jan	1	(1) “E”	1 st Inf
Feb	0		
Mar	0		
Apr	0		
May	0		
Jun	0		
Jul	0		
Aug	0		
Sep	1	(1) “F”	1 st Inf
Oct	0		
Nov	0		
Dec	1	(1) “F”	1 st Inf

1856

Month	Died	Companies	Regiment
Jan	0		
Feb	0		
Mar	0		
Apr	1	(1) Temp on Post	1 st Inf
May	0		
Jun	1	(1) “E”	1 st Inf
Jul	1	(1) “E”	1 st Inf
Aug	2	(2) “C”	1 st Inf
Sep	0		
Oct	0		
Nov	0		
Dec	0		

1859

Month	Died	Companies	Regiment
Jan	0		
Feb	0		
Mar	0		
Apr	xxxxx		
May	xxxxx		
Jun	xxxxx		
Jul	xxxxx		
Aug	xxxxx		
Sep	xxxxx		
Oct	xxxxx		
Nov	xxxxx		
Dec	xxxxx		

1857

Month	Died	Companies	Regiment
Jan	2	(1) “D” (1) Temp	1 st Inf
Feb	0		
Mar	0		
Apr	0		
May	0		
Jun	0		
Jul	0		
Aug	0		
Sep	0		
Oct	0		
Nov	0		
Dec	0		

There is no record of these men being moved to San Antonio National Cemetery. The following are the two known men of the 1st. Pvt. Daniel Herne, died 1/27/57; and Pvt. Louis Bauer, died 4/26/56.

The above was gleaned from Fort McKavett State Park records.

Yearly Membership Dues

Yes, it is that time again for everyone to pay their yearly membership fee. The annual \$25 cost is applicable to individuals/families and is now due. Please make your check payable to **NTRS**, not the 1st U.S. Any check payable to anything other than the NTRS will be returned, as our bank will only accept items payable to NTRS. Please use the below 2003 Dues Form as this form serves a valuable tracking device. *Also, in order to vote in the upcoming election yearly dues must be paid as in accordance with the Bylaws.*

Thank you.

George Hansen
NTRS Treasurer

NTRS

2003 DUES FORM

NTRS Dues	\$ 25
TOTAL	\$ _____

NTRS Member Name(s):

Make check payable to **NTRS** and mail this form to:

George Hansen
3407 Palmtree Dr.
McKinney, TX 75070

Remember, check or money order must be made out to:

NTRS

1st US Infantry Regiment

Field Mess - Menu

Dates: 7-9 February 2003

Location: Menard, Texas (Fort McKavett)

Friday 2/7/03

Dinner: (6 o'clock to 7 o'clock PM)

- 1) Coffee
- 2) Lamb on Spit
- 3) Potatoes, Onions & Carrots
- 4) Bread

Late Night: (Till lights out)

- 1) Coffee
- 2) Company Stores

Saturday 2/8/03

Ration Issue: Soft Bread from Post Bakery

Breakfast: (7 o'clock to 7 1/2 o'clock AM)

- 1) Coffee
- 2) Bacon
- 3) Eggs
- 4) Cheese
- 5) Potatoes

Lunch: (11 1/2 o'clock AM to 12 noon)

- 1) Vegetable Soup
- 2) Peaches

Dinner: (6 o'clock to 7 o'clock PM)

- 1) Coffee
- 2) Ham
- 3) Beans
- 4) Pie

Late Night: (Till lights out)

- 1) Coffee
- 2) Company Stores

Sunday 2/9/03

Breakfast: (7 o'clock to 7 1/2 o'clock AM)

- 1) Coffee
- 2) Oatmeal or Cornmeal Mush

NOTES ON DRILL: From Customs of Service

Under the section for First Sergeants. (McFuddy says I ain't learnin nuthin? Well this will show him otherwise!)

429. When the music has ceased, (that would be me, whistling....) the first sergeant commands, "*Attention!*" whereupon the company, if at parade rest, take *the position of the soldier* (presumably this would be attention....), **and if with arms, the first sergeant adds, "Support Arms". The roll is then called, commencing with sergeants, then corporals, then buglers or musicians, and finally privates.** As each name is called they answer "HERE" (reminder for old hands not "here first sergeant") **and if with arms at a support they come to the shoulder and finally to order arms immediately on answering to their names.**

Normally we don't do weapons at roll call, but in the event we should, you should try and remember to do as above. I think we should do one roll call with weapons at McKavett just as part of the drill.

The other modification concerns when we have two companies formed (as we sometimes DO...) and in that case I think we should do it because it will be the period correct appearance (and thing to do...) for our division. Who knows, maybe it will catch on at the battalion level!

426. There should be a uniform method of forming the company; and there is no reason why there should be a difference in the different corps or in different regiments. The company should be sized. **In all the odd-numbered companies the tallest men are placed on the right, diminishing in size to the left, and in the even numbered companies the tallest man should be on the left, diminishing in size to the right, -** the principle being that in each division the tallest men should be on the flanks, and the shortest in the centre; the regimental front will thus present a level line, and there will be apparent uniformity in size of the entire regiment.

1st US 2003 Election Absentee Ballot

Submit in lieu of a proxy vote

Absentee ballot must be delivered to the election chair (Steve Sanders – 8012 Emerald Crest Drive, Apt 221, White Settlement, TX 76108) 3 days prior to Election Day. I understand that there are no provisions in this ballot for run-off elections. Circle choices.

Senior Officer (vote for one)

Mark Dolive
Don Gross

Sergeant (vote for 3)

Greg Fett
Clark Kirby
Jim Kirkendall
Brook Thomas

Member at Large (vote for two)

Kip Bassett
Rick Brockman
Kevin Doughty
Gene Fogerty
Brook Thomas
Brad Walsh

Junior Officer (vote for one)

John Bowen
Clark Kirby

1st Sergeant (vote for one)

Alan Prendergast
Brook Thomas

Corporal (vote for two)

Gene Fogerty
Don Gates
Sean Prendergast
Brook Thomas
Brad Walsh

_____ Write in

_____ Write in

Signed: _____

I certify that I am eligible to vote according to Article IV NTRS Bylaws

Date: _____

----- cut here -----

1st US 2003 Election Proxy Vote

Submit in lieu of an absentee ballot

Proxy ballot may be delivered to any regular member prior to Election Day. You may provide special written instruction for balloting or give your proxy total freedom to vote as he sees fit on all ballots.

I, (please print) _____ release my proxy to (please print) _____, Company _____.

This ballot may be used for all Regimental Ballots.

Signed: _____

I certify that I am eligible to vote according to Article IV NTRS By Laws

Date: _____

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The Union Standard

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