

# ***THE MESSENGER***

The Fifth Missouri Infantry, (CSA), Inc.  
431 SE "Y" Hwy, Warrensburg, MO 64093

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**CONTENTS:** Minutes of the banquet meeting, reprint of the main differences in the draft Corporate By-laws, excerpts from the MCWRA meeting minutes, Tid-Bits from the banquet, a safety item swiped from the Holmes Brigade newsletter, and your 1993 Dues Notice!

**PERSONNEL:** Congrats to new Vets Tony Morris, Mike Meoli & vet transfer Doug Harding. Brandi Chisam & her brother are our latest members, with membership number 100! Our membership as of now is 70 combatants, 23 non-combatants, 13 associates (7 of whom are combatants).

**1993 DUES:** Your 1993 dues notice is enclosed as the last page of this issue. Please get your dues in ASAP, since if I don't have them in to MCWRA by the end of January you won't be in the annual membership roster. Remember, if you intend to participate in the field in Missouri, you must be an MCWRA member and a active member of the 5th.

**ANNUAL BANQUET:** If you missed it, you missed a good time! If you paid for, then missed the event, we'll credit your payment against your dues.

**AN INVITATION:** Y'all all are invited to Judy Rigg's Comemorative Christmas Party (that's where we decided to start the 5th, back in 1989) on Dec 19th. BYO everything (covered dish, service, beverages) & RSVP to Judy at 816-429-1448.

**INCORPORATION:** We are now incorporated & busily working on By-laws that will meet the IRS standards. We hope to be in position to adopt them at the January annual meeting.

**SPRING DRILL:** We're working on holding our spring drill at Battle of Lexington SHS, in late April. We'll help from the SHS, & we'll put on a display for them, then finish up with honors at Higginsville for Confederate Memorial day.

**INAUGURAL PARADE:** We agreed to march in Gov. Carnahan's inaugural parade, Jan 11. Call Bill or your Corporal if you can participate!

**MCWRA DIRECTORS:** Congratulations to our new MCWRA Directors: *David Kesinger* is President-Elect (1994 President). *Todd Conner* will fill David's unexpired director term. Other directors are *Steve Allie* (Treasurer), *Linda Cannrell*, & *Mark Strother*. Western Campaigner editor is Dave Christie (TMR).

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Our annual meeting (& drill) is noon, Saturday, January 16, 1993. We'll alternate drill & meeting to keep people warm & so we'll be sharp for Murfreesboro. It'll be at *Embree Electric, State Fair & Main St, Sedalia*. To find it, from US 65/US 50 junction in Sedalia, take US 65 North to Main St exit just before the overpass. When you reach Main St, turn left about 2 blocks. From US 65 north, cross the railroad overpass, turn right at the first intersection, turn right again & go north to Main St. Turn left to Main/State Fair.

## Minutes of Meeting held November 21, 1992

A meeting was held on 21 Nov 1992; in conjunction with the Annual Banquet at the Sedalia Best Western Motel. The President called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM: present were Veterans Ballman, Bears, Daleen, Dressel, Durrill, Faight, Ford, Goldsberry, Kisner, Lee, Riggs, D. Roberts, Robertson, Sherrer, Tucker & Wayne; Recruits Baker, Gilger, Houk, Linthicum, Meoli, Moore, R. Morris, T. Morris, & Swigart; Mus. J. Linthicum & Ruel; Non-combatants Pam Baker, Debbie Bears, Brandi Chisam, Jeanie Gilger, Charlene Goldsberry, Donna Linthicum, Cindy Lee, Connie McKay, Valerie Morris, Judy Riggs, Deb Robertson, Julie Swigart & Sandra Wayne; Associates Conner & Kesinger. Several wives were also present; special guests were characters depicting Lee & Lincoln, plus Mr & Mrs Bob Seeley.

On Recommendation of Staff & authenticity officer, Roberts moved, Yoakum 2nd that "Tony Morris, Mike Meoli & Doug Harding be accepted as Veterans." Passed. Action on other eligibles was deferred until a review by the authenticity officer could be conducted.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Upcoming event at Prairie Grove was discussed. Bill requested interest in participating in the Governor's Inaugural parade Jan 11th - based on hands raised, we will commit. Bill will query several eastern events for open periods in the schedule.

**OLD BUSINESS:** We are now Incorporated & will begin working on legal by-laws to put into effect in January, we hope.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** MCWRA elections: Bill reported on the MCWRA meeting. David Kesinger will be President Elect; Todd Conner was selected to fill the remainder of Kesinger's term. Other directors elected are Steve Allie (new Treasurer), Linda Cantrell & Mark Strother. MCWRA approved Infantry rules of engagement & safety rules, which we'll furnish to all members in 1993. Infantry units, plus anyone serving on foot with shoulder weapons, will abide by these rules.

The Annual meeting will be held on Saturday, January 16, 1993, at Embree Electric in Sedalia. We'll begin with drill & seminars at noon, with working sessions on the new By-laws. The election will be held as the last item on the schedule.

The meeting adjourned about 8:00 PM, & was followed by gift exchange & door prize drawings.

Submitted 2:23 PM, Nov 22 1992. Bill Wayne,  
Secretary

## Excerpts from minutes of MISSOURI CIVIL WAR REENACTORS ASSOCIATION Meeting Held November 21, 1992

The Treasurer's report was approved. Receipts 17 July through 18 July were \$1989.75, Expenditures \$2957.59; Balance on 7/18/92 of \$5868.26. Membership on 18 Nov was 811 individual, 228 family. Treasurer reported he is still working to have charges removed from the insurance bill, since we cancelled listing/coverage for several events. The cost of the newsletter is \$7.20 per year & recommended a dues increase to \$10 for single membership. Several motions failed. Beck moved/Beckner 2nd "Dues be set at \$10 single/\$16 family effective for 1994."

Wayne raised a question of our definition of a 'Family membership.' Beck moved/Hughes 2nd "Any family member living at home & not receiving a separate newsletter is included in a family membership."

Event Schedule: Carthage indicates its willingness to accept all interested in participating, but will not provide rations.

Additional requests have been received from Lecompton, KS for June 26-7 (probably local); Wornall House for Oct 23-4 (Maximum); Mammoth Springs Park for Aug 14 (Living History). They will be discussed at the next meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:** 1. Constance Soper reiterated the LUAS request for \$1500 to support the Annual Ball. Johns moved/Smith 2nd to do this. Discussion indicated considerable feeling that those not attending should not pay for the ball, that non-MCWRA members should pay more for the ball than members, & that spending approximately \$1.50 per member was not wise when the dues had just been raised. Failed. Kesinger moved/Cantrell 2nd "\$500 be allocated to the 1993 Annual Ball." Carried 11-6.

2. SAFETY STANDARDS: The Infantry Safety Standards & Rules of Engagement were adopted as approved by the Infantry Commanders. They will apply to all combatants armed with shoulder weapons & fighting on foot. Discussion clarified that this was not intended to require infantry units to accept people from other branches, nor to dictate how dismounted cavalry, artillery support troops or engineer troops are to be employed; the intent is to ensure their safety.

**NEW BUSINESS:** 1. Fred DeField presented an application for recognition (probationary status) for a unit to be known as Semmes' Battery (CS). The unit has 8 men & 2 full-scale cannon. Sponsor unit Big River Volunteers.

2. Report on Election Results: David Kesinger was elected President-Elect; Directors will be Steve Allie, Linda Cantrell & Mark Strother. Dave Christie of TMR has volunteered to be Editor. Steve Allie was elected Treasurer." Carried. Todd Conner was elected Director to fill the unexpired term of David Kesinger (expires end of 1994).

3. Todd Conner brought up the problem of in-state & non-reenactor horses without proof of negative Coggins test. A requirement was approved.

4. Several people brought up the need for a membership card to provide proof of membership at events requiring proof of insurance. Alternatives included issuing cards through units (preferred method). John Beck was appointed to implement the program for a membership card program.

**OTHER:** Bob Harrington thanked the membership & Board for allowing him the opportunity to serve as President, then turned the gavel over to Henry Johns, the 1993 President.

The 1st Arkansas Cavalry reported that a substantial amount of gear had been stolen (from occupied tents) at Green Forest AR.

## **JUDY'S CHRISTMAS PARTY:**

Judy Riggs will have a Christmas party again this year, on Saturday, **December 19, 7:00 PM**. If you're going to attend, plan on bringing your own beverages, plates & utensils. Please also bring a covered dish of some sort, for both yourself & to share.

Judy's also planning a gift exchange - men bring a man's present, Ladies bring one for a lady (here's a chance to get rid of that banquet door prize).

To find the party, take MO 13 south from Warrensburg to 'Y', then take 'Y' east 6.0 miles to road 601. Turn right (south) about 200 yards; turn in at the first driveway on the right. [From the east, Road 601 is 4.3 miles west of Rt 'D', or 1/2 mile past the Clear Fork bridge].

**RSVP** [certainly expected of 19th Century gentry] if you plan to attend: to Judy Riggs, 816-429-1448!

## **TID-BITS from the BANQUET:**

Our thanks to the sutlers who gave us gifts for door prizes: Camp Chase Gazette (2 year subscription!), R&K Sutler, C&D Jarnigan, Del Warren. Please give these folks a chance to earn your business!

George Brett wasn't too popular - the two posters got swapped around & we had trouble finding takers.

David Kesinger invited Messers Lincoln & Lee to join us; Lincoln was much better than Lee.

The Riggs first won a wash board, then a bar of soap - was someone trying to tell them something?

Our NCO's presented Capt. Koffman with a set of Hardee's Tactics, hardbound. Was this a message, too?

We had a true multi-media presentation going - two VCR's playing Cindy's tapes, a slide show from Pilot Knob, and prints all over the place.

Sandra made pencil or chalk portraits of Todd, David K, & Cindy Lee (She'll do the same for you, from a picture, but you'll have to negotiate with her).

Should we have a dance next year, to taped music? If you have an opinion one way or the other, make sure you let us know what you think.

There'd be a lot more Tid-Bits, if'n you'd sent them in!

A special **Thank You** to *David Kesinger & Sandra Wayne*, who put an awful lot of time, energy, & (in David's case) money into making our annual banquet the best yet!

If you think you'd make a good officer, sergeant or corporal, or perhaps a corporate officer, send in your qualifications & I'll put them in the next Messenger! Remember, jobs come with rank!

**Incorporation:** *The draft By-Laws allow a multi-company unit, with a method of operation to keep us clean with legal requirements, control funds, & still protect our democratic principles. Here are principles of the draft By-laws.*

**Officers:** President, Secretary,  
Treasurer elected by total  
membership.

Vice-President for each company elected by the company's total membership, to serve as CEO of that company. The Ladies' Auxilliary will count as a company for this purpose & for funds allocations.

Each company select asst. treasurer & asst secretary (not Board members) for Company actions.

**Field Officers:** Veteran membership as whole elect Reg Comander (Capt). to command reg as whole in non-battalion events, company when consolidate companies under battalion, or select which company to command when 2 or more co. under battalion. In absence, command by senior Lt.

Each Co. elect Lt (Veteran members only). Lt command company when independent, assume a Lt position when consolidate. Precedence decided on date of rank as Lt, but rotation recommended for excess Lts.

Each company's vet elect 2 sergeants, one designated as 1st Sgt & 1 as QMSgt. The Reg & CO. cdrs will decide which CO 1stSgt(s) will wear 1Sgt stripes & Which QMSGt will be the Reg QM. All other CO sgts will wear basic Sgt stripes. May appoint Sgt Major from elected sgts.

Each company's vets elects 2 corporals, plus one for each 10 MEN above 15. When companies are consolidated, the comdr will decide precedence among corporals.

Each Company may elect additional Sgts & Jr 2nd Lts as needed (not to exceed 1 officer/NCO for each 9 privates/corporals). They won't serve as such in reg events unless numbers justify, & only on decision of reg cdr.

**FUNDS:** Corp. officers approve budget for newsletter, recruiting, postage & director reimb. From dues, allocate amount to cover budget. Each Co. then entitled to remaining share of its dues. Petty cash fund estab in each Co., reimbursed by treasurer when proper bills submitted, to limit of allocation; or by regiment check to supplier for major purchase.

Can make add'l allocation from other fundraisers for spcl needs on 2/3 of Board, either Co gear, spcl needs of a Co. or Reg as a whole, or donations to legal charities.

Equipment is property of regiment. If a company disestablish, equipment cannot be reallocated from active company w/o consent.

**MEMBERSHIP QUALS:** Generally same as now, but needs approval of impression by Reg staff at event before eligible for Vet. Then Company can vote in/out. Possibly increase to 3 events/120 days.

Company: 20 combatant/10 Vet minimum to set up Co, must be accepted by 2/3 Board or majority total membership. Can't reduce parent company below this level. Should be geographically concentrated. Member may select company affiliation at first of each year, can't transfer w/o consent both companies until following year.

**MEETING & QUORUM:** An annual membership meeting with 30% total membership quorum. Board meetings could be set at any max effort events w/o notice & at any location w/ notice in preceding Messenger.

## 1992/3 SCHEDULE as of 11/27/92

Symbols: \* means battle, BOLD FACE Unit Max effort. # is unit optional event; \$ is local or platoon event commitment, ? - Participation questionable. Distance listed from Warrensburg. We'll vote on '93 at Jan 16 meeting.

\* Dec 5-6: 130th anniversary Battle of Prairie Grove, AR. MCWRA MAX EFFORT. See Event Details. 250 mi.

\* **March 5, 6 & 7, 1993, National Event:** 130th anniversary, Murfreesboro TN. About 560 miles.

### 1993 Events

Jan 11 (Mon): Jeff City - Governor's inaugural parade.

Jan 16, Sedalia: Annual meeting.

Feb 13: Annual ball, Eureka.

\*April 3-4, Crane MO: Local.

April 17-18, Lexington: Spring drill (tentative).

Apr 24-5, Cape Girardeau: Local

\*June 12-13, Pleasant Hope, Sanct.

June 26-7, Lecompton KS: Local.

\*July 16-18, Honey Springs, OK: MCWRA MAX

\*July 31 - Aug 1: Carthage: Sanct.

\*Aug 7-9, Athens: DNR event, sanct.

Aug 13-15, Urich, Living History only.

\*Sep 18-19, Fredericktown, Sanct.

\*Oct 2-3, Belmont, MCWRA MAX.

Oct 23-4, KC: Wornall House (?).

March 1994, National Event 130th Anniversary, Red River Campaign, Louisiana .

### 1993 INQUIRIES:

April 16-18, Ft. Blakeley, AL

May 7-9, Champion Hill, MS

July 2-4, Helena, AR

[Sorry - G'burg isn't listed in CCG or CWN]

## EVENT DETAILS

**PRAIRIE GROVE, AR,** Dec 5-6. 130th Anniv. of Gen Hindman's attack on armies under Blunt & Herron. Original battlefield (Ark state park), Generic CS impression best, overcoats may be helpful. Two battles, Saturday dance, rations furnished. To get there, US 71 so to Fayetteville, US 62 west to Prairie Grove. About 240 mi. from Wbg.

**JEFF CITY,** Jan 11. Governor's Inaugural Parade, 10:00 AM. Full military impression, including bayonets. We'll send out more info as soon as we get it.

**SEDALIA,** Jan 16. Annual Meeting and instructional drill. Plan on attending so you'll be ready for Murfreesboro..

# SAFETY, SAFETY, SAFETY

by Steve Hall

Bang, bang, bang, BOOM, bang, BOOM....

"Hey, whatcha shootin over thar, Whitson Torpedoes, and all that?"

So it goes at about every event. Somebody's shooting hot loads. I suppose it is inevitable. You're loading and firing as fast as you can when the officer barks, "Shoulder Arms" and moves you ten paces one way or the other, then "Fire at will!" (yes, I know, "Which one's Will?"). So you load, prime, aim, and squeeze that trigger - BOOM! What the heck was that! Oops, you forgot you had poured a charge of powder down the barrel just before "Shoulder Arms" and you lost track in the confusion of battle. Well, once in a while it happens to everyone.

But speaking of 'everyone', have you ever noticed sometimes how 'everyone' of a pard's cartridges goes BOOM instead of bang like all the rest? Not to mention names, but let me site a few examples I have personally observed.

1. The man who has normal sized cartridges, but doesn't use wadding. He just fills it up with extra powder.
2. An occasional double charge to pop at your Johnnie friend real good.
3. I've even heard "I always put in a little EXTRA to allow for spillage".
4. And of course there's some people who are hard of hearing (from too many battles I guess). They use a little extra powder just to make sure they can tell the musket went off.

Now I've got to admit that it does serve some form of amusement or diversionary role to hear a double load go off during a hot fight and see the expression on the ol' boy's face as he exclaims "Holy Cow!!!" or words to that effect. A little adrenaline, a little chuckle, a little break from the monotony of firing a dangerous weapon in the direction of others (who are also firing at you!!).

What's that you say? A dangerous weapon? Yes, boys, remember it's not a toy. At the recent adventure near Perryville, the following words were spoken, nay yelled, by a certain unnamed brevet Corporal (but whose initials are T-A-L-B-O-T-T) who was faithfully at his position at the left flank of Company "C". He turned and yelled above the noise of battle toward the right flank of the adjoining company, in no uncertain terms, "WHAT THE (deleted) ARE YOU GUYS SHOOTING OVER THERE?? DON'T YOU (deleted) KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT SAFTEY??" And other words to that effect. As I observed this, it was interesting to note the spit shooting from his powder blackened lips, the twisted - contorted - angry face, the foam drooling from one side of his mouth. It reminded me when we had to shoot that one pard after he got bit by a mad dog. Oops, that's another story.

It seems that when the right division of the battalion adjusted the battleline to angle to the right, one of the companies obliqued toward the right, but did not come up on the line with the others. What this did was to place Bob, er, I mean the unnamed Corporal, slightly to the right but about ten feet AHEAD of the shooters on his left. He quickly found out, much to his dismay, he was in a pretty hot position. To make matters worse, an NCO was coming up on the line and firing what had to be the equivalent of double loads. THIS IS WHAT MADE OUR CORPORAL ANGRY!!! Luckily for him (and the shooter), the offender found a black cartridge in his box, took a hit, and the company finally did come up on line.

The point is that many unexpected things can and do occur on the battlefield that are dangerous enough firing normal loads, but

are even more so when intentionally firing hot loads. It's not only for YOUR safety, it's for the safety of your pards. If you help keep them safe, they'll return the favor.

In this light, I would like to cover just a few safety reminders. This is by no means complete, but just some things that popped into my head.

1. The normal charge of powder for a .58 caliber cartridge is 65 grains. Intentionally using more is not only unsafe, but is not authentic. 'Nuff said.
2. When you pour the powder in, hold the cartridge with only your thumb and first finger, palm up, and pour in from the front of the barrel. This minimizes the damage in case the powder ignites on the way down. I've seen one pard, just to the left of me in skirmish line, plaster the palm of his hand by not doing this - AFTER ONLY FIRING ONE ROUND! Several others have gotten a hot finger or hand by not being VERY careful. Guys, this is one of the hardest things to remember to do! You have to first know the correct (i.e., safe) method, practice it, and consciously think about it on the firing line. The confusion of battle makes you forget about even the most basic of rules.
3. Never place the cartridge wadding down the barrel during a battle. That baby's on fire when it comes out. It can easily start a grass fire and is very dangerous to others at close range.
4. Never use the rammer during a battle. In fact, don't even remove it from the channel. Sometimes during a controlled firing demonstration, like at Ft. Scott, we will use rammers, but ONLY when EXPLICITLY instructed. At some of the past 125th anniversary events, we actually had to leave the rammers in camp during the battle.
5. Keep that musket pulled up under your arm when priming. That brings the cone up where it's easy to get at, but more importantly, it elevates the muzzle of the barrel away from the guy in front of you. If it accidentally goes of near a man's head, you can bet your monthly pay he will turn around and express his grievous dissatisfaction with you.
6. Remember, rear rank, to step up with your right foot a little when aiming and firing. This positions you between the two men in front and helps to BRACKET the man's head between the two barrel bands closest to you. Hardee's *Tactic's* for once puts it rather simply, "The rear rank men, in aiming, will each carry the right foot about eight inches to the right, and toward the left heel of the man next on the right, inclining the upper part of the body forward." Once again, the man in front will let you know if his head is not being bracketed correctly. File closers should keep an eye open for this (I consider file closers to be "Safety Officers" during a battle).
7. If you ever shoot live (not at the event of course), make SURE your weapon is cleaned. After cleaning, take the rammer and completely scrape the insides of the barrel to make sure a piece from a Minnie ball 'skirt' is not wedge in the rifling. How would you feel if some Confederate didn't do this!?!?! You owe it to your fellow pards to make sure your musket is safe, regardless of what color they are wearing. If you live shoot often, you could buy a second barrel to use just for that.

I don't mean to be preaching or nothing like that. I just want everyone to have a good and SAFE time. Every once in a while you hear about a serious incident, but remember that IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU! See you out there and be careful and have fun.