

THE MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Fifth Missouri Infantry (CSA), Inc.

Vol. 6, No. 7

July 1995



The Battle of Moore's Mill



The Battle of Moore's Mill in the Kingdom of Callaway was an exceedingly hot affair, even more so when the Union forces appeared. I was available for action on Saturday only, but that was enough to see our valiant confederate forces drive the Yankee army off the field and to take a battery of mixed field guns.

The heat for those who were on the field of conflict was extremely oppressive. A combination of the temperature and humidity made this the hottest day many of us could remember. Quoting our beloved Major Koffman, "I've been in many a hot place and this ranks right up there with them!"

The action began in mid afternoon when Col. Beck called the Battalion to action and marched us across Auxvass Creek and up a rise to come onto a broad sloping field with the Union forces at the base of the field and our own artillery aligned hub to hub across the brow of the field. The artillery began the action with a duel in which explosions showered both sides with the dust of explosions.

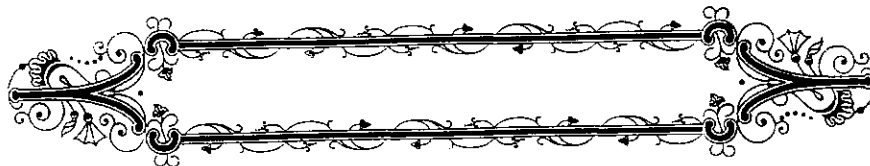
With a cavalry action engaged between the artillery positions the infantry marched down the hill towards the Union guns and a contingent of infantry who had marched out of the trees in the valley to oppose us. Now perhaps it is just me but the Yankee commander seemed to taunt us by turning his line to fire upon the cavalry harassing him and left his right flank hanging before us like the tastiest morsel.

As we were preparing to take them in the flank and role them up, Yankee cavalry swarmed out of the woods and swinging around tried to take us in the rear. The rear rank of the 5th Missouri about faced marched ten paces and fired a few volleys at them. The flame of our muskets forced them to keep their distance and end the threat to our rear.

Returning to their previous position the entire unit was order to quick march from their position on the right flank to take position on the far left. From here we marched on the exposed right flank of the enemy. They saw us coming and began to make a fight of it, but they quickly began to crumble in response to our marksmanship. Advancing we took the right guns of the battery, a mountain howitzer and a twelve pound Napoleon.

I am sorry to report that during this 45 minute action, the Fifth took quite a few casualties, ending the action with only eight rank and file and two officers. I am happy to report that the surgeon has informed us that most of our men will be soon be back with us. Most of the casualties were sustained from concussion of exploding shells and the effects of the heat. On this Saturday the heat of our muskets brought our enemies low.

I remain your humble servant, Lt. John Nicholas "Butcher" Davis



HOLLYWOOD CALLS AGAIN

A new Civil War movie is slated to begin filming next summer. SliverHawk Productions announces principal photography will begin in June of 1996 on an as-yet-untitled movie about the war in the Western Theater.

The feature length motion picture will reportedly require large numbers of reenactors —possibly as many as 5,000 — for the battle scenes, which will include actions at Shiloh, Murfreesboro, Vicksburg, Atlanta & Franklin.

It is to be produced by James P. Horne and distributed by Warner Brothers. Few details have been released about the story, and stars have not been announced, but reportedly the film will include some “big” names.

Filming had originally been scheduled to start late this summer around Memphis, but was postponed to allow more time to organize the use of so many reenactors (who are to be PAID, we're told) and to avoid a conflict with this fall's event in Tennessee.

SURVIVAL TIPS FOR THE HEAT

The following are suggestions to keep you healthy in these very hot trying times. At times it appears that we are asking for it. We often fight during the hottest times of the day and we wear the very opposite of suggested clothing to remain cool. Also many of us are not in shape, so the actions we take under the brilliant sunshine of the afternoons can quickly take a dangerous toll. The sources for these tips comes from the Columbia Community Health facilities and from Dennis Faught's internet surfing. Many of the following are common sense, but at times we all need to be reminded.

(1) DRINK WATER! You must drink lots of water. Before marching out drink all you can from your canteen and then refill it. You should drink the entire thing during the battle. Drink more water when you get back to camp. I know this will appear to be sacrilege but, stay away from alcohol when trying to combat the heat and dehydration, it might taste good but it is harmful. Nothing dehydrates you quicker than alcohol.

(2) More hearsay here - stay away from coke, soda and similar drinks. They contain high amounts of sodium and that only makes you thirstier. Also stay away from highly sugared drinks, they have the same affect.

(3) Wear a slouch or straw hat if possible. The kepis may look dashing, but they don't provide a great deal of shade for your head. When marching out fill your hat to a comfortable level with ice and pull it on snug to keep it from falling off. As it melts the ice cools down your head and neck. Additionally ice or wet down a handkerchief and tie it around your neck for the same cooling effect.

(4) When not in action or a duty find shade, any shade will do. You must get out of the sun. If you take shelter in your tent, fix it so that you get some flow of air through the back of the tent. A closed tent heats up quickly and retains the heat.

(5) If you feel faint, exhausted, tingly, flushed, or sluggish get to the medical tent. By taking this precaution you won't have to be carried from the field. If you feel weak suddenly let another person know so they may escort you to the tent. Additionally if you feel any of the symptoms alert your officers or the first sergeant so we can make certain your taken care of.

(6) If your vision becomes blurry, spotted or your hearing starts sounding dull or has a hollow sound then get to medical help quickly.

(7) If you are OK with the heat, watch out for your pards. They may need your help.

(8) Don't be afraid to drop out if you feel sick or weak, or need a rest. Don't push yourself, if you don't feel well don't push it.

(9) Don't wear gaiters or blouse your socks in hot weather. By leaving your pants leg open it provides circulation which cools your lower extremity.

(10) Be careful what you eat, fatty and heavy foods as well as dehydrated ones are difficult to digest and put extra strain on your system.

OK GUYS LETS BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

DRILL FACTS

By the 1st Sergeant

"Step up on your right foot!!" How many times have you heard file closers yell those words at men firing from the rear rank?

Let's examine what Lt. Hardee has to say about foot position for those in the rear rank.

School of the Soldier -- Part II

176. The rear rank men, in aiming, will each carry the right foot about eight inches to the right, and towards the left heel of the man next on the right, inclining the upper part of the body forward.

I can interpret this but one way: each rear rank man is to step **OVER** to his right when he aims -- not forward. (Fig. 1)

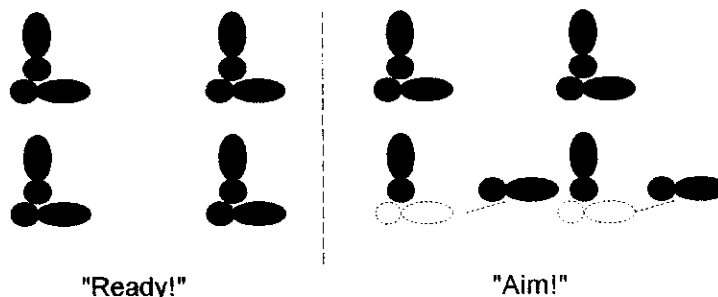


Fig. 1

The purpose is simple: to allow the rear man in each file to fire over the right shoulder of his front file partner. Stepping toward the left heel of the rear rank man next on your right accomplishes this. You get the proper (safe) position of your musket by maintaining the proper (13-inch) interval between the front and rear ranks.

If Hardee would have intended the rear rank man to step toward the left heel of the *FRONT RANK* man next on the right, he would have specified so (as he does in 271. dealing with left oblique fire.)

In practice, you'll also notice it's impossible to incline "...the upper part of the body forward" when stepping forward, and still maintain the proper (safe) position of your musket. In fact, stepping forward forces you to incline awkwardly *BACKWARD* in order to get the proper spacing.

Finally, I refer you to the drawings contained in Hardee's manual. (Fig. 2, rear rank and Fig. 3, front rank). The man in the drawing representing a rear rank man is clearly stepping over to *his right*, and not forward.

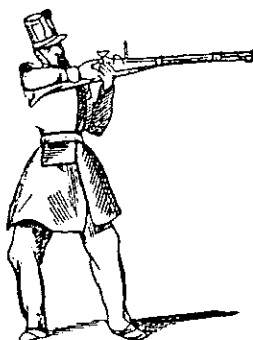


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Safety is paramount. In my opinion, the position of your rifle next to your file partner's ear is more important than the position of your feet. Having said that, I will still be watching closely for people stepping **BACK** on their right foot. Stepping back is the natural tendency for shooters, but it increases the risk of improper alignment of your piece next to your file partner's ear. **STEP TO THE RIGHT!** You'll not only be authentic, but safe as well.

COLUMBIA EVENT REPORT

This year's Columbia Parks & Recreation event at Nifong Park was, by all accounts, the most successful yet. Turnout was the largest to date — with over 100 registered and all three branches present. Several potential recruits were contacted, and weather cooperated for the most part.

One might not have predicted that outcome Saturday morning, however. As a steady drizzle fell, the participants marched in a largely-ignored parade along Broadway downtown. The primary attraction, apparently, was intended to be Norm Roling's artillery piece, drawn by a team of four Missouri mules from Kemper Military Academy.

The rest of the weekend was nearly flawless. Due to the usual dirth of Federals, over half of the 5th MO galvanized with the 4 members of the 6th who came in blue. The rest fell in with the 2nd MO and Elliott's Scouts in gray. There were also, for the first time at this event, a half-dozen cavalry present. The 'federals', along with the artillery piece, defended the camp against a sortie by the Confederates. The action concluded in a hand-to-hand melee that left every 'federal' dead or wounded on the ground. All — that is — except one Private Dietzel, who gave new meaning to the term "Flying Dutchman" when he lit out for the rear not long after the first shots sounded.

That evening, Captains Lee and Bears led a squad of "federals" in an impromptu sortie against the camp of the 2nd MO. 1st Sgt. Faught still maintains that his advice to approach the camp from the rear — where the trees afforded cover — was sound. How was he to know that the cavalry would be prepared to "play" and flank the hapless yanks before they could say "Abe Lincoln?"

Sunday's scenario mirrored Saturday's — except that it was the 'federal's' turn to win. This time the 2nd MO threw on the blue suit with the detachment from the 6th (plus Private Jim "I really wanna be a Yank" Robertson and the local Prosecuting Attorney). Carrying aloft the honor-spangled and as-yet-unsoiled colors of the 3rd-5th Missouri, the grayclads advanced and gave as good as we got until a well-placed close-range volley dropped most of the front rank, and we grudgingly retired with the colors. All was over except the obligatory Yank atrocities, as they shot, stabbed and bayoneted the wounded before an appalled crowd.

A word of caution to those who speak to reporters at events such as this. The local newspaper carried quotes of a somewhat salty nature from the 6th MO's 1st Sergeant, who was speaking in first-person character. While first-person is encouraged, you need to make sure your listener understands what you're doing. Sgt. Siefkas' remarks sounded very unflattering to the hobby when quoted out of context.

Highlights of the weekend included mailcall (young Pvt Hamilton seems to have been quite busy during his last furlough), an incident in the Maplewood mansion involving Miss Beth "Spoons" Gilger, and the Sunday morning service featuring a very well-delivered sermon by Pvt Mark Moeller.



THE BATTLE OF COLD HARBOR. The Eighteenth Corps driving Longstreet's forces from their first line of rifle pits — Sheridan's cavalry had seized Cold Harbor. General Smith had moved a force of 16,000 men down the James River to cooperate with General Wright. Lee, being kept informed of this movement, had sent Longstreet to the same cross roads, where Smith and Wright found him strongly intrenched. They gave battle and drove him beyond Cold Harbor to a second line of trenches. The advance was made over an open field in the face of a galling fire and was brilliant in the extreme, though the loss on the Federal side was very heavy, 2000 men having fallen in that short engagement. —Sketched by Charles Foster.

Second Annual Cemetery Walk

As part of the celebration of Cole County's 175th birthday, the Jefferson City Historic Preservation Commission sponsored a second annual living history tour through the historic National, Woodland, and Old City cemeteries on July 2. The cemeteries are the final resting place of scores of individuals who played influential roles in Jefferson City's history, including a large number of Confederate veterans.

The 5th Missouri provided picket duty at various significant sites within the cemeteries, including the markers of Generals Parsons and Marmaduke, while various speakers portrayed specific individuals interred nearby.

Attending were Captain Lee, Sergeant Faught, and Privates Biggs, Crane, White and Moeller as Missouri Brigade; Corporal Block as Anderson's Guerrillas; and Private Frank as Thirty-ninth Missouri Mounted Infantry (U.S.) at the Centralia monument. It seems as though young Mr. Frank's recent visit to the Yankee capitol and West Point has had a residual effect. Cindy Lee and Amanda & Jessica Biggs also assisted in the exhibitor's area at the end of the tour, which included tables from various historical and heritage organizations, including the Fifth.

Attendance was somewhat lower than last year's extremely successful event, yet over 1,000 enjoyed the beautiful weather, a walk through history, and a look at the graphic results of recent vandalism at the cemeteries. The day ended with a 21-gun salute fired in honor of Generals Parsons and Mamaduke, and the other southern patriots buried in Jefferson City.



EVENT REPORT: COLE YOUNGER DAYS

Don't let the name fool you. This annual Lee's Summit event has nothing to do with Cole Younger. Although the Confederate Guerrilla-turned-outlaw is buried here and his home is nearby, the celebration that bears his name is little more than an opportunity to hold a carnival.

After being directed to set up in the back corner of the carnival midway (between the Tilt-a-whirl and the petting zoo) we found that few passers-by were even remotely interested in Living History. The crowd was here for the rides and the cotton candy. Many had no idea who Cole Younger was. Our activities were given no mention in the program schedule. This lack of interest (and the proximity to camel and pony rides for kids) caused us to cut short any guerrilla scenerios or firing demonstrations and pack out Saturday evening.

The Saturday morning parade was another story. Although it was lengthy (2 miles that felt like five), the crowd was extremely appreciative of our presence, with a good deal of cheering along the way, and we were awarded a Third Place ribbon by the judges. When invited to return to Lee's Summit, I recommend we consider participation in the parade, but respectfully decline being a carnival midway attraction for a paying crowd. Our efforts might better serve the people who are attempting to restore the Younger homestead and construct a Border War Museum.

Submitted by 1st Sgt Faught

1ST PLATOON	RANK	GLA	LON	cc	cal	PK	CAB	bru	CEN	HUM	war	TEN
7 Ballman, George	PVT											
134 Biggs, Everett	rct	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		
136 Brown, Richard	rct											
37 Chastain, Kent	PVT											
6 Conner, Todd	PVT											
134 Cramer, John	PVT											
24 Daleen, Keith	PVT	Y	Y						Y			Y
52 Durrill, John	CPL	Y	Y									
46 Faught, Dennis	1SG	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y
Gilger, Alex	rct	Y	Y								Y	Y
64 Gilger, John	PVT	Y	Y								Y	Y
152 Hall, Rick	rct											
137 Hamilton, Mike	PVT	Y	Y	Y					Y			Y
131 Herring, James	rct											
50 Kerksiek, D.E.	PVT											
3 Koffman, Bob	MAJ	Y										Y
49 Lee, Jerry	CAP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y			Y
59 Loesch, Justin	rct											
73 Olson, Larry	PVT	Y	Y									
129 Plowman, Dave	CPL	Y										
125 Price, Marcus	rct											
126 Price, Robert	rct											
2 Riggs, Charlie	PVT											
30 Roush, Loren	PVT	Y				Y	Y		Y			Y
67 Thomas, Chuck	PVT	Y	Y						Y			
40 Tucker, Jeff	PVT	Y										
144 White, Mike	rct	Y										
149 Witt, Ken Jr.	rct	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
51 Zimmerschied, Kevin	PVT											
A98 Gooden, David	PVT											Y

alb
803 0352



2ND PLATOON		8/5	8/19	9/8	9/16	10/21	9/30	9/30	10/7	10/14	10/21	10/27
55 Block, Neil	CPL	Y							Y			
133 Crane, Chris	rct											
132 Crane, Clinton	PVT	Y										Y
47 Davis, Nick	1LT	Y										Y
138 Dietzel, Larry	PVT	Y	Y			Y						Y
65 Dressel, Gene	PVT											
75 Ford, Kent	PVT	Y						Y				Y
128 Frank, Doug	PVT	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y			Y	Y
Hafley, Joe	rct	Y	Y									
56 Hafley, Sam	2SG	Y	Y			Y			Y			Y
88 Heidgerken, Jerry	rct											Y
151 Heidgerken, Mike	rct											Y
106 Hodge, Jim	PVT											
150 Holmes, Dan	rct											
107 Jordan, Mark	PVT											
12 Keown, Jim	PVT											
86 Massey, Mike	PVT	Y										
91 Meoli, Mike	CPL	Y										
Meoli, Nick	rct											
104 Moeller, Mark	PVT					Y						
140 Pickering, David	rct											Y
142 Reed, Keith	rct											
36 Roberts, Bob	PVT											
23 Robertson, Jim	PVT	Y										Y
146 Springer, Mark	rct											
141 Tuck, Scott	rct											Y
147 Wassman, Jerry	rct	Y				Y						Y
1 Wayne, Bill	PVT											
13 Yoakum, Steve	PVT											Y

GLA LON cc cal PK CAB bru CEN HUM war TEN

CIVILIANS	GLA	LON	cc	cal	PK	CAB	bru	CEN	HUM	war	TEN
Biggs, Amanda	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	
Biggs, Jessica	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	
Brown, Connie											
Caviness, Jennifer											
Chastain, Michelle											
Crane, Shirley											
Dietzel, Nora	Y										
Dietzel, Charles	Y										
Dietzel, Evan	Y										
Gilger, Beth	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gilger, Jeannie	Y	Y								Y	Y
Hall, Dolly											
Kerksiek, Lorraine											
Lee, Cindy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y
145 Moulton, Cherice	Y										
O'Doniel, Julie											
Reed, Karen											
Riggs, Judy											
Robertson, Deborah											
Roush, Martha											
Thomas, Rebecca											
	8/5	8/19	9/8	9/16	9/23	9/30	9/30	10/7	10/14	10/17	10/27



DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- **GLASGOW: 5TH MO MAX EFFORT.** August 4-6. Site is on MO Hwy 5&240 at the east edge of town (same location as three years ago). Skirmish Friday evening at 7:30 (State Guard impression). Parade Saturday morning, followed by ladies fashion show. 1864 Battle of Glasgow Saturday afternoon (State Guard or Gray). Generic battle Sunday. *As always*, be prepared to galvanize. Night firing Saturday night. Corporate Board Meeting scheduled for Saturday evening at 8. Dance at 8:30pm. (Also, 5th members Beth Gilger & Ken Witt plan a period wedding Saturday at the antebellum home). Powder ration, but apparently no foodstuffs. (Vendors available).
- **LONE JACK.** August 19-20. (NOTE DATE CORRECTION) No details available. Sponsored by Kelly Siefkas of 6th MO.
- **COLE CAMP.** September 8-9. Encampment, Living History, drill for Cole Camp Fair. Parades at 7:30 each evening (Fri & Sat).
- **CALIFORNIA.** September 16. Living History during Ozark Ham & Turkey Festival and Moniteau County Sesquicentennial. In park adjacent to new Cultural Heritage Center. Take Highway 87 (Oak St.) north from U.S. 50 to South St. May camp overnight Friday. Sponsored by Moniteau Co. Historical Society.
- **PILOT KNOB.** September 23-24. Sponsored by Missouri Department of Natural Resources. MO 21 & Route V at Ft. Davidson in Pilot Knob. PRE-REGISTRATION DUE BY AUGUST 15TH.
- **BRUNSWICK.** September 29-30. Parade & Living History during Pecan Festival. Camp just south of downtown. Activities begin Friday evening. Parade 10am Saturday.
- **CENTRALIA.** October 7-8. Reenactment of Massacre at 10am Saturday. Battle of Centralia at 1:30pm. Civilian activities include fashion show, bonfire dance, period church services. Generic battle 1:30pm Sunday. Guerrilla impression for Saturday. Confederate gray Sunday. Will almost certainly be required to **GALVANIZE**. Be prepared (including *period underwear* for massacre). Raw foodstuffs provided. PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1.
- ~~**HUMBOLT, KS.** October 14-15. Guerrilla event in SE Kansas. (West of Ft. Scott, on U.S. 169 south of U.S. 54.)~~
- **WARSAW.** October 21-22. Living History near Truman Dam during Fall Festival.

SPRING HILL, TN. October 27-29. 5TH MO MAX EFFORT. Major national event (possibly 7-10,000) reenacting battles of Hood's 1864 Tennessee Campaign. Spring Hill affair Friday evening (a non-spectator scenario on portion of original battlefield). Battle of Franklin late Saturday afternoon (complete with earthworks & facades of Carter home & gin house), and Battle of Nashville "Overton Hill" assault on Sunday. Grand Ball at historic Rippaville. Hard-core authentic civilian refugee camp (in addition to usual camping arrangements). Franklin scenario includes a prominent role for Cockrell's Missouri Brigade, which will strike the works **FIRST** at the gin house. It will be a **LONG** fight. Bring lots of cartridges for this one. Impression is Army of Tennessee (Missouri Brigade, late war). Be prepared to galvanize for one scenario (NOT Franklin.) Get your \$6.00 Fee to Dennis Faught now. If you do not pay the fee, you will not be pre-registered. PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS **OCTOBER 1**, and will be mailed **SEPTEMBER 25** in order to meet that deadline.

New and Renewing Members

Steven W. Fink & family
625 W. 87th Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64114

Alan Bowling
1208 Chadwick Dr.
Columbia, MO 65203

F. Scott Tuck
124 Pear Tree Point Rd.
Darien, CT 06820



Book Review

Look Away by Harold Coyle. Map, Illus., 480 pp., 1995 Simon & Schuster, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020. \$24.00.

Harold Coyle is a well-known author of military novels, dealing — until now — with modern warfare. Best-sellers include *The Ten Thousand*, *Trial By Fire*, and *Code of Honor*.

In tackling the most written-about period in American History, he has opened himself to the slings and arrows of an audience critical of even the most minor details. For this task he has done his homework. In researching this novel, Coyle donned a uniform and marched in the ranks as a re-enactor, serving for a time in our battalion with Crowley's 3rd Missouri. (He is from Kansas City.)

This experience has given him a tremendous advantage over other writers in the "historical fiction" genre. Having actually experienced many of the things his characters endure has allowed him to more effectively give the reader a sense of "being there."

The story revolves around two brothers, sons of a tyrannical, prosperous Irish immigrant businessman in New Jersey. An unfortunate accident causes one to be sent off to VMI in the south, while the other is enrolled in the New Jersey Militia. Happening just before the outbreak of the "late unpleasantness", you can see where this is headed. The two brothers find themselves on opposing sides during every major engagement of the war — one a private in the Stonewall Brigade, the other an officer in VI Corps of the Army of the Potomac. Coyle's fictional characters come in contact with real-life figures and play roles in real-life events.

The story has the familiar ring of, say, "North & South", right down to the sub-plots involving the love interests. What sets it apart from such fluff is the level of detail Coyle weaves into his story, and his natural storytelling ability. *Look Away* is an excellent read. I found it difficult to set aside once I started it.

Much weight is given to social attitudes of the time, including prejudices against ethnic groups and women. The author also includes healthy doses of detail regarding the art of combat during the War Between the States. Coyle's writing, like that of his peer Tom Clancy, tends to be heavy on technical detail and light on character development. One might worry, however, that he has included too much detail in this respect. A comparison to "Gettysburg" (the movie) would not be unfair. In other words, perhaps he's written it too much for the re-enacting community. There is a possibility that the average reader might find descriptions of certain battlefield maneuvers (including a page-long step-by-step explanation of Load In Nine Times) unnecessary to the telling of the story. Re-enactors, however, will probably revel in the detail.

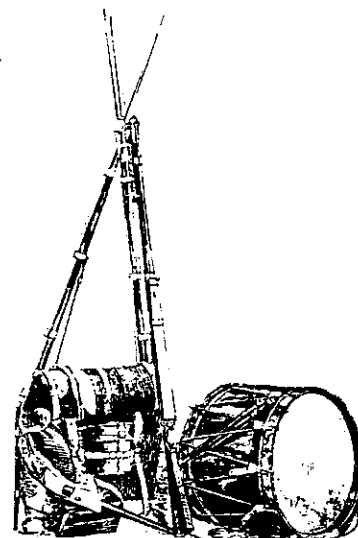
Maybe there'll be roles for us all in the mini-series? I'm waiting for the sequel.

By Dennis Faught

Gear continues to walk away when re-enactor's Back is Turned!

Yes sneaky and sullen equipment continues to try and leave the happy homes of our fellow re-enactors. Items seemingly jumped to their muddy doom at Pea Ridge/Elkhorn Tavern.

Steve Yoakum has discovered that he is missing a pair of pillow ticking suspenders. If you've found a spare pair give him a call.



From the Editor's Desk.....

I originally planned on leading you against the foe at Glasgow, but I might not be able to get there as both my wife and I will received our PhDs at MU on August 4th. As you can imagine we will have a house full of relatives to watch. I would like to invite any of you who are in the neighborhood of Columbia to swing by Hearnes Multipurpose building at 7pm on Friday August 4th to share in our victory. After the ceremony we will have an open house with hors d'oeuvres and drinks at our house. So if you want to come let me know. I might be able to cut my way through the relatives to get to Glasgow on Sunday.

Coming in the next issue will be a review of some of the computer internet sites for information and conversation on the Civil War. Any of you who have had experience in the area feel free to send information for the article. I plan on getting on line again in the very near future. Until next we meet, I remain your editor and Obedient Servant,

*1st Lt. John Nicholas Davis, Esq. { aka The Butcher! }
5th Missouri Inf., Co. A, Confederate States of America*

DATES TO REMEMBER

Aug. 5 - 6

Glasgow, MO - Battle of Glasgow

Aug. 19 - 20

Battle of Lone Jack

Sept. 8 - 9

Cole Camp (living history)

