

THE GREY LINE



11TH MISSISSIPPI INFANTRY
COMPANY G, LAMAR RIFLES



Volume VI No. V

Sempar Paratus ~ Always Ready

Jul-Aug 2013

**Company Headquarters
Saint Louis, Missouri
Captain C. Goser**

Gentlemen

We have returned from Gettysburg. I would be hard pressed to be more pleased. There were good times (museum and battlefield visits, company picture, battles, and fellowship) and not-so-good times (vehicular accident, injuries, heat, and long car rides). All in all, there is not a better group I'd rather spend time with. I offer again, a heartfelt thank you to all of the staff that provided such a great experience. I would specifically thank Paul Turnbull and Brady Swift in the positions of First Sergeant and Corporal respectively. They stepped into the positions last minute. Travis Wunderlich as Lieutenant. Thank you for

leading when I was physically unable. Pat McDougal as Second Sergeant, providing the left guide and file closer for the entire battalion (have you ever served in the position we voted you?). Thank you gentlemen, and for all the effort provided; drivers, trailers, loaner equipment, guidance to messmates and more. While deeply appreciative of Paul's words on day three, I am serious that there is no one person that can pull off an event like this. It is hard efforts of the entire organization. I am proud to be associated with Company G. I have been for 26 years and events such as this remind me why. This is the high tide of the 150th events and we are over half through with the sesquicentennial remembrance. This is NOT the time to rest on our laurels. Our company moves on, new events arrive, and we must remain ever

adaptable to new circumstances and experiences.

A little bit of reminder of where we've come. The anniversary events started with Manassas and Wilson's Creek. We took over 15 and 18 respectively. Last year, our max effort was Shiloh with 24. This year we've taken 22 to Gettysburg and our remaining event is Chickamauga. At Gettysburg, we brought nine new men to the field. This is incredible. Not all will stay but that is not the expectation. The remarkable thing is to give someone a chance for a new experience. Some will stay on while others will have had a once in a life time event.

11th Mississippi Web Page <http://www.apci.net/~jeffryc>

"11th Mississippi!!! No more disorderly mob of men have ever gotten together to make an army!

Damn 'em!! I would not go into battle without them!!"

Maj. Gen. W.H.C. Whiting, Brigade Commander, commenting on the 11th reputation.

Either way, the company offered that opportunity which is what we are about. Last year I started a new recruiting format at the Kirkwood Greentree Festival. We walked away with seven names and were joined by Dave Schroeder and Matthew Cone. Dave brought his nephew Gus Kickham. We've started public events at Towne Park last year and continued this year with the immersion drill. This is how we grow, increase our presence, and sustain the company in the future.

I need a large showing for Chickamauga. This may be self-serving...who doesn't want to stand in front of more than 30 men in the field? But I think it's more. It is a commitment on the part of each one of us. It's a commitment to each other; to be present in our hobby, to grow at a time where others are contracting and disappearing. People are attracted to quality. Size is wonderful, but size without quality is recognizable. Each and every one of us represents the best in the hobby in one way or another. The right kit, commitment, education, and mentality. That is what will attract others to us. In order to showcase our people, we need you there. As I grow older, it becomes increasingly easier to decide "not to come this time". I've paid my dues, seen the elephant, and had my experiences on the field. These are all wonderful, but each time I go out, I walk away with a little more than I put in. It comes in small quantities; a gesture, a note, a thank you. It comes when I'm sitting around the

fire and getting to talk with someone I haven't seen for a while, or answering questions and sharing lessons with someone new. More often than not, I'm learning something new from them. These are the things that I've come to appreciate in my 26th year. I miss them when I don't see people at events. I miss the little things.

This is challenge I give to the company in the following months and years. Be present. Be mindful of your messmates- your fellow man in ranks. These friendships, the camaraderie, the relationships- these were what made the boys of '61 close. This not only breeds but sustains the esprit de corps of veteran units. This is what will attract others to us. Let's not just bring 30 to the field at Chickamauga, but to the 150th events in '64 and '65. Let's show Medich's Battalion that we are back. We are among those to stand and be counted.

We are the Mississippians. We are and always will be Company G

I remain indebted to your service,
Clay Goser
Commanding

**Company Headquarters
Saint Louis, Missouri
Captain Clay Goser**

Gentlemen,

What a great event to have Connor Neilsen join us all the way from Utah. We had the great fortune of Joe Kaatman and Cody Sivcovich rejoining us from Mr. Montgomery's platoon of veterans. A pleasure as always having our resident Mississippian, Ron Feder join us. What a great opportunity as a first time event for Denny Sivcovich, Erin Tapley, Matthew Cone, Ross Mohesky and Brendan Kampwerth as our 'fresh fish' in the field. While not the first time for Dave Schroeder, Dave Schmitt, or Gus Kickham,

they are all newer members with limited experience. I must admit that I approached this event with some trepidation, worried that I had so many people with less than 'veteran' experience. I kept telling people not to worry, pay attention, and things will work themselves out. There was always a nagging feeling that I could be so wrong and people may not have the positive experience I was hoping they would have. I could not have been happier with the way the company upheld such a proud tradition of discipline and esprit de corps in the field. We were complimented over and over. I must say, my hat is off to each and every member that participated. I could not be more pleased. It is not my doing, but the diligent effort of every private and the hard work of my staff, Travis and all of the NCOs, Paul Turnbull, Pat McDougal, and Brady Swift. We could not have done this without you.

We had 13 start out on Tuesday morning. John Mueller, James Dougherty, Travis Wunderlich, Brady Swift, Clay Goser, Mason Goser, Ross Mohesky, Brendan Kampwerth, Dave Schroeder, Gus Kickham, Connor Neilson and Erin Tapley set out headed to Richmond. It didn't take more than a few hours for things to get interesting when one vehicle with the trailer ended up in an accident in Indiana. With bent tie rods, it could not continue. The group remained flexible and James and John stayed with the truck

for a day of repairs while the rest took modern gear and bedrolls and soldiered on. Many thanks to all who exhibited such patience in much tighter confines with 11 people shoved into two vehicles.

Arriving in Richmond late, we rolled quietly into a state park, laid down blanket rolls and were quickly asleep after a long exhaustive day of driving. Wednesday morning arrived with a hot shower, and a warm breakfast. It's amazing what the little things can do for one's spirits. We moved on into downtown Richmond to see the the Museum of the Confederacy and the Confederate Whitehouse. The museum was filled with some incredible artifacts, including the flag of the 11th on display and a wonderful carved pipe by one of the members of the regiment. The White House, however, was a real treat for me. The tour guide was excellent, a truly passionate historian, and the restored residence of president Jefferson Davis was nothing short of amazing.

From there, it was travel north to Gettysburg. While we wished to stop by Sharpsburg battlefield to see the newest regimental monument-traffic, rain and timing conspired against us and we were forced to bypass the site and travel on. We arrived on site and met up with James and John with a repaired suburban. We got a nights rest and prepared to see the local area and assemble the rest of the company on Thursday. The larger group went to

the visitors center and cyclorama where we were joined by Ron Feder who had already been in the Gettysburg area. The group split up to see the site according to their desires with some seeing the museum, seeing the park or both. As we returned to the event site, it was then that plans really started to come together like clockworks. We were joined by our acting First Sergeant, Paul Turnbull along with Adam Turnbull. The trail party consisting of Denny and Cody Sivcovich, Joe Kaatman and Dave Schmitt rolled in and quickly on their heels we were joined by Matthew Cone. Our last member to arrive was Mark Barkley. This became the full compliment of our company of 22 men present for duty.

We had ad hoc drill that evening for the first time as a group, the first and last time I would have to concern myself with how the company would perform. I could not tell that the company had not been working together for weeks prior. I appreciate everyone's patience as I went through basic drills, probably over explaining everything to the detriment of company patience. I'm sure everyone was tired of listening by the time the sun went down. An unfortunate event arose at this point when Travis and I drove Brendan Kampwerth to Lancaster. A previous

back injury had been aggravated, most likely by the accident and Brendan chose the better part of valor and returned home by plane. I'm

sorry that Brendan missed the rest of the event and sincerely hope that his convalescence outside of active duty has been positive and that he'll be returning to the ranks with all haste.

The first days battle began with a long march, followed by extended periods of waiting, first in the hot sun and then in the shade, and then again in the sun as the army leadership decided how we would engage a force of unknown size. It was the honor of the Mississippians to deploy quickly in advance of the brigade, skirmishing with the enemy and screening the deployment of the two battalions. We were recalled into line and the battle ensued over the hotly contested ground while pushing the enemy back. Our own John Mueller operated around the field as one of the teamsters, supporting the battalion in the field.

We returned to recover and had the rest of the afternoon and evening off. Saturday morning, we had our image struck. We will have a period photo of the entire company made to commemorate the event. Upon returning to the battalion area, I found the we were late and the battalion had already left. My injured left knee would not support continued use and I passed the command along to Lieutenant Travis Wunderlich. The company was assembled along the way and caught up with the rest of the battalion. I cannot speak to the second day's fight as I was not present for duty, however, I had

nothing but positive reports on the fighting around little round top and the wheat field. It seems like all that participated thought it a spirited fight and a positive experience all the way around.

Our last day opened with a great experience as we assembled at the 11th Mississippi monument on the battlefield to take pictures and solemnly remember the men of the company which we portray. As a company, we walked across the hallowed ground from McMillan Woods to Bryan's Barn in the same footsteps as Company G 150 years ago. It was an experience that will stick with me for a long time. Every time I looked down the line crossing that field, I saw the company Right Dressed as if on parade. The company was led across the field by Travis Wunderlich, carrying our colors with the muffled drum cadence keeping our step by Matthew Cone. When we reached the stone wall, the farthest penetration by the 11th Mississippi on that third day of fighting, we stacked arms, furled the colors, had a moment of silence. We then rested under the shade of the trees. For me, this was and remains the culmination of the event. This was the true high-water mark for me, the context of our mission so completely demonstrated-remembrance. I could not have asked for greater company. The company in its entirety has my thanks and gratitude for making this singular event so special for me.

We returned to the site and being late again, assembled the company to catch battalion on the move. We reached them at rest and in true 11th fashion, moved by the right into line in front of the battalion, executing a perfect maneuver that I questioned whether we could do, stacked arms and were warmly accepted by our comrades. We

rested there in the shade until it was time to form up, preparing for the final assault. At this point, knowing that after three days and a march across the actual park, my knee was finished. I was not going to be able to lead the company in its final activities. Each commander went up and down the line shaking hands, knowing that this would be the last opportunity to say our goodbyes before leaving the field. I could not be more proud than to watch Travis take the Commander's position with Paul, Pat, and Brady supporting him in leading the company. It's at this time, that I could stand back and truly watch the company operate, the end result better than I could have ever imagined or hoped. Without sounding to cliché, I want each of you to know how truly proud I am of you, both on and off the field. I could not have asked for a better group of men with which to share in memorializing this momentous time and place in our country's history. I had a wonderful time. I am indebted to each of you for that. There are far too many memories and events to record here and for those I've missed, I will apologize in advance.

Before closing this note, I would like to personally thank my staff for all of the preparations they did to make this event a reality- Travis for stepping up as Lieutenant and leading the company when I was not able. To Paul Turnbull in his roll as First Sergeant

Due to his preparedness, one would never know that he had not held the position for years. To Pat McDougal as Second Sergeant and his roll in holding the left guide, a perfect soldier to hold the far left of the battalion formation.

Has he ever served in the actual position he was voted to? And

finally to Brady Swift as his first time as an NCO in the position of First Corporal. I'm hoping it's the beginning of great things to come.

I couldn't have done it without these men. I am personally grateful to all five of you for being there to prop me up. I am obliged to you and wish you to know how very thankful I am.

Your most humble servant,
Clay W. Goser,
11th Miss Vol. Inf'ty, Co G
Commanding



Lieutenant's Comments :

Lieutenant Travis Wunderlich

Gentlemen of the 11th,
I would like to start off by saying what a trip out east! It was great to visit the White House and Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. As for the 150th Gettysburg it went well. In my opinion after the first drill on Thursday evening I thought we were in for a long weekend but by Saturday the men of the company looked like seasoned veterans. Sundays memorial at the monument was excellent and it was a pleasure walking in the footsteps of the original 11th. Captain Goser's words really hit home in my heart that morning. I would like to say a personal thanks to the Captain for planning the whole trip. As for the staff, you all did an excellent job keeping the company of recruits trained and ready for action. That weekend is one I will never forget. Two weeks after Gettysburg we held a little drill at Towne Park with the public interacting and the park service forming a good relationship with us. The recruits of Gettysburg didn't look like recruits anymore at Towne Park. It was a fantastic morning all together. I can't wait to see what comes of it in the future. Hopefully we continue to see good turnouts at events. I close by saying keep your powder dry and clean your rifles.
See you in the field,

Lt Wunderlich
11th Miss Vol. Inf'ty, Co G

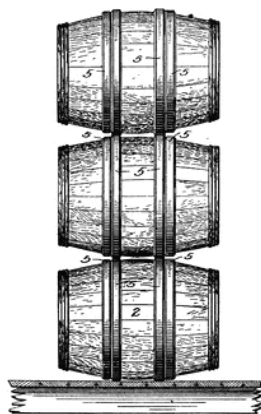


Comments from the ranks :

Cody and I had a great time and it was nice to get to meet you all.

On our way back, we had a flat tire on our camper. We just had about an hour delay and that was it.

Paul Sivcovich



WENTZVILLE, MISSOURI

Company Headquarters
Saint Louis, Missouri

Men of the 11th Mississippi

We're trying to get a rough list of attendees for the Wentzville Event, 23 & 24 August 2013. If you're planning on coming, or have any questions about the event, please email me at c.west00@yahoo.com

Or text/call 636-373-0982.
Registration is free and there is a powder bounty for infantry. This is a good chance to support a local event by getting good, progressive Confederates out there.

Thanks,

Curtis West

Battle of Wentzville Reenactment

506 South Linn Avenue
Wentzville, MO 63385

August 24 & 25 2013

The City of Wentzville Parks and Recreation and the Wentzville Area Historical Society and Co. C, 5th Regiment, Missouri Vol. is sponsoring the reenactment event. Camps are located in the old section of Wentzville.

Battles are scheduled for 2:00 pm on both Saturday and Sunday. A dance is scheduled for Saturday evening.

See Page 18 for reference map sheet.

The Watchdog Review... Revisited

What makes a tin cup authentic?

Over the past few months I have been involved in doing research on tinware, specifically tin cups. My interest in trying to create a tin cup stemmed from a question I was asked by one of our new recruits. We were discussing equipment and sutlers' lists when we came to the subject of tinware. I recommended two sources for authentically reproduced cups recommended by other progressive/hard-core groups. He then asked, "Why? What makes these cups authentic?" I told him I had a general idea of what a cup should look like based on the images I had seen, but beyond that I had not really taken the time to investigate. Well, after seven months of purchasing original items, researching books, traveling to several museums and reproducing tin cups with the help of my friend and co-researcher Phillip Meadows, I have come to two conclusions. All authentic civil war tin cups have some general similarities and it is harder to produce an accurate tin cup than it looks.



FIG 1. Tin Cups in Author's Collection.

In my collection I have three authentic tin cups, one tin can and one tin pitcher. I have compared my original tinware with the tinware collections in the Tennessee State Museum, Gettysburg National Battlefield Park, Antietam National Battlefield Park, The Civil War Medical Museum and countless antique shops and books. In general all period tinware has the following key Characteristics. The tin cup or more properly called coffee or tin "dipper" (1) has a flat bottom (FIG 1).

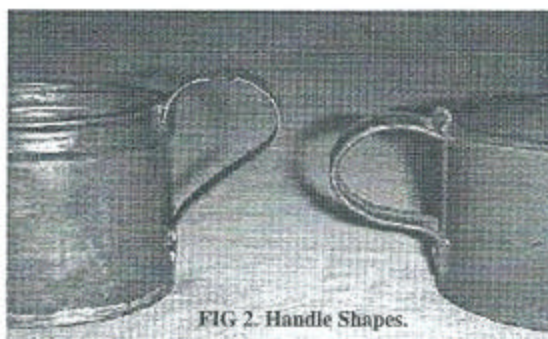


FIG 2. Handle Shapes.

The bottom has a $\frac{1}{4}$ to a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch uniform lip and is soldered directly to the bottom of the cup (no crimped bottom—like a modern Campbell's™ soup can). The solder bead is readily

visible on period tinware. Handles examined have either been "C" shape or "tear drop" shape (FIG 2).

The rims of the cups are finished with a wire rolled top, or in one case a folded top that was placed over the rough rim and separately soldered, but this is the only example so far found of this type of rim construction. In general, modern reproductions suffer from being too perfect. In all of the cups I have examined, solder beads are not uniform and slight hammer strokes around the bottom are noticeable (the difference between a handcrafted cup and industrially produced cup).

Specific styles and differences are apparent in comparing two cups commonly carried in the war—the civilian cup, and what is called amongst collectors, the issue cup. Civilian cups are generally smaller than what many reenactors use. Civilian cups seem to vary in size from $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches high by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter to larger $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches high by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. The one very noticeable difference between a civilian cup and an issue cup is the body seam. The body of the civilian cup is soldered with a simple lap seam (FIG 3) as compared to issue cups and tin cans that have a folded seam (FIG 4) [2].

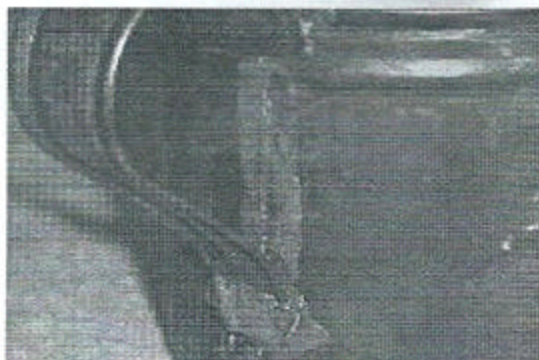


FIG 3. Lap Seam.

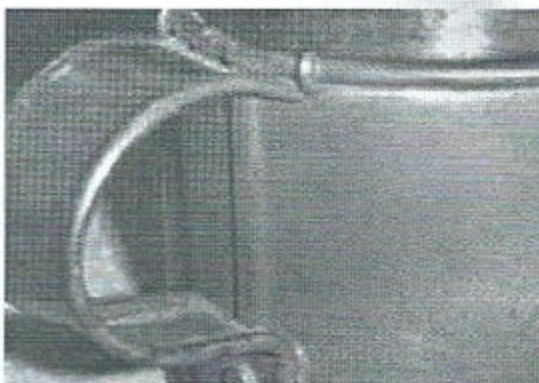


FIG 4. Folded Seam.

As mentioned above, handles come in two styles: the "C" shape and the "tear drop" shape. All of the civilian cups I have examined have their handles soldered directly to the body of the cup over the seam with no wire or tinner's rivets. The solder job here is noticeably sloppy as compared to the other solder seams (FIG 5 and FIG 6).

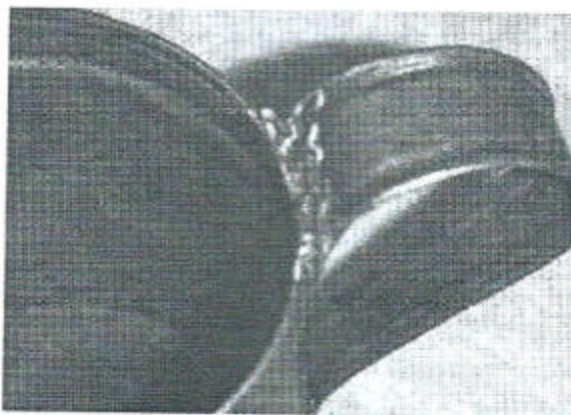


FIG 5. Solder Application.

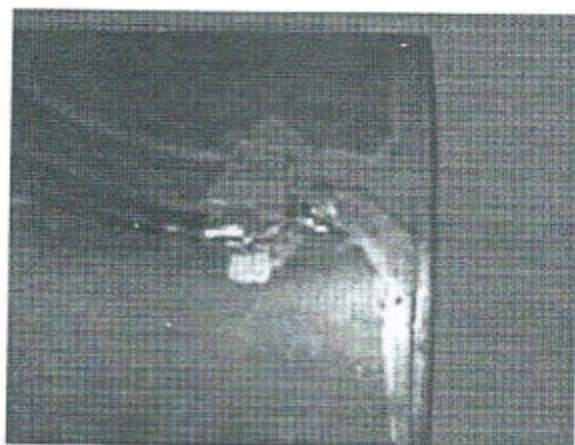


FIG 6. Solder Application.

This seems to have been done because the solder for the handles would have to drop on the handle of the cup to prevent the heating of the entire cup that can (and usually does) cause the body seam to separate. Civilian cups use thinner material than issue cups and tin cans. All of the cups examined measured between 0.012 and 0.016 inches. In modern terminology we would say that this would be the equivalent of 26 to 28-gauge tin plate. The best way to test the gauge of the metal is that you should be able to squeeze the cup in your hand slightly. It was also common practice because of the lighter material to bead these cups, which would add to their strength as well as being aesthetically pleasing (FIG 7).



FIG 7.

On issue cups we find a few different characteristics. Besides the difference of the folded seam, issue cups are generally larger in size. The one I have in my collection is $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches in high by four inches in diameter (FIG 8). [3] Larger sizes were also available and averaged $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches high by $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter to four inches high by four inches in diameter.



FIG 8. Cup in Author's Collection.

The larger cups seem to have been produced earlier in the war, [4] but I have no concrete evidence other than the fact that the larger cups can still be found in museums and relic stores, but are noticeably less common (as seen in their purchase price). Another difference is the gauge of the metal. Issue cups measure on average 0.025 inch that would be the modern equivalent of 24-gauge tin plate. This makes the issue cup noticeably heavier and more durable.

(continued on page 19)

Tin Cups (continued from page 3)

Handles are also attached differently to the body. I have seen two different styles: top attached by wire and the bottom riveted and or by the use of three tinner's rivets, which would then also be soldered. Issue cups have a cleaner solder job used on the handles due to the fact that separating the body seam is not usually a concern because of the folded seam. No beading has been seen on any issue cup. These cups are overall stronger and would be more difficult to bend in the hand. They definitely show some forethought in trying to produce a cup that could withstand the rigors of campaign.

If you would like more information or would like to see more pictures of original tinware, please contact me via my web site at <http://www.gpmerc.com>.

George Pimentel

NOTES:

[1] John D. Billings, *Hardtack and Coffee: The Unwritten Story of Army Life*. (London: University of Nebraska Press, reprinted 1993) p. 137.

[2] Edwin T. Hamilton, *Tin-Cup-Craft*. (New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1935), pp. 16-17

[3] Please ignore the green color. I purchased this original cup from a misguided owner who thought he was protecting the cup by painting it. If you come across cups painted like this, and there are many, don't discount its authenticity. You might just get a really good deal.

[4] Robert A. Braun, *Mess Furniture*, (<http://www.amtma.com/33articles/messfurn.html>, 1993), 2, and "Dippers and Boilers." (*The Watchdog*, FALL 1998, Volume 6, No. 4) p. 2.

George Pimentel has been reenacting since 1994. He is currently Sergeant of Company C, 15th US Regulars. He is an adjunct assistant professor of history and assistant to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

The following article on tin cup authenticity was graciously provided by Corporal Pat McDougal. It is appreciated when a friend, associate and member of the unit submits' an article.



Chickamauga Event Information

The Chickamauga event is schedule for Thursday 19 September— Sunday 22 September 2013. The official site address to use as a search point is 838 Dougherty Gap Road, Chickamauga, Georgia 30707.

The organizers of the event have published the following registration fee rates:

\$ 20 per person 14 and older through 5 August

\$25 per person 14 and older from 6 August to 1 September

\$30 per person 14 and older 1 September to 10 September.

Anyone under 14 years is admitted free.

Battles Times

Thursday, 19 September

4:00 p.m. Tactical on Pigeon Mountain (Campaign style, camp on arms overnight). Forces for the tactical are scheduled to leave camp at 4:00 p.m. Thursday, participants will be required to carry their own gear. Dusk skirmishes, night battles and Friday dawn battle. Back in static camp by 10:00 Friday

Friday, 20 September

4:00 p.m. Battle of Reed's / Jay's Mills fight.

4:00 p.m. Battle of Alexander's Bridge—both battles at the same time.

Saturday, 21 September

10:00 a.m. Cavalry Battle around Crawfish Springs

4:00 p.m. Stewart's assault / Viniard Farm Battle / Ditch of Death scenario

Saturday, 21 September

8:00 p.m. Cleburne's / Cheatham's night battle.

Sunday, 22 September

2:00 p.m. Longstreet's Break-through / Snodgrass Hill / Forrest's Attack on Steedman

See Pages 15, 16 & 17 for reference map sheets. Reference page for excerpt from "Chickamauga 1863 - The River of Death" - James R. Arnold. Campaign Series # 17.

** Remainder of Events For 2013 **

** August 23 and 24 Civil War Reenactment Wentzville, Missouri

** August 31 to September 1 Civil War Days Lamon, Missouri

** September 13 to 15 Greentree Festival & Recruiting at Kirkwood, Missouri

** September 19 to 22 150th Anniversary Battle of Chickamauga at Mountain Cove Farms, Georgia

** October 19 to 20 Battle of Fredericktown, at Fredericktown, Missouri

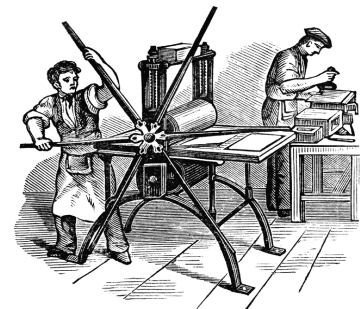
** October 19 to 20 Civil War Days at Dollinger Farms at Minooka, Illinois

** October Living History Demonstration Towne Park at Foristell, Missouri. **Date to be determined**

** November TBD

** December 1 Company Drill and Election site to be determined.

A note to members of the unit, please keep your mailing address, email, home and cell phone numbers up to date please. Additionally please upon reading this newsletter take the time to contact the company and letter us know what events your attending please it is essential to planning.



150 Years Ago This Month

The History of the Eleventh Mississippi

Compiled from:

Duty, Honor, Valor - The story of the 11th Mississippi Infantry Regiment by Steven Stubbs
The Mississippi Brigade of Brig. Gen. Joseph R. Davis by T.P. Williams
The University Greys by Maud Brown

On Saturday, 8 August 1863, a distraught Robert E. Lee wrote to Jefferson Davis and offered to resign as the commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, because of the "discontent" that resulted from his failed invasion of Pennsylvania. "I, therefore, in all sincerity," Lee implored, "request your excellency to make measures to supply my place." Davis quickly realized that Lee's health and general depression influenced that request and Davis rejected it outright. The days of August around the Orange Court House-Rapidan River encampments produced little significant military action, save a few skirmishes, and occasional reconnaissance force, some cavalry expeditions, a guerilla raid or two, and perhaps occasional artillery round to keep the sentinels and pickets awake and alert. On 11 August 1863, President Davis replied to Robert E. Lee's offer to resign and wrote, "Our country could not bear to lose you." While military activities in the Eastern theater of war were relatively quiet, the Western armies had received a series of setbacks, including the fall of Vicksburg and Jackson, Mississippi, Helena, Arkansas, and Port Hudson, Louisiana. These misfortunes and others prompted a Confederate army Chaplin to write to Davis "that every disaster that has befallen u in the west has grown out of the fact the weak and inefficient men have been kept in power." "I beseech of you," the chaplain wrote, "to relieve us of these drones and pigmies." The list of "drones and pigmies" specifically included Lieutenant Generals Theophilus H. Holmes and John C. Pemberton.

After about five weeks of "ruminating" at Fort Delaware, Sergeant Warren Reid and newly promoted Joseph Marble decided that conventional methods of escape would fail and they determined that Stonewall Jackson's plan of "taking them in the rear" was appropriate. The Chickasaw County boys devised a new plan: pass through the gate; exit from the New Jersey side of the island; proceed northward for a distance into New Jersey; then recross the bay back into Delaware; move west into Maryland; and later southward into Virginia. On the morning of 15 August 1863, Reid and Marble walked toward the gate as Reid remembered:

We....and passed out, treating the guard with perfect contempt and not deigning so much as to look at them. They were thus thrown off guard thinking, of course, no one would attempt such a thing without authority....So we attracted no attention while making a survey of the island. We could find no boat to leave on that night, hence we selected a ladder made of scantling about twelve feet long....And after making such other arrangements as were necessary we repassed the gate without any trouble, got a pot, boiled our clothes to get rid of the lice, for we knew we had a long tramp before us, and unless we got rid of the lice they would totally devour us before we reached our journey's end. So, after boiling and drying our clothes, we passed out the gate for the last time, one at a time. After getting out we hid in separate places till good dark. About 8 o'clock, we met, as per agreement, at a little building being put up for a doctor's office. We then secured our ladder and tied it to our shoes and a piece of plank, to be used as a paddle. Then came the most dangerous part but it only required bluff and impudence, besides a little nerve, and we were tolerably well supplied with the two former. But to pass a good sentinel, continually walking his post, with his turning points not more than forty or fifty yards apart laden with the old ladder, approaching him at almost right angles on a bright starlit night, in a perfectly open place - not even a shrub or bunch of grass to hide us - was the cleverest work I ever did.

But I should have before explained that there was ...a levee thrown up around the island, I guess for the purpose of keeping off tidewater. This was five or six feet high, and in getting the dirt to make the levee a canal about twelve feet wide and about three feet deep was formed. Thus we had to cross this canal to pass the guard on the levee. Having arranged everything, we selected our man (sentinel) to slip, and after carefully getting his turning points, on 16 ends of his beat, we proceeded to slip on him, as he went from us, at an angle of about thirty degrees. Just before he made the turning point we lay flat on the ground till he made the round and started back. Proceeding in this was for about one hour and half, we at last made the distance of about 150 yards. We had then crossed the canal, and were quietly lying at the bottom of the levee, with our sentinel marching back and forth, passing within five feet of us.



Finally, as he passed, we raised our ladder on top of the levee, not more than fifteen or twenty feet behind him, and gently slopped down in the bay. Sinking our bodies under the water, we pushed the ladder far out into the bay. When Marble mounted, unleashed our paddle, and announced everything ready for me to mount, up I went and down the ladder. Just as we feared, it failed to bear us up. However, I slid off behind and held to the back round of the ladder, while Marble paddled all night long, and till about 8 o'clock in the morning. One vessel passed us in the night, and when off at some distance we were a little uneasy for fear that it might run us down, but we only felt the waves as it passed. We landed, turned our ladder adrift, and after wandering around a while found that we were on a small island, from which we soon crossed to the mainland of New Jersey by means of a plank... when we landed in New Jersey, we could see nothing of the fort, and concluded that we must have traveled at least twelve or fifteen miles.



"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago. For every Southern boy fourteen years old, not once but whenever he wants it, there is the instant when it's still not yet two o'clock on that July afternoon in 1863, the brigades are in position behind the rail fence, the guns are laid and ready in the woods and the furled flags are already loosened to break out and Pickett himself with his long oiled ringlets and his hat in one hand probably and his sword in the other looking up the hill waiting for Longstreet to give the word and it's all in the balance, it hasn't even begun yet, it hasn't even begun yet, it not only hasn't begun yet but there is still time for it not to begin against that position and those circumstances which made more men than Garnett and Kemper and Armistead and Wilcox look grave yet it's going to begin, we all know that, we have come too far with too much at stake and that moment doesn't need even a fourteen-year-old boy to think This time. Maybe this time with all this much to lose than all this much to gain: Pennsylvania, Maryland, the world, the golden dome of Washington itself to crown with desperate and unbelievable victory the desperate gamble, the cast made two years ago; or to anyone who ever sailed a skiff under a quilt sail, the moment in 1492 when somebody thought This is it: the absolute edge of no return, to turn back now and make home or sail irrevocably on and either find land or plunge over the world's roaring rim."

? [William Faulkner, Intruder in the Dust](#)

THIS OLD SHEBANG

by (Bvt. Sgt.) Pvt. Mike Palada

No, you won't find *This Old Shebang* coming anytime soon to your local PBS station with Steve, Norm, and the rest of the crew demonstrating the latest and greatest in power tools, building supplies, and construction techniques. Instead, the concept is left to your humble correspondent to present in this installment of the *Campaigners' Corner*.

"What in Hades is a *shebang*?" some of you might ask. Well friends, simply put a shebang was a very temporary improvised shelter constructed while on campaign or in bivouac when the canvas and barracks of the garrison or permanent camp were not to be had. Call it a *lean-to*, *shelter*, or *hog pen*; by any other name it is still a *shebang*.

Contrary to popular belief, authentically portraying the Federal soldier on campaign does not automatically dictate that one must roast in the sun, float away upon rains of Biblical proportions, wallow in seas of mud, or otherwise succumb to the less desirable elements of nature. True, while for the campaigner these experiences are sometimes unavoidable, the resourceful soldier may find a humble abode in any form of a shebang that his energy and imagination will allow him to fashion.

"Well that's fine and dandy," you say, "but just how do I get started building my shebang?"

Well, friend, the environment of your bivouac will determine how and what you build your shelter out of. Too, the weather situation is a key factor. For this instance, this writer will describe the processes that went into the following shebang built and used at an event this past November at the Carnton Plantation in Franklin, Tennessee. Note the accompanying picture. This shebang was built by your humble correspondent in about 45 minutes. A good pard or two will cut that time in half and equal out the division of labor. No tools nor mechanical fasteners were used in its construction, save for a pocketknife -and an exceedingly dull one at that.

The weather situation at Franklin was cold (mid 30's to low 40's during the day), raining (pretty much all day Friday with a threat of snow flurries or sleet Saturday), and an ever welcoming field of Tennessee mud. Perfect weather in which to submit a campaign impression, right? You bet.

First-off, one must select a site for his dwelling. It is advisable to stake claim near or in a tree line or in a wooded area if at all possible. The effect of this is to act as a wind block on windy or stormy days while also serving to provide a much more shady area on those balmy, sun-drenched afternoons.

This also puts one and his mess mates in close range to the building materials needed to construct their shebang

Framing it up. Right, the site having been surveyed and selected, the next step is to erect a basic frame that will support the canopy of the shelter. The aforementioned shebang used two forked uprights and a third limb as a ridgepole (all of which were downed limbs thus negating the need for an ax or hatchet), just as if one was setting up a dog tent. If the uprights cannot be stuck fast into the ground, an extra pair of hands holding up the frame is helpful until the back frame is added which will then serve as a brace. In framing out the back, simply lay more limbs on one side and over the ridgepole, allowing them to slant backwards to the ground. Once more, forked limbs work best as the forked end can be secured by jamming it up against the ridgepole. These should be spaced about every 8-10 inches. This assembly will be the rafters of your new home's roof. On mild, warm, and pleasant weather outings, this skeleton is adequate enough. However, in this example do to the hostile weather already intimated, the above procedure was continued by wrapping around the ends, both fore and aft, thereby enclosing most of the front or open side as well. The remaining opening in front was buttoned up by way of a rubber blanket which ministered as the front door.

Upon completion of your shelter's frame, the roof and sides (if practicable) should be covered. It is this writer's experience that small limbs awash with broad, flat, leafy vegetation do the job admirably. No succinct directions need be given as to their placement. The soldier's chief concern in their strewed situating being that they are layered upon one another in an overlapping fashion. Again, if perchance the specter of wet weather is nigh, the more the layers of such material heaped together the better. As with this example, an additional *top-coat* of hay was liberally used-its presence much aiding in the wicking away of excessive moisture, like water off a duck's.... Pine boughs also do nicely with the same effect. All that is left is to spread a little bedding-leaves, straw, or pine needles on the floor if need be and take delight in your humble yet authentic domicile

One's and his mess mates' imagination and surroundings are the only limitations when it comes to constructing a shebang. Other examples witnessed by your humble correspondent while on duty with the hardcore Army of the Pacific at last October's Perryville event, included one such brush shelter that housed an entire 32-man company, a colossal shebang of mere rubber blankets and shelter halves, smaller mess sized hog pens entirely out of fence rails, as well as a much more modest and humbler shebang occupied by this writer and his chums which exhibited a rubber blanket front portico columned by inverted muskets stuck fast in the ground thanks to the bayonet. A haunting sight it was to see as an entire 600-man brigade (two battalions) was flying hither and thither, scattering pell-mell in a Kentucky wood lot assembling their shebang's in an unrelenting downpour.

By the by, aye the truth be told, this writer did live in the pictured shelter for the entire weekend and slept very much dry and warm by means of one army blanket and overcoat along with a muffler and period mittens knitted by a special someone back home (no long johns or other winter weather attire). This shebang shed water but yet retained the body heat of its inhabitant. It works! Still don't believe me, try it yourselves sometime.

This article has been graciously provided by Pvt Mike Palada. As a veteran reenactor and author, Mike is regarded as a serious reenactor. Having had the honor of meeting Mike and his fellow Barley Corn Boys, I have come to appreciate and respect the style of work they have accomplished.



Dear Friends and Pards,

So far it has been a busy and worthy reenactment year. I've enjoyed working on maps for the Mar-maduke's Raid event at Piedmont, Missouri, attending Battalion Spring Drill with the Medich Battalion in Indiana. Working on the public event at Towne Park at Foristell, Missouri and attending the 150th Anniversary of Gettysburg. It's always nice to get out when the weather is fair, but can't always get lucky if it's Missouri weather.

Since last summer we have been fortunate to receive some outstanding recruits. These soldiers have attended at least activity in the field, while presenting themselves in a most favorable light. Each of these new soldiers can take immense pride in demonstrating the skill, discipline, and maturity appreciated by their fellow pards. Although some have attended an event or two already, and have made a positive impact in the company.

Dave Schroeder, Dave Schmitt, Matt Cone, Gus Kickham, Ross Mohesky, Erin Tapley, Paul Sivcovich, and Cody Sivcovich have all put in some serious time and energy into reenacting with the 11th Mississippi Infantry, Company G. I am glad to be associated with these soldiers who have recently joined the ranks.

As I stated in the beginning it has been a busy year thus far. With the remaining time left for this year I sincerely hope to see enthusiasm and the company formations busting at the seams.

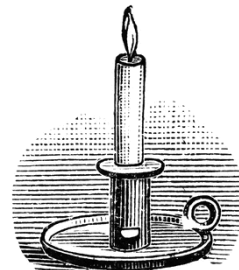
being among soldiers that feel the same way I do in regards to the units present and future appearance. Its in that frame of mind with the time remaining this year I wish to focus on getting myself better organized and focused. I refer to my attitude and conduct as a soldier and unit clerk.

For our new soldiers our company has a great many resourceful and knowledgeable members to assist in your training. The 11th Mississippi is blessed to have these men willing and able to train all of us to be better soldiers. As a whole our veteran members possess a substantial amount of experience. Well over a 150 years of knowledge is at our disposal when we take the field. I believe this is an exceptional edge when recruiting and training soldiers.

The next few months offer us several opportunities to improve on our personnel and unit goals. First and foremost please answer the roll and attend essential events to the company. Second invite a friend or relative to visit with the unit. Each one of you is a recruiter and retention officer serving the unit. Its up to you recognize how to open the door for a recruit. Its also up to you to be a friend to all your pards by making everyone feel welcome.

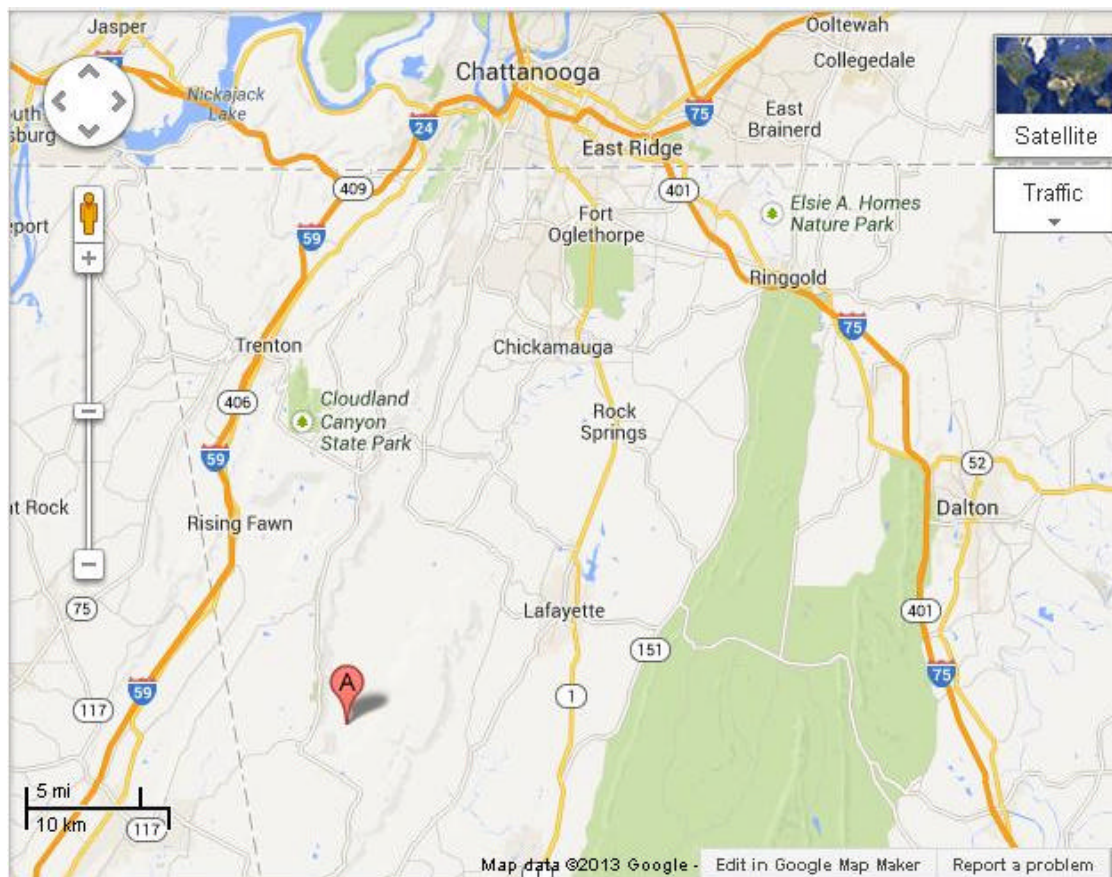
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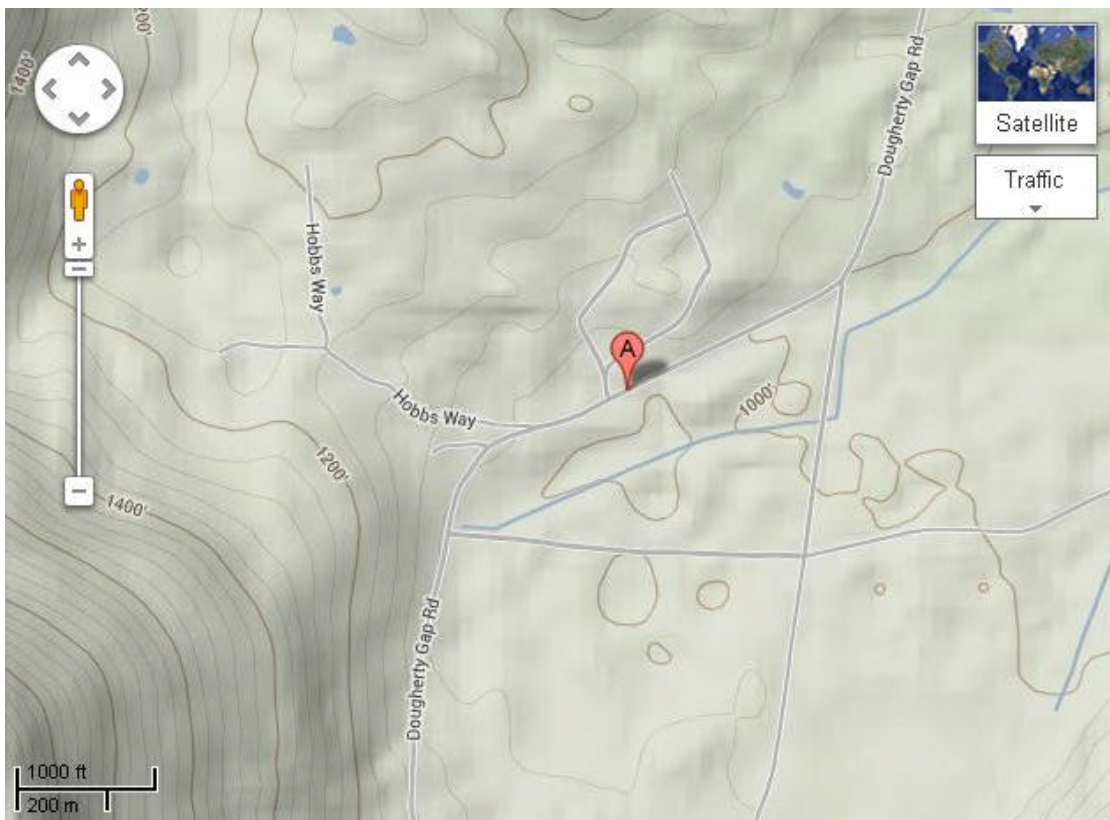
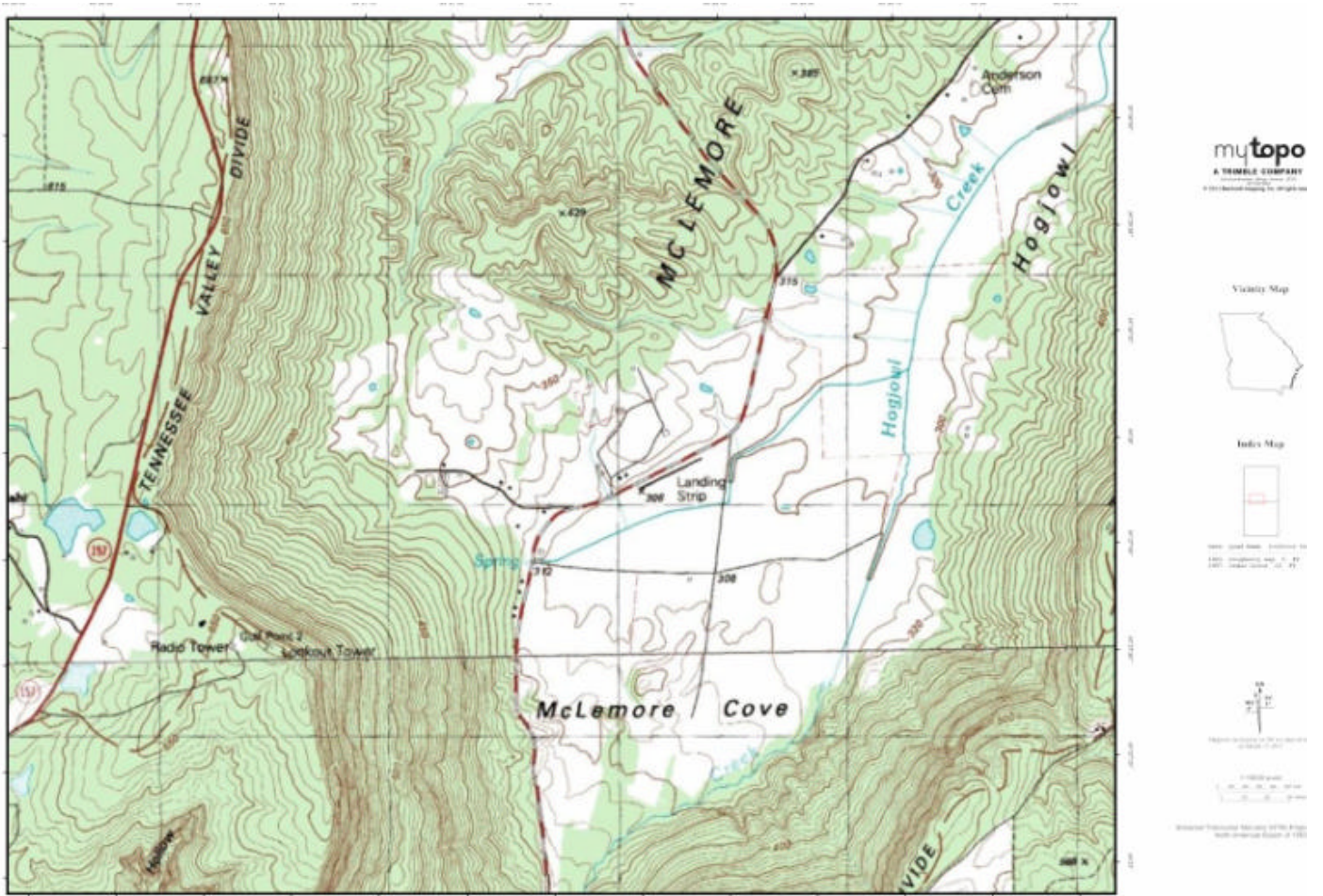
Pvt B. Barfield
Company Clerk

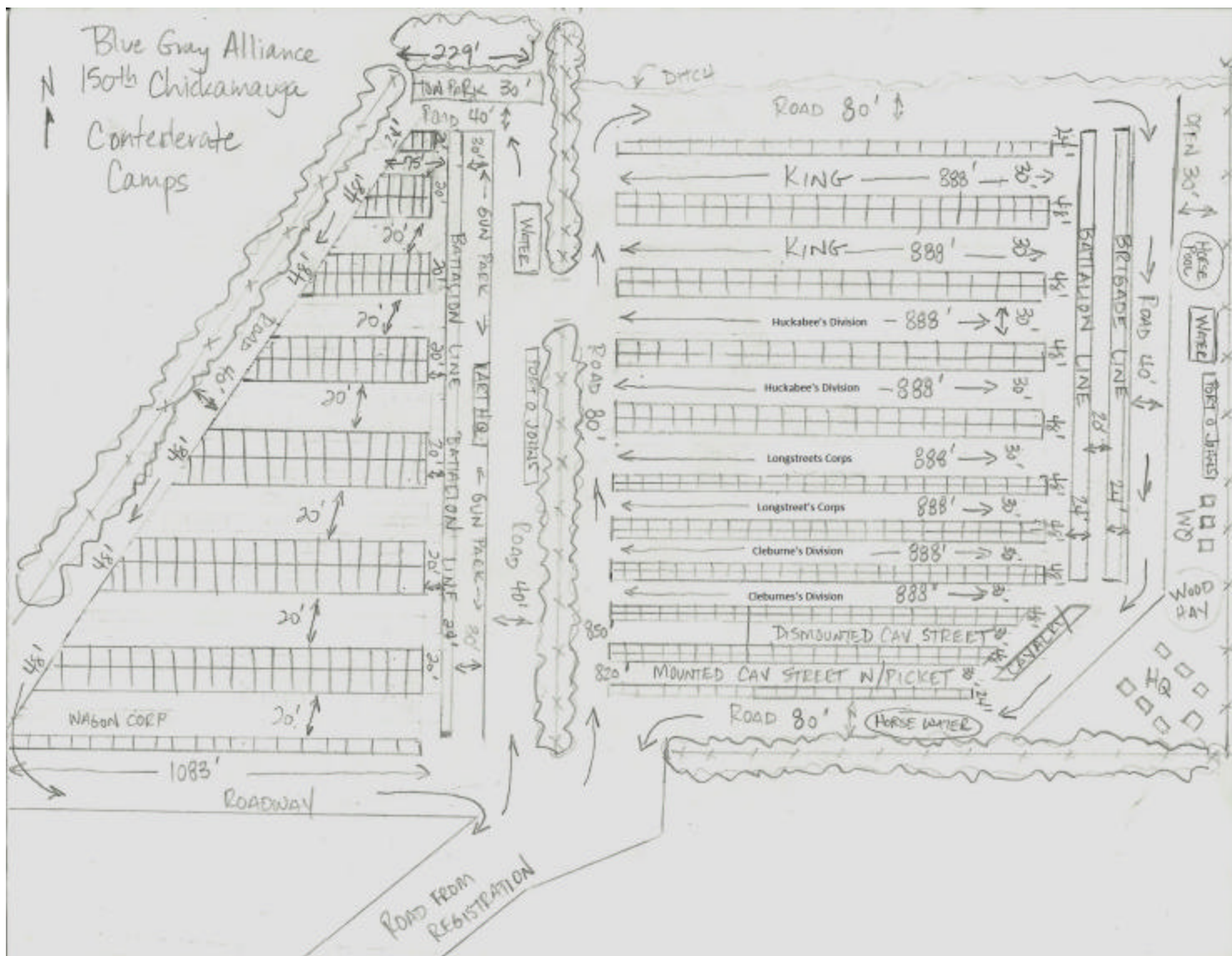


Chickamauga Event

The Chickamauga event is scheduled for Thursday 19 September— Sunday 22 September 2013. The official site address to use as a search point is 838 Dougherty Gap Road, Chickamauga, Georgia 30707



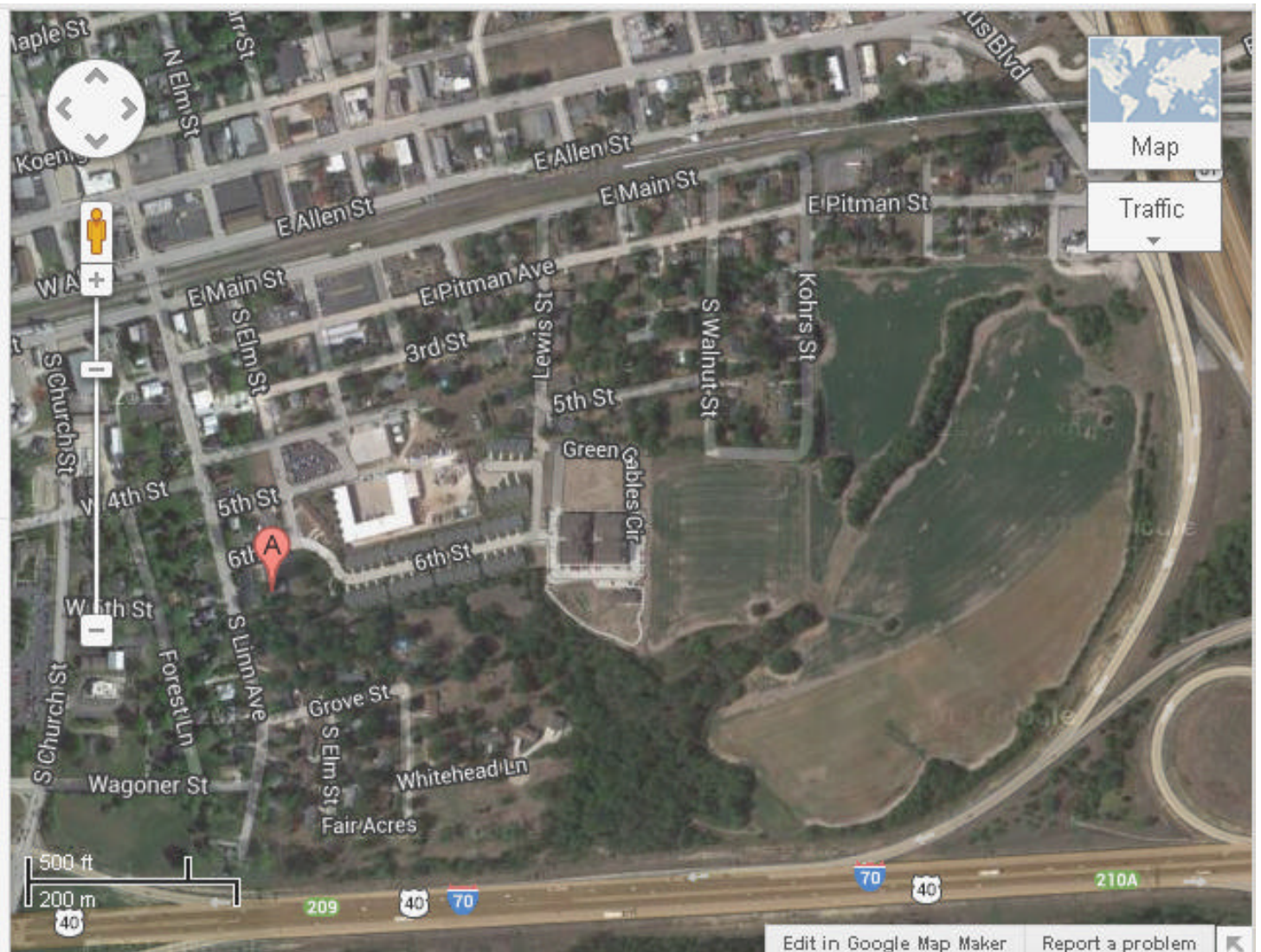




Excerpt from "The River of Death"

Chickamauga Battlefield Terrain

A mixed - wood forest covered most of the ground west of Chickamauga Creek. One participant called the rough and broken country, "a dark wilderness of woods and vines and overhanging limbs". In the frontier style the local farmers - the Poe, Dyer, Snodgrass and Brotherton families - had fenced in their yards and fields and allowed their livestock to range freely outside these fences. Over time the livestock had trampled and grazed many shrubs and brambles leaving the spaces between the trees free from underbrush. Here typical sightlines extended out some 125 o 150 yards on a clear sunny day. Once the light began to fail, either from cloying gun smoke caught beneath the tree canopy or as the sun began to go down, visibility dramatically declined. Throughout the forest dense tangles of vegetation blocked visibility and impaired movement. A Confederate battery commander described how he had to keep his guns a mere 100 yards behind the advancing infantry in order to keep them in view. The open forest did permit the passage of artillery batteries but the terrain greatly restricted the guns' field of fire. After the battle the Union army's Medical Director observed that the proportion of rifle to cannon wounds was much higher than usual, a fact he attributed to the undulating, forested terrain.



Battle of Wentzville Reenactment
506 South Linn Avenue
Wentzville, MO 63385

August 24 & 25 2013

The City of Wentzville Parks and Recreation and the Wentzville Area Historical Society and Co. C, 5th Regiment, Missouri Vol. is sponsoring the reenactment event. Camps are located in the old section of Wentzville.

Battles are scheduled for 2:00 pm on both Saturday and Sunday. A dance is scheduled for Saturday evening.