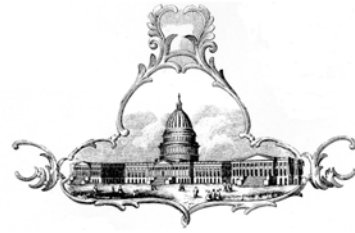




Gen. Philip Kearney

The Light
NEWSLETTER OF COMPANY K
Fifth Michigan Infantry
"Saginaw City Light Infantry"
Proud Member of the Cumberland Guard



January/February 2010 Edition

From The Chairman

Hope this newsletter finds you all well. The 5th had a great turnout at the 25th Anniversary Jackson event last August. In attendance were Jeremy Buschlen, Chris Buzzard, Dan Conklin, Scott Cummings, Mark Heath, Mack Kerridge, Kyle Neveau, Zach Schatzer, Beau Sheaver, Ernest Simmons, and Dave Wachowiak. We had a great time. We were brigaded with the 15th Michigan and we drilled very well together. We missed Will Eichler, but knew he was where he should be.

Will and Wendy Eichler welcomed their daughter Hannah Lee into the world on September 9th. Congratulations guys! We know Will and Wendy will be great parents.

Wolcott Mill was a week earlier this year and we got an opportunity to see little Hannah Lee on Sunday. Friday night was a little rainy, but we dried out over the weekend. The area around the headquarters camp fire turned into a mud bog due to the heavy traffic around it. That made cooking interesting. Will Eichler and Jeremy Buschlen were the only 5th members able to attend. We sure missed you all.

We had our Annual membership meeting at Pops house early in December. Thanks again Pops! Due to the low turnout we decided to hold the elections at our first drill in January. We voted to invest our Historic Preservation fund into a Group membership in the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition.

We had our first drill of the year January 23rd. Eric Berger, Jeremy Buschlen, Scott Cummings, Will Eichler, Mark Heath, Mack Kerridge, Zach Schatzer, Beau Shaver, and Ernest Simmons were in attendance. Members from several other groups were able to attend. We had one awesome drill, everyone knew their part and it just flowed wonderfully. During the lunch break, the 5th members in attendance held our elections. I humbly accepted to stay on as the Chairman of the council and Scott Cummings was voted the #1 military position. As the Military leader Scott is also on the council. Will Eichler, Mark Heath and Eric Berger were seated in the other three council seats. I was chosen to be the #2 military position, and Zach Schatzer is in the #3 military position. Will Eichler will also be staying on as Treasurer, webmaster and Newsletter editor.

Next up is the March 6th Company Drill in Leslie, Michigan hosted by the 7th Michigan. Several of us went last year and had a great time. It was a very informative and detailed drill. See the [Schedule](#) Page of the www.unionreenactor.com website for the other events we voted on for the upcoming season.

Please visit the website Will has updated and upgraded several pages including the [What do I need?](#) tab of the [Living History](#) page, [History](#), [Photos](#), etc...

Your pard,
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Commander's Column

January Drill:

On Saturday, January 23, the New Year started out with the great success of our winter drill held at Historic Fort Wayne. Nine of us from the gallant Fifth were in attendance along with 19 others from various different groups from our great state. The twenty-seven of us were able to practice almost all of the School of the Company with the exception of breaking in platoons. Also we covered in full detail skirmish exercises with special focus on the bugle calls (thanks Mark). This was perhaps one of the best winter company drills we have had. The weather was mild and the turnout and focused dedication of the men participating allowed us to accomplish more in a shorter time. This also enabled us to finally learn in depth breaking files to the rear, which was the best I have seen done to date. Thank you to all our members for turning out as well as the other dedicated men from other groups.

Annual Elections:

Back in December, when we had our annual meeting, we put off elections until the January drill. Elections were held for military leadership. Thank you once again for having confidence in me to be your military leader. Jeremy Buschlen was reelected to the number two spot. Zach Schatzer reelected as number three. In addition, Jeremy was reelected as our Chairman, of which I will let him report the details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Something for February:

I was trying to schedule a drill at Delta College but I have found I need more lead time for scheduling a drill there. Years ago, our group would drill at the college which allowed us to get good press for the college as well as our group. Good press means awareness with the public that we exist in the Tri-City area; it gives us more credibility in the eye of the public because we are at the college. Creating awareness of the 150th Anniversary of the War is a third goal. Sorry to say I should have started working on this in December but it didn't come to me until recently. I will work on it for next year.

February 13 Cartridge Party (Bay City, Michigan)

Instead of a drill in February, we will have a cartridge making party at my house on Saturday February 13th. My house is at 400 N Sheridan Bay City (corner of Ninth and Sheridan). Let us start at 10:00 a.m. and go until whenever. Bring a can of FFF black powder, string, cotton balls, glue sticks, tin of German caps and Pizza money. If any of the Sally Port boys want to join us as well, you are all very welcome. If anyone wants to sleep over Saturday night, I have plenty of floor space.

March 6 & 7 Company Drill Session/Field Musicians School (Leslie, Michigan)

Tom Emerick (7th Michigan) will be organizing a full day of infantry drill on Saturday. The 5th decided to attend this drill as a group (like we did last year). I believe it starts at 10:00 a.m. (More info to follow). You can opt to stay the night, just bring bedroll, etc. On Sunday there will be a school for Field Musicians along with some requisite "jam sessions". Jeff Verstraete (7th Michigan) has volunteered his culinary skills to cook a period Saturday supper/Sunday breakfast for those attendees planning to stay overnight Saturday (There will be a fee for these meals but he needs to know a count ahead of time to have enough for everyone).

April 23 - 25 Combined Arms Drill (Historic Fort Wayne)

Please make plans now to attend this wonderful weekend drill as we garrison the fort. This is an event co-hosted by the 5th and the Sally Port Mess so it is important to get all our members out for this event. As with other years, our focus will be on teaching School of the Battalion and how it works in the field with other branches of the army. With an occasional segway into classes on reenacting, School of the Soldier, Skirmish Exercises and the ever popular large School of the Company drill. More info to follow as it becomes available.

Websites, Welcome & Recruiting:

Will Eichler has done an excellent job as webmaster for our website www.unionreenactor.com which we opted to start a little over a year ago. Because of this site we have attracted Robert Mays to our group. Robert has put together a cook's impression and is looking forward to utilizing and integrating this impression into our group. Robert brings years of experience as a reenactor along with a Master Degree in history; a subject that he also teaches. Welcome aboard Robert.

To promote further recruiting I would encourage you all to attach a link for our website to any social media you use such as Face book, Also, might I suggest that with personal emails you put our link as a signature so it goes out with every email you send. With the 150's starting next year, now is the time to grow our group with like-minded people. This is our best opportunity to use whatever method we can to reach out to recruit. In the months to come I will be working at putting together a marketing plan that we can use to promote our group and reach like minds. Once we have a plan in place, we will need everyone to implement it in their community.

Two other great websites that we should be promoting are www.fortwaynebattaliondrill.com & www.historicfortwaynecoalition.com

That is about it for now. See all of you at the cartridge party and upcoming drills.

Your servant,
Scott Cummings
989-415-8592
scottyhomeseller@charter.net

From Will

About the Website

I'm humbled and very thankful for the nice compliments both Scott and Jeremy have made elsewhere in the newsletter. Yes, quite a bit of new work has been done recently and I'm proud of how this represents us in the community. Please remember, this belongs to all of us. If you have ideas, please get them to me. Thanks, John Legg, for regularly reading the site and giving me feedback! We need to see you back with us.

Mack – scan that cool image and email it to me so I can make it part of the site!

About our Schedule

We've set our schedule for 2010. It looks very exciting to me! Scott has elaborated on the early events in his article so I'll only give you dates for those.

All registration (except where individual registration is noted) will be done for us by Scott Cummings. Please help him and tell him what events you plan to go to!!!!

March 6 – Company Drill in Leslie, MI hosted by the 7th MI (see commander’s article).

April 23-25 – Combined Arms drill at Historic Fort Wayne. We are partnering with the Sally Port Mess to host this event this year. Let’s get a great turnout for the weekend!

May – Niles, MI. We voted to support our pard in the 1st MI on the west side of the state. Dates are still coming. Check the website for further updates.

Memorial Day weekend – Our newest member, Robert May, is Camp Commander of his SUVCW camp. We are talking with him about supporting their Memorial Day observances. More info will be passed on via email and the March/April newsletter as we get it.

June 11-13 – “Disaffected in Canada” is an immersion event designed by our pards in the Sally Port Mess to represent life in the 30th Michigan, Company G at Fort Wayne just before they were mustered out in June, 1865. Individual pre-registration is required. The website has a link to the event page.

July 9-11 – Civil War Days at Historic Fort Wayne. It’s been great to bring the old fort to life in the past and this year will be no different.

August 27-29 – Jackson Muster. It will be the 26th anniversary of the event. I’m not sure if a scenario has been selected.

September 25-26 – River of Time. We are waiting for official dates. The event’s website hasn’t been updated yet. We voted to go to this event and set up and recruit! The 150s are coming and we want to grow.

October 10-11 – Wolcott Mill – The 4th Texas has thrown a great party for the past several years. It’s my (Will’s) goal to improve our camp this year. We have a good space but hardly anyone was filling it last year. Let’s get some boys out to stay the weekend and have a grand time!

October 23-24 – Antietam National Battlefield Living History. Pard, what an opportunity! We will get to camp in the actual West Woods near the Dunker Church. We will portray the 6th Wisconsin of the Iron Brigade. This is hosted by the 24th Michigan and is an opportunity not to be missed. The hosts ask that all men possible come with a Hardee hat. Second choice will be a black civilian hat and the forage cap last as we are portraying the Iron Brigade.

Dues are Due!

Boys, we did a good thing by throwing our groups support officially behind the HFWC this year. We did an excellent thing last year by starting the website. The year before, we bought the flag holder and baldrics to support our colors. These cool projects all come directly from you paying your dues. Membership is \$15.00 per man. As treasurer, I have a separate account in my savings account for the group. However, it is in my name so we don’t get taxed as a group.

Please either pay me at the next drill or mail me a check. Make it out to Will Eichler and put "5th MI" in the memo line.

Send it to me at:

Will Eichler
57431 Junction Ct.
Washington, MI 48094

Website to check out

In an earlier newsletter, I promised to provide you all with a website for John Lammers as he continued the work of his father, Jim. Check out John's work at:

<http://www.jlammersandcompany.com/>

It's also available as a link off our links page.