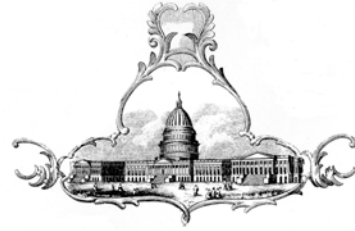




Gen. Philip Kearney

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



March/April 2009 Edition

From The Chairman

Lads,

Spring weather is upon us at least in spurts. We still have one more big drill before we kick off the campaign season. Our group hosts this drill; we need your participation. Civil War soldiers drilled day after day. Therefore, we do our best with the time available to honor them. Being proficient at drill we inspire other groups to try harder. I plead with all of you, to make every effort, to make it to the Combined Arms Drill at Historic Fort Wayne, April 17th, 18th, and 19th.

Selfishly, I just love being at the Fort, I love getting to spend time with you guys, and I like to get a taste of what it was like to be an 1860's soldier in garrison. As in other years past, there will be some classroom and/ or hands-on learning time, as well as drill sessions Saturday and Sunday. I believe some updates are in work for this year's event at www.fortwaynebattaliondrill.com, so check it out. Unfortunately, Will Eichler will be working during this year's event. Work has been slow for Will, as it has for many of us in these tight times. We will miss you Will, but know you are doing what is necessary for your family. Everyone else, please let Scott and/ or I know if you will or won't be able to attend.

With tough economic times we may be tempted to cut back on the number of events we attend. Scott Cummings has a good philosophy here - you are going to have to eat even if you stay home. Try to car pool to events. You will save gas, and perhaps renew an old friendship or even start a new one.

Our next event will be in Niles, MI. Our friends and fellow Michigan Battalion members the 1st MI Infantry host this event. Checkout the site at www.firstmichiganinfantry.com/default_files/NILES.htm. I will be our group's military leader at this event. We will be brigaded with the 24th MI and possibly the Sally Port Mess. We need to know who would like to attend and start making plans for what promises to be a great event.

Reminder: If you haven't paid your dues yet, please do so. If you wish to mail a check, send it to Will, made out to Will. Also, now is a good time to start rolling rounds for the season. I look forward to seeing you all April 17th.

Your Servant,

Jeremy Buschlen
(269) 565-2393 bfijeremy@att.net

Commander's Column

LAST MONTH'S DRILL -

The multi-unit drill we had at Historic Fort Wayne on the 28th of February was a great success. Will Eichler, Jeremy Buschlen, Eric Berger, Mark Heath, Dan Conklin, Mack Kerridge and I were in attendance from the 5th. While only a handful of the boys from the 5th were able to attend, I think we had about 20 men total. Members of the 5th, 21st, 24th and Sally Port mess were on hand and we practiced School of the Soldier and went in depth into School of the Company. Covering 99.5% of SOC. The weather was a bit nipplely but the sun was out and it is always a pleasure to drill in the shade of the barracks on the parade ground. A great day spent with wonderful pards.

THIS MONTH'S DRILL -

The 7th Michigan Vol. Inf., Co. B held a six-hour drill session from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Saturday March 28th at the White Pine Academy in Leslie MI. The 5th as well as other groups from around the state were invited to attend as well. There were at least 50 men there maybe more. Tom Emerick, Captain of the 7th, conducted the drill and did a great job of it. Since Tom is a very accomplished Captain, I decided to fall in as a private and was promptly made a corporal...no extra pay though. Also, another reason to take myself from the leadership mix was to give others the chance to learn as well as have you lads exposed to another captain teaching the same stuff to reiterate what was important. Tom did an excellent job. We had eight men from the 5th attend.

COMBINED ARMS DRILL WEEKEND-

Once again the annual Combined Arms Drill is almost here. To be held at Historic Fort Wayne in Detroit April 17/18/19. We will once again be in the barracks and it is estimated that we will have at least 100 infantry in attendance as well as men from the Artillery and Cavalry. Unfortunately Will Eichler will be working on a movie and unable to attend this year. I will act in his place and coordinate the training with other instructors incorporated in as much as possible. It is very important that we all attend in force.

CARTRIDGE PARTY -

I have selected the evening of Friday May 1st to have a cartridge party at my home 400 N Sheridan Bay City MI. Starting at 7 PM and going until whenever. Out of towners can spend the night. Bring all the supplies needed to make rounds as well as some pizza money.

That is about it for now. Oh...if you haven't paid your dues yet (like me) please get the money to Will.

Your pard,

Scott

scottyhomeseller@charter.net 989-415-8592

About the Website

The website continues to progress nicely. We've been able to get more pictures put up of members of the group. There are also photos from the February Drill at Fort Wayne. Shortly, there will be some from the recent March Drill. We decided to start this site to help new re-enactors and to grow the group. What do you think we should put up there to make that work better? Looking for all ideas!

About our Schedule

At the January powder party and meeting, we voted on events for this year. Below are the ones we selected that are upcoming. I hope to see you at many of them!

April 17-19 – Combined Arms Drill: Historic Fort Wayne, Detroit. We've hosted this event for the past three years as a chance for all troops across Michigan to come together and drill to get ready for the season. In 2009, we'll again have our pards from the Cavalry and Artillery with us.

May 16-17 – Niles, MI. Hosted by our pards in the 1st Michigan, Niles was discussed as the first event for the Michigan Infantry Battalion to participate in as a group. It is an excellent site.

June 19-21: - 3rd MI, Co F sponsored Preservation March. Proceeds go to restoration at Historic Fort Wayne. Pre-registration is \$25.00. All food is provided. Yes, it's for a good cause but we have a better reason to go on this. We will march about 20 miles over the weekend. Want to get a feel of what it was to be a soldier on campaign? This is a different part of the experience.

July 11-12: Civil War Days, Historic Fort Wayne. This event is huge push the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition to educate the public about the Fort. We've gone in years past as Will (who will be the Federal Commander) has issued a challenge to all US infantry units – get at least 100 infantrymen to the event so the public has a good view of what life was like at the Fort for the men we portray.

August 28-30 – Jackson, MI – 25th Anniversary of the event. The event gets into full swing with a battle on Friday evening this year to celebrate the anniversary. Be sure to come early and roll some extra rounds!

September 4-6 – Atlanta Campaign in Georgia – This will be the Cumberland Guard National event for the year. It will be on the holiday weekend but will be a Fri – Sun event like normal. The website is www.atlantacampaign.com.

September 25-27 – We discussed attending this event to do only two things: teach the public our history and RECRUIT.

October 10-11 – Wolcott Mill – The scenario will be from Chickamauga this year.

Dues

Dues are due. You may pay by mail or bring them with you to Niles. Dues for full members are \$15.00 (which is almost all of us) and \$7.50 for associates. Our dues money is how we provide for the needs of the group. If you want to mail the dues, please make a check or Money Order to Will Eichler and send it to:

Will Eichler
57431 Junction Ct.
Washtington, MI 48094

Here is who has paid their dues so far this year. Thanks for getting your payment in!

Jeremy Buschlen
Dan Conklin
Will Eichler
Mark Heath
Mack Kerridge
Beau Shaver
Ernest Simmons

Two Good websites

I am trying to keep some good historical information in the newsletter each issue. This time it will be a bit slim but will give you a chance to do some research for yourself. Here are two great websites that have links to images of boys from the original 5th MI:

<http://www.michiganinthewar.org/photos/gallery.htm> - Beware! This site has music embedded in it. I usually turn my sound off when I visit it.

<http://haldigitalcollections.cdmhost.com/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=%2Fp4006coll3>
- This link will take you to the Civil War Soldiers' photos held at the Michigan State Archives. You can search for the Fifth Michigan from there. I enjoy looking at all the boys from MI!

I've had a lot of fun looking at images on these two sites – I hope you do to!