



Gen. Philip Kearney

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



May/June 2009 Edition

From The Chairman

Lads,

Hope you all are well. It has been some time since I have seen you. I thoroughly enjoyed myself at the 1st Michigan's event in Niles, MI. The hosts went out of their way to make this an enjoyable event for re-enactors and a first rate event for the public. I hope more of us can attend next year - it is worth the drive. Next up is the Preservation March put on by the 3rd Michigan which will raise money for Historic Fort Wayne www.thirdmichigan.org. After that, July 11-12 is Civil War Days at Historic Fort Wayne. Don't forget there will be a working Postal system! While we hope everyone can make every event, we understand that everyone has other parts of life. So please contact Scott or myself to let us know. We need to let the hosts know what type of numbers we have coming, so they can plan logistics.

What have you been doing in your downtime to improve your impression or to prepare for the campaign season? I've read some books this winter that covered pre-war politics and am always skimming through Casey's Infantry Tactics. I recommend each one of you have a copy. You can get a paperback copy from www.fcsutler.com for \$12 or you can read it for free online @ www.usregulars.com. Now is a great time to be rolling cartridges and putting them up in arsenal packs. Don't forget to put 12 caps in each. Need caps? Don't buy CCI's, the German 4 wing caps are available online @ www.blocakderunner.com. Remember Blockade Runner is also the sutler with the "Golden egg" canteen (get one with a jean wool cover).

I have to admit I was pretty scared to see how the material culture of the hobby had grown when I started up a few years ago. Hand sewn buttonholes? How do you do that? I learned quickly when I sewed all the button holes and grommets on my 2 shelter halves. I am currently working on my 2nd shirt. Don't be scared you may have fun sewing and you can save a lot of money. Hope to see you all soon.

Your pard,

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

Commander's Column

COMBINED ARMS DRILL

I truly enjoyed being overall military commander at the Combined Arms Drill at the Fort in April. Missing our pard Will greatly who usually serves in that capacity, I do hope my small feet filled his shoes even just a little bit. While I enjoy battalion level leadership, my true love is serving as your captain. Unfortunately, life has gotten in the way of that as I was unable to attend the Niles event.

PARTICIPATION, COMMITMENT, ATTRITION, RECRUITING

It has been awhile since we have had the opportunity to all get to an event in force and reenact together in the hobby that we love so much. This has been a rough year for getting men out to enjoy our hobby. Even the Combined Arms Drill at the Fort in April saw less of our numbers and at Niles we only fielded three men. We know the factors involved in keeping us from what we love. In general terms this has been the worst economy since the early 80's and there is a real reason to put as much time in at work as possible as we don't know when our job might be eliminated next; and gas prices once again are shooting up; School and higher education has become more of a priority then ever. Lord knows all of these have affected my participation level.

The other factor that weighs very heavily on me is that if I don't attend an event, at least four to six others don't attend either because they always catch a ride with me. Here is where you boys that get rides with me need to communicate with the others and put together a plan "B" so that you guys don't miss out. I feel bad enough that I can't go. But then when you boys don't go, because of me, it makes me feel even worse.

Unfortunately, I will be kept away from the Fort Wayne Civil War Days again this year as that weekend is my daughter's 5th birthday and we have a big party planned for her. Even if I can't be there, I would hope you all go to the Historic Fort Wayne event the weekend of July 10th-12th. I am sorry I can't attend. Be committed to each other for that event. Then let's come out in force for the Jackson, River of Time and Wolcott events. I would much rather have a few events a year that we are attending in force showing our commitment to each other than 10 events with just a handful of men from the group attending.

Edmund and Clay graduated this past Sunday. As I observed the graduation ceremony I couldn't help but be very proud and a bit sad. We are losing a great soldier to the US Marines with Edmund Lockhart. His forever presence at events will be truly missed and he will leave a large hole in the ranks that will be hard pressed to fill. While Clay hasn't been reenacting much with us these past few seasons, he was quite active with us for a few years. He too is headed off to the Marine Corps. Unfortunately these two men leave at different times this summer but their boot camp will be at the same place San Diego CA. I am very proud of both of these men. One is my son and the other might as well be as he spent more of his free time at my home than perhaps Clay did. They will both be missed and I pray that God will keep them from harms way and that their service in the

Marine Corps will be a great adventure in their lives. Thank you Edmund and Clay for your service to the 5th but more importantly, thank you for your service to our country.

As you can see, we are losing men. In order for the 5th to thrive and survive, we need to replace these men with new recruits. We not only have to replace them but we need to grow too. **We all need to be recruiting.** How many people do you encounter on a regular basis that don't know you are a Civil War re-enactor? How many people in your graduating class or on Facebook or Twitter-tube or Yourface on My-tube know that you reenact the Civil War? Have you posted our website www.unionreenactor.com as a link on all your Twitter-face-tube stuff? How many people in your church or at work know that you reenact the Civil War? Getting recruits is letting people know that you are a Civil War re-enactor. Don't keep it a secret. If we all place an ad on Craig's list looking for recruits . . . it might just get us some. It is worth a try . . . it's free. Tell everyone you run into that you are a part of a great hobby. How about a former history teacher? Post something at the local gun shop or hardware or college. If each one of us made it our goal to just get one recruit this year . . . we would double our size. Growing our group is essential for the 5th to remain viable. New blood is as important as old blood as the new blood makes the old blood flow with more energy. Take the time this week to actively start looking for someone who might like this hobby too. Make a list of all the people you know and send them a letter telling them that you are a Civil War re-enactor and are currently trying to get more people into this hobby to participate in the upcoming 150th Anniversary of the War. Ask these people if they are interested themselves or if they know of someone that might be interested? Ask for their contact info. Call them up or pass the info onto one of us in the leadership and we will call them.

Let's grow this group. Sure it is hard in this economy . . . it can be done. I myself joined in 1983 at the tale end of the last worst recession to hit the Bay City area. We are so spread out that if you can get others from your community to join then at least you have someone to car pool with to the next event. When you contact them . . . ask them if they would like to try it out. We have enough loaner stuff to get a few new guys out to Jackson. So let's all commit to finding that one person in our community that we can bring into the group and lets double our size this year. Who's with me?...Lets goooooooooo!

Your servant,

Scott

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989-415-8592

From Will

Pards,

It's great to be back with you here in MI! While I regret work kept me away from the Combined Arms Drill and Niles, I saw the pictures of the Drill and it looked like a great time! I'll be back with you next year!

The powder party/meeting in January was a lot of fun! I also really enjoyed the drill at the Fort in February and in Leslie in March. It's been too long since I've seen many of you! Let's change that at Civil War Days, Jackson, and Wolcott. I'll miss River of Time as Wendy is due with our first child then so I'll be shot if I leave. GO to RIVER OF TIME! RECRUIT! TELL OUR STORY!

Look shortly for a recruiting flyer for the group. We started talking seriously about this at the January meeting. Jeremy and I have talked about it recently. We're working on a ½ page and full-page size both. This will help you in the recruiting Scott talked about.

Hope to see you at the Fort in July. Come even if you can only be there for one day! I've heard from at least 10 of us that are going and we may have 12 or 13 there! As with the battalion drill a few years ago, our company will be barracked on the 3rd floor. Can't wait to see you!

About the Website

There are a few new items on the website. Mostly they are new pictures of us in action. John Legg has also volunteered to write up a piece about the 5th for the History section. Thanks, John! We can't wait to see what you come up with! Use this website for your recruiting. Talking about the hobby to someone? Tell them about www.unionreenactor.com! They may go look later and give you a buzz. 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!

July 11-12: Civil War Days, Historic Fort Wayne. This event is a 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. Expect to see 10-12 members of the 5th there!

Want to see something new?? We are planning two great new scenarios for Civil War Days this year. First, Jeremy talked earlier about a postal scenario. Want to send a letter to a civilian? No problem – write it and pass it off to either the postal officer or the chaplain and he'll get it delivered to the postmaster of Detroit who will get it delivered.

2nd – we are working on having a functioning regimental sutler on site. This isn't a sutler like you are used to seeing. Pat Price will be playing our post sutler. He will have items for sale. You won't be able to use modern money during the weekend. On Friday (and maybe for a limited time on Saturday) you'll be able to buy sutler chits (tokens sutler gave the men as cash between paydays) and use them to buy items. Items are still being worked out but will be delicacies and items of use you may want as a soldier in garrison!

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 25-27 – River of Time - We discussed attending this event to do only two things: teach the public our history and RECRUIT. Beau Shaver just told me he had a great School presentation on May 1 and many of the students said they wanted to come out with their families. People will be looking for us!

October 10-11 – Wolcott Mill – The scenario will be from Chickamauga this year. This has become an excellent event over the past few years. We have an all day tactical on Saturday that is focused on living the life of a soldier. We take a break in the field for the dinner meal. The weather has been amazing for the past few years. Come join us for a great weekend!

Dues

Dues are due. You may pay by mail or bring them with you to the Fort. 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

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will come quickly. I want to get the newsletters out in the first part of the two month period, not near the end. To do that, the next newsletter deadline will be July 15, the Wednesday after Civil War Days. I hope to have it out by the weekend of the 18th.