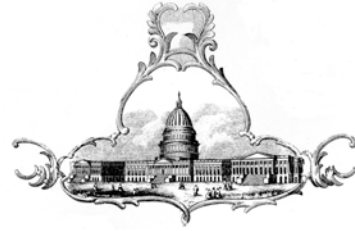




Gen. Philip Kearney

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



December 2008 Edition

From The Chairman

Lads,

First, I would like to thank Pops and his wife for once again opening their home for us to meet for our annual fall meeting. The food and hospitality was terrific. Secondly, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve you as Chairman; I will do my best to serve you honorably and humbly. I would also like to thank Will Eichler for his years of service to our group as Chairman. He will remain on the Guidance Council, as will Scott Cummings as the Military leader; Dan Conklin and Zach Schatzer round out the Guidance Council. Will has graciously agreed to stay on as treasurer and assume the duties of Newsletter Editor, not to mention work on our brand new website www.unionreenactor.com. Scott Cummings #1, Jeremy Buschlen #2, and Zach Schatzer #3 lead the Military leadership this year.

The consensus at the meeting was we need to renew our efforts to foster growth. There were suggestions to recruit at certain events. Will and I will be looking at some signage to aid in this effort. We agreed that we would return to The River of Time event, but only with the intention to recruit. The idea of the website is also a tool to aid our new recruits and be a resource for veteran members alike. I believe looking forward at this next year we are directly in line with the Mission Statement of our group.

MISSION STATEMENT
5TH Michigan Volunteer Infantry
Company K
Saginaw City Light Infantry

Our mission is to portray Union Soldiers from the Civil War period 1861-1865. In doing so, we strive to educate ourselves and the public in all aspects of the everyday life of common Union soldiers. This includes, but is not limited to: how they talked, drilled, marched, fought and ate; what uniforms, equipment and weapons they used; what their mind set was and

how they coped physically, mentally and spiritually with that terrible war. We endeavor to take re-enacting to a new level by being leaders in authenticity of dress and action and to always teach others by example. Our goal is to be the most respected and well-trained reenacting group in the state of Michigan. We believe in fostering long lasting friendships through teamwork and collective common effort. We strive to make re-enacting as fun and non-political as possible. We work for the preservation of Civil War battlefields and historical sites. We will grow our ranks with quality friends and historians and, above all, honor the men who preserved the Union.

We are narrowing down the date for our January drill, and already have quite a few dates for next year. Please come and join us for some fun. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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

About the Website

As Jeremy mentioned in his article, we decided this year to invest some of our remaining money in the treasury into a website. The address is www.unionreenactor.com and is starting to grow nicely. We did this as part of the effort we discussed to grow the group by recruiting. This main idea behind the site is to help grow the group. You can help with that! If you have ideas for the website, please send them to Will or Jeremy and we'll try to work them in. On a financial note, we paid \$215.00 and got the site and paid for the URL for three years with that money. It will be 2012 before we need to deal financially with it again.

About the Newsletter

Starting in January, we will publish our newsletter bi-monthly. As we talked about how to revitalize the unit at the annual meeting, regular communication was discussed. In order to help that, the newsletter will get back on a regular schedule. Expect newsletters in January, March, May, July, September and November. We decided to put out this newsletter as we talked about so much at the annual meeting and many of us weren't able to attend.

This newsletter is all of ours. In the past 18 months, it's been fun to see many of you contribute more regularly to the newsletter about topics you find interesting. I hope you'll consider doing that again. This newsletter includes a note from John Legg. While

its not an article, John has been away from many of us since Jackson with the start of college and he wants to bring us up to date on his life

We made the decision to move the newsletter to an electric distribution at the annual meeting. Anyone who doesn't have an email will still receive a copy via US mail. However, as we talked about ways to grow the group, we decided we needed more money available for different projects. In order to not raise our dues, we decided to email out the newsletter. Copying and mailing is our single largest cost and we'll cut it down by about 80% by doing this. The newsletter will also be posted on the website.

About our Schedule

We discussed many potential events next year but our group votes on events at the January drill/meeting. So far, we only have two events set in stone, our drill and the Combined Arms Drill, which we host. Below is a list of potential events; I've bolded the two that are firm:

January 24, 2009 – Drill from 10am – 4pm @ 3470 Bangor Road, Bay City. Mack Kerridge and his family again provide this space. Thanks for hosting! Like last year, let's plan to be outside the entire time. Bring a lunch and make sure your canteens are full. WE WILL HAVE A UNIT MEETING AT THIS DRILL TO SET OUR 2009 SCHEDULE.

February 2009 – We discussed having a drill, possibly as a weekend stay-over at Historic Fort Wayne. The date hasn't been picked yet.

March 2009 – We discussed having our monthly drill at a place like Terry McKinch's or some other more central location. Will has talked with a few other groups about the idea of getting together for company drill. The 1st Michigan is definitely interested, as are our pard in the Sally Port Mess and the 24th MI. The 7th MI may also be interested. The exact date is still up in the air.

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. If you have ideas on how to make this a better event, please contact Will.

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. Mark Heath and Dan Conklin went last year. Would one of you write up a brief description of the site and event?

Memorial Day weekend – If anyone wants to attend Greenfield Village’s Memorial Day weekend event, please contact Will and we’ll get you registered through the Federal HQ guard.

June: - There is still nothing that we know of in June. We discussed maybe making our weekend at Fort Wayne here instead of February. We discussed doing the weekend at the Fort partially to help with preservation, as we wouldn’t be giving as much money to preservation this year. We’ll know more about events after the Re-enactor’s Conference on Jan. 17.

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 – to 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.

Hastings – We’ll have dates for Hastings after the Re-enactor’s Conference. The report from those of us who went this year wasn’t encouraging.

August 1-2 – Gettysburg Living History – Hosted by the 24th MI. We’ve been invited to participate in a weekend stay ON THE BATTLEFIELD. It looks like the group will be a battalion of 8 or so companies.

Late August – Jackson, MI – 25th Anniversary of the battle.

Labor Day weekend – Atlanta Campaign in Georgia – This will be the Cumberland Guard National event for the year. The event is an interesting proposition. It will be on the holiday weekend but will be a Fri – Sun event like normal. This is being done to allow Monday as a travel day home without people having to miss school or work. Earl Zeckman who Will knows personally and is a great chap will host us. There is a special pre-registration price for Cumberland Guard members only. For us, pre-registration received by Jan. 31 is only \$8.00! Great price for a national. We’ll send out a reminder before the drill and if we decide to do the event, let’s get in on this great deal. The event website is www.atlantacampaign.com.

River of Time – I didn’t bold this because it is late in the season and we can vote on this as a group at the January meeting during the drill. However, we discussed attending this event to do only two things: teach the public our history and RECRUIT.

October 10-11 – Wolcott Mill – It’s been an incredible experience for the past two year! The scenario is still developing but I hope we vote this one back again.

November 13-15 – Bummers – Many of us had a grand time at “At High Tide” this summer. That same company is getting back together for a re-union as the 93rd Illinois at

Bummers next November. This event is a progressive event commemorating the step-off of Sherman's March through Georgia. Come join us! Not done a progressive event before? This is a great time to start with your pals around you in a very hard-working, supportive company. The event site is www.bummers09.com.

Dues

Dues are due starting January 1st. You may pay early, if you wish or bring them to the Jan. 24 drill. 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

We'll put a list of who has paid in the next newsletter.

Note From John Legg

Men,

This is not an article, nor a paragraph about excuses. I am just writing you all to say that I am sorry and let everyone know what is going on in my life. Over the past few months, it's like I have forgotten about my reenacting life. Which is shameful in my part, because it is such a great achievement in my life.

I am currently attending Washtenaw Community College, which is right down the road from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsi. I have started my general education classes for my major. Not sure where I plan to transfer, but I have had the University of Georgia on my mind, also Montana State University. I started with 14 credits, but I had to drop my Algebra class. My chosen major is, Sports Management. Sports and Business are the top things in my life at this moment. With this degree, I plan on pursuing in Professional sports. Keep an eye out on ESPN for me, you never know, the Lions do need a new General Manager...

I have started working at Hell, oops I mean McDonalds. Mickey D's is a gross, sick, disgusting place to work, but it is getting me more money than the movie theater ever was. I am working a lot, with an average of 28 hours a week. Due to my key points in business, I have climbed the chain at the store. I'm not saying I'm a manager; just the Managers really enjoy me working there. I am always there early, have not had to call in yet, and I have stayed late when they needed me too (like a 3:00-midnight shift...). The cool thing is that I actually have money now!

Slow Pitch softball is another activity that keeps pulling me away from reenacting. There is a sports complex in Hartland, that is called Tag's. Tag's offers four softball diamonds that range from 300-315 foot fences. If you know me, I am very competitive. Since not

playing football anymore for the high school, I needed find something that would help. I started during the summer, never playing softball before in my life. I climbed my way up the charts, as I became better and better. Many say I should be playing baseball at Washtenaw, but I only really had one-year experience during high school and that was Junior Varsity season. According to other, I move like a baseball player. Last season I hit three home runs, 15 inside the parkers and had probably a .700 batting average. I have become so involved and so skilled in this recreational sport, that I already have teams calling me for the spring season... WHICH IS IN APRIL!

Again, I am so sorry for my absence. If I have the time off, I'm sleeping. I'm so busy lately that I enjoy taking naps now. Please call me just to talk; if I'm not available I will call you back.

John

John – We miss you! Congrats on the new accomplishments! We look forward to having you back with us soon. Naps are an important part of college. Enjoy them!