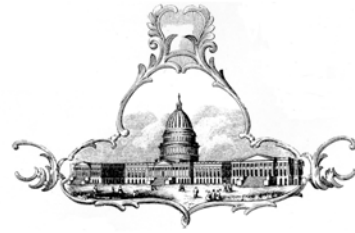




Gen. Philip Kearney

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



January/February 2009 Edition

From The Chairman

Lads,

Hope you all had a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Years. I started my resolution a little early this year before Thanksgiving actually. We have a Healthy Holiday challenge each year where I work. You weigh-in and have your body fat measured before Thanksgiving and again after the New Year kicks off. I was able loose 8 lbs and 1% body fat this year. I get up before work each day and exercise. Making some healthy lifestyle changes will improve my health and make Civil War reenacting a little more comfortable and enjoyable. Another critical part of making our hobby comfortable and enjoyable is the way we drill. This hinges on one of the phrases from our Mission statement "*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...*"

So, by continually improving our drill we educate the public and further our knowledge. Saturday January 24th we have an opportunity to improve our drill. Mack's uncle was gracious enough to let use his field again this year. This is our first drill of the year and we will have a meeting to discuss/finalize the schedule for the year. In addition to the camaraderie and knocking the dust off from the winter, we have another opportunity and I personally feel an obligation. We have several men from the 24th Michigan and The Sally Port Mess coming up to drill with us. Let's make this a maximum participation event and show these boys a good time.

I hope to see everyone there. Please bring your dues; if you have a check please write it out to Will. As always, if you can't make it please call Scott, Will or I.

Your Servant,

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

Commander's Column

Boys,

My hope is that your holidays were wonderful and full of great times spent with your

family and friends. It seems like forever since we have all been together. I am looking forward to seeing you all soon.

I would like to apologize for not being able to keep up with putting out a newsletter on a regular basis the last half of 2008. My schedule just didn't allow it but I am truly sorry for letting you all down. However, the by-product of that allowed us to save some money and we now have a great website www.unionreenactor.com. Thanks to Will.

Speaking of which. Thank you Will for serving as the 5th Chairperson for so many years and doing a great job of it. We are all very lucky to have you in the 5th. Also, thanks for taking over the newsletter.

Thank you all so much for reelecting me as your military commander. I will endeavor to continue to do my very best for you and excel in that aspect and never forget that while serving you in this capacity I am also helping us all honor those soldiers that we strive to emulate.

Jeremy Buschlen was reelected as your #2 leader and I know he will continue to serve in that position with the same dedication he has shown to us all...congrats to you Jeremy and a double huzzah for you being our new chairperson. I know you will follow in the shoes of Will and fill that spot with great vigor.

Our #3 leader is Zach Schatzer. I have seen Zach grow in this hobby and take it up with the same type of passion that I did at age 22. It makes me proud that my son has developed the love for this hobby...it means that something I love so much will be continued with the next generation. As for his leadership...I think he will do well but he won't get any special treatment from good old dad cause if it goes to his head my foot isn't too far from his you know what. But I am confident he will serve you all very well.

I am excited about this 2009 year. It is a year of much change for me as I have started my journey toward a business degree and have become a college student...only thirty years after graduating from High School. My first class is January 13th and I am looking forward to cleaning out the cobwebs of my brain and learning some new and different things. Also, been looking for a job. While real estate is something I will continue to sell it just isn't enough with this present economy to make the money needed for my family. Another change is that my oldest Clay will be graduating high school this year and he has said he wants to join the Marines. So as I start this year I am getting out of my comfort zone and while excited about it also have some trepidations as I don't know how this might affect my reenacting. You all know how passionate I am about reenacting so I am hoping that these changes won't slow me down from serving you my dear pards.

Our first drill is January 24th from 10:00 AM til 4 or so. We will be drilling at Mack's Uncle's property. The directions and a map are in the schedule section of the newsletter. At this drill we will also set our schedule for 2009 so it is very important that as many of us all be there. Everyone is encouraged to wear uniforms and equipment however this is an outdoor drill so dress for warmth. I would rather that you focus your attention to the drill at hand and not to the cold feet or hands cause you didn't bring gloves, hat etc. You all know how I love to drill. I could drill every day of my life if I could figure out how to get you all together every day. And no it isn't because I am the tyrannical martinet you might think I am. Well maybe I am a little...but rather it is because when done enough it

becomes second nature. For most of the soldiers in the 5th it was second nature. For about 10 weeks at Fort Wayne in late summer of '61, what were they doing?...drilling. If you want to be the best at what you do you need to practice it. Just like any great team has to practice. Drill is important to us all for several reasons other than becoming second nature to the rank and file. It helps us to remain safe in a hobby that could be a danger if we were to act as an armed mob. It also helps me to practice and remember the commands (no I wasn't born with Casey's committed to memory). It helps NCOs to know what they need to do as well. So I do hope everyone can be there. As always please email, call my cell phone, send a letter in the mail or by pigeon to let me know if you can or cannot attend this drill so that I can adapt our drill to the numbers at hand. All of our drill that we did last year paid off. See you all there.

Been trying to see when I could schedule a February Drill. However, This is Clay's last year of Wrestling with Central and Zach wrestles too and they have meets every weekend in February. I know we were looking at trying to set something up for a weekend at the Fort. I think Will might still be trying to do something of the sort but I am not sure that I could be there for the whole weekend if at all.

We will most definitely have a drill for March that will be centrally located in the state so that it isn't a burden on too many people for driving. But we will post that info in the next newsletter. Probably something the weekend of the 21st or the 28th. We will keep you posted.

Well that is about all I have to say for my 30-minute oratory. I am sure I will remember that I forgot something but if I did I will just email you all.

Your pard,

Scott

scottyhomeseller@charter.net 989-415-8592

About the Website

The website continues to grow. Look for more pictures to be up there soon. Edmund is providing pictures from the trip 5 of us took to G'burg and other battlefields last summer. This is all of our website, if you have any ideas, please let Will know. We are building this to tell others who we are and your ideas are important. Look for a new version of our Uniform Guidelines to be up there soon. You won't see any change in the quality issues, just some of the vendors are no longer available and other good ones have popped up.

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. Take I-75 to Wilder Road exit, Turn right on Wilder road and follow to Bangor Road, Turn left on Bangor Rd (see map). 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. We're still working on this one.

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 and we're still trying to find a location.

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 parads 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: - There is still nothing that we know of in June. We discussed maybe making our weekend at Fort Wayne here instead of February.

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.

August 1-2 – Gettysburg Living History – Hosted by the 24th MI. We've been invited to participate in a weekend stay ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

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

Labor Day weekend – 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. This is being done to allow Monday as a travel day home without people having to miss school or work. There is a special pre-registration price for Cumberland Guard members only. For us, pre-registration received by Jan. 31 is only \$8.00! 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 website is www.atlantacampaign.com.

River of Time – We discussed attending this event to do only two things: teach the public our history and RECRUIT.

October 10-11 – Wolcott Mill

November 13-15 – Bummers - 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 parads around you in a very hard-working, supportive company. The event site is www.bummers09.com.

Dues

Dues are due. You may pay by mail 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

Fort Wayne Camp of Instruction

No, I'm not talking about our drills. The Camp of Instruction was set up by the Michigan Adjutant General's office on June 17, 1861. The 5th MI was very busy at this camp. The following are two orders from the camp that were printed in the Detroit Daily Tribune:

Headquarters, Camp of Instruction
Fort Wayne, June 24, 1861

General Order No. 4

1. Hereafter Adjutants of Regiments will report to Headquarters on the back of their consolidated regimental morning reports the names of all officers and non-commissioned officers absent from the camp without leave.
2. Dr. Edward Landerdale, acting Assistant Surgeon of the Fifth Regiment, is assigned to duty as Acting Surgeon of the Camp of Instruction until further orders, and will attend at the hospital to-morrow at 8 o'clock.

General Order No. 5

1. Until further orders Daniel DeMarbelle, Drum Major of the Fifth Regiment, will act as principal musician of the Camp of Instruction, and will be obeyed and respected as such by the musicians of the regiments attached to the camp.
2. Each regiment will detail its Sergeant Majors to attend in rotation at brigade headquarters, from 7 to 10 o'clock, A.M. and from 5 to 8 o'clock, P. M. for instruction in their duties, and to act as assistant to the Brigade Major and action Adjutant, in his necessary clerical labors. The Fifth Regiment will furnish the Sergeant Major for today; the Sixth for Tuesday; the Seventh for Wednesday; and in like rotation, day by day, until further ordered.

By Order of

General Williams
Commanding Camp of Instruction
Wm. D. Wilkins
Brigade Major and Inspector