



Publishing Staff:

Publisher: Mark Dolive
Editor: Don Kessler
Contributors: Mark Hernbroth, Trevor Steinbach, RJ Samp, Mike Lavis
Guest Contributors: Michael Miller, Daily Corinthian photographer

Contact The Editor: usfb_dsk@yahoo.com



GENERAL'S Corner

By M. Dolive

From Headquarters
Winter, 2006

Welcome to the first edition of the 1st Federal Division Newsletter, a quarterly publication dedicated to the reenactor and our hobby. The idea for this newsletter was suggested in a 2005 division-wide survey commissioned by BG Mark Dolive, to keep the rank and file better informed as is our responsibility.

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the 1st Federal Division Newsletter. It is hoped that this, and future editions, will inform, educate, and enlighten all those who read this. One area of weakness for many organizations is communications, so in an effort to get the word out to all the membership this newsletter was established. That doesn't mean there still won't be information available at www.firstfederaldivision.com. Please check that site for event updates and special messages from the staff.



THIS ISSUE:

- General's Corner
- Perryville 2006
- Our Eastern Brethren
- Some Thoughts on Authenticity
- Corinth 2005 – Battle in the South
- Events around the Division
- Danish Reenactors at Mill Springs 2007

It is envisioned that this publication will cover a variety of topics. The upcoming event will be one of the major topics, but we will also include safety and authenticity information, local unit news updates, the Division in the field, and other related topics. And if you have a topic you would like addressed from the Division level this may be the place to look to. Various staff members will be contributing to this and future issues and I'm sure you'll become familiar with our Chief Bugler, RJ Samp, and our A.I.G., Captain Hernbroth.

We hope to be able to provide regular updates on current Division events, plans for the future and reports on events past. In addition, regular and guest contributors will submit articles covering a wide range of topics, from A to Z. This newsletter is for you so feel free to give us feedback or even submit an article if the mood strikes.

Perryville is the 2006 event. This is one of those few events where we have the opportunity to fight on the original battlefield march where they marched and set our batteries on the exact location of the original batteries. I am happy to say that we will have a good turn out from most of the Division; the Cumberland Guard will be joining us, as well as an eastern contingent. The Park has doubled in size, due to many of your efforts at the 2006 event. Planning has been underway since last September and we look to see what the Park has in store for us at the April 8th site visit. Registration is now up and running,

Events Around the Division

March 25-26, 2006 – Ft. Sisseton, SD
Camp of Instruction hosted by 13th US Infantry
Contact Bill Hoskins- 605-594-3849



and while you might have to wade through 4 or 5 screens of event information we ask that you be patient in getting to that final registration link. So register now and register often! For those of you asking about scenarios and unit designations those will be finalized after the April 8th meeting.

This last weekend I was with Lt. Col. Michael Zimmer, Brig. Gen. (ret) Chuck Warnick, and Maj. Gen. Mike Moore (CSA) in Somerset, Kentucky. We were there reviewing the Mill Springs battlefield, site of the 2007 NSA Maximum Effort event. I have to say Mr. Bill Niekirk, Head of the Mill Springs Battlefield Assoc., had an impressive presentation. And what Civil War Park doesn't have certain beauty when viewed in the falling snow. Both General Moore and I were greatly impressed with the site, Mr. Niekirk's grasp of reenactor needs, and what he would like to see happen at this event. Look for more information in future issues of this newsletter and the Division web site.

It is hoped that by this summer the Division Handbook will be available. This is part of the ongoing information to better communicate and organize the work being done by the Division staff and the component organizations. This handbook will include sections on drill, administration of the Division in the field, safety and weapons inspections, and other guidelines that contribute to making this Division the success it is. This will hopefully be a tool available to all the membership, particularly battalion and brigade commanders.

In regional news I am sad to report that the land that was used during Saturday morning at the 2003 Nashville event has been sold to developers. It seems a Lowe's and Target will be built on that site. Those of you who participated at that morning battle will be the last to trod on that ground representing the men of 1864. The site was part of the original Spring Hill battlefield and is now lost to future reenactments and preservation.

On a more positive note, the Pizza Hut at Franklin was purchased by the Franklin

Battlefield Trust and demolished. This is the site where it was believed General Patrick Cleburne was killed leading the last great Confederate charge of the war. Also, the municipal golf course that surrounds Carnton plantation has been closed and the City of Franklin intends to use this as part of the battlefield park surrounding the plantation. Carnton was used as a hospital during the 1864 battle and six Confederate Generals were laid out after the battle on its porch. A large reason these properties became available was due in part to the 2003 NSA Franklin/Nashville reenactment.

During the last of January the Texas Civil War Museum was opened in west Fort Worth. This museum is one of the finest private collections west of the Mississippi River. It includes complete exhibits, both North and South, collected by Mr. Ray Richie over the last 25 years. The UDC also maintains their collections that include over 25 flags including one of General Phil Sheridan's HQ flags. And one of the most unique collections is Mrs. Richie's Victorian Dress Collections. At any time 32 of over 200 period dresses are on display. For more information: <http://www.texascivilwarmuseum.com/index.htm>.

Once again it is my goal to improve communications at all levels within the Division. This newsletter is a first attempt at that. If you have topics you would like to see, or if you might wish to see yourself in print please contact Major Kessler. And I will see everyone on the field at Perryville. I remain...

Your Obedient Servant,
Mark

Mark Dolive
Commanding,
1st Federal Division

Events Around the Division
April - Western Brigade Congress
Springfield, IL
Contact Mike Lavis: MikeNora49@aol.com



1st Division troops at Perryville 2002

Perryville 2006

The 1st Federal Division announced in the fall of 2005 that the Battle of Perryville, Kentucky (144th Anniversary) will be supported as our 2006 National event. The date of the event is October 7-8, 2006. The event will be hosted by the Kentucky Department of Parks and the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association. The North/South Alliance has been asked to provide the military command for the event, and the overall commanders will be BG Mark Dolive (US) and MG Mike Moore (CS). In addition to the 1st Division troops attending, we are pleased to announce the commitment of the Cumberland Guard and a Battalion of Eastern troops to attend the event, as well.

Registration for the event has opened and can be accomplished online or, you can download the forms and send it in via US mail. The current registration fee is \$10.00 and will remain so until July 31st. After that date, Late Registration fees will be \$20 until registration CLOSES at midnight August 31st. The link to this site is: <http://www.perryvillereenactment.org/pv-reenactor.php>

Please read through all pages and continue to follow the links. There are at least 4 pages to read and the final agree to page before being directed to the registration link. This is how the Park wishes it to be handled. The Division safety and authenticity standards will be published in successive newsletter and can be found posted on the Division website at: <http://www.firstfederaldivision.com/> Please take an opportunity to review both the Park and 1st Federal Division standards to avoid any

misunderstandings at the event. THERE WILL BE NO WALKONS, SO REGISTER EARLY.

Perryville Research

Perryville: This Grand Havoc of Battle
By Dr. Kenneth Noe

*Audio interview with Kenneth Noe and Perryville:
<http://www.worldtalkradio.com/archive.asp?aid=5049>

Some Thoughts on Authenticity

By M. Hernbroth

To fully experience and appreciate this hobby, a good deal of attention must be paid to authentically recreating the period of the American Civil War. This may seem an almost impossible task, but like so many other things in life, with a little practice it will become second nature. To many, the word “authenticity” sends shivers down the spine, with visions of “thread-counters” and “authenti-nazis” rolling around in the dirt and eating raw salt pork. It need not be like that. As we are an *educational* organization, it is our duty and responsibility to present the most accurate portrait we can of the men and women who sacrificed so much 140 years ago. Authenticity is not a luxury; it should be a requirement. No one is advocating “peeing on your buttons” or practicing dysentery, but we all need to look at our impressions and constantly work on improving our representations. Here are some basic guidelines to help us all do just that.

The first advice is to be normal. This doesn't mean that you can't re-enact a specialty impression; it means “go for the average.” Your impression should be of a typical, average, 19th-century American thrust into the middle of a living hell. In 1863, life was very boring and people lived simple lives. Out in the field, the life of a soldier was considered “90% pure boredom and 10% sheer terror.” On the other hand, the idea of being a “soldier” was pretty exciting stuff, and for many men of the time, it was the grand adventure of their lives. Remember to mix the good with the bad, the exciting with the fearful, and the relaxing with



the stressing. After all, it's life no matter what the year!

Remember that at events it is always the real date in 1863, meaning that if it is May 25 2003, in the real world, then it is May 25, 1863 at the event. This makes it easy to remember. Why 1863? Simply because that was the year that the war settled into a pattern and that the tide of the war was turning from the South to the North.

Eventually, you should create a *First-person Impression*. This means that you will become a person of 1863, not just an 'actor.' While you will not choose an actual historical person, you will blend the truth of your own life with an 1863 lifestyle to create yourself as a 'real Civil War soldier.' There is more detailed information on First-person Impressions available.

There is a word that you should quickly learn and hope never to hear about you -- *FARB*. *FARB* is a word that has come to mean anything that is not accurate or period. It gives the re-enacting community a quick way to indicate that something out-of-period or even modern is lying around. *Farb* can be modern conveniences and items (Cola cans, car keys, coolers, plastic bags) or just historically inaccurate items (enamelware - wasn't in common circulation until 1880's). While almost nobody has a totally *farb*-free kit, there are ways to avoid the big mistakes. First, follow the uniform and equipment guidelines and ask lots of questions *before you buy anything* that you are planning on using at an event. Remember, the Sutlers that we have are in the business of making money, so their first concern is to sell you stuff, not to ensure accuracy and authenticity. Every sutler sells items that are inappropriate or inaccurate, but they also provide quality goods and historically accurate essentials. Just be careful and do some research.

There is a good rule-of-thumb when considering your impression. By using a rule from Juanita Leisch's *The Family Photo Album*, called "**Could-Would-Should**", you can prevent yourself from being a *FARB*!

First: Could they have had it?

-- *Technical authenticity.*

Was it invented yet or had the event happened? Were the materials that the item is made of consistent with the processes, methods, and equipment that was in use at the time?

Second: Would they have wanted it? -- *Social authenticity.*

Even if it had been invented, did they want it? There were an amazing amount of things that were invented by 1861. These were available, but not wanted. As a soldier in the field you are limited as to how much "extra stuff" you could have with you, let alone get from home - the mail was not very regular!

Third: Should you be able to afford it?

-- *Economic authenticity.*

As a private, you make \$13.00 a month, which was roughly equivalent to modern-day minimum wage (Bottom of the pay scale, get it!). So even if the item was available and you wanted it, how did you get it with so little money?

Some Basic Do's and Don'ts of Authenticity

- ❖ DON'T wear a wristwatch. They just don't exist in 1863. As a private, you don't have much need to know the time, but pocket watches are very period and reproductions can be purchased for under \$50.
- ❖ DO remember that 'out of sight is out of mind.' It is OK to have non-period items if they are completely covered and out of sight. An ice chest may be a necessity sometimes, but it needs to be hidden in a box or in a closed tent.
- ❖ DON'T wear non-period eyewear. This is the single-most obvious "farbisms" but it is also one that is one of the most-easily corrected. If you need to wear glasses, please get period frames.



Several companies now offer the correct styles. The right frames with corrective

candle lantern is acceptable. Use of a flashlight should be for emergencies

lenses will cost you between \$80 - \$200, depending on who does the work. If you can, wear contacts - no one will know except you and God. Also, remember that wearing glasses was considered a social faux pas at the time, so having bad eyesight is period! But please don't endanger yourself or others. Plan on making an early purchase of period eyewear.

only (not a bad idea to have 1 in camp in case).

- ❖ DON'T wear jewelry. A soldier would have considered jewelry as something else to lose, and probably would have! Not a good thing, since all jewelry in 1863 was "real" and valuable. Earrings for men *were not* in style!! A simple wedding ring may be worn, but again, it is something that could get lost, caught on something, or burned into your flesh!
- ❖ DO remember that all plastic, aluminum, Teflon, Rubbermaid and fast food packaging are non-period. Please transfer items into period containers, or hide your FARB at all times.
- ❖ DO feel free to use tobacco (not around gunpowder, though!). Cigars were available, but expensive, so the best choice is a pipe. Remember that cigar wrappers and rings were not used yet, so discard them properly. Cigarettes were invented, but they were not readily available, so avoid using them in front of the public. If you must smoke, please use a period pipe or a cigar, or go off to the parking lot to light up your Marlboros.
- ❖ DON'T bring kerosene or oil lamps. They are not common at all and prove to be a fire hazard and a safety risk. Kerosene is NOT period, and, while Oil is period, whale oil was VERY expensive, and a soldier simply couldn't afford it. Also, where did you get it? The army supplied free candles, so why would you have spent your own money to accomplish the same thing? A simple

- ❖ TRY to avoid talking about modern life (the 49ers, the office, the car problems, etc.) around the public. This is the single hardest habit to break, even for the old veterans, but if you start right away, it will become second nature.

- ❖ DO use military etiquette, courtesy and protocol during public hours. NCOs should be addressed as "Corporal Jones" or "Sergeant Smith." Officers should only be addressed if you have official business with them, and then they may be addressed as "Mr. Brown", "Captain Brown" or "Sir". This may seem over-the-top, but, we do engage in a military impression, and it really helps in setting the right atmosphere in camp and on the battlefield and presents a more believable impression to the public.

- ❖ Read period magazines and books to get a feel of the jargon, slang, and language style that was prevalent during the 19th century. This takes time, but it is definitely worth it!!!!

If you take some time between events to work on your impression, including your uniform, equipment, AND your period attitude/behavior, and if you utilize the "Could-Would-Should" method, you will improve your impression and present a more accurate impression to the public while at the same time learn to enjoy more fully your Civil War experience. It takes time and effort, but I have found that it is well worth it in the long haul. Good luck!

The First Federal Division website can be found at:
www.firstfederaldivision.com



CORINTH 2005 – Battle in the South

By D. Kessler

The 2005 reenacting season was not the best for many of our brethren, with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita pummeling the Gulf Coast from Texas to Alabama. How would this affect the scheduled Corinth reenactment? Would anyone want to travel to Mississippi for this event? To be honest, there was major concern from the Division Staff and our counterparts in the 1st Confederate Division, if the event would even take place. However, the grit and determination of those who did attend showed that even Mother Nature could not hold them back.

Although the event was billed as Corinth, the event site was just 2 miles north of Corinth in Mc Nairy County, Tennessee.

Prior to the event, Chief Engineer Don Erickson along with several of his staff, using historical material, assisted local workers to build a reasonably accurate replica of Battery Robinette which doubled as Battery Williams for the weekend actions. The 1FD Engineers received high praise from all concerned for their hard work in creating this set of fixed fortifications.



Also, when the Federal waterlines suffered from vehicle damage on Saturday, the Engineers along with QM Mike Daley repaired the damage and were rather creative in their "Watergate" approach of lifting the lines over the Federal Camp entrance.

There was a definite reduction in registration due to the ill weather, and hesitancy over attending another Mississippi event, but over 750 Federal troops and civilians did register and attend. In

addition, King's Brigade (CS) was to have galvanized, but as Texas was hard hit by Rita, they only sent about 3 companies of cavalry and infantry. They were received with open arms and welcomed.



Present for the weekend action was the Army of the Pacific, Western Brigade, Frontier Brigade, Cavalry Brigade and the Division Artillery with support staff. The Great Lakes Brigade was unable to attend due to a previously scheduled event.

A great deal of planning went into the scenarios and conferences were held daily with our CS counterparts to insure that all actions went as planned and safely. Overall, the battles came off well with no scenario breaking, with one exception. The 3rd Brigade (Frontier) was left with no one to fight as their opposition, unbeknownst to Gen. Dolive, marched off to visit the authentic sutlers. Gen. Dolive met with the officer of the 3rd Brigade to discuss rectifying the situation for future actions.

Aside from this miscue, there seemed to be general satisfaction from the troops regarding the weekend. The AoP and Western Brigades had an opportunity to "remote" camp with heavy skirmishing for the weekend, and the Cavalry was kept quite busy.





The dreaded “rain” came on Saturday evening but did not dampen the Federal spirits as only a handful of folks left. By Sunday morning, the ground had dried and we were ready to begin anew.

The 1st US Infantry (historically served at Corinth) was given the singular honor on Sunday of defending the interior of Battery Robinette and led the counterattack to retake the battery. The massed CS troops repeatedly stormed over the top of the battery, attempting to plant their flag, but were repulsed with heavy losses and retired.

During the event, there were no reported major US injuries and only a few scattered heat cases. Chief Surgeon Trevor Steinbach and QM Mike Daley implemented a new ice issue plan insuring that all units would have sufficient ice prior to, during, and after the battles. Safety is everyone’s responsibility.

Before leaving the field, Gen. Dolive met with his CS counterpart, Gen. Mike Moore to discuss the overall effects of the event and to talk of plans for the future. With one event concluded, talk on the journey home was about the past event and planning for the next one. The job of command and staff never ceases...

1st Federal Division General Staff and Departments

BG Mark Dolive - Commanding
 Lt. Col. Mike Zimmer – Chief of Staff
 Lt. Col. Eric Essex – Artillery Commander
 Maj. Don Kessler – Asst. Adj. Gen.
 Maj. Trevor Steinbach – Chief Surgeon/Medical
 Capt. Mark Hernbroth – AIG/Safety
 Capt. Mike Daley – Quartermaster
 Capt. Bill Hoskins – Provost Marshal
 Capt. Don Erickson - Chief Engineer
 Capt. Lee Burdine – Chief of Signals
 Capt. Rick Brockman – Secretary of General Staff
 Lt.’s Jim Harris & Jim Kirkendall – AAAG
 Lt.’s Rick Kornrumpf & William Gay – ADC
 Lt.’s Tom Mabry & Mike Pierpoint – Asst. Provosts
 Sgt. Gary Crane – Chief of Couriers
 Sgt. RJ Samp – Principal Musician
 Wayne Fiedler - Webmaster



Our Easter Brethren

By D. Kessler/M. Lavis

There has long been a divide between Eastern reenactors and our own folks “in the West”. How to bridge that gap and increase cooperation and participation has been discussed time and time again. In late October, the Division was contacted by Chris Anders, who along with others in the East had been observing the North/South Alliance and our model.

In effect, we were being asked to assist them in their goal of improved organization, communication, standards, and participation. BG Dolive offered any assistance they might desire and asked Col. Lavis (Western) to attend a meeting as an official representative of the Division. Here is a report of the November 20th, 2005 meeting.

*Headquarters, Western Brigade;
 21 November, 2005*

Report of meeting, 20 November, Gettysburg, PA.

I was honored to be invited to attend an informal meeting of several eastern reenactment groups yesterday, in Gettysburg. Gen. Dolive appointed me to represent the 1st Federal Division, and gave me a letter of greeting and mutual support to take to them.

There were about 24 in attendance, representing various organizations, including North and South, sutlers, civilians and artillery. A set agenda was followed, everyone getting the



opportunity to comment, as they desired. The basic topics covered were: events from this past year; the current state of the hobby; how to improve and revitalize the events; standards; needed changes; events for next year and the future; and an alliance with the western organizations, especially the NSA.

I was very impressed with the attitudes expressed by everyone at the meeting. There were no outbursts of condemnation for either events, or any organization, or "type" of reenactors. Problems were identified, and some situations were discussed, but only in a calm, factual manner. The entire context was that "yes there are problems, and things need to get fixed, now how do we go about fixing them?" Positive things that have been done, especially with events like Summer of '62 were emphasized. Several in attendance had been to a western event, mostly Franklin-Spring Hill 1995. Much was made of the quality, and it was generally agreed that these types of events are the levels to aim for.

There was no movement, at all towards forming another organization, which was not the purpose of this gathering. Rather it was for like-minded leaders and organizations to focus on higher quality events, plus looking to establish a good relationship with the NSA.

When my turn on the floor came, I referred to Gen. Dolive's letter, and spoke about our willingness to work with eastern groups who had the same ideals and priorities that we share in the west. Perryville, next year, was brought up, and all in attendance were encouraged to cross the mountains and join us. Many expressed interest, and also in attending the NSA meeting next July, in Nashville. Objectives such as mutual support and respect were discussed. The same individuals who produced Summer of '62 are planning another high-quality event in 2007, at South Mountain. Other possible projects, such as Gettysburg, 2008 were mentioned as well. They are going to develop a 4 year plan, and will take into consideration what the NSA is doing.

This group is very serious about making changes and getting greater quality into events. They do not emphasize one style of reenacting over others, and want to welcome any who will agree to follow the rules and guidelines. It was mentioned that most events already have decent rules in place, but that they are seldom enforced. As a group, they are looking at much the same things as we in the 1st FD and NSA consider important, and necessary for an event.

As I mentioned earlier, I was glad to see the attitudes expressed were generally positive in nature. The focus was not on how bad others were, but on what they want to accomplish, and how they will get it done. No units, individuals, or events were singled out for derision. All-in-all the entire meeting was a constructive and positive one.

In closing, each representative was given a copy of the "agreement" that was discussed, and asked to take them to their units for further discussion, and a vote of acceptance. It was handled more like a "pledge" rather than "ratification". I am sure that there will be other meetings, and discussions, but none are set up to date.

I have not attempted to discuss every aspect that was mentioned, only those things that directly pertain to the western units. They all appeared grateful for the support and friendship that we extended to them, I think it important that we did

so. There are some very good and sincere people, taking part in this endeavor. They know that they will be going against the "establishment" of the hobby, in the east. But, such is their convictions, that they are determined to have events that are more historically correct, have more monies raised for preservation projects, battles that are kept to the scenarios, and the participants are given a better experience overall.

One last thought: We all agree that our hobby is shrinking. And I think we can all agree that the best thing we can do to counter that, is to have better reenactments to go to. Those in the west need to take a look at what we can do to improve, as well as those in the east are doing. We need to be more creative in planning out our



weekends, and we need to get better at providing an overall experience for those who participate. We cannot just get by on the successes of the past, but we need to keep moving forward, striving to continually get better at what we do. The initiative started at the meeting in Gettysburg, is a challenge to us. It should drive us to set the bar higher, and to continue to be examples and leaders.

Change is coming to reenacting, positive change that can set the tone for years to come. The 1st Federal Division and the NSA should be in the forefront.

*Respectfully submitted:
Mike Lavis
Western Brigade*

Danish Reenactors at Mill Springs 2007 Staff Reports

In July of 2005, the North/South Alliance voted to support the Mill Springs, Kentucky event as our 2007 National Maximum Effort. Division HQ has received a letter from **Capt. Dyre Sønnicksen, 15th Wisconsin infantry, Denmark** about their wishing to participate in the 2007 event. It is reprinted below:

Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2006 3:33 PM
Subject: Danes to Mill Springs

Dear Sir,

I hope you are all right. I am sending you a mail about the Mill Springs event in October 2007. I have to tell you that there is a huge interest among all the Danish CW reenactors (both north and south). I have now made a website where the Danish reenactors can follow how things are going with the planning (in Danish text).

<http://www.sitecenter.dk/event2006/startside/>

I know you probably won't understand a word, but I have made a website with:

- The history of Mill Springs.
- The units on both sides.
- The after action report from the Mill Springs event in 1998.
- News from your website
- News from my planning about the trip, flights, what to see, hotels, rent cars etc.
- I am working with the commanders and there history and a first plan for our trip.

It is my plan to give the boys some history backup. **I hope you could find time to drop me a mail from time to time. So I can update the boys.** If you are too busy I understand. I also keep up on your bulletin board and your website.

Right now it look like we come 10-15 infantrymen, 4-8 artillerymen and 2 cavalrymen + 1 nurse, but I am sure more will come as time closes up. We are working with the units we fell in with in Franklin and it looks like they will come to the event.

I sure hope it can be as great a success as Franklin, and I promise that we do what we can to make it a success.

Federal Greetings and happy reenacting!



CAP. Dyre Sønnicksen
15th Wisconsin Infantry, Denmark
