



# Joshes and Chubs



## Co. D 1<sup>st</sup> Arkansas Infantry Activities Volume 6, February 2006



*“So, as you go into battle, remember your ancestors and remember your descendants”*

Gentlemen, the new year has begun. We have already been extremely busy with 3 events in the first 5 weekends. But now it is really going to start getting busy. We had to cancel the Pine Bluff Winter Encampment the 3rd weekend in February, but we still have the event at Pea Ridge. The next week your 1Sgt and I will be at the Battalion meeting in Texarkana while some of you may be at Camden for the Daffodil Festival. And then we will ALL be at Helena for the Cleburne Memorial the next week. So that is 4 weekends out of 5 that we have something on the schedule. I know that you all can not make all of them, but you will want to. If you missed the Homecoming Parade for the 212 Signal Battalion that recently returned from Iraq, you missed a moving experience. It was great to see the heroes home again. And the 1st Arkansas also received an honor that day. We were originally placed in about the middle of the parade. Before it started I was approached by an officer of the 212th who asked if we were in the right place. A few moments later we were told to move to the rear of the parade. We were placed in front of the Color Guard and served as the Honor Guard leading the 212th through the streets of White Hall, firing our muskets as we proceeded and heralding their triumphant return home. During the ceremony at the City Park we fired 3 separate volleys in their honor. After the ceremony was over, I spoke to the commander of the 212th who told me that he was honored to have those representing the first citizen soldiers of Arkansas there honoring the citizen soldiers of today. I have never been so proud and so humbled. We were shown that evening on channel 16 news firing during the parade and were on the front page of the newspaper this past week. I put the registrations for Manassas in the mail this past week. I am excited! I sent in 15, 9 from our own company! There are still 4 or 5 more from other companies that are planning to sign up, which means that we will have a full company in Virginia. We will have a meeting soon of all going to discuss travel plans, uniforms, and shoes. I would like to think all of you who have turned out so far. We had 12 at David O. Dodd, 12 at Arkansas Post, and 10 for the Homecoming Parade in White Hall. That was 17 different people. Wouldn't it be great to get all 17 there together at the same time? Now my challenge to you is to field a full company of our own at home. The 1Sgt has been very busy keeping me updated on new members. Since January 1, we have added 2 past members back on the roll, picked up 5 current reenactors from other units, and dressed out for the first time 2 new "men". That is 9 new members of the 1st Arkansas in just 5 weeks! The scary part is that there are others out there who have expressed an interest. I believe that brings us to a current muster roll of 28. Let's get everyone out and field on our own this year -- I'm tired of sharing command with Louisiana at bigger events! Once again, I can not thank you all enough for making the beginning of this year so successful. Let's grab the momentum and run with it. Remember to show up, recruit, recruit, and show up. But the most important thing -- have fun. I know that I am!

Capt K

### Calendar of Events

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>**

Pea Ridge National Park Battle

**March 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>**

Battalion Drill, Ft. Smith

**\* March 18<sup>th</sup>**

Cleburne Memorial Helena AR.

**March 31<sup>st</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>**

Oak Grove LA. Living History

**\* April 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>**

Pleasant Hill LA.

**\* April 15<sup>th</sup>**

Confederate Flag Day

**April 25<sup>th</sup>**

Confederate Memorial Day

**May 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>**

Chalk Bluff

**\* May 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>**

Battle for Yellville Yellville Ar.

**June 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>**

Warren Pink Tomato Festival

**\* June 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>**

McGee 100 Yr Centennial

**July 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>**

145<sup>th</sup> Manassas Reenactment

**\* August 26<sup>th</sup>**

White Hall Founders Day

**\* September 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>**

Arkansas Post NP North and South Living History

**September 22-24<sup>th</sup>**

Pocahontas Civil War Days

**October 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>**

Perryville Kentucky (National Event)

**\* October 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>**

White Sulphur Springs

**October ??**

Lake DeGray

**\* November 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>**

Old Washington

**\* December 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Prairie Grove

\* Denotes Maximum Effort  
Participation

**Start studying all you can about the Battle of Lee Town at Pea Ridge because we are going to be camped on the actual Lee Town battlefield as the first tour stop for visitors next month!**

## **SGT STRIPES**

1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Robert Hutcheson



We seem to be off to a good start for the new year. We had 12 to Show up for the David O. Dodd service, 14 For the *Arkan-soggy* Post event, and then another 25 had committed for Regional Park until the weather did us in. I hope we continue to show such good numbers at each event this year. I need to relay a couple of things to you this month. First, for those who were not at Ar. Post. Captain Kalkbrenner and I have put a handbook together for the 1<sup>st</sup> Arkansas. This is not our Bible in no ways, but instead is a guide for the new ones in our unit to go by and for the old heads to use as a reference. As you read this if you see anything that needs to be changed or updated, by all means let me know and we will revise it. I got the input of several members on this, but it is still possible that something is wrong or could be re-worded. Second, there are now some medical information forms that I need to get filled out on each member so we can keep accurate information on ourselves in case of an emergency in the field. These will be maintained and brought to the field each time. Third, as you see by the enclosed member list, I have broken the company up into "squads". Each squad has a squad leader who is responsible for contacting either in person or by phone their respective members to make sure they are aware of any changes, events or current events that need to be brought to their attention. I want it to be from now on that nobody can say they did not know about an event or anything else going on that they would have come to if they knew about it. We also have some prospective members on the member list that I would like to see each of us call and encourage them to continue coming and to even join our ranks. We have a LOT of things happening this year and I covet the help and prayers of each of you. I will from time to time be contacting those I think can help in some specific area, and hope that each of us will be willing to help when called upon. Aside from the list of events posted in this newsletter there are other things not yet scheduled such as talks/programs to various schools, so be ready when we call! I hope to see each of you at Elk Horn Tavern next month.

Hutch

## **THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

Andy Taylor



The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions. One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger. He cried out, "God! How could you do this to me?" Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island! It had come to rescue him! "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied. The Moral of This Story: It's easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of our pain and suffering. Remember that the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground. It just may be a smoke signal that summons the Grace of God.

**CAMPAIGNING TIPS:** For those planning on campaigning any this year, either at normal events or the Manassas event, I will be placing tips on this page from time to time to help your experience be more authentic. Anyone with any tips, please send them to me for posting.

## QUICK CUP O' JOE

Extract of coffee

Pvt. Dennis Fraught, 5<sup>th</sup> Missouri Regiment

One of the staples of reenacting, for some more than others is coffee. The reviving effect of this particular elixir was prized equally so by the soldiers on both sides of the Civil War. However, it became a rare commodity in Southern ranks early in the war, and they were forced to concoct substitutes made from such things as parched peanuts, potatoes, peas, dried apples, corn or rye. But the real thing was issued throughout the conflict to federal troops, and became a sought-after article of trade.

Northern troops received their coffee in a variety of forms: in loose grounds, ready to be boiled; in the whole bean – roasted or green – which was often ground using a tin cup and bayonet; and extract of coffee, which the soldiers sometimes called "axle grease" because of its appearance.

Extract of coffee was made by vacuum-pumping the water out of the coffee and mixing it with similarly condensed milk and sugar. The resultant thick paste would yield a cup of coffee per tablespoon. Since it was concentrated and less likely to spoil, it was cheaper for the army to transport. It also made a quicker more reliable cup of coffee than did loose grounds or whole beans. For today's reenactor, a close copy of this 19<sup>th</sup> century product may be made by combining instant coffee crystals and condensed milk. How much you use is up to you. The process is the same. Measure out a number of teaspoons of coffee and corresponding amount of condensed milk equal to the number of cups you plan to drink at an event.

Place your instant coffee crystals in a cup and add a few drops of boiling water mixing the crystal into a thick paste. Use as little water as possible, adding just a few drops at a time. It doesn't take much water to break down the crystals. When the crystals have dissolved, mix in the condensed milk, a little at a time, about a half teaspoon of milk per cup, but you can make your extract black if you want, by omitting the condensed milk altogether. (Note that it will be more concentrated without the sweetener, and require less paste to make a strong cup of coffee).

The finished product will be a thick paste that looks like liquid fudge. Pack it in any suitable container. Authentic tins are available from some sutlers (like C&D Jarnagin or Tin Works), or in a pinch you can use an empty percussion-cap tin with the label removed. It will keep for weeks without refrigeration, especially if made without the condensed milk.

At the event, one tablespoon of extract of coffee mixed into a large tin cup of hot (or even cold) water will produce Civil War instant coffee, an exceedingly tasty beverage with nary a ground to be found. And it sure beats toting a coffee pot.

# *Bits N' Pieces*

## **Handbook**

Take the new Company Handbook that your Squad Leader gives you and start marking through it with a red pen. Anything you see that needs to be in there that isn't, anything that doesn't need to be in there that is, and any grammatical or historical mistakes make note of them. I will collect the books from you at the end of the year and use everyone's input to make a new one. Let's make this a book for us!

## **Weapon Needed**

Edgar Colvin is wanting to purchase a good 3-band weapon, either an Enfield or a Springfield with bayonet and scabbard. Anybody with one for sale, please contact him. For that matter, Hutch still wants a good .69 Springfield Smoothbore!!!!!!

## **Medical Forms**

I need the medical information forms back as soon as possible. Copies will be made, secured and kept with us at events for emergency situations.

If you have not paid your \$20.00 yearly dues to Captain K yet, please do so soon.

## **Welcome New Members and Welcome Back Old Members!**

Mike Lewis from Benton and Marde Clardy from Pine Bluff have decided to join our ranks. They were voted on for membership and approved at the Arkansas Post Meeting. Bill Farmer and his two sons, Eldon and Austin Thompson come to us from Benton and will be voted on at Pea Ridge. The three of them have been with us at several events and bring to the company another artillery piece. Paul Wright comes to us from the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas and will also be considered at Pea Ridge. He has been a reenactor for some time and desired a local company to go to more Arkansas events with as well as keeping his affiliation with the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas. Also, some old heads whom we have not heard from in a while are back in the fold. Martin Moseley and Carey Bollinger have come home to us. Although Carey is still stationed in Louisiana and can only come to events like Pleasant Hill, he still desires to be counted among our number. Marty has been a reenactor for some time and just sort of "fell by the wayside" until we saw him last year at Mark's Mill. He too wants to be put back on the roll. Contact info for all are included in this newsletter, and for those of you who have not met them, give them a holler and make em' feel welcomed.

## **New Corporal !**

Because of increased member numbers, Marvin Langrell was nominated for and won the election for Corporal at Arkansas Post. Marvin will be in charge of "B" Squad. His experience and leadership ability will be a benefit for all those willing to listen to him.

## **INPUT NEEDED!**

**Please submit all articles, photos, corrections, For Sale items and suggestions for insertion into *Joshes and Chubs* to [lawdog@seark.net](mailto:lawdog@seark.net).**

**Special Thanks goes to Ron Kelly for the hard work that has been done on the web site recently!**

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**Visit us on the web at [www.freewebs.com/1starkansas](http://www.freewebs.com/1starkansas)**