



# Joshes and Chubs



## Co. D 1<sup>st</sup> Arkansas Infantry Activities Volume 8, May 2006

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

### **COMMANDERS CORNER**

Gentlemen, We have had an event-filled month. And we have covered many a weary mile, starting with Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, and ending this past weekend at Yellville, Arkansas. We've endured storms, rain, sun, wind, snakes, ticks, and "gravy". But we have survived to fight another day. The 1st Ark had a fair showing at Pleasant Hill. I believe we had about 16 in attendance, including 2 artillery pieces and crews. The fighting was intense both days. On Saturday, we were Confederate and were all killed by our own turncoat artillery. On Sunday we joined sides with our artillery and fought as demon Unionist infantry. We won both battles that weekend. On Saturday April 15, the 1st Ark joined others from across the state for the annual Confederate flag day service at the state capitol. It was noticed by many in our ranks that the capitol building looked very much like the Capitol in Washington, with the scaffolding around it. We returned with about 25 men on Sunday, April 23 to have our picture made in front of the capitol building in the "Occupied capital". Friday and Saturday, April 21-22. was suppose to be a NCO school / School of the Soldier / Artillery School at White Sulphur Springs. As is usually the case, it rains when we show up there. But 10 dedicated troops did brave the elements to sit around and enjoy each others company. Sunday, April 23rd was Confederate Memorial Day. The 1st Ark served as the honor guard for the combined SCV / UDC service at Bellwood cemetery. Sgt Guy Taylor commanded the detail and did a fine job as I served as master of ceremonies for the service. This past weekend, the 1st Ark journeyed to Yellville, Arkansas to help out our friends from Wiggins's Battery, some of whom will be joining us at Manassas. On Saturday we went federal, unveiling the newest part of our federal uniforms, red legs!!! Yes, you heard me right — red legs. 1Sgt Hutch and I wore the leggings into battle Saturday and drew the attention of everyone, secess scum and spectators alike. We took the field Saturday, staining it with the blood of the 7th Ark. Saturday night we fought a night tactical, again as Red Legs. We were outnumbered about 7 to 30, with the artillery crews joining the 7th Ark against us. With some excellent planning and execution, we were able to encircle the enemy in the confusion of night and smoke. They began shooting each other as we infiltrated their ranks. I was able to get around behind them with Sgt Taylor and Corporal Borchert on my flanks. While they drew fire, I went to ground and crawled into the midst of the secess, capturing 9 before they surrendered. What A glorious night!!! On Sunday, we donned the gray and were able to carry the field and turn their own guns upon them and the spectators. Although numbers were down, it was a successful weekend. Gentlemen, we have a couple of weeks off before we have a busy stretch in June, but fortunately all the event are close. We have Warren on the 2nd weekend of June, followed by McGehee the next weekend, and Tull to close out the month. All three are within an hour of Pine Bluff, so there should be no excuses for not being there, except for work because you took off to go to a previous event. Warren and Tull will be primarily living histories, which should give us a good opportunity to drill. McGehee hopes to have some skirmishing, so bring your blue to that one, just in case. Let's build on what we have accomplished the first have of this year. recruiting is key, and it is everyone's job to bring in new members. Remember, if you want to hold a recruiting drive in your area, let me or the 1Sgt know and we will you with you to set this up. We have 3 great recruiting opportunities coming up in June. Let's take advantage of them. Capt K

### *Calendar of Events*

- 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
  - \* June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>**
  - Dedication/Living History Tull Arkansas
  - 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>**
  - Ark 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 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>**
  - 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**





What a month we have had lately! We are continuing to grow and have noticed a surge in the number of people attending events. We had 21 show up for the group photo at the State Capitol and even though we are still trying to get the “one” photo we are looking for it was really great to see each one that turned out and we missed the ones who couldn’t make it. We have added a Civilian Support Corp to our numbers which consists of wives, girlfriends (not both) and those who would rather take a non-combat role in the hobby, so if you know of someone, either male or female who you think might fall into this category that would be interested in doing this, have them give me or Capt. K a call. We have some important events coming up that I want each of us to mark on our calendar. The first one is the McGee 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration June 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. We are doing this first to support Compatriot Bill Turney and second as a recruitment opportunity so close to home. Also is another chance to support a brother and do a recruitment is the Tull Arkansas headstones dedication for my GG Grandfather and Uncles. This will be on June 23 – 25. More will come on this in the next newsletter. We also have a corp. of members who want to take their impression to the next level and start campaigning. They want to try the “hardcore” side of the hobby. I will be doing this with them and encourage anyone else who would want to give it a shot to let me know. Throughout the rest of the year when possible these individuals will be eating and sleeping the way our ancestors did for the closest possible feel they can get (Continued on Page 4)



Once upon a time there was a rich King who had four wives. He loved the 4th wife the most and adorned her with rich robes and treated her to the finest of delicacies. He gave her nothing but the best. He also loved the 3rd wife very much and was always showing her off to neighboring kingdoms. However, he feared that one day she would leave him for another. He also loved his 2nd wife. She was his confidant and was always kind, considerate and patient with him. Whenever the King faced a problem, he could confide in her, and she would help him get through the difficult times. The King's 1st wife was a very loyal partner and had made great contributions in maintaining his wealth and kingdom. However, he did not love the first wife. Although she loved him deeply, he hardly took notice of her ! One day, the King fell ill and he knew his time was short. He thought of his luxurious life and wondered, "I now have four wives with me, but when I die, I'll be all alone." Thus, he asked the 4th wife, "I have loved you the most, endowed you with the finest clothing and showered great care over you. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?" "No way!", replied the 4th wife, and she walked away without another word. Her answer cut like a sharp knife right into his heart. The sad King then asked the 3rd wife, "I have loved you all my life. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?" "No!", replied the 3rd wife. "Life is too good! When you die, I'm going to remarry!" His heart sank and turned cold. He then asked the 2nd wife, "I have always turned to you for help and you've always been there for me. When I die, will you follow me and keep me company?" "I'm sorry, I can't help you out this time!", replied the 2nd wife. "At the very most, I can only walk with you to your grave" Her answer struck him like a bolt of lightning, and the King was devastated. Then a voice called out: "I'll go with you. I'll follow you no matter where you go." The King looked up, and there was his first wife. She was very skinny as she suffered from malnutrition and neglect. (Continued on Page 4)



## ***THE CAMPAIGNER***

Reenactors should consider the fine example set by the soldiers they claim to represent, the next time they pack their gear for a two-day reenactment. The first resolution to make in lightening your reenactors load is to use no more than what you can comfortably carry in a single trip, and never bring your car into an encampment site. If a soldier could go eight days without issuing rations from wagon trains, then surely a hearty living historian can survive a two-day reenactment without having to use a motor vehicle for anything other than transportation to the event's participant parking lot. Once you arrive at the participants' parking lot, don your traps and knapsack, shoulder your musket, and march into camp. Not only will you be more authentic, but you will also avoid the hazards and traffic problems associated with bringing your vehicle into and out of a campsite. The second (and final) resolution is to pack so that your knapsack and haversack contain only the essentials, and only items that a soldier of 1861-1865 would have had on campaign. What each man packs is up to the individual, but remember, your pack should be light enough for you to comfortably wear into each battle scenario during a weekend-long event. If the pack is too heavy to wear to all the battles, then start lightening the load by casting off the non-essentials. Below is a packing checklist in preparation for a living history event. Your "essentials" may vary. Knapsack: 1 Blanket: One good 5 lb, 100 percent wool blanket is all any reenactor needs, even in cold weather. Make sure the blanket is good-sized; Gum Blanket: Essential for use as a ground cloth, raincoat, or shelter. Shelter Half: A proper shelter half should weigh only 1.5 lbs., A shelter half is essential for protection from the elements. Individual soldiers should not carry full tents (i.e. two shelter halves) and evidence that triangular end-pieces for dog tents were ever available to the average soldier is exceedingly scant. Journal Book and Pencils: A non-essential personal item which comes in handy for a soldier on campaign to record his thoughts, write letters home, use as a fire-starter, or to use as "paper" in "an emergency". Extra Pair of Wool Socks: Perhaps the real soldiers did not always have extra socks, but it is recommended that all reenactors carry a second pair for warmth at night and for health-purposes. Further, one extra pair of socks is a small, light addition to your pack. Extra Drawers: A non-essential item that was not available to most soldiers on campaign. Extra Shirt: Completely non-essential in the warmer months, an extra shirt is a necessity for colder-weather reenacting. Vest: Non-essential, and used mainly for colder-weather reenacting. The idea that every soldier in the field had a vest is a "reenactor myth", so take your choice on whether you want to carry one. Small Towel: Not the modern-day terrycloth variety, a period-correct towel, such as "Huckabuck" towels sold at Wal-Mart (unbleached, off-white, plain cotton towels usually sold in a pack of five for \$5.00, in the dishtowel department), or the excellent NPS reproductions, is useful in washing up your person and/or your gear. Carry a bar of lye soap (or, better yet, part of one) with the towel. Extra Ammunition: Pack ammunition correctly in paper packages of ten rounds plus one paper tube with twelve percussion caps. This approach is authentic and takes up the least space in your knapsack. Roll of Twine (String): About 20-30 feet of twine or hemp is the campaigner's essential companion for rigging up shelter. Make sure the twine has no modern fibers. Extra Food: Food for a two or three day reenactment should fit in the haversack but, in the event you pack heavy, or are bringing more than three days of food, put the extra into the knapsack. Hygiene Items: "Haversack Stuffers": Minimize your haversack stuffers and, to increase room in the haversack (which is primarily for rations), place your "stuffers" into the knapsack. Authentic "stuffers" a soldier might well have carried include a tintype of his family, razor, religious items (rosary, scapulas, etc.), sewing kit, a few pieces of dry kindling, pipe and tobacco, and other personal items. Evaluate all your stuffers and determine if they are "essential" for a soldier on campaign. Chances are, after some soul-searching, you will decide that most of your stuffers especially "necessary" flasks are useless trash that take up important room in your pack. Haversack: Rations: Limiting campaign-rations primarily to salt pork, hardtack, and coffee not only makes one more authentic, but these items take up less room and weigh less than the rations consumed by most reenactors. Forget about canned food! Tin Plate: A good tin plate is essential as a serving dish, frying pan and, if necessary, digging implement (for fire pits or fortifications). Assuming it fits inside, a plate adds rigidity to your haversack. A canteen half will serve the same purpose as a plate. Eating Utensils: A knife, fork, and spoon are essential, and living historians may want to consider wrapping them in a rag or in a small canvas sack. Also, a pocketknife in your pants pocket or haversack is essential. Tin Can: A period-correct tin can with a wire bail attached is excellent for use as a coffee cooler and as supplemental mess gear. Candle: One beeswax candle is essential. A candleholder is not required but, if you do opt for one, make it as small as possible and carry it in the knapsack. As a less-bulky, more authentic alternative, an upside-down mess cup makes an excellent candleholder. Matches and Matchsafe: It is a good idea for each reenactor to carry one box of matches in a matchsafe (i.e. a small box that protects the box of matches from being crushed). Matches can also be carried in a jacket pocket. Reproduction matchsafes are generally not very correct but, with some careful shopping at an antique store or relic vendor, one can find a fairly inexpensive period matchsafe. Rags: Carry one or two period-correct rags (not the modern blue or red bandannas sold by the "sutlers"). These will come in handy as potholders, clean-up wipes, &c.

## Sgt Stripes

(Continued from page 2)

I know some of you have “already been there and done that” so please, if you don’t want to participate, at least encourage those who do. We can have the same kind of camps we always have, just with some of us suffering without our cots! We also voted to campaign Manassas, so we are really taking it to the limit. We are also improving our Federal Impression and are looking at representing a Kansas Unit, possibly the 5<sup>th</sup> since it had ties to Pine Bluff and Arkansas in general. We tried the “Red Leg” impression at Yellville this past weekend and it went over real well. If you want to take your Federal impression this way let us know so we can start making you some red legs at \$10.00 a pair. Hey, if we gotta go Federal at times, might as well be the worst ones you can be! There is so much more to talk about, but space won’t permit it. I hope to see each of you in the future events and let’s start getting ready for Manassas.

Hutch.

Got something to sell?  
You could have  
advertised in this space  
and gone out over all of  
Arkansas!

### **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).**

## Chaplain’s Corner

(Continued from page 2)

Greatly grieved, the King said, "I should have taken much better care of you when I had the chance!" In truth, we all have the 4 wives in our lives: Our 4th wife is our body. No matter how much time and effort we lavish in making it look good, it will leave us when we die. Our 3rd wife is our possessions, status and wealth. When we die, it will all go to others. Our 2nd wife is our family and friends. No matter how much they have been there for us, the furthest they can stay by us is up to the grave. And our 1st wife is our Soul. Often neglected in pursuit of wealth, power and pleasures of the world. However, our Soul is the only thing that will follow us wherever we go. Cultivate, strengthen and cherish it now, for it is the only part of us that will follow us to the throne of God and continue with us throughout Eternity. Thought for the month: Remember, when the world pushes you to your knees, you're in the perfect position to pray.

## Welcome New Members

We have had 7 new members join since our last newsletter. James and Richard Norris, sons of Rex Norris have joined our infantry. John LaBeff and Joel Simmons are with the Artillery section, and Kayla Kalkbrenner, Ellen DiMaggio and Donna Hutcheson have joined the Civilian Support Corp.

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