



# The Adjutant's Call



The Official Monthly Newsletter of the 4th Kentucky Infantry Regiment Company "F"

## "CAPTAIN'S REPORT"

August 2007

Mill Springs Living History Artillery was a big success again. We made \$1900 that weekend, thanks to all the 4th Ky., 5th Indiana, and the 12th USCHA for making it such a success. As most of you know, I was on the sick list that weekend, and I want to thank all of you who came down early, particularly, Luther and Jack for helping set everything up, and again, all of you that stayed after to help put everything away.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEKEND:

- Luther making margaritas in the Red Barn- we need to make that barn a BAR
- Nelson's Ice Cream Social
- Lonnie- winning the rifle shoot again- 2 years in a row
- No one hitting the cannon target. Everyone blames the rounds I made, I say you just can't shoot!
- Seeing the old cars

### **Stones River National Park Artillery Living History December 29 & 30**

Thanks to Jack Russell, Sam Turk, Adair Waggoner, and Adair's nephew Nicholas, for being the gun crew that weekend. The 5th Indiana really appreciated us helping them out with the big event. The weather was perfect for a change. The Chief Park Ranger, Jim Lewis, is a big fan of the 4th Ky., and was glad to have us down for the weekend.

He has some big plans for the 145th Anniversary on Dec. 29 & 30th. We are the only Confederate Infantry he is inviting for the big event. Also present will be the 9th Ky. US, and Confederate artillery and Union artillery.

I didn't know until Jim told me, when the 4th Ky. attacked the last day of the battle, it was the 9th Ky. that they pushed off the ridge before the river. He wants to recreate our charge against the 9th Ky., pushing them back, then let the artillery fire on us, like they did originally. The park service doesn't usually let both Blue and Grey be on the same field at the same time, but are making an exception for this. Depending on the weather, we will camp out or stay in hotel rooms. Boys, mark your calendars for this once in a lifetime opportunity. This will be a unique time for us to honor the 4th Ky. by walking in their footsteps on the original battlefield on the 145th Anniversary of that battle. This will probably be the only time we will be able to have Union and Confederate troops recreating what took place during the Orphan Brigade charge at the river.

## Next Event...On to Richmond, Ky

August 25 & 26, MAX EFFORT

**Uniform:** Federal- Let me know if you need to borrow anything.

**Tents:** Bring A-frames. It usually rains that weekend.

**Food:** Nate or Ben, bring the eggs. We will take turns cooking breakfast, bacon, eggs, and bread. Lunch on your own, they will have food vendors. They feed us supper on Saturday night, more than you can eat.

**Ammo:** We will be outnumbered 3 to 1. Bring 80 rounds.

**Other items:** The folks at Richmond appreciate the 4th Ky. Coming and doing Federal. This is a Max Effort event and is in our own backyard. This will give some of you who have not been able to travel this year, the opportunity to make this Max Effort event.

## **Mill Springs National Reenactment September 29 & 30**

Boys, the big one is near! I have 1050 school kids coming on Friday, starting at 9:00 a.m. and leaving at 3:00 p.m. I plan on using 2 or more 4th Ky. Troops to march each group between scenarios. Each scenario lasts 15 minutes, that means I need at least 14 of you to help, if you can. The Alabama boys said they would also help. Plan on coming down Thursday night and setting up camp, and being in uniform Friday morning. I'm providing lunch for you on Friday. Nelson will be the Captain for the weekend, as I'll be somewhat busy at other things.

**Uniform:** Confederate- early war frock or Columbus Depot.

**Tents:** Bring A-frame or wall tents. We are portraying troops in winter camp, so all period furniture is okay.

**Food:** George will cook, Ben bring the eggs. Lunch- stew, or on your own. Mill Springs concessions will have Bar-B-Que, hamburgers, & chicken for \$3-4 each- plus chips and drinks.

**Ammo:** 250 rounds (no kidding), 3 battles. You are to run out of ammo each day.

**Other items:** In this reenactment, the brigade will be portraying a regiment. The General will be our Colonel. We will be the 15th Mississippi on Saturday and the 19th Tennessee on Sunday.

Your Obedient Servant,

*C.H. Johnston*

C.H. Johnston Captain

*Thought you all would like to know.....*

*Hartwell's mother passed away August 14th. She was 95 years old.*

*You can contact him by calling his beeper at (502)421-2327 and leaving your number. Our condolences to him and his family.*

## **From the Adjutant's Desk:**

I want to talk about uniforms, mainly shoes, during this month's article. My research is mainly taken from The U.S. Army in the West, 1870-1880, Uniforms, Weapons, and Equipment, by Douglas C. McChristian.

The shoes we wear are officially known as bootees. These were rather crude in form, with distinctive lefts and rights not appearing until the beginning of the Civil War. Most times, the contractors did such a poor job, they are barely distinguishable as left or right. The shoes, with leather laces, were issued to most foot troops where as the cavalry received boots. The uppers were made with either the dress side or the rough side turned outward and the dress side out was dyed black. The soles were either stitched to the uppers or fastened by machine-set wooden pegs. Neither method held up very well under the harsh conditions the common infantry soldier put them through. In fact, the overall quality was poor due to the wartime contractors frequently using inferior materials, such as thin, split leather uppers and composition materials or even pressed paper soles. Even when the boots were made correctly, most soldiers soaked them in water and then would wear them until dry in order to get a proper fit. These surplus shoes were being issued to soldiers long after the war even into the 1880s.

At least the shoe we get today is made with better materials, but I would still think they wouldn't stand up to a lot of punishment if we wore them 24/7. I didn't find anything in my research about hobnails or heel plates, but we know they were around and must have been an add-on the soldiers paid for and added themselves.

*Your Faithful servant,*

*Adair Waggoner*

### 2007 EVENTS

August 25-26th: Richmond, Kentucky Reenactment

September 29-30th: Mill Springs, Kentucky: **2007 NSA Reenactment!!** MAX EFFORT Battalion Event

November 3-4th' Nash Farms, Georgia, Reenactment, Atlanta Campaign MAX EFFORT Battalion Event

December 29-30th: Stones River National Park MAX EFFORT Battalion Event

# More Photos of Mill Springs



Another Casualty of  
Dr. Harley's  
snake-oil medicine

Jack teaching the boys  
how to play dominoes



Lonnie receiving the trophy  
for the 2nd year in a row

