



THE CHEROKEE RANGER

American Civil War Reenactors
And
Historic Interpreters

19th Alabama Infantry, Co. I
And
*42nd Indiana Vol. Infantry,
Co. I*

Proud Members of the
Alabama Division of Reenactors
and the First Confederate Division



Volume 20, Issue 4

Summer/Fall 2002

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Attention Company!

By Captain Jim Rhodes

I wanted to take a little time to relate that the Company has been very busy over the last several months. With our Company Picnic at Ft. Donaldson, several monthly programs at the Veterans Museum in Huntsville, the Fall Muster in Columbia, Tennessee, General Smart's retirement party, and the Battles of Tunnel Hill and Perryville, we have been very, very active since July! As all who participated in these activities can attest, they were GREAT, each in their own special way.

As many of you know this year's Perryville event was one that was filled with mixed emotions, sweet and bitter. It was one of the best events we have attended in some time. Aside from the fare of large participant numbers, good hotly contested battles with very good scenarios (thanks to Dick Smart, Bill Smart, Rick Somers and Bill Rambo), our Civilian Corps went way beyond the call of duty with their Saturday Evening meal. In a word it was SUPERB! That, my friends, was the *sweet* of it!

The bitter of it came from the fact that this was an event of "lasts" for Bill Smart, Dick Smart and Bob Smith. As I already related, this was truly a great event and weekend. However, I found it filled with many mixed emotions, as I know others did. Knowing that this was the last hurrah for both of our Smart Pardes was, well...very emotional for many of us throughout the weekend! As our unit took its position of honor on the extreme right of the Division formation for Sunday's Dress Parade, for the ride through and review by the retiring Maj. Gen. Bill Smart, the 19th Alabama was the first unit he encountered as he road past the "Long Gray Line" of troops. I know there could not have been a dry eye in the Company. Mine were so filled that I was unable to clearly see the General, not ten feet away. They are clouded once again as I pen



Behind every great officer is a great NCO! Photo by Karl Ryan

Continued on page 2...

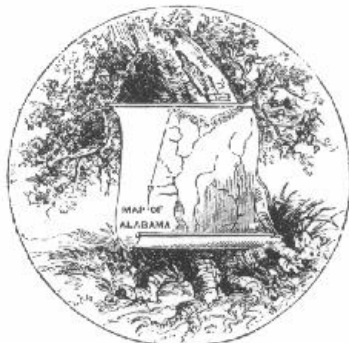
New Editor for *The Cherokee Ranger*

By Russ Spry

The torch has been passed once again!

I am humbled to have been asked to carry on the great work started by Major General Bill Smart as editor of *The Cherokee Ranger*. As you can imagine I have some big shoes to fill in bringing you timely and accurate information about the 19th Alabama and the events in which we participate.

Many thanks to Jim Rhodes and Bob Smith who think I am up to the task!



ALABAMA.

Attention Company *(cont. from page 1)*

these lines.... This position of honor for our Company was provided us by our own Dick Smart...again what emotions were stirred by that kind and noble gesture.

If that were not enough, this was Bob Smith's last event as our 1st SGT. For many sound reasons, family needs and furthering his education, Bob is stepping down from that position after this year. I can tell you that he will not like that I have referenced him in my article...that is the unassuming, duty driven comrade and friend that I have come to love and consider one of the finest 1st SGTs we have ever had. There has been none who has had more concern for the well being of the men in the ranks and the men and women of our civilian corps! As I have related to some, there is a very special, almost indescribable bond that forms between the Captain and 1st SGT.... a bond that never leaves. Bob, I will miss you on my elbow!

As you ponder these words and review the balance of the year's schedule: Battle of Tallassee, Franklin Living History for our Civilian Corps, Decatur School Program, Veterans Museum Support, Veteran's Day Parade, Annual Meeting & Christmas Party, please keep in mind that we are always stronger when we are all present at events. Each of you together helps to make our unit what it is and we are always less than we could be without each of you there!

My friends, I look forward to seeing each of you in the field soon!

Battle of Tunnel Hill

By Karl Ryan

Tunnel Hill 2002 was a great event that I truly enjoyed. On Friday I rode over with Dennis Marshall and Anthony (Ants) Beresford as we blazed a trail from Huntsville in Dennis' truck. Along the way we stopped at the Stadium Sport Bar and Grille in Scottsboro and had a great meal. I highly recommend that if you stop there that Dennis is with you. See Dennis for details. Ha. We got to the event site after dark, got dressed out and passed the night with no problems.

Everyone should thank Pvt "Nick" Nicholson for his once-in-a-lifetime donation to our unit--a New York Quartermaster-Pattern Flag. It is 6 feet by 6.5 feet in size which means it is HUGE! Saturday I was given the honor of carrying this National Flag in Battalion drill and in battle and words can not convey the emotions I feel about fulfilling this duty.

Carrying the flag is a milestone in reenacting that we should all try and reach. For the people that we portray, being a member of the color party was an honor. I felt especially honored as I was the only member of the color guard. And being the only member I got hit, early and often. Raeph Hargrove carried the colors for us after I went down Saturday. Chris Gore took up the colors and carried them to the redoubt on Sunday.

Not only did Clint Moore and Ants Beresford have a great time that weekend (Tunnel Hill was their first) but a new tradition was started by Don Davis executing Pay Call. Yes, that's right, the 42nd Indiana Volunteers were finally paid (but I think my check was a little short)!

A poker game was started that evening after the Command Section cooked a fine meal. We had fun playing cards by candlelight. Ants, Russell Spry, Dennis, Chris, Raeph, Jerry West, and I played for several hours before visiting the 33rd Alabama who were in great form. Most of their singers and players were there on Saturday.

Finally, I got to see some old friends from Florida who now live in Knoxville. They came at my invitation to watch the battle and were deeply moved by what they saw.

Continued on page 3...



"Carrying the flag is a milestone in reenacting that we should all try and reach." -Cpl. Ryan



Cpl. Ryan displays the new flag donated by Pvt Nicholson. Photo courtesy of Karl Ryan

Tunnel Hill *(cont. from page 2)*

Sunday's battle was very hot and after I took a hit I went back for some ice water and a sit at the aid station. I fell back in time to carry the Flag in our tribute to the 9-11 victims and heroes. Rick gave a great speech full of emotion. I thought the crowd responded well and many were overcome with emotion. God Bless America!

Book Review: The Women's War in the South: Recollections and Reflections of the American Civil War. Ed. By Charles G. Waugh, et al

Reviewed by Denice Hargrove

This volume brings to light the other side of the War Between the States--the women's war. Through first person accounts, letters, diaries, and publications of the day, we are offered a glimpse into the hearts and minds of those who witnessed the American Civil War.

These pages offer us a chance to feel a little of the fear, anxiety and uncertainty that surely were felt by all in the days just before the war. As one unlucky schoolgirl, Jennie Chambers, after witnessing John Brown's Raid recalls, she was walking home from school one Monday, and saw the most awful commotion in the streets! She ran to the nearest neighbor's home and asked the lady of the house what was going on. "It's the Abolitionists," the lady said, "they're down there arresting all our people!" Little Miss Chambers said she "...didn't wait to hear more, but my strength had come back to me, and I ran along the woods like a deer. I didn't know what minute an Abolitionist might jump out at me from behind a tree - and eat me. They were cannibals for all I knew, from some far off country, like the Hessians, of whom I had been reading in history."

We also get a first hand account of the frustration felt by women as the war came to their doorstep, causing hardship, loss and desperation. One woman, Sarah Morgan wrote in 1864, "If I was a man. Oh, if I was only a man! For two years that has been my only cry. Blood, fire, desolation - rather than submit we should light our own funeral pyre as a memorial to our sorrow and suffering."

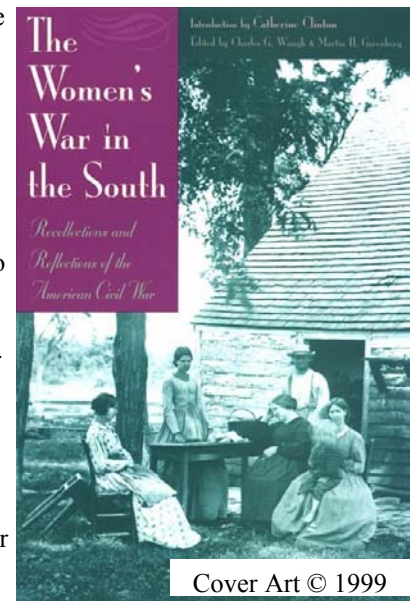
The affects of this war on the infamous Southern belle are illustrated too (for how could we leave out her sufferings if we are to paint the whole picture)? In the chapter, "The Impact of the CW on a Southern Marriage," the lives of the 'upper crust' were forever changed by this cruel war! Here we learn about Clement & Virginia Tunstall Clay of Huntsville, Alabama. Clement, a once wealthy politician, now earning meager wages as an advisor to President Jefferson Davis, sent his dear wife Virginia all the money he had left--a total of \$100, in 1863. It was accompanied by a letter that read: "...all the money I have. Do economize," he pleaded, "as we have nothing that we can rely on now, but my salary, & that is for 11 months more." Her reply was vintage: "I am much obliged for the money, also the advice, but fear the latter will not do me nearly so much good as the former. However, I will try, but you know my blood."

Courageous and selfless acts of devotion by the most famous Confederate Spy herself, Mrs. Rose O'Neal Greenhow are relived herein. The tale of Emma Samson, the Confederate heroine of Alabama is told. Sixteen year old Miss Samson bravely, with "immortal courage", lead Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and his cavalry across Black Creek at a secret ford, saving them 3 hours ride to the nearest bridge! It was to this feat that Forrest ever attributed this victory.

Through the memories of hospital matron Emily V. Mason we see the real horrors of war. She recalls, "Side by side lay master and servant, rich and poor. War, like death, is a great leveler." Miss Mason tells of the nightmares and sickness she endured and how all of that tenfold was never so difficult as writing down one mans last words to send back home while he awaited a surgical procedure that would certainly take his life. "Tell my mother I am not afraid to die. God knows I die in a just cause. He will forgive my sins."

Some chapters are filled with letters alone. One of them depicts heart-wrenching letters from a mother to her son, including his replies. And another consists entirely of letters to and from a woman & her beloved beau, the latter of which serves the majority of the war in Federal prison camps. His letters are so touching, not because they speak of horrendous prison conditions, but because they don't. He never lets on how miserable he is! The story ends happily for these two, for they marry in October of '65, and raise eight children together.

Also included are tales of women who disguise their sex and fight beside their



Continued on page 4...

Book Review *(cont. from page 3)*

husbands as well as what happens when a Northern woman gets caught behind Southern lines. Likewise there's the story of a Southern woman stranded in "Yankee territory." She is uneasy--and for good reason, as she is guarded with suspicion and thought to be a spy!

I could easily do a separate review on each chapter given the broad spectrum covered. But for the sake of time and space it will suffice it to say that the book really drives home the great impact the Civil War had on women--Southern women in particular. It shows not only that challenges were faced, but how they were overcome, and ultimately, how these new roles were a step in the direction of equal rights for women.

Bill Smart's Retirement Party

By Denise Hargrove

On Sunday August 11, 2002 the 19th Alabama gathered at Athens State University to celebrate the 20 years General Bill Smart has served in this hobby/obsession we all know and love.

The Old Towne Brass helped kick off the festivities and their performance was outstanding, as always. We had a dancer at one point during the performance, Mr. Rick Somers, who can really shake it!

It was great to see so many of you out there. We had members present from way back, the "Old Guard", if you will. To name a few, Henry Younger, Steve Andrews, Terry Pierce, Jim Limbach, Ken Carpenter, and our very own lovable Miss Jenny Bassham, whom I had no idea had been a member for almost as long as the General! I always love it when we get together, and this time I had the bonus of putting faces to many names I have heard tales of around a campfire.

In keeping with tradition, we began the evening with a feast fit for a King. My hats off to the lady who planned it all—Mrs. Diane Campbell! After Supper, Captain Rhodes opened the ceremony by suggesting that we each introduce ourselves and tell a brief story of how and when we got into re-enacting. This went very well and we learned a lot about one another.

With the introductions behind us, we relaxed as Dick Smart took the floor with a marvelous slide show outlining Bill Smart's career in re-enacting. This began what was referred to as the "Brag" portion of the evening...though the "Rag" session was not too far behind. In hindsight, I wish I had taken notes on Dick's presentation. As page after page of Bill's accomplishments were highlighted the room grew silent with awe.

Bill Smart was one of the men responsible for starting the 19th Alabama almost 20 years ago. He created, published and distributed this very newsletter, known in the early days as "The Camp Follower". Some years back it was decided that the term 'Camp Follower' was not exactly PC, so it was renamed the "Cherokee Ranger", after the boys of Cherokee County, Alabama that formed Company I of the 19th Alabama Infantry Regiment. Bill realized the importance of having by-laws and a board of directors to coordinate and regulate activities on the company level. He initiated the organization and formation of individual units into battalions and brigades, and even went on to organize the Alabama Division. And alas, in his ultimate wisdom, this man realized the importance of civilian participation within the hobby and encouraged the formation of our Civilian Corps. Time and again, year after year, Bill lead, pushed, and pulled this organization - not only the 19th, but all the way up entire Alabama Division - in the direction it needed to be moving.

Why did he do it? That's a good question, with a big answer. Those of us who were present, or any whom have made his acquaintance for that matter, know that WE are the reason. He loves people. It's that simple. And in an attempt to show our appreciation of and love for this man, we presented Bill with a few gifts. Pvt. Jim Rhodes and Cpl. Russ Spry presented a Commemoration plaque, which proudly displays all the rank Bill Smart has held within the hobby over the years. I was honored to be chosen to present the quilt square which Miss Elizabeth Ray stitched herself for the General. We all signed the back with our own personal message to Bill. The quilt pattern itself was very special. Chosen for its historical significance, it tells a very moving story about America's history, remember to ask Miss Elizabeth about it sometime.

Once the gifts were presented our beloved Rick Somers lead the "Rag" session of the evening. There were some hilariously funny stories told, one involving the time Bill learned how to clean a porta-john! Oh my! It was all in fun, and the General joined in with a couple stories of his own. There were many times during the remainder of the evening that we laughed so hard our bellies hurt, and others when we fought back tears. Heck, all in all, we had so much fun, it was suggested (by Bill, of course) that we start a tradition of having 19th Alabama reunions every two years from now on! You've got my vote for that.

At about 9-ish we all agreed that it was time to cut and serve the cake we had been eyeballing all evening. Yummy! I don't really know exactly how much longer things lasted, but when I left at almost 10PM the party was still going strong.

I really looked forward to Perryville, where we were in the field with Bill Smart as our General for one last time. I will

*For Powder and
Caps contact Cpl.*

Don Davis

Powder— \$9/lb

Caps—\$5/tin

Continued on page 5...

Smart's Retirement (cont. from page 4)

miss him dearly, to say the least. We will all have to get used to his absence. Lucky for us we will have leaders with like-minded ideas and principles to take the reigns. Men who have followed the Generals lead for many years, and whom we will now follow.

Bill, you may be moving onto something new, and we wish you all the best, you've earned it, but know that your presence here will always be felt. And in the words of Miss Elizabeth Ray, "May God go with you always".

Flags of the 42nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry

By Karl Ryan

The 42nd Indiana was given its first national colors when the regiment was formed. The Flag was a Cincinnati Depot Style flag with 34 stars. The regimental name was painted in black or dark blue on the center red stripe. The flag measured six feet high by six and half feet long. The flag was not fringed. This flag was nailed to the staff, according to information provided to me by Steven Hill of the Indiana War Memorial. The regiment would have used this flag in 1862 and 1863. The regiment was engaged at Stones' River, Murphreesboro, and Wartrace. By 1863 or 1864 this flag was retired and was replaced.

The second National Flag was a NY Quartermaster Pattern. It has 34 or 35 stars. The original Flag is missing the blue canton and so the number is not known. This flag was fringed. The fringe is shown in the photos of the flag. This flag was carried by the regiment in the Atlanta Campaign and To the Sea. The folks at the war memorial believe that this flag suffered such heavy damage that it was split in two. The museum has records of only two Nationals being issued. The photos seem to bear this out. A thorough inspection has yet to be made to see if this is the case.

The 42nd Indiana also carried a regimental flag. This flag is also 6 by 6.5. It is in one panel and is Silk. The photo of it shows vivid blue colors. The flag has been well preserved but did suffer damage in the War. According to Steven Hill "it was requested from the AG on 24 Mar '63, with the three honors Wartrace, Chaplin Hills (Perryville), and Stone's River, just as they appear on the color. The regimental commander then sent \$2.00 on 28 May 63, to cover shipping of the new colors to the regiment in the field...". This flag was carried in battle and returned to the AG at the war's end with "colors bright, considerable torn."

While visiting Indianapolis on May 3-5 of this year I had a chance to meet many fine folks that pointed out the location of the flags to me. The flags are located in the Indiana War Memorial in downtown Indianapolis. The Soldiers and Sailors Monument is over 300 feet tall and has a Civil War museum located underground beneath its base. There is a very beautiful fountain around the entire circle. Just north of the monument is the War Memorial Park. It is 5 or 6 city blocks long and a city block wide. The War Memorial's main building houses a military museum covering Indiana history from colonial times to the present.

I have four pictures of the flags of the 42nd. They can be purchased over the Internet by downloading a form and sending it in. I paid about \$35 for the 8x8 inch pictures I got. There are also several units posted on the Internet. Just search for the Indiana War Memorial and go to the Battleflag collection.

The Flag donated to our unit by Mike Nichols is a NY Pattern Flag. The identifying feature is the size of the Canton. The NY style has a large blue canton. The 42nd's original Flag had lettering that was painted on. The letters were Gold. The shadow was a dark red or black. Pam Bailes of Alabama Flag and Banner created the lettering for our flag. She recreated the font from the photos of the originals. The letters were thermally applied to the fabric and will be with us for a long time.



Photo Courtesy of the Indiana War Memorial

ANNUAL MEETING and CHRISTMAS

PARTY:

Veteran's Museum
Huntsville,
Alabama

Saturday December
14
4PM- until
complete

Bring a covered
dish

Battle of Antietam

By Karl Ryan

I am really happy I got to go to Antietam. I have not had a road trip quite like that before. Chris Gore, Danny Eldridge, Don Davis, and Ron Bednarczyk all went and it was a great trip. On the way up we stopped at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and Washington & Lee College. We saw Stonewall Jackson's grave and Robert E. Lee's tomb. That was really interesting. VMI has a nice chapel with the scene of the Battle of New Market as the backdrop behind the altar.

Also on Wednesday, we stopped at the Antietam National Battlefield. The place was beautiful. I was truly amazed at how pristine and tranquil the place was. Because the portion of the state nearest the battlefield has not grown much, the battlefield has been very well preserved. The Cornfield was eight feet tall and must have looked the same 140 years ago. The climax for me was seeing Bloody Lane at nightfall. The road is on the reverse of the slope of the fields in front and there is a slight crest about 35 yards away. The armies would have slugged it out at less than fifty yards right here. Such a fight was hard to imagine.

We went to Burnside's Bridge right after nightfall. What a sight. It is easy to see how the Georgians held up the 9th Corps here but it's hard to understand how the Union soldiers failed to ford the stream. One big push and they could have made it across. Instead, hours and many lives were lost getting across the bridge.

After touring the battlefield we went to Registration. There was no one else registering so we walked straight in and got set up. Then we made our way to Donegel. Don deserves all the credit for setting up our refuge with his sister. We stayed in the nicest place in a family campground, got a great night sleep and had lots of food. Ask anyone who was there what a Gob is. We even wrote a song about Gobs!!!!

On Thursday we were visited by Don's sister and mother who are great folks. We went to a restaurant called Brady's and had steak sandwiches for lunch then it was off to the event.

We got to Antietam and did not stop at Registration which was already backed up. We got some straw and found our camp and set up. We had a nice little nook in a low spot off the main road. The guys up hill of us were in the sun and choked by dust as cars were everywhere and little control was exercised in managing the traffic. Cars were a problem for the entire event and so was the dust. The place was bone-dry and the troops, horses, and cars all stirred up huge clouds of dust. It got cold that night and Chris and I wound up sharing our blankets to keep warm.

Friday morning we had breakfast at our little camp and got ready to meet the folks of the 148th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry (PVI). I was really impressed with the 148th folks. They were really nice and very much like the 19th in their family-oriented approach to the hobby. They were in a hard core battalion though and some of the guys from the other units in the battalion and the staff were into the 'total immersion' idea of the event. The Officer of the Day was pretty obnoxious but most of their folks were straight shooters and glad to see us.

Bob Dowler of the 11th PVI was a great guy. Don's sister works with a member of his group and that got us our ticket to the event. He and Captain Dave Felice were very glad we were with them. We had drill in the morning and Dave was very good at giving us the 'how' and 'why' of the Casey's manual. Stacking Arms is really different!

The weather was not cooperating on Friday and it was much hotter than advertised, probably in the high 80's. After just having done Tunnel Hill in 96-degree heat, this put the strain on all of us. The march over to the battle was hot and dusty and when we got to the assembly area we had to refill canteens and get ice because of the heat. The scenario was the Battle of Fox Gap which was part of south Mountain. We marched off to the battle at Left Face and the train wreck was on.



Antietam Bound. Photo courtesy Karl Ryan

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Antietam (cont. from page 6)

We marched between two batteries of guns and moved into column of companies. We went up front as fifth company. The battalion staff got us all twisted. As the battle raged ahead of us they had to sort out how to put the companies in proper order. It was a total train wreck and we wound up being fourth company. Finally they gave up trying to sift us around and just put us in.

Before the battle we had been instructed to only bring 40 rounds in our cartridge boxes with the idea being that we would count the shots and then rotate new units into the battle as ammo wore thin. We were on a rise and so were the rebs about 150 yards apart. The Texans from Shiloh were there and the fight was on. Units got too close, not enough hits were taken, and we got pulled out of line after shooting about 15 shots. The Irish Brigade then went in along with several other units. There was lots of close action and I took a hit to watch as our battalion was on the hill in reserve. The fight finally ended and we got organized for the hike back to camp. It was hot and we had slow going with all the traffic still arriving and moving through the camp area. About an hour after arriving at camp we had Dress Parade.

On Friday night I ate at the sutlers and got some stuff. At 9:30 we set off with the rest of the battalion to the cornfield to stand guard all night. We got to the field about 10PM and were allowed to fall out and sleep. Ron was having a hard time due to the dust and all of us were very tired due to the heat of the day. We got about 90 minutes of sleep and then got up and took our turn in the Corn. Ron and I stood guard for about 90 minutes in the Corn. I walked a beat and there was no action. The rebs had all gone to bed! We had been told they would try and sneak around and or stop in to trade and talk. The whole night was a bust. We got back to the reserve area and then had to move back out of the corn. We got maybe another 30 minutes of sleep and then the battalion was formed at 4 am. We were broke down tired. There was lots of jockeying for position and we marched up and down the same hill about 5 times. It was impressive to see the Army assemble in the dark though.

In the Cornfield there was about a 25-minute artillery barrage with lots of pyro before the fight. The Union right was by the spectators and when they stepped off they ran headlong into the Rebs who had come through the Cornfield. The battle for the Cornfield was fought on our side of the field. As we were stepping off, Rebs bull dozed their way through the corn into our left and whole battalions of Texans poured into our staging area. We never even got into the Corn! We had only 40 rounds apiece to deal with this and started shooting by companies. More Rebs showed up. Then more Rebs showed up. We got out flanked. We got attacked from the rear. We ran for our lives. Ron and I got separated from the company and wound up getting pushed aside by a bunch of Zouaves coming to save the Left. After about 5 minutes we found the Company. It was a train wreck all the way around. Then a guy arrived and in the middle of the battle our battalion was relieved. The whole left was wrecked and we marched off the field. The battle was still going on as we pulled out and headed back to camp.

I must say that I was confused and disappointed with this turn of events. Especially after seeing two Confederate officers approach our unit and ask us to continue the action! I guess somebody decided to take their marbles home. I was totally spent after this, folks. I am here to tell you I have never felt that my legs would not support me but I did that morning. We got back to camp and Chris was face down in the grass asleep. Bob Dowler looked like he was dead and laid out by a fence. Our little group has a serious discussion about the prospects for the Bloody Lane Battle that afternoon. All of us were spent and it was decided that we needed some more of Don's mother's Gobs!

It was with considerable relief that we slipped away to Donegel. Don's mother and sister came up and we had a feast. Their hospitality towards us was just super. We had Italian sausages, and Polish hand grenades (cabbage with hamburger and rice), and a ton of other stuff.

We got cleaned up, watched football and ate, then ate some more. We had a really nice night and spent some time out by the firepit. Don's nephew had a little plastic army men set of blue and gray soldiers. Before we left on Sunday morning, I set up the battle of Bloody Lane and we took a few pictures.

The trip back was in the rain and was very long but at least Chris did get to see West Virginia and Kentucky. I had great fun and could not have asked for better traveling companions. I may have complained about the event, but as usual the journey and the fellowship were well worth it.

Battle of Perryville

By Russ Spry

As I sit here in front of my computer, in modern clothes, enjoying my morning coffee prepared by an automatic machine, the memories and feelings of an excellent weekend in the 19th Century have already started to fade. As most of you know, as reenactors, we often find ourselves torn between our love of the 1860's and our obligations of present day. Although we understand that we must return to modern life, we often dread it for we know the feelings of camaraderie will soon drift off like the last bit of smoke from the campfire or the musket. So before the fog of war becomes the brilliant sunlight of reality, let me take a moment to recapture the events of Perryville on paper.

Perryville was slated to be the main event hosted by the North-South Alliance (NSA) this year. Anticipated numbers were high and probably totaled over 5000 troops in the field and a likewise large turnout for civilians. The 19th Alabama fielded well over 20 soldiers, with the ranks swelling to near 30 with additions from New York and Tennessee Regiments.

The weekend's events were to begin officially on Friday evening with all units enjoying a round of Guard duty between the hours of 7PM to 7AM. This dastardly duty was avoided however, thanks to the intervention of Hurricane Isidore, as she passed over the battlefield, providing 'gentle breezes' near 40+ miles per hour and 'light, scattered showers' that turned the roads into bogs capable of robbing a man of his brogans. Thanks to Isidore, we were all able to spend a delightful evening under the flies, playing cards, lightly napping, and mentally preparing for the impending Saturday morning battle.

As expected, morning did come early. We arose to the soft, melodious notes of the drum and bugle and the usual expressions from the troops of how well they had slept, their undying love for buglers, and the occasional relation of 'just how dark it was.' After determining that 'this couldn't wait 'til morning', we had a quick bite to eat, formed company, counted off, performed safety inspections, and marched to battle with the foe.

Unlike other events, the Perryville battlefields offered no direct line of sight of the opposing camp due to the hilly terrain. This terrain-blindness forced all of us to rely on the skirmishers to find the enemy and made anticipation of the battle more tense. We were unable to pre-determine where we may fight or from what direction the enemy may come. It was a nice change from the small battlefields like Tunnel Hill because we were never sure what awaited us over the next hill.

Our position in line that morning gave us an excellent view of the battle. We watched as cavalry engaged then broke off, maneuvered, and re-engaged. The infantry who moved in wave after wave toward the Union line followed them. Eventually we were

Continued on page 9...

Annual Meeting & Christmas Party

The following individuals are nominated for office to the Board of Directors:

President– Jim Rhodes

1st Vice President– Danny Eldridge

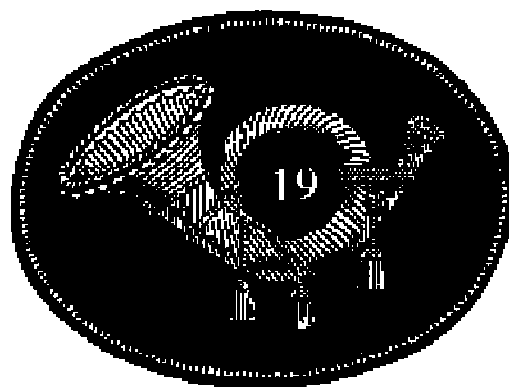
2nd Vice President– Don Davis

Treasurer– Jerry Rodgers

Secretary– Pam Rodgers

Civilian Coordinator– Ann LaFramboise

Directors-at-Large– Karl Ryan and Tommy Bassham



These will be voted on at the **Annual Meeting and Christmas Party** held at the Veteran's Museum in Huntsville, Saturday, December 14, 2002. Meeting will begin at 4PM. Please bring a covered dish!

Perryville (cont. from page 8)

committed on the Union right. Although our engagement was masked from the spectators by an intervening hill, we made the most of our situation and gave them 'what for.'

The afternoon battle was even more exciting. Marching in columns of companies, we maneuvered through the sutler and civilian camps to take up positions opposite the Yankee lines. The sight was unbelievable for we were able to observe the massive Confederate force as it snaked its way into position in seemingly never-ending lines of gray. No enemy was apparent until one battalion of invaders appeared over a rise to our left front. We could almost imagine their surprise as they looked down on the tremendous force arrayed before them.

When we engaged the enemy, we pushed them up a hill, over the crest, and back down through a cornfield. Retreating Yankees stumbled and fell in the thick tanglefoot of fallen stalks while wild-eyed Confederates followed close on their heels. Eventually the ragged Yankee force capitulated after being pressed back through one fencerow and across another. Then we marched back to our camp to the delightful sound of *Dixie* playing in the distance.

Saturday evening lent itself to calmer pursuits. Members of the 19th Alabama Civilian Corps served up a meal that was pleasing to all-- Santa Fe Soup with all the biscuits, rice, brownies, rice pudding, and lemonade you could stuff down. The military had a difficult time climbing the hill back to camp after such a wonderful feast. Many thanks go out to the fine ladies and gentlemen of the Civilian Corps who assisted in that fine meal!

The post-feast revelry included sitting around the campfire, exchanging repartee with the 33rd Alabama in their neighboring campsite. As has become customary, we briefly joined them for some singing and laughing. (Did we ever figure out what was missing?)

Sunday was a bittersweet day for the Old Guard of the 19th as we bid Major General Bill Smart a fond farewell. An early morning Division formation respectfully saw the departure of MG Smart from the ranks, followed by a smaller, more personal Brigade formation complete with the presentation of gifts honoring him. MG Smart will be sorely missed. Godspeed!

The Sunday afternoon battle was just as well done as the first two on Saturday. Once again the rolling terrain served as a barrier to observation of the enemy, but once again we pushed the enemy off the hilltops and eventually surrounded them, forcing them to surrender.

We left Kentucky that day knowing that we, and the opposing Federals, had done a great service to our ancestors by honoring them. We had attempted to understand their lives, feel what they felt, and share that so that future generations would understand.

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19th ALABAMA INFANTRY REGIMENT Co I, 2002 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| DATE | EVENT (HOST) | MIL/CIV AT-TENDANCE | IMPRESSION CAMP | MILITARY & CIVILIAN EVENT COORDINATOR PHONE NUMBER |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| JAN 12 | AL Division Meeting - Montgomery, AL | Info | CS | Jim Rhodes 883-4757 |
| JAN 26 | Advanced NCO School/BOD Meeting | Off&NCO/BOD | n/a | Jim Rhodes 883-4756 |
| JAN 26 | Huntsville Veterans Museum Support | VOL Mil/Civ | CS&US/n/a | Don Davis 539-8240 |
| FEB 9 | 19th Alabama Spring Muster | MAX/MAX | CS/Garrison | Bob Smith 348-4020 |
| FEB 16 | Huntsville Veterans Museum Support | VOL Mil/Civ | CS&US/n/a | Don Davis 539-8240 |
| FEB 22-24 | Battle of Aiken, Aiken SC | MAX/vol | US Garrison | Jim Rhodes 883-4756 |
| MAR 16 | Huntsville Veterans Museum Support | VOL Mil/Civ | CS&US/n/a | Don Davis 539-8240 & Denise Hargrove 723-3060 |
| MAR 23-24 | Battle of Bridgeport | MAX/MAX | CS/US/Garrison | Jim Rhodes 883-4756 & Terre Lawson 205-758-9635 |
| APR 5-7 | Shiloh Living History Brgd. Event - Shiloh NMP (NPS) | MAX/MAX | CS/Campaign/US Garrison | Jim Rhodes 883-4756 & Ann LaFramboise 931-276-2899 |
| APR 13 | Board of Directors Meeting | Info | n/a | Jim Rhodes 883-4756 |
| APR 20 | Huntsville Veterans Museum Support | VOL Mil/Civ | CS&US/n/a | Don Davis 539-8240 |
| APR 26-27 | Portland Living History, Portland, TN | MAX/MAX | CS/Garrison | Jim Rhodes 883-4756 & Lynn Eldridge 615-822-5152 |
| MAY 10-12 | Burritt School Program/Living History | MAX/MAX | TDB | Robert Smith 348-4020 |
| MAY 17-19 | Battle of Resaca, Resaca, Georgia | MAX/Vol | TBD | Jim Rhodes 883-4756 |
| MAY 25 | Huntsville Veterans Museum Support | VOL Mil/Civ | CS&US/n/a | Don Davis 539-8240 |
| JUN 7-9 | Parker Crossroads | MAX/MAX | TBD | Jim Rhodes 883-4756 & Tommy Bassham 931-363-7150 |
| JUN 15 | Board of Directors Meeting | Info | n/a | Jim Rhodes 883-4756 |
| JUN 22 | Huntsville Veterans Museum Support | VOL Mil/Civ | CS&US/n/a | Don Davis-539-8240 |
| JUL 6 | Fourth of July Company Picnic- Ft. Donaldson | VOL Mil/Civ | n/a | Lynn Eldridge 615-822-5152 |
| JUL 20 | 19th Ala, NCO School | Info | n/a | Bob Smith 348-4020 |
| JUL 27 | Huntsville Veterans Museum Support | VOL Mil/Civ | CS&US/n/a | Don Davis 539-8240 & Denise Hargrove 723-3060 |
| Aug 11 | MG Bill Smart Retirement Party | MAX/MAX | Modern | Sam & Diane Campbell (256) 895-9343 |
| AUG 24-25 | 19th Alabama Fall Muster-Prep for Perryville | MAX/MAX | CS/Garrison | Bob Smith-348-4020 & Jenny Bassham 931-363-7150 |
| AUG 31 | Huntsville Veterans Museum Support | VOL Mil/Civ | CS&US/n/a | Don Davis-539-8240 |
| SEP 6-8 | Battle of Tunnel Hill, Tunnel Hill, GA | MAX/MAX | TBD | Jim Rhodes 883-4756 & Ann LaFramboise 931-276-2899 |
| SEP 13-15 | Battle of Antietam | Info | TBD | Jim Rhodes 883-4756 |
| SEP 20 | Decatur School Program | MAX/MAX | CS/US/Garrison | Bob Smith 348-4020 |
| SEP 28 | Huntsville Veterans Museum Support | VOL Mil/Civ | CS&US/n/a | Don Davis 539-8240 & Denise Hargrove 723-3060 |
| OCT 4-6 | Battle of Perryville, Perryville, KY - NSA Large Event | MAX/MAX | CS | Jim Rhodes 883-4756 & Betty Buffington 256-753-2558 |
| OCT 12 | Board of Directors Meeting | Info | n/a | Jim Rhodes 883-4756 |
| OCT 26 | Huntsville Veterans Museum Support | VOL Mil/Civ | CS&US/n/a | Don Davis 539-8240 |
| NOV 8-10 | Battle of Tallassee, Tallassee, AL | MAX/MAX | US/Garrison | Jim Rhodes 883-4756 |
| NOV 11 | Veterans Day Parade, Huntsville, AL | VOL | n/a | Rick Somers 534-8221 |
| NOV 30 | Huntsville Veterans Museum Support | VOL Mil/Civ | CS&US/n/a | Don Davis 539-8240 & Denise Hargrove 723-3060 |
| DEC 7 | CW Relic Show, Nashville, TN | Info | n/a | Dan Eldridge 615-822-5152 |
| DEC 14 | 19th Alabama Christmas Party and Annual Meeting | VOL/VOL | n/a | Denise Hargrove 732-3060 |
| DEC 21 | Huntsville Veterans Museum Support | VOL Mil/Civ | CS&US/n/a | Don Davis 539-8240 |

PLEASE NOTE THAT EACH EVENT HAS A COORDINATOR. CONTACT THAT COORDINATOR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT SPECIFICS ON THAT EVENT.