

# The Soldier's Life

September, 2007

Volume 1, Issue 2

**Second Colorado  
Volunteer Infantry  
Company A**

**Newsletter of the 2nd Colorado Volunteer Infantry  
Living History Organization**

This publication publishes material of interest to American Civil War Living Historians and enthusiasts. If you're not a member and you're interested in our organization check out our contact information on the back of this newsletter.

## Cabin Creek is coming up!

### Congrats to these Pards.

- Phil Bevers has ordered his new Hardee hat.
- Larry Toll from Holmes Brigade will be falling in with us at Cabin Creek.
- The First Kansas Infantry will be falling in with us at Cabin Creek.

The Oklahoma Historical Society has released the final registration and event information for the Cabin Creek event in Vinita, OK. The event will be held Sept. 28th-30th and will reenact the First battle of Cabin Creek on Saturday and the Second Battle of Cabin Creek on Sunday.

This event is rapidly shaping up to be a large and well attended start of the Fall season for the Second Colorado. Several members have expressed interest in attending as well as several new recruits.

In addition Mr. Larry Toll of Evangel University will be bringing some students from his Living History class to fall in and work with us for the weekend. This is a great opportunity to share Living History with some great young people and the Second Colorado is honored to be involved.

As this event has not been placed on the schedule for the US Frontier Brigade or any other coordinating body the command

structure for the event will be ad hoc and assembled on site. As such the drill schedule is not yet set but all participants can expect to drill extensively throughout the weekend to ensure safety and an appropriate impression.

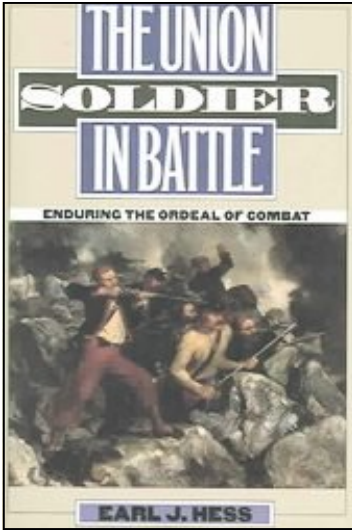
The First Battle of Cabin Creek unfortunately receives little notice due to all the attention given to the Second Battle of Cabin Creek. The Second Battle of Cabin Creek is of course Cherokee General Stand Waite's famous capture of over a million dollars worth of supply train bound for Fort Gibson. (Editors note: I have always considered this action to be more of a raid than a battle, Waite attacked a sleeping opponent in the dark and rode off with a lot of supplies and wagons. But being that Waite is a local figure the event gets a lot more press than it deserves. Only the dollar amount of the action makes it notable when compared to other similar actions of the war.)

The First Battle of

Cabin Creek was a true battle between two forces numbering in the low thousands. The battle was fought at the creek crossing where Waite's Cherokee Rifles had dug rifle pits and prepared to hold off Federal forces until the recently swollen Neosho River would lower enough to allow William Cabell's Confederate Arkansas troops to reinforce them. The battle was opened by artillery bombardment of the Confederate position. This was followed by a mounted assault by the Indian Home Guard on one flank which was repelled. The 1st Kansas Colored and the 2nd Colorado then moved forward into range and provided covering fire while the 9th Kansas Calvary rode across the creek and established a foothold on the far bank. Once this had been accomplished the infantry was ordered to charge the creek and take the far side. Once through the creek a new battle line was formed and the Confederates pushed from their defensive positions. A quarter mile south of their original position the Confederates continued on page 5

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Civil War Book Review; "The Union Soldier in Battle; Enduring the Ordeal of Combat"

"The man," so said Union veteran John William DeForest of the 12th Connecticut Regiment, "who does not dread to die or to be mutilated is a lunatic." But he added, "The man who dreading these things still faces them for the sake of duty and honor is a hero."

If this statement sums up the best qualities of the Union soldier in the Civil War, **Earl J. Hess' THE UNION SOLDIER IN BATTLE (University of Kansas Press, 1997)** best sums up his role in the conflict— and even after it had ended.

Notwithstanding that the reader has actually "fought" in the "War of the Rebellion" or has done some serious reenact-

ing, Hess' work is about as close as you can get to experiencing the real thing. This book is both simple and brilliant. Hess conveys every aspect of the battle experience; the apprehension, the fear, and the exaltation. But the greatest strength in the 198 pages of text is the wonderfully descriptive quotes from the soldiers themselves. Utilizing a vast array of sources, most of which are first hand accounts, Hess weaves an interesting and cohesive volume.

Virtually no aspect is left untouched by Hess. I found one of the most interesting areas he touched was the effect of the war on the veterans after the war, and especially on those who wrote memoirs. Hess ap-

proached this area in two ways— those who glorified the experience and those who were horrified and scarred by it.

Few writers who never experienced Civil War battle have been able to accurately convey its realities onto pages. But in this instance Hess has hit the mark with a clarity and readability that is accurate and compelling.

In summary, this is one book that every descendant of a Union veteran should at least read— if not own. And we all should be grateful to Earl Hess for making this outstanding contribution to the field of Civil war literature.

Darrell Dobson

*Editor's note:* Darrell Dobson is a good friend and fellow Reenactor who has submitted several articles to numerous Civil War publications throughout the years including this book review. I'd highly recommend a cup of coffee with this man any chance you get.

Note: Second Colorado Membership dues for the 2008 season will not be collected until the Winter Business meeting. Members are asked not to send in their dues until at this meeting or after it. That being said all members need to contact Jim Trent at jtrent@suddenlink.net to express your preference for the Winter Business Meeting either to meet before the Christmas Holidays or after the Christmas holidays.

Cabin Creek Schedule of Programs

Members of the unit will be on site as early as noon on Friday and a majority of the company will be on site by 6pm. When checking in make sure you check in as a member of the 2nd Colorado "Infantry". Our friends in the 2nd Colorado Cavalry/McClain's Independent Btty may be at this event and you could be misdirected. Unless you are planning on living out of your personal rations for the weekend company mess is 10\$. (Thanks again to the ladies for cooking)

<b>SATURDAY</b>	9:00 am	<b>Open to the public</b> .....	*Officers Meeting
	10:00 am	Uniforms of the North & South	Mike Bradley
	10:30 am	Weapons of War.....	Howard McKinnis
	11:00 am	Circuit Riders of IT.....	Rev. Don Price
	11:30 pm	Food of the soldier.....	Benj Clark
	12:00 noon	Knap & Haversacks.....	Jason Harris
	12:30 pm	1st Kansas Colored Troops....	Bruce Fisher
	1:00 pm	Gen. Stand Watie.....	Beau Cantrel
	1:30 pm	Refugees in IT.....	Kathy Dickson
	2:00 pm	<b>Battle Re-enactment</b> .....	.....
3:00 pm	Col. James M. Williams.....	Bob Lull	
3:30 pm	Civil War Music.....	Preston Ware & Tom Morpew	
4:00 pm	Period Dance Lessons.....	Martha Ray	
5:00 pm	<b>Camps close to public</b> .....	.....	
7:00 pm	*Re-enactors Dance.....	Martha Ray & Good Company	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9:00 am	<b>Open to the public</b> .....	*Officers Meeting
	10:00 am	Church Service.....	.....
	11:00 am	Food of the soldier.....	Omar Reed
	11:30 am	Knap & Haversacks.....	Dave Fowler
	12:00 noon	Battles of Cabin Creek.....	Whit Edwards
	12:30 pm	1st Kansas Colored Troops....	Bruce Fisher
	1:00 pm	Civil War Music.....	Teresa Black

## North South Alliance announces 2008 National Effort

The North South Alliance has announced it's national maximum effort for 2008 as the Battle of Westport event taking place in May 16th-18th in the Kansas City, MO area.

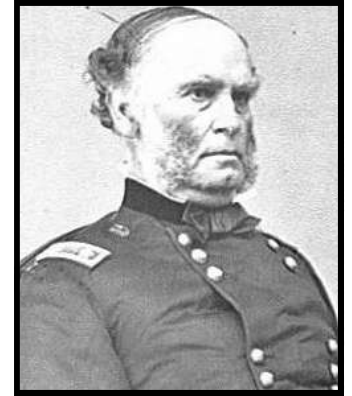
The Battle of Westport is the final large engagement of Confederate General Sterling Price's Missouri Invasion of 1864. After failing to threaten St. Louis or Jefferson City Price had moved his invasion west to threaten Kansas. In response Samuel Curtis formed a force from the volunteer regiments serving in the Missouri area and Kansas militia to repel him. The battle took place at the small town of Westport

which has of course now been grown over by the city of Kansas City

The reenactment event has already been selected as the National effort event for 2008 by the North South Alliance a cooperative network of reenacting units across North America. This means that thousands of reenactors across the country will be encouraged to make this event the one to make for 2008. The event will feature extensive programming including full on tactical exercises Saturday morning leading into the spectator battle. To get a better look at this vent check out their website at:

<http://standofcolors.com/index.asp>

This event has drawn considerable attention from across the country and across the reenacting spectrum and will draw several thousand reenactors. The opportunity to have a national event so far west is relatively unheard of. All members of the Second Colorado are encouraged to consider this event a prime schedule candidate for next year.



The principle commanders in the battle of Westport were Samuel Curtis (US, above) and Sterling Price (CS, below).



## Cabin Creek cont.

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ates attempted to reform a defensive line but were broken again into retreat.

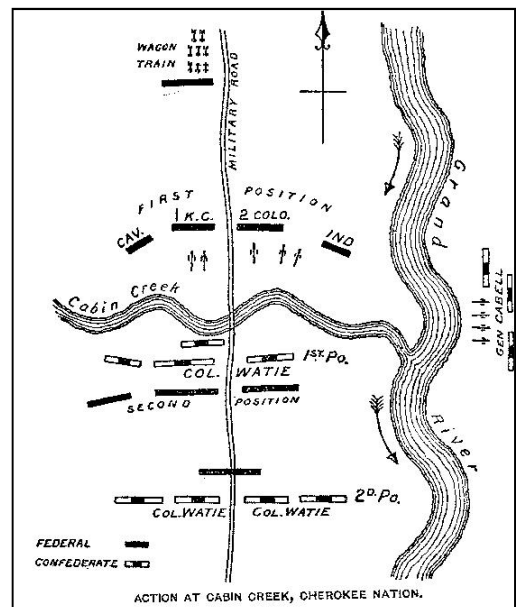
The battle was a clear Federal victory with only 3 dead and 30 wounded in contrast to the 50 dead and 50 wounded of the Confederates. Most importantly the victory secured the road from Kansas to Fort Gibson the critical post necessary to establish control of Indian Territory. The Federal victory is credited to the use of artillery (the Confederates had none at this battle) and the superior equipment and

training of their infantry.

This event is regularly hosted by the state historical society and attracts many reenacting units (some authentic, some not) to the state. This will be the first event held to reenact a historic action of our name sake since we formed our unit in January and will have one of our largest attendances to date The standard Second Colorado Impression (Hardee hats if you have them please) is the impression for this event. The camping style is currently campaign with light or no tents the weather for the

weekend looks excellent with a chance of storms on Sunday.

Contact Jim Trent (information on next page) if you wish to attend this event.





## The Soldier's Life

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Next issue: Some more tips for our newer recruits on improving their impression. After Action Reports on Cabin Creek and another CW book review.

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We're on the Web!

[www.secondcolorado.info](http://www.secondcolorado.info)

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*The 2nd Colorado Volunteer Infantry is a Living History /Re-enactment organization based in the Oklahoma area. We offer We offer a wide variety of services to the public including:*

*Living History programs for Classroom or Public Festivities*

*Ceremonial Services for Patriotic days of observance*

*Battle Reenactment and Civil War themed events to educate the public.*

*In addition we strive to provide a fun and authenticity driven 19th century experience to our members.*

*We chose the Second because six companies of the regiment served in the Indian Territory during the summer and fall of 1863 and played an important role in the battles of Cabin Creek and Honey Springs. They were also stationed for a time at Fort Gibson and participated in skirmishes at Perryville (McAlester) and Webber's Falls. This makes the regiment one of the most significant Union infantry units in our state's Civil War history. If you are looking for Civil War Living Historians for your Event, Patriotic Ceremony, or Educational program please [email us](mailto:jtrent@suddenlink.net).*

### **Dates to Remember!**

**September 27th-30th Mill Springs, Kentucky**

**September 28th-30th Cabin Creek (Vanita, OK)**

**October 20-22nd Pea Ridge Reenactment (Bentonville , AR)**

**November 17th Soldier's Life, Honey Springs**

## A Word from the Captain

The fall season has begun and we've got some great events scheduled for it. Cabin Creek is of course at the end of the month and many of you will be attending as well as a fair amount of "Pike's Peaker's" will be heading to work with the Army of the Pacific at Mill Springs. Next month of course is the Bentonville event which is a reenactment of the action around Elkhorn Tavern at Pea Ridge and a Frontier Brigade maximum effort.

With all that activity no doubt we all have a lot on our minds preparing for these events. That being said however I would like to encourage all of

you to think about next year's schedule. Our Winter Meeting will be coming up soon when we will need to plan our schedule for 2008. Take a look at your personal schedule and get an idea of how many events you're realistically going to be attending next year and when. While it's nice to have something scheduled every month it's not a great idea for the unit to register for events and supply them with a less than adequate amount of Living Historians.

Some events request full companies such as Cabin Creek while other events such as Soldier's Life programs at Honey Springs work with just a few. Many of you can only make

a few events a year and if that is the case I'd encourage you to make sure that at least one of our smaller events is a consideration for your attendance. Granted we make quite an impression at large events but our willingness to talk and educate one on one with the public is a key feature that makes the Second Colorado stand out from other units in the area.

On to Cabin Creek!

Jim Trent

Captain Commanding

2nd Colorado Volunteer Infantry

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