

## 2009 Cumberland Guard Annual Meeting

The umpteenth annual Cumberland Guard Meeting was well attended. Many topics were discussed and issues addressed. We were treated to a performance of Dan Dygert, a magician who has headlined in Vegas. If you were not there, there is no way to explain his amazing tricks...like raising a metal cup and there is a small green ball, putting it back down over the ball and immediately raising it up and there is a lime, putting the cup immediately back over the lime and raising it and there is a lemon. He picked up the lemon and put it back in the cup....but it was too large to fit in it.

A great portion of the discussions were about local events that conflict with each other. A solution was not found but units with contact with conflicting events need to let them know of the conflicting dates.

We then discussed the transfer of John Latschar, superintendent of the Gettysburg battlefield to a desk job.

The newly formed alliances were the next topic. There is the Eastern Alliance made up of eastern (duh) Union organizations. Then, the Blue/Gray Alliance was discussed. This is a western organization and the only "blue" unit is the First Federal Division. The discussions were mostly about if we should pursue joining the alliance. The group was very adamant the answer is NO. Thus, I have advised the powers that be that I have been directed to terminate all discussions regarding joining. We will attend the meetings and Jim Dedman volunteered to accompany me to the first one in January. Anybody else that wants to go is welcome.

The November of 2010 event originally set at Land Between the Lakes has been move to a location east of Memphis on the Tennessee/Mississippi border. The group voted unanimously not to attend.

It was also agreed there is no National event for the Guard in 2010 and our time and resources will be spent locally and preparing for the 150th series that is fast approaching.

For 2010, the Guard events are:

Billie Creek

Hastings...although the problems of 09 were discussed and our trust is they will be resolved

Jackson

Hartford City

There is a May event at Conner Prairie that will be supported by several Guard units and consideration should be given to including it in your schedule.

A new event which will be an encampment and drill weekend will be at a place called Prairie Creek near Muncie, Indiana...about 30 miles north of Indy. This event is scheduled for September and the exact date will be determined.

Craig DeCrane of the Black Hat Battalion extended an invitation to all at their Living History encampment at Antietam, next to Dunkers Church!!!! It will be in mid to late October. Now this event should be given consideration...how often do you get to camp on the Battlefield?

Thanks to Stan Hurt for arranging the meeting site. It was great to see Jim and Betty Dedman who lost three horses in 2009. They are gearing up with new horses and plan to be at a lot of the 2010 events. Jim discussed an event at Danville, Illinois that includes a money, food and liquor ration. WOW

The meeting concluded with three cheers and a tiger for the Guard...and me saying, "Wear those light blue ribbons".

I swear, the Guard is as strong and viable as it was at the beginning. The comradeship, the desire to help out our pards and the drive to improve our impressions never fail to awe me.

2010 is my 40th year in the hobby and never would I have thought the Guard would develop into the finest, toughest, best drilled organization in the country.

Good job, pards.

I read several passages from period diaries of soldiers. It discussed Confederate lancers, a square formed by the Union at the Battle of Val Verde, in Arizona the the phrases:

1. Six shooter for revolver
2. Cockelrums for officers
3. Fandago for party

We got a good laugh out of it but I emphasised that by research, especially diaries, we learn more about how they really did things and spoke then any history book.

One book actually gives the dimension of a camp, street width, etc.

The annual Guard wargame was held afterwards at my house. Tom E and Tom B of the 7th Michigan played for a while but had a long drive home. FYI The French beat the Austians/Russians. Plan to attend next year.

Colonel Dave

*Colonel Dave Shackelford*