

Jackson 2022 After Action Report

I think we all can agree that we could not have gotten a better first event back after the hiatus that the Jackson Muster took. First, I'd like to give a huge shout out to [Maurice Imhoff](#) and the rest of the Jackson Muster committee for the tremendous amount of work and planning that went into pulling all of the pieces together to get the event to go off nearly flawlessly. It was a great re-beginning to the event.

We all started arriving on Friday afternoon to get the camps set up which went really smoothly until we realized that we were missing the Army of the Wabash company. I know I sent them on a mile and a quarter march (yes, I made sure to send a guide) after Hastings to start moving towards Jackson, but I didn't realize the guide we sent would end up back in Indiana at a different event. We filled out the rest of the company streets with Guard units and the camps were soon filled with men sitting around a fire enjoying the night. Thank you to [Ryan VanMaldegen](#) who agreed to be a wing commander for the weekend, [Nick Leach](#) who volunteered to be the Sergeant Major for the battalion, and [J.R. Schroeder](#) for his services as surgeon. Thank you also to the company commanders, [Douglas McComas](#), [Marty Walker](#), and [Scot Spiekerman](#) who all performed flawlessly all weekend. I also want to thank the Michigan Cavalry Brigade led by [Kevin Yeager](#) and [Paul Fay](#) for his efforts running the Federal artillery. A huge thank you also to [TJ Berlucchi](#), [Brian D. Jankowski](#), and the rest of the Camp Chase Fife and Drum crew for not only parading us out to battle between their own performances on both days, but for also agreeing to troop the dress parade that we performed before the Saturday battle. The Jackson committee arranged for a reenactor dinner which was a pleasant surprise to many. It was much appreciated by all though.

We all woke on Saturday to a slightly chilly, and damp morning and soon after, fires were all going with smells of coffee and breakfast floating through camp. Those that didn't want to prepare their own breakfast also had the option of a event supplied breakfast which was also a welcome surprise. We got the battalion up and moving a little later in the morning for a battalion drill which we worked out some more kinks in our maneuvering abilities. It was a little warm out so we soon took refuge in the shade to cool off and engage with the nice spectator crowd that came out to support us. Saturday afternoon's battle began with a combined Federal/Confederate dress parade (my personal first in command) which had the line dressed by the men of the Camp Chase Fife and Drum unit. Unfortunately the actual battle was a disaster for the Federal contingent after repeated assaults on the dug earthworks that hid the Confederate force from our firings. The 8th Michigan Medical unit came through and made sure that we were all starting to rehydrate and cooling off, which we were all grateful for with the heat. The day wound down with another wonderful evening surrounded by friends and family which went well into the late hours of the night.

We all woke up on Sunday again to a slightly dewy grass and a slight chill in the air which was just enough that some threw great coats on since they were brought (those that brought them all agreed better to be used than not). A couple of morning bugle calls later, the men came out of tents and got breakfasts going again. It got a lot hotter very quickly on Sunday, but thankfully, all of the predicted rain held off until after the event closed and we were all packed up. The Sunday drill went really smoothly with a little company drill starting the day, and then finishing with

some battalion drill. We headed back to camp for some dinner and to cool off enjoying the crowd of spectators that again came filtering through camps. The Sunday afternoon battle went much better for us with the battalion spreading out more on the field which after a few attempted assaults on the earthworks, the infantry were able to rush through the center of the works and dislodge the Confederate infantry. This was also aided by the able riders of the MCB who took to the right flank of the Confederate line and engaged in a little hand to hand combat. Once the 8th Michigan Medical unit made sure we were all taken care of, watered, and cooling off, that mostly shut down the event for us.

Just a closing plea to register for Perryville if you plan on attending. Right now, the Guard count is floating at about 65, which includes the officers. I'd like to see us break 75 if possible to put on a good show and support our own Scott Lawalin who is the overall Federal commander for the weekend. There will be no walk on registration, so please make sure you get on the website and register as soon as possible. If you are unsure about your ability to get down there, multiple units are running carpools and caravans, so reach out to your pards and see who is going. See you on the field next time.

Your Obedient,

Col Miner