



1st Federal Division

A Living History & Civil War Reenactors organization / Non Profit 501C Inc. – Army of the Ohio, U.S. Muddy River Battalion, US Frontier Brigade, US Territorial Battalion, Mintys Cavalry Brigade, 1FD Cavalry Brigade & Western Artillery Reserve



As we continue to wait, it has been a while since we have had an official 1FD update, so I do want to get one out now.

It seems like everything has been somewhat turned upside down with all of this Coronavirus stuff going on. For the vast majority, most of the 2020 schedule has been canceled or postponed. What can we do and how is this affecting the state of our hobby? Maybe now is the time for us to start putting together those plans and ideas that we have been keeping on the shelf to improve on our impressions? Perhaps start working on ways to keep in communication with our pards and other units. This is the time that the old fashioned unit newsletter would be beneficial for those out there that still do it. Let us encourage each other during this time and let us try to find ways that we might start increasing our numbers & fill the vacant ranks once again with new recruits without losing our Veterans?

The First Federal Division, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization is a joint venture between the Frontier Brigade, Army Of The Ohio, US Muddy River Battalion, US Territorial Battalion, Army Of The French Broad, Western Artillery Reserves, Division Cavalry Brigade, and Minty's Cavalry Brigade. The First Federal Division provides a field commander and a headquarters staff for these eight organizations at regional and or national events.

Organizations outside the First Federal Division, which portray Federal troops, are welcome to attend and participate in FFD-sponsored events, subject to our expectations of cooperation. Independent infantry battalions of 60 muskets or more are welcome to discuss direct affiliation with the Division. Contact Colonel Mason Lumpkins, Chief of Staff. Decisions regarding formal affiliation will rest with the Board of Directors of the First Federal Division. Our current Division organization – 1st Federal Division

- **Division Commander / Brigadier General James E. Crofutt**
 - Chief of Staff – Col. Mason Lumpkins
 - AAG – Lt. Col. Bill Hoskins
 - Sr. Aid-De-Camp – TBD
 - Aid – de- Camp - 1Lt Randy Megard
 - Aid-de-Camp – 2Lt. Aaron Elliot

- Aid-de-Camp – 2Lt. Devin Wielar
- Chief Bugler / Chief Musician – Capt. RJ Samp

- AIG – Major Michael Shafto
 - Provost – Vacant
 - Signal Officer – Vacant

- Div. Quartermaster – Vacant
- Division Surgeon - Lt. Colonel Trevor Steinbach, M.D.

Detachment of Engineers – Capt. R. Scott House

Order Of Battle (*web page does not currently show this - changes coming soon*)

Infantry

1st Brigade –

- Army of the Ohio
- Army of the French Broad

2nd Brigade – (*Army of the Frontier*)

- U.S. Frontier Brigade
- U.S. Territorial Battalion

3rd Brigade –

- U.S. Muddy River Battalion
- *2nd Battalion – Currently Vacant*

Cavalry

- 1st Brigade - Minty's Cavalry Brigade
- 2nd Brigade – 1FD Division Cavalry Brigade

Artillery

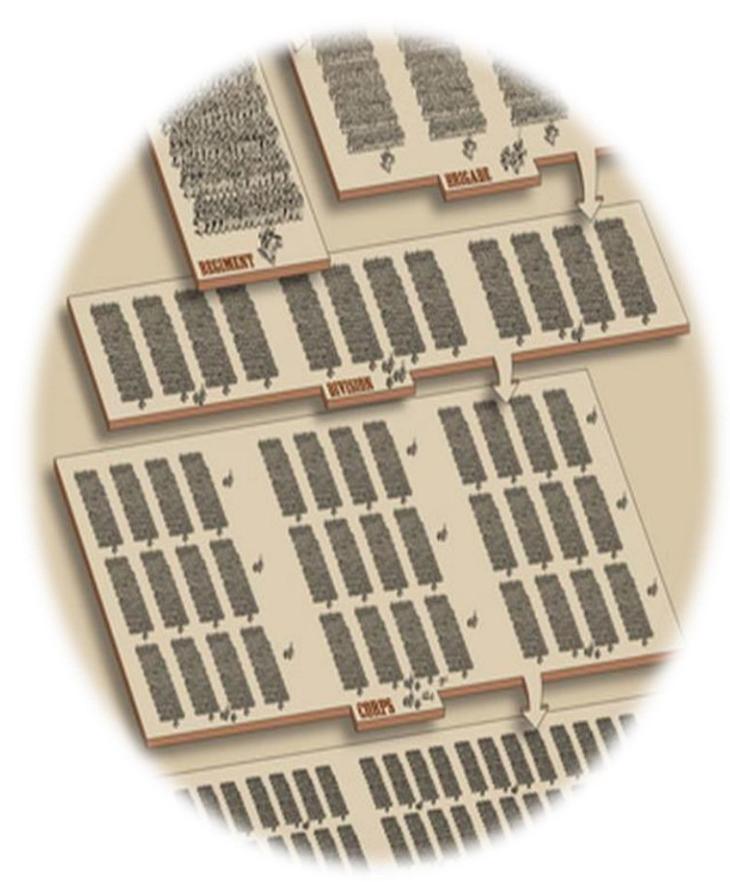
- Western Artillery Reserve

OTHER

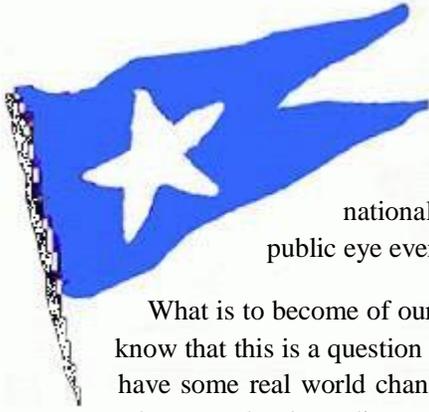
- Detachment – Engineers
- Detachment – 1FD Field Hospital
- Detachment – Veteran Reserve Corps

● **Friends of the 1FD –**

- The Kings Observer (Troy Thompson)
- 24th MO. (Campaigners)
- Alton Jaguar Guards
- Minnesota Vols. (Gen. Rob Murray)
- Lyon Legion (Mo. Vols)
- 8th Kansas Infantry (Mark Brown)
- 48th Ohio



From the desk of General Crofutt:



Well, what can I say at this point? Who would have ever imagined an entire reenactment season, the entire year being cancelled, and taken out due to a pandemic? Never in my wildest dreams would I have ever thought something like this could ever take place. Be it the Covid -19 & also even the other stuff going on nationally (everything anti Confederate and anti Civil War) which isn't really helping us in the public eye even though we wear the blue, its still hurting us right now.

What is to become of our hobby and how will things move forward next year and beyond? I am not for sure. I know that this is a question that everyone is probably wondering right about now. Its hard to say, it seems like we have some real world changes taking place before our eyes and the next three to five months is going to really show us a lot depending on what happens. Also with the Covid-19 stuff we just don't know yet if it will continue into next year or if a Vaccine will be developed sometime soon.

I do know that around the country a few events (mostly Living History) have managed to take place to date, despite everything. But the reality is that pretty much 98% of events have been cancelled for the year. I know that there are still a couple late in the year events that are still holding out possibly going to take place, but even if so, what will turnout be like? It will be interesting to say the least. We pretty much have to sum up this whole year as a bust, no fault of our own of course! Yes it Sucks! but it happens in our hobby (mostly on the event level though) from time to time. What can we do? Well, just need to push forward and look into (Hopefully) Campaign 2021.

Here are a few of my thoughts at this moment

1. Just my personal opinion here - But the way I am seeing things it appears that the hobby is going to have to undergo a change in order to survive, & hate to say it but the Campaigners are in a better position at this moment to survive this.
2. Public events are going to start drying up, regardless! We might hang on to a couple of them here and there but chances are the majority are pretty much not coming back. We may need to start building our own events.
3. Those events that we do hang onto we need to really take a hard look at ourselves and our impressions and how we look to the public.
4. This means that we who are in the mainstream need to start enforcing our own authenticity rules (such as shoes & eyewear) and also make some needed changes in order to improve our entire impression.
5. I am not saying that we have to give up our tents, however how can we reduce the amount of stuff in those tents, and the company street?
6. How can we as mainstreamers go back to the basics and improve our look so that the public doesn't see just a camping club but rather a real 19th century military camp.
7. With everything going on I do think we need to be on our very best behavior while out in the field and attending events. All its going to take is someone catching us doing something stupid (even if it's joking around) record it on a phone camera and then the media goes crazy.
8. Of course this is just my personal thoughts and it is up to you the Battalion & Brigade Commanders to build a plan that best meets your individual organization's needs. But please start thinking about some of this and let us know your thoughts on possible ideas for improvement on authenticity & our impressions and any ideas on how we as an organization need to change.
9. GAR meeting will be held near Nashville Tenn. just as it was this year. I will of course be in attendance to represent the IFD.

Anyway I am like all of you guys I just have to wait and see how all this Covid stuff plays out and settle down into whatever becomes our new normal. So with all this said and a few thoughts for consideration I offer a hearty cheer for the First Federal Division and a prayer for our future as Reenactors!

GAR CONFERENCE CALL – SEPTEMBER 22ND 2020

- **Murfreesboro 2021** – The Atlanta Campaign has worked its butt off trying to make this event happen and they almost had everything set up to go (the local City was on board, several local organizations and many small landowners) however the 2 primary Landowners who are brothers basically have been giving them the run around. Very hard to get a hold of, never returning call or emails / text and with the clock ticking and time running out and no signed land contract the Atlanta Campaign and the GAR is pretty much considering this event dead in the water and unlikely to take place. Unless something changes in the next 30 days we are just not going to see a Murfreesboro event in 2021 and the GAR will most likely focus on Bentonville in March of 2021 unless something else pops up between now and then for next year.
- **Prairie Grove 2022** – An update was given by General Crofutt he passed along a message to the GAR from Prairie Grove park superintendent that they are very interested and will be responding to the GAR letter in next couple months. That Covid just has slowed everything down and they needed to see what was going to happen with Prairie Grove 2020 first and since that event has been cancelled they will now focus towards the next event in 2022.

Liability Insurance through FFD

Our FFD liability insurance policy will be expiring in September. We need to see who wants to be on it for the coming year. We chose to do the \$2 million coverage. The base rate is \$12.60 per person, plus a single additional \$15 fee for processing the application. We are charging \$15 per person in order to build up a small amount of cash in the FFD checking account for emergencies, expenses, etc.

This information needs to go out to all of the Member Units to see if they are interested. I know that the Army of the Ohio gets its own insurance, as does the Division Cavalry Brigade. We would only wish to let them know that it's \$15/person.

Please contact Bernard Biederman

GAR - The GAR (Grand Armies of the Republic)



is a collaborative group made up of a majority of the Federals west of Pennsylvania to the Midwest (and a few other areas as well). This would include the [First Federal Division](#), the [US Muddy River Battalion](#), the [Cumberland Guard](#) (Michigan + Indiana folks), the Great Lakes Battalion (mostly Michigan folks), and the [Army of the Wabash](#) (mostly Indiana folks), the MDM (Military Division of the Mississippi), the Federal Cavalry Association (FCA), the

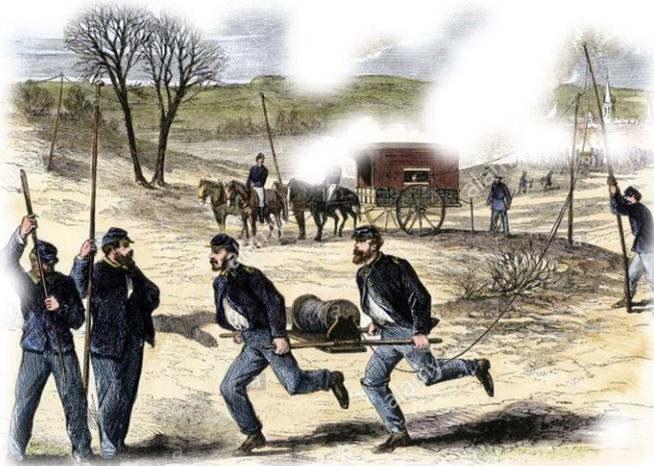
Western Artillery Reserve, the Black Hats, the [4th Brigade US. Florida's Full-Time Federal Reenactors](#), and several others.

This group was the largest Federal presence at Gettysburg in 2018. These are all Federal soldiers who were motivated to work better, together, to improve our efforts in planning and coordinating events. – *Next GAR meeting is going to be at Nashville either last weekend in January or first weekend in February. - TBA*

QUESTION FOR BRIGADE COMMANDERS & STAFF -- Dose 1FD want to do its 2021 yearly meeting in conjunction with the GAR meeting in Nashville or do we want to do our own or do it by conference call?

FIRST FEDERAL DIVISION ANNOUNCEMENT –

Welcome to Bill Hoskins who is taking over as Assistant Chief of Staff. Bill comes from the 13th U.S. Infantry (CO. D) out of Sioux Falls South Dakota. He has several decades of experience from serving in the line with musket up to Battalion Commander. He is replacing Lt. Col. Devin Wielar who is getting ready to move to Ireland so he had to put in his resignation.



Update on the 1FD communications list –

The General wants to get the 1FD organization and communications list updated. If your Brigade or organization has any type of command changes in the past year please let us know so that way we can update our records. This includes - how can we get ahold of you, be it email, Text, phone & even, mailing address? Brigade commanders we need to know who are the Colonel's but also who are your Adjutants and Sgt. Majors? And anybody else on your field & Staff that we should have

on the list for basic communications? Please get with the Chief of Staff and update your Brigade Information. Or if nothing else when the Chief or an aid-de-camp reaches out please respond.

