

SCOUT'S DISPATCH AND REPORT

THE GRAND ARMY OF THE FRONTIER

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G.A.F. GRAND MUSTER 2011, GARNETT, KANSAS TERRITORY.

First we all must thank a number of people: Division of Kansas Commander Lt. Col. Windy City Joe. Had it not been for the Colonel's effort the Muster would not have taken place. The Kansas Vigilance Committee and Gerrad Wright for the use of their range. Thanks also to all the others who worked so hard to make this muster possible.

The first item of business was the Long Range Rifle match. This was a steel match with the 5 targets placed from about 100 to 200 yards. Following a quick lunch the men took part in the long range pistol which was very similar to the long range rifle match though at shorter range. Assorted side matches followed the long range. The day finished with the Expansion Era match with a trail walk or Skirmish format.

Saturday morning began with a hearty breakfast that Buck had prepared. Operations recommenced with the Main Match. The Match featured scenarios written in the annals of historic military action. Here I'd like to mention some quite unusual self-resetting knock down targets. These targets, were counterbalanced in such a way that when knocked down these silhouette targets would stand back up. Following an outstanding lunch of stew the group finished all the stages but two. This was accomplished in plenty of time for the ladies and gentlemen of the command to return to their quarters and prepare for the Saturday evening banquet.

Buck's Roast Pork was found to be quite wonderful. The Ladies were simply stunning in their best gowns and men of the command were quite resplendent in their dress uniforms. At the conclusion of the banquet a Staff Officer meeting was held. Following an extended discussion it was deemed best to ask other members of the KVC to host the 2012 Grand Muster. Trap and Books O'Toole stated that they believed that this was possible pending discussion with the rest of the KVC board. And moving to the 1st weekend of October. The consensus was to pursue this.

DIVISION OF ILLINOIS STATE MUSTERS:

The first of two Illinois State Musters was held on 29 April 2012 at the Good Guys Posse Dry Gulch Ranch located near Rockford, Illinois. In the morning were five stages that followed the theme: Heroes of the 7th Cavalry. The afternoon brought "Wild Bunch" Stages, with 1911's, pistol caliber lever action rifles and '97 shotguns. Twelve shooters participated in the April 2012 Illinois State GAF Muster.:

The second Illinois Muster was held on 30 September 2012. Thirteen troops of the Divisions of Illinois and Wisconsin were trapped behind enemy lines, low on ammunition and supplies, and desperately needing to return to Fort Sackett. Fortunately all thirteen were skilled marksmen and snipers.

The body count after the battle was 845 enemy combatants killed by gunfire, 26 killed by saber and bayonet.

Hardtack privately supplied by Captain Wyatt sustained the patrol during the fight. Several troopers stated that motivation to get back to the fort was the noon mess prepared by Mess Sgt. Mrs. Shamrock and assisted by Mess Cpl. Shamrock Kid Two.

After noon mess five members of the patrol were mysteriously transported to the Expansion Era and participated in a Wild Bunch style side match.

DIVISION OF IOWA STATE MUSTER:

The Iowa state muster was held on 10 June 2012 at the Goddard Cowboys range near Colfax. This was a no miss match, all targets engaged until hit. Seven brave souls endured 90 degree heat and 20+mph winds in order to honor Iowa units during the civil war. GAF categories out-numbered scouts, 5 to 2. A pleasant surprise was the uniform competition. Three contestants tied at the first vote, each was then asked to describe their uniform, this did nothing to break the tie as each member had done their research and was able to answer all questions concerning their uniform. The final decision coming down to who had the oldest accouterments, an 1896 bayonet edging out a 1901 bayonet for first place.

(excerpt from "The Barracks" at CASCity.com)