



# Headquarters - U.S. Muddy River Battalion

*1st Brigade / 1st Federal Division*

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## Battalion Congress - Meeting Notes

Official Meeting Notes of the November 4th, 2017 Battalion Congress Meeting

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*Notes taken by – Capt. Noah Snelson 26th Missouri*

- The Battalion Chaplin officially opened the meeting with a prayer and also a reading of the history and battle honors of the US Muddy River Battalion.
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- **Roll Call:**
    - Units who sent representatives to the battalion Congress and thus were represented were as follows- Battalion **Field and Staff, 13th U.S. (D) , Western Bluecoats Field Hospital, 1st Nebraska (A), 7th & 30th Missouri, 25th Missouri (A), 26th Missouri, 18th Missouri (A), and McLain's Colorado Battery.** – Note: 26th MO was representing 8th MSM as proxy. None of our associated units sent a representative.
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### Colonels Address:

Col. Crofutt talked of our rich history and continued contribution to the hobby as a premier reenacting organization. The importance of Muddy River Battalion and encouraged individual member units to work together as a team. Also Muddy River is pretty much the primary battalion organization in and around the Missouri Region. Muddy River is recognized everywhere even on the national level as a legit battalion. Been very little activity since Shiloh and its been a good break but we need to get things going next year starting with the Spring Campaign.

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### Battalion Business:

**Treasury** - We had an update on the Battalion Treasury. The Battalion Treasury stands at \$130. All contributions to Treasury are voluntary. If any individual or unit wants to contribute to this fund they may do so but are not obligated. At this point the Battalion survives off of donations from member units and individuals. On occasion the Colonel ask for money from member units to cover some type of various cost.

We discussed the **Battalion webpage**. Capt. Christenson of the 7th & 30th Missouri volunteered that his unit would pay the annual cost of the webpage of \$79. We will be updating the Battalion website soon. It was suggested that all member units of the Battalion actively maintain an individual unit websites and it was asked that each unit post somewhere on the website that they are members of the US Muddy River Battalion.

A Battalion recruiting poster is available on the Battalion website for anyone that wants it.

- Battalion presence on Facebook was also covered and what pages the battalion currently maintains. 3 primary pages. **Public Page** (which everyone is encouraged to point there companies toward and to visit and hit the Like button). The **Members Camp** page which is for anyone of any rank just as long as they belong to Muddy River Battalion. And the **Officer Call** page which is limited to Unit Representatives and commanders.
    - It was decided that the Battalion Facebook page is doing well and we agreed that we should continue to utilize social media as a primary communication source. All units were encouraged to use this tool and stay active in battalion communications and discussions.
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- Discussion was made that it important that we keep a positive perception of the Battalion and always promote Muddy River organizations. All felt that we do a good job of this. We want to make sure that we are keeping a positive outlook on the hobby as a whole.
  - Currently we are the 1st Brigade within the 1st Federal Division. We are in good standing with the Division and Col. Crofutt is the senior Colonel of the Division. Colonel Crofutt gave a brief overview of the Grand Armies of the Republic (G.A.R.) organization that the 1FD belongs to how it has replaced the old Blue Gray Alliance.
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- Next was the reading of any type of official communications from other organizations to the Muddy River Battalion Congress.
    - We received communications from Brigadier General Bob Minton of the **1st Federal Division**; The General is very pleased with Muddy River. He appreciates the constant, steady support from Muddy River. The way we conduct ourselves is a credit to the Division. He thinks we are doing a fine job and hopes that we continue what we are doing. Requested info update on Lexington. Plan is hopefully to get enough eastern support to field some type of Eastern battalion for the event. Also gave an update on the IED that was found at Cedar creek event. 2019 possible Stones River event.
    - Col. Brad Amend of the **1st Mo Batt CSA**, - Sent an official greetings and appreciation of Muddy River Battalion. They are hoping to work more closely with Muddy River next year. They are encouraging the Camdenton Missouri event in June of 2018.
    - Col. Mike Kirk of the **U.S. Frontier Brigade**, - Sent his greetings on behalf of Frontier Broigade. Communicated Frontier Brigades possible next year schedule including Hulston Mills, Lexington & Prairie Grove.
    - LTC Jim Trent of **US Territorial Battalion** – Sent a very spirited communication to Muddy River not happy that we were not at Pilot Knob. Also asking Muddy River to Support a Real Shiloh Investigation into the Cavalry incident at Shiloh event. Then went ahead and verbally attacked Muddy River as being the reason that all the Federal Reenactors west of the River cant unit into an Army of the Frontier. The Proposal that he sent for uniting all federals west of the river into an AoF organization is still on the table. Col. Crofutt brought printed copies of the proposal to the meeting for everyone to look through.
    - Everyone wanted to continue to work together toward common goals. We are having increased communications with each other which can only strengthen our ability to work as a group in the future.

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- **Events:**

- We decided as a Battalion to list three events next year as Battalion Max events. Each of the three are in different regions, one northern, one central, and one southern. They are as follows-
- **Lamonia Iowa** May 19-20, 2018 - We will be making fortifications for this event. Possible Trench Warfare weekend. This will be an event that we encourage our men to bring period tools to improve the fortifications. We will be garrisoning the works and camping in the trenches. There will be static camping away from the lines as well. This will be our spring effort and Max Effort!
- **Lexington Missouri October 27th and 28th**- This will have G.A.R. & 1st Federal Division support in trying to organize a possible Eastern Battalion. We are looking to have at least one eastern federal battalion attending. We discussed going very authentic for this event and securing the rights to a unit based out of the St. Joseph and Kansas City area. It was discussed on our portrayal options and if we portrayed Mulligans Irish Brigade it would require Shell Jacket with Green Cuffs & Collars, Gray Pants with red stripe & basically a very specific impression. Holmes Brigade back in the 150<sup>th</sup> Lexington showed a pretty decent 23rd Illinois Irish Impression. Other option of Col. Peabody's 13th Missouri & Van Horns Kansas City Battalion that were combined at Lexington as a single regiment. The unit wore Civilian clothing but was issued Federal gear. This seemed more doable battalion wide and we chose to pursue this impression. We want all men in the Battalion to wear civilian trousers and coat. Now would be a great time to start working on that impression! We are looking to have trenches, and possible street fighting, and lots of land to do this on. This promises to be a very big event! Will be a big draw and one of those events you just got to be at next year.
- **Prairie Grove Arkansas - December**- This will be another large push by the Battalion. This is always a great event and we look to have great numbers once again! Were looking Portray 37th Illinois for the first time ever but if the Campaigners get it then we will ask for 20th Wisconsin. We will portray either Regiment with a deep respect but this time around we would like to be on the right of the Borden House during the fighting like we did during the 150th.
- There were other regional events were discussed and it was agreed that we should try and support all other events that Battalion member units were attending including:
  - ✘ Hulston Mill MO (*Frontier Brigade may make this a Battalion Max*)
  - ✘ Camdenton / Monday Hollow
  - ✘ Pipestone MN
  - ✘ Waynesville MO
  - ✘ Pawnee City NB
  - ✘ Brownville NB (Next CW event wont be until October 2019)
- Gettysburg PA- We will be sending a detachment to this event. Capt. Christenson will be the point of contact for this effort.

- In 2019 we are looking forward to the following events:
    - Stones River TN
    - Ft. Blakely AL (Campaigner only)
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- **Civilian Issues:** We will be adding a new civilian chapter to the Battalion, the **US Sanitary and Christian Commission**. This will be an independent civilian organization that will support the Battalion. It will not draw from the current civilian groups but work in conjunction with them at events and give civilians with the Battalion a home and activities to do at events. This will be headed by the Colonels Wife Diana Crofutt.
    - Capt. Christenson will research and try to develop a battalion policy concerning civilian camping. This will give an official guideline on how we move forward in this department in the future.
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- **Insurance:**

1st Federal Division has an insurance option available and it's a 1 Million dollar liability policy. The Colonel encouraged member units to consider it. It's only like \$11 a year. If any interest or want more information contact Col. Crofutt for details.

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- **Authenticity Standards:**

Each New Year we as a Battalion will be pushing some type of authenticity standard for the group. This year we will be working on period correct eyewear. No person will be excluded for not wear period correct eyewear but each unit will encourage and work toward a goal of no modern eyewear being worn at events.

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**Election & Staff:**

- Col. Crofutt was voted in as Colonel of the Muddy River for a new two year term. No other nominations were made. Col. Crofutt accepted the position.
    - Staff Opening: The Battalion has an opening for Battalion Adjutant. Anybody interested in the position should get ahold of the Colonel.
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- **Campaigner Company:**

Capt. Snelson has is working on starting a campaigner company that will work independently with the Battalion & become a member unit. He will be bringing more about this to the Battalion at a later date. He was given permission to move forward on this project.

- **Other Business:**

- We would like to continue to do bedrolls and knapsacks at events at least one battle during the weekend.
- We agreed to support individual unit events and strive to get guys to these events when possible.
- Battalion muster was discussed. It was decided that we would wait on this but only if locations like Ft. Scott would be good event locations

for this type of thing otherwise most not interested in a battalion muster.

- We will continue to support Living History and Public Education events and this could be something we could add at events as well.
  - Department of the Frontier Proposal by Jim Trent was looked over & discussed. Honest opinion by majority of Congress is Mr. Trent's temper & attitude issues and constant verbal attacks are a major concern before we could ever consider something like this. At the moment, we seem better off in 1FD so majority vote to keep things as is for now. If Jim Trent can change his attitude and curb temper then we might reconsider and revisit the proposal some time down the road. We do agree that there might be a need for some type of West of the River Organization but right now it's not workable due to issues.
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- Locations for meeting were discussed for the 2018 congress meeting. No location was picked. However it was discussed that next Congress meeting might need to be in Mid October 2018 few weeks.

**The meeting was adjourned**