



RED RIVER BRIGADE

The Trace

September 2013

From The Booshway

Howdy Brothers,

It has been a while since we have had a Trace and I wanted to let everyone know that we will have a new man taking over the job of editor. Brother Gerry "Lucky" Messmer has volunteered, and will be working on the brigade newsletter, ***The Trace***.



He is taking the job as a request from me, and Brother Catahoula Bill. Bill says he just doesn't have the time due to working many long hours and other obligations. Let's all welcome Gerry and give him our support in this new endeavor. If you have anything that you are working on, a camp that you had, an article, or anything of interest, please send it to Gerry, we would all love to hear about it.

Our Brother Scott Miranda has moved to California due to family issues. We will miss him and wish him the best in his new area.

Paul Laster and Allen Harrison have been working on a Red River brigade web site that we would like to have submissions and sketches to be added to it so that when it is up and running, the rest of the AMM can see what we are all about! More about this soon.

Well, I hope everyone has survived the long hot summer. I am looking forward once again to cooler temps and getting out with our brothers in woods or trails and doing what we love.

We have the Western Territorial in September and the Eastern Territorial in October, and also some of the brigade will be attending the event at the Museum Of The Great Plains, at Lawton, Ok. in early October. I hope some of us will be able to attend these rendezvous.

Speaking of Rendezvous, the *Red River Brigade* was well represented at this years national held in Colorado and Wyoming. I think that we had sixteen members present at one time or another. The Colorado men put on a first class event!



Other news, we have several members that have advanced to Bossloper, or, are about to and some fine Pilgrims that have joined our brigade.

Gerry Messmer, Paul Laster and Allen Harrison have recently advanced to Bossloper, Steve Carson has submitted his paperwork for Bossloper also. Pilgrims, Randy Muirhead, Tim Poteete, Al Hobbs, Sam Hall, Ed Bradway and Dickson Varner are working on requirements. If you see some of these men congratulate them and share any knowledge with them

that you can. I have two new men that are wanting to learn more about the AMM and I have plans to get with them soon and see if they may be candidates for membership.

If you know of a good man, see about looking into whether he measures up and possibly sponsor him!

I would also like to encourage more Bosslopers to go ahead and do those last few requirements and get that Hiveranno Degree!

I hope to see many of you again soon at some encampment.
See Ya on th' trail.

Yr. Svt.
Kraig
Booshway, Red River Brigade





About the Editor:

Brothers,

As a way of introduction for those Brothers I have not met here is a little about myself.

I started shooting muzzleloaders when I was roughly 9-10 years old, or about 40 years ago, in upstate New York. As an adult I moved to North Carolina with my civilian work before returning to active service in the US Army in 2001. While in NC my best friend introduced me to Revolutionary War re-enacting, which I did for many years. After a while, even though I enjoyed it, I needed the next challenge and started doing period correct trekking.

The period correct trekking gave me a chance to test my gear, all handmade, and myself. Hunting in today's era is really simple: buy camo clothes, wash them in scent block, put on cover scent, climb into a stand and shoot a deer at the feeder after the dinner bell goes off. It simply is not a challenge, and even though I had shot deer growing up with my first muzzleloader I had not done it period correct. So I had a new challenge.

Then the Army decided to move me to Ft. Hood, Texas! There are, of course, Texas Rev War events, but I was still looking for that next challenge. After some research on the web I found AMM, spent a great deal of time looking at it and then contacted someone. I really can't remember who I contacted first, perhaps our Booshway, Brother Kraig? From there, I met my sponsors, Cuz and Black Powder Jim, earned my nickname and off I went to git 'er dun!

Having trapped from the time I was in about 5th or 6th grade, been a muzzleloader and having all my handmade clothes from Rev War and trekking, AMM was right up my alley. What I enjoy most is that it is not re-enacting; it is living history in the most serious sense. When we go to the woods there are no crowds, no spectators, no "theatrical re-enacting", just learning, using, sharing and preserving the skills of the American Mountain Men. Most importantly, a Brotherhood of Men I enjoy being around.

So, now I am knocking on the door of retiring from the Army after 28 years and 17 active, I'll submit for early retirement, get a civilian job and put my efforts into AMM. I need horses, time on the back of a horse, clothes for my squaw and not to mention there are miles of trail I need to see over top of a beasts' ears! I can't do any of that from Afghanistan or Syria.

So when the opportunity came to be the Editor of the Trace, I jumped on it as a way of getting more involved with AMM and my passion for the outdoors.

I will not have a standard format because it all depends on your submissions, but things I would like to have in it include: projects Brothers are working on, events, stories, accoutrement review and anything Brothers want put out to the Red River Brigade. I will start with a couple of my projects and an event I co-booshwayed with Many Rifles.

Please send me your projects, stories and additions for the next Trace to: mess1964@aol.com or snail mail: 426 Quail Hollow Drive, Adkins, TX 78101, or call: 910-964-2580.

I hope you enjoy my first edition! Your most humble servant,

"Lucky" Gerry Messmer



Project Review:

The Mayfield Pouch

Sep/Oct 2012 Muzzleloader Magazine

Here is a project of mine that I did last week. I have had this particular issue of Muzzleloader sitting by my bed for quite some time wanting to try this design. I have made many hunting bags of my own design. I make patterns the same way but usually find myself spending a lot of time trying to figure out my design, so why not try the Mayfield pattern? The pattern and instructions in the article were easy to follow and I do like the hinge on top. The way I did the scallops I would change the width of the hinge from 1 ½ inches to 3 inches to get the hinge over the top and further down for a more decorative look.

Also, I am not sure the welt is necessary in-between the front and back. I lined mine with blue wool and with a running stitch it is a pretty tight seam. I am making another using the pattern with a few modifications and will go without the welt and see what happens. The flap on the next one will have a tanned beaver face; my son's first trapped beaver! Of course, it will be his bag.



Project Review:

My first hand forged Knife

Although I have made many knives using purchased blades, this is the first knife I made hand forging the blade from a 100 year old horse buggy spring. Every Tuesday I meet at the home of Bill Smith, a world class knife maker out of Salado, Texas. Bill has never published a book on knife making, does not have a web site and does not sell in the open market place. However, he makes knives for private clients at their request and teaches those who want to learn. To see one of his finest works visit the Alamo. He made an exact copy of Jim Bowie's knife from the original blue prints using all period correct methods and material.

In addition to the hand forged blade, the knife has a beau d'arc handle with antler and leather spacer between the antler and the hilt, as off the Bowie blueprint. I also, hand forged the hilt. The sheath is hand sewn leather with a rawhide liner.

AMM Summer pack-in Fishing Trip Review

By Paul "Many Rifles" Laster and Gerry "Lucky" Messmer



Over the June 21-23 weekend, Paul and I hosted a great summer fishing pack-in in Boerne, Texas on the property of the Marquardt Ranch. I was able to pack-in early Friday morning and find a suitable location above the river overlooking the Guadalupe River. Paul came in after work several hours before dark. The pack-in was about half of a mile or so across some fields and a ravine. A fairly enjoyable hike and snake free as far as we know, though our eyes were always to the ground while we made our way through the knee-deep grass.

Being along the high banks of the Guadalupe, our campsite had extensive views of some fields and surrounding areas. This gave us a short walk down to the river's edge, but with the ability to blend into the brush whenever the occasional Indian patrol would meander down the water in one of their "kai-ack" canoes.

Since both of us have limited experience with coarse fishing, we decided a fishing weekend was a great challenge to add to our mountain man kit bag. Many thanks go out to Brother Paul Jones for supplying great fishing kits! I received mine in overwhelmed with the supplies in hooks on and the unexpected

We spent Friday afternoon and lives, events we have been to and course, what gear we really need to seems that I can never cut enough but was inspired by Paul's lack of writing down all of the gear he after the event goes back through he doesn't use. Many of my cuts excess food I carry. I swear I can Red River Brigade when I pack in. It had bought a new pack from Bague Harold, who advertises in Muzzleloader Magazine, similar to mine and said he loves the way it fits and packs when out trekking. This was its second trip – and worked out great.



the mail and was the kit, directions for tying the period correct fly!

evening catching up on our new gear we both have and of eliminate to travel lighter. It gear out each time I pack in, "extras". Paul has a habit of brings on a pack-in – and then and marks out whatever gear need to come in the form of cook enough for the whole is time to lighten the load. Paul

Friday night we enjoyed apples, dried fruit and nuts for dinner and drank heavily from the spring to keep hydrated in the heat. Also, along came Freckles, my Brittany spaniel, whom some of you know. He is my loyal and faithful steed of many a trip and getting quite old. He is 15 years old now and struggled with the hills and had to be carried from time to time. This may have been his last event, but we will see. I will keep bringing him as long as he will come! We are sure he had a great time and he did manage to venture out once at night on his own, but that is another story to be told.

Saturday morning, after a king's breakfast of smoke cured bacon and eggs Paul and I headed down to the river to try our hand at fishing. We took along some cheddar cheese and supplemented with grasshoppers as we could catch them. We were able to catch some small crappie right away with the cheese and I had many strikes on the grasshoppers. I used a fishing pole cut from a small sapling and Paul wanted to try his his fowler. The Jones worked out simple directions I to the line was and effective.



We caught quite a seems the larger fish cheddar cheese or intolerant. After we went into the cool down and

were fishing was only about 3-4 feet deep and not many deep holes for larger fish. We relaxed to the occasional sound of larger fish jumping out of the river and slapping back into the water.

We stayed in the water for about an hour or so and that made a huge difference to beat the heat. I can imagine that in the heat of summer many mountain men in this region spent time in the water cooling off. Along the Chisholm Trail in Salado, TX there is a great natural spring where the water comes out around 65 degrees. I have spent many days in the summer in that pool cooling off and it makes a huge difference just getting a break.

Saturday afternoon we spent at camp relaxing from a stressful morning of swimming and fishing. We had to slow down a bit and take a nap to recover from the excitement. Around 2 or 3, we made our way back down to the river for another swim to beat the afternoon heat. Another short 5 minute walk and we were back in the water. Before we went down to the water we pooled our food resources and put together a great stew of potatoes, rice, onion, bacon and some banana peppers all seasoned with some salt, pepper and garlic. We set that a little ways from the coals and let it simmer for about 90 minutes before we returned. It was a fine meal that even Freckles loved!

Sunday morning we broke camp after first light munching on dried fruit and the last of the apples before we packed out. Freckles was forced to eat the last 6 eggs to kick start his morning. Regrettably, Paul

luck with the ramrod of fishing kits from Paul great. With Paul's found that tying a hook actually quite simple

few small fish, but it were either not fans of maybe just lactose several hours of fishing water for a swim to discovered the area we

and I packed out only to return to the hustle and bustle of the steel ponies, honey do lists and electronic leashes.



Accouterment Review

Although not a period correct item, I saw this in my Crazy Crow sale flyer. I have never seen this item in their catalog, but am always looking for an affordable and safe way to transport my firelock to events or when traveling in general. For \$225 it seem like a pretty good bargain to share with ya'll.

Made from premium laminated ABS panels with a black textured finish and silver metal trim, including 4 padlock hasps, a quality combination lock and loops for an optional shoulder strap. The interior features egg crate-style foam in the top and customizable "DIY" foam made up of 1/2" squares in the bottom, so you can make the perfect shape for any gun and its accessories. Comes in a heavy corrugated double box with foam corners which affords excellent protection for re-shipping, if desired. Interior Dimensions: 69" x 13-1/2" x 4".

Upcoming Events

2013 EASTERN TERRITORIAL RENDEZVOUS

The KY/TN Brigade requests the presence of experienced trappers and woodsmen to join us at a grand encampment for the formation of a Company of men preparing to depart from St. Louis on a trapping expedition to the Rocky Mountains come first thaw.

We will meet October 26 through November 3, 2013 at the Tradewater River Trading Post on the AMM property north of Dawson Springs, KY. This is YOUR property! Come camp on it and enjoy some great Southern Hospitality. See the directions below.

Each man will be required to furnish your own equipment, to include a smooth gun or rifle gun, bed roll and clothing necessary for an expedition of no less than one year. You will be able to replenish your clothing and equipment at Rendezvous in the mountains the coming summer.

To cover some of the upcoming costs, we are asking for the donation of items to be auctioned or given for prizes during the encampment.

If you bring good money, libations will be available for purchase at the tavern. All morning and evening meals will be provided. There will be a bucket for donations at the cook tent. There will also be additional shelters set up for anyone wishing to fly into Nashville, the closest large airport, which is about two hours away. We will co-ordinate two (2) arrival and departure times, and will provide shuttle service to the rendezvous site.

For information, call Larry Mayes (Co-Booshway) at 615-330-7401 (home) or 615-330-7401 (cell), or David Mense (Co-Booshway) at 270-841-7689 (cell) or John Street (Brigade Booshway) at 561-758-6789 (cell).

DIRECTIONS

Take West KY Parkway to Exit 92 – Dawson Springs.

Take KY Hwy 109 North 3.8 Miles.

Turn right on Sixth Vein Rd. Go 1.1 Miles to Bull Joint Road.

Turn right and go .7 Mile to Copperhead Road.

Turn left – Go .3 Mile to Camp