

BROKEN Locke

Coach injures foot after challenging student to sack race on field trip

"I thought he was going to be in a lot better shape because the **OLD MAN** could normally whip my tail in everything else, but he couldn't **HANDLE THESE SKILLS!**"

Jeff Steelman [8]



"When I landed I knew my foot was **HURT,** so the loss didn't really bother me. Not being able to run for **TWO AND A HALF** weeks hurt a lot more."

Heath Locke

Looking at the cannon pin, Dalton Sumrow [8] learns about the cannons from the Civil War. After the instructional period the cannons were fired without ammo to simulate the sounds they'd hear during the war.

Smoke trailing, Mason West [8] fires an old revolver with blanks. The re-enactors guided the eighth graders through the care, loading and firing of the gun to show what the life of a Civil War soldier would've been like.

Struggling, Olivia Sipes [8] hands off the cannon ball to a fellow classmate. Only blanks were fired from the cannons though there were cannonballs for students to hold.

Laughing, Natalia Rincon [8] and Ashlee Wyatt [8] race each other in sacks. The sack races were one of the many activities that students could participate in at the re-enactment.



Guns to the sky, two re-enactors fire for the crowd of spectators around them. The re-enactors fired cannons as well, but they all used blanks so that they kept everyone watching safe. "They had a whole technique, probably ten steps just to shoot one bullet," Yaroub Hussein [8] said.



Dressed in a Union uniform, a re-enactor presents some weapons and war relics and demonstrates how to use them to eighth graders. Popular rifles used during the Civil War included the Springfield rifle and the Colt revolving rifle.
all photos by i. rodriguez



BLAST FROM the PAST

Eighth grade gets historic experience at Civil War re-enactment

story by i. rodriguez

The sound of firing cannons fills the air and rings in the students' ears while the ground shakes as the Union troops fire at the train passing by. Unlike any history lesson they'd received before, the eighth graders learned about and experienced parts of the Civil War.

On May 1, the eighth grade class took a field trip to Jefferson for a Civil War re-enactment and other history briefings.

"Sure, you can be in social studies class and they tell you to read a book, but the cool thing about that trip is that you get a better understanding because it's right there in front of you," Yaroub Hussein [8] said. "You have people that are more experienced with the topic that are telling you about it. It definitely got me closer to enjoying history."

The students split up into stations, where they watched history in action with men portraying Union and Confederate officers explaining what happened as if they lived it themselves. Their in-depth knowledge of the Civil War presented history in a way the students had never experienced.

"At each station, they would tell us the history behind it and everything," Emily Mitchell [8] said. "In history class they can only teach you so much about the Civil War era, but that trip went into detail."

The re-enactors showed the students their collection of Civil War-era guns, knives and flags. Some of the re-enactors even allowed

the students to shoot blanks from their guns.

"I liked watching this old guy make bullets," Braden Clark [8] said. "He had this little pot over a fire and he'd drop lead in there and melt it down. Then he put it in this shaper, and it'd make a ball. He'd break the extra pieces off and then it'd be a bullet."

The students learned how soldiers lived with their limited resources. Comparatively, the students came to realize that many of the movies they've seen don't tell the story exactly right.

"The Confederates and the Union both wore blue uniforms for most of the Civil War," Clark said. "It showed me that not everything we see in the movies is what actually happened."

Although the movies weren't completely accurate, the history briefings given to them by workers and re-enactors made it seem like they'd traveled back in time.

"My favorite part was probably listening to the history briefings," Hosanna Johns [8] said. "It was just some extra information you didn't learn in the classroom."

Outside the classroom, the students experienced the different cultures of the time. This extra information provided a better, deeper understanding of the trials of the Civil War.

"You got to see all these different cultures and how they worked like the Indians and the navy," Hussein said. "You actually saw how they worked back then."

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