

The Palmetto Vindicator

The Newsletter of the Palmetto Battalion, Inc.

Volume XV Number 1

January 2002

Field Orders

My comrades,

Well, here we go with a brand new year of re-enacting events. I think we have one of the best schedules in several years. It has a good mix. There're some old events, some new events, some events we haven't done in a long while and some events that most of us have never been to.

Hopefully, you got the news that Rivers' Bridge was cancelled. Though that event has always been one of my very favorites and I have regrets that it won't happen this year, there is much hope that it will come back in an even better form. Wayne and Rick and the boys in the 25th are looking into some property nearby that we might be able to develop into a great place to do the event. The Park Service has been very concerned about the condition of the breastworks and the fact that having the battle in them runs the risk of further deterioration. I think that our battalion membership is just as concerned about this. The time has just come to make a change, but, as I said, I'm very optimistic about the future of the event.

Aiken will be the next event on the calendar. It looks like, by and large, (you ain't gonna believe this) we'll get to do Confederate for it this year! Now we may have to galvanize a company one day and another the other day, so bring the blue, but hopefully we won't have to use it. It seemed last year like we did the Federal impression almost every event, but this year things look a little better. This day and age, it seems highly

unlikely that we would not have to galvanize for a major in-state event like Aiken. Last year we had to supply the vast majority of the Federal impressions for all of our in-state events. We get to do Confederate at Aiken because the Alabama boys of Somers' battalion (the fellows who did Confederate at Aiken last year) are coming to play the Yankees for us. Now, this could get to where it works really well, but we do need to pay back this debt and do Selma as Federal. I've spoken with General Rambo and it's OK for any of our units who so desire to camp as Confederate at Selma, then galvanize for the battle only. I'll say more about that event in the next issue; I just wanted you to be thinking about that while you're wearing the gray at Aiken.

The Columns in Florence is back as a battalion affiliated event this year. We always have a good time at that one and I think that the odds must surely be with us for no rain this year. The singing last year was particularly enjoyable.

Averasboro, NC is a new event on the schedule. This is not the "Averasboro" that has taken place at St. Paul, NC for the past several years, but a new event on the actual battlefield. The Palmetto Battalion has been invited to this small, invitation-only, affair and I think it's going to be a great one. Colonel Skip Smith of the Carolina Legion has asked that we come as Confederates. I think that the invitation to be the Confederates has much to do with the fact that we did Federal for the

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2002 Battalion Events Calendar

Feb 22-24 Aiken (BA)

Mar 8-10 Gables Hotel, Florence (BA)

Mar 15-17 Averasboro, NC (BA)

Apr 5-7 Cheraw (BA)

Apr 26-28 Selma, AL (BA Max Effort)

Apr 26-28 Fairview Church

May 3 Memorial Day, River's Bridge

May 4 Memorial Day, Columbia (BA)

May 11 Memorial Day, Charleston (BA)

May 17-19 Resaca, GA (BA)

Jun 15 Ft. Lamar LH, James Island

Jun 28-30 140th Seven Days, VA -Info

Sep 20-22 140th Sharpsburg (BA Max Effort)

Sep 29 Battalion Elections, Columbia

Oct 4-6 Perryville, KY (BA MAX Effort)

Oct 11-12 Ghost Walk, Charleston -Info

Oct 18-20 Honey Hill (BA)

Oct 25-27 Brattonsville LH, York (BA)

Nov 8-10 Secessionville (BA)

Dec 6-8 Gramling Mills LH

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Field Orders (continued from page 1)

Carolina Legion at Lexington last year. So, remember when we do have to wear the blue, that it's all about fair play and it will have benefits down the line.

Well, now I've got to address an issue that's not quite so pleasant – dogs in camp. I've had lots of complaints about this of late and I think that they are reasonable complaints. The problem is not with any one unit or individual. If it were, then it wouldn't be much of a problem. But, there have been reports strange commands at company drill such as "guide around dog doo," which I am unable to find in any of my manuals. Seriously folks, love ya, but let's leave the pets at home or in the kennel when we come to an event.

I would guess that you've noticed by now that we have a new newsletter editor. Daniel Fodera of the 14th has agreed to serve in this capacity. I think he's going to do a great job. I would like to thank Terry Lewis for the excellent job that he has done for five years. Terry changed jobs last year and it has become increasingly difficult for him to do the large amount of work involved in publishing our newsletter, but he has hung in there and done a fine job. He certainly improved things a great deal when he took over and I am very grateful for his service these past five years.

I think that we had a good year of improvement in 2001. I've seen lots of better quality uniforms and enthusiasm for the spirit of what we do. Let's have an even better one in 2002. I have great hopes that we will.

Your Obedient Servant,

A.J. Clamp

Col., Palmetto Battalion

The Lieut. Colonel

Greetings and Happy New Year to all,

I hope that Santa Claus brought everyone something good (hopefully something good for re-enacting!) and that everyone is ready for what looks to be a very full season coming up. I know I'm ready to put on the wool again.

Before Christmas, the Battalion sent three members of your staff to Memphis for the annual meeting of the First Confederate Division. I had to honor of being one of your representatives, and I'm happy to report that the Division accomplished several good things at the meeting. After Raymond, one main concern was safety, and we started several tracks to make sure something like that never happens again. Many things are being discussed and recommendations being compiled. The immediate steps to be taken at N/SA events, that will have an immediate impact, are: better accountability for inspections, more uniformity in inspections, and the removal of loaded side arms from Infantry officers. Artillery took this step three years ago, so the only loaded side arms on the field at N/SA events from now on will be in the Cavalry. This should go a long way towards preventing future accidents of this type.

The "five year plan" of events was also discussed at the meeting. There are several exciting events coming up on the schedule that I hope the Battalion will support. A personal highlight for me was the chance to visit the statue and burial place of General Nathan Bedford Forrest. And of course, none of your staff passed up the chance to try out some Memphis Barbeque!

Since I'm writing this after New Years, I have resolutions on my mind, and would like to offer the following challenge to every member of the Palmetto Battalion: In 2002,

pick one item in your impression that is not quite "up to snuff" and make a commitment to improve it. If each of us improves just one thing, think of what a difference that could make. We are already miles ahead of where we were just five or six years ago; with a bit more work we will be incredible!

Looking forward to seeing all you soon, I remain, &etc.,

Bruce Hoover

Lieut. Colonel, Palmetto Battalion

The Apple Crate Table

Boys, this is going to be tough...in more ways than one. How do you come behind "The Sergeant Major" Buckshot? Can't replace him or fill his brogs...nobody can or should. I'd like to thank him for all of his support, confidence, and guidance over the years. By-the-way fellers, my evil twin brother, Dick H. Davis, has not had to tow the first wagon out of camp so far. My hat is off to each and every one of you. Don't feel sorry for Dick and his family. I'll make sure his family is provided for, but as far as Dick, he can starve for all I care.

To begin with, I won't even attempt to do this job by myself. Boys, we all swim together or we all sink together. Together we can all continue to improve in the camp, on the field, and with our impressions. To expand on that, here is a little something that has always struck a chord with me..."You do not merely want to be considered the best of the best...You want to be considered the only ones who do what you do " Think about those two simple sentences. At the 135th Gettysburg, when the Palmetto Battalion maneuvered flawlessly through the artillery placements and came out into line of battle for Pickett's Charge, people were asking afterwards "Who was that unit that performed that slick piece of work?" "Why, hell ma'am, that would be us!!!"

Boys that's what it's all about.

I might try to forward upcoming drill maneuvers early enough to the First Sergeants and NCOs, so we'll get a chance to think about what we'll be doing ahead of time. Don't know, but we might try it. Got to see what the Col. thinks.

Last year it seemed that attendance was down all across the Battalion for whatever reason. Let me say this, we have an unprecedented, excellent opportunity to be the best drilled, best detailed unit on the field, bar none. No one I know, knows the drill better than Col Cleadus. The rest of the staff is well rounded and need all of our support. Sgt Bread feeds on us and we on him. I'll do my best to learn my position, with these as my goals: Safety; De-farbed camps; Improved impressions; and last but not least Fun. All of us should have fun. (Picket duty, Raymond 2001, 0200 hrs, Pvt. Dennis Shelley, Sgt Chuck Jessie, the Col., Sgt Bread & myself. I wouldn't trade what took place that night for many other things that I have enjoyed in the hobby.)

There are plenty of National events this year, plus most of our in-state ones. Two events that I wish we'd all turn out for are Cheraw and Gramling. Their attendance suffers every year.

One last thing. We have some excellent resources in the Battalion. These people have forgotten more than I'll ever know. Go to them, ask questions re: fabric, uniforms, camp life, etc. Listen. It's a scientific fact that if your mouth is open your ears are closed. You won't learn anything, especially talking in the ranks. I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

Rick

Sergeant Major Wm R (Rick) Davis, Palmetto Battalion

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Confederate Pensions

The General Assembly refined the pension laws in 1900 in an attempt to better define the eligibility requirements. Under the new law, disabled soldiers were defined as having lost a leg or arm or received other bodily injury to make them disabled and the veteran or his wife had an annual income or potential income (through property) under \$150. Veterans over the age of sixty, with incomes under \$75 per year, were also eligible. Widows of Confederate soldiers and sailors were eligible if they had not remarried, had an annual income under \$100, and were over the age of sixty or their husbands had died in service. All applicants had to be residents of the state for at least two years.

The General Assembly also revised the pension boards, a recurring theme in the pension legislation. Applications were filed with a county board of pensions through a township representative and certified by the county auditor. The county board was selected through an elaborate process. Veterans of each township met every August and elected a fellow veteran representative. The township representatives in turn met at the courthouse in September and elected four of their number to serve as the county board of pensions. They selected a competent physician to serve as a fifth member of the board, which would meet to review applications beginning in January of the following year.

The county boards forwarded their lists of approved and disapproved applicants to the State Board of Pensions. The State Board of Pensions consisted of the Comptroller General, three veterans selected by the state United Confederate Veterans Association at their annual meeting, and a physician selected by the other four state board members. The state board gave final approval to the county lists so that the Comptroller General could issue warrants on April 1. The General Assembly also set the minimum appropriation at \$100,000 per year. This legislation ushered in a major growth period for both pension funding and the number of applicants. An amendment in 1902 codified the class structure imposed by the state pension board. Class A veterans were physically helpless, disabled by paralysis, or without sight, or both arms or legs. Veterans in this class received \$8 per month. Class B, veterans who had lost one arm or leg, received \$6 per month. Class C-1, paid at the rate of \$4 monthly, included veterans disabled by wounds. Veterans over the age of sixty were classed as C-2 and received \$3 each month. Class C-3, widows whose husbands died in service, received the same compensation as Class C-1. The final class, C-4, covered widows over the age of sixty and was paid \$3 monthly. With minor changes, this legislation would govern the issuing of pensions for the next two decades.

Directions to AveraSboro: I-95 North to exit 65, go west, follow NC82 through Godwin. Turn right at stop sign; go 5 miles to Battlefield museum. Or go I-95 North to exit 71, go west 3 miles to NC82, go straight from stop sign at NC82 to Battlefield Museum (2 miles)

SC Confederate Relic Room & Museum

John Bigham, Curator of Education
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Artifacts Recently Conserved

Two flags were returned in December following conservation and framing by Textile Preservation Associates. The first is the flag of the Palmetto Regiment – years ago this flag was framed, with much of the silk folded under, so that only the eagle and a ribbon stating “Palmetto Regiment” were exposed. The flag, which has seen service in three wars, Mexico, WBTS, and the Spanish-American, is now framed in its full original size and glory. It will be presented in our new Mexican War exhibit. The second flag is that of the Oakland Democratic Club. While little is now known of this group, the flag has, “Victory, Wade Hampton our next Governor” painted on the obverse, dating the flag to the 1876 Redshirt Campaign. This flag will be presented in a Reconstruction exhibit.

About thirteen period photographs are being cleaned for various exhibits. They include: a daguerreotype of Daniel Morgan, a Palmetto Regiment Mexican War casualty; a daguerreotype of the enchanting young Tillman sisters who made socks and clothing for soldiers and lost a brother to the war; ambrotypes of Frederick Sims Lewie, Co C, Lexington Guards, 15th SCVI; and Private George Clark, 7th SCVI, an early casualty to typhoid fever in Virginia.

A small gold strike for you uniform people was hit this fall. A gentleman shared four ambrotype, uniformed images of his ancestors, all serving in the Cedar Creek Rifles, Co A, Rion's 6th SCVI, later Co C, 12th SCVI. There are three brothers and one unidentified image. Three of the four wear the same uniform that can only be the Cedar Creek Rifles in 1861 as Co A, the 6th (Rion's). (Though it is in hundreds of pieces, the museum has the original painted company flag of the Cedar Creek Rifles. Research is being done on the men, flag and unit. Have anything? Please let me know!) The unit, captained by John B. Harrison, went in to 1861 Rion's 6th, then in 1862 mustered at Ridgeway as Co C 12th, by Captain Henry C. Davis, a Secession Signer also buried in Ridgeway.

That's all for now. Many thanks for all that you do for the museum and our collection. We look forward to seeing you soon!

From The Editor

Dear Vindicator Readers,

I'd like to thank the Colonel for offering me the opportunity to serve as your new editor. Terry did a great job and I hope to continue make the paper better. As the Sgt Maj said, I can't do this alone. This is your paper and can only be as good as the contributions. I ask that you bear with us as we sort out some software, format, and printing issues.

What are my goals? Each of the battalion leaders has asked us to improve our impressions. My goal is to make this newsletter a reliable source for the information that you need to improve your impression of the American fighting man of 1861 to 1865. I hope to publish contemporary accounts, research of original artifacts, vendor recommendations, and reference “how-to” articles. Got any? Send 'em in.

Your Ob't Serv't
Daniel Fodera, Editor

AIKEN, February 10, 1865—6.55 p. m.
General D. H. HILL, Augusta:

General Deas reported to me this morning that enemy crossed Edisto at Binnaker's Bridge yesterday evening.
J. WHEELER, Major- General.

AIKEN, February 11, 1865—6.15 a.m.
General D. H. HILL, Augusta:

Enemy are skirmishing with my pickets. I am formed to attack him as soon as he drives in my pickets. General Humes has just arrived with a portion of his command after marching nearly all night.
J. WHEELER, Major. General.

AIKEN, February 11 1865

General D. H. HILL, Augusta:

Please send us some corn as soon as possible. Have the train stopped before it reaches Aiken, and word sent to us so it can be sent for.

J. WHEELER, Major- General.

AIKEN, February 11, 1865 - 10.10 a.m.

General D. H. HILL, Augusta:

Finding the enemy in strong barricades, I determined to provoke an attack from him. He opened upon us with artillery and afterward charged me, and Kilpatrick entered the town, when we charged in several columns and drove him back in confusion, killing, wounding, and capturing a large number. We drove him to and beyond his barricades, where he left a number of arms; but here our ammunition gave out, and we had to halt to reload, having no sabers. We are pursuing, but the Twentieth Corps is close at hand, and we have to pursue cautiously. Our loss slight. Kilpatrick commanded in person.

J. WHEELER, Major- General.

NEAR JOHNSON'S TURNOUT, Feb 11, 1865 12.50 p. m.

General D. H. HILL, Augusta:

Immediately after reloading we pursued Kilpatrick at full speed to this point, he retreating through the woods without organization. His large numbers rather embarrassed than aided him. A large number of the enemy were killed; our loss very slight. On reaching this point we found enemy [in] strong fortifications with artillery. We attacked their flank, and also demonstrated on their front. As this did not start them out, I am convinced they have been re-enforced. The dismounted men in the works have bayonets, and there are some knapsacks lying in front of their works. Have sent men to their rear to ascertain their force. If I find it is not great will attack. In meantime am getting my command together. Enemy seem to be fortified on every side.

J. WHEELER, Major- General.

AIKEN, February 12, 1865—3.10 a.m.

General D. H. HILL, Augusta:

Scouts from enemy's rear report one brigade of infantry or dismounted cavalry at Johnson's Turnout and the rest of the infantry some miles farther down the railroad. This is confirmed by prisoners taken yesterday.

J. WHEELER, Major- General.

AIKEN, February 12, 1865—3.15 a. m.

General D. H. HILL, Augusta:

Enemy's pickets remain same as last evening. Another scout reports enemy's infantry foraging at Courtney's Mill, two miles from Johnson's Station, and encamped in that vicinity. Strength of infantry not known.

J. WHEELER, Major- General.

(Send also to General Cheatham, at Bath Mills.)

AIKEN, February 12, 1865—10 a.m.

General D. H. HILL, Augusta:

Enemy are advancing boldly on Aiken. Scouts think with both infantry and cavalry.

J. WHEELER, Major- General.

(Send also to Major General Cheatham, Bath Mills, and General J. A. Smith, Graniteville.)

AIKEN, February 12, 1865—12.45 p.m.

General D. H. HILL, Augusta:

Enemy are retiring.

J. WHEELER, Major- General.

(Send above also to Major-General Cheatham, Bath Mills, and General J. A. Smith, Graniteville.)

CITY POINT, VA, February 17, 1865.

TO E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War: The Richmond Examiner of to day says: A dispatch received at the Treasury Department from one of its agents in Columbia reports the local forces there under arms, and that some skirmishing had taken place with the enemy in the vicinity of the town. It is not stated that the enemy was in considerable force there, and something may be allowed for exaggeration and alarm. We have from a gentleman who left Columbia as late as Tuesday last, and who arrived here last night, some interesting news from the military situation there. From this source we have confirmation of a fight on the 11th instant between Wheeler and Kilpatrick, near Aiken. It appears that General Wheeler, after enticing him [from] behind his intrenchments, charged with his whole command and routed the enemy with confusion, driving him back a distance of about five miles. Ammunition giving out it was impossible for our men to push Kilpatrick farther, and the contest there ceased. We took a considerable number of prisoners, among whom were a portion of the Thirty-third Massachusetts Regiment.

The force of the enemy which had taken Orangeburg was said to be about 12,000 strong.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, February 28, 1865.

General WHEELER:

GENERAL: I avail myself of the earliest opportunity to offer you, in behalf of the State, my thanks for the defense of the town of Aiken, and the protection given in that defense to the population of that town. To be saved, as was that town and its population, from the ruthless foes by which it was attacked calls not only for the thanks of those immediately exposed, but to the grateful remembrance of all classes of our citizens. To you, and through you to that portion of your command which participated in the conflict for the possession of Aiken, I tender you the thanks of the State.

I am, general, respectfully, &c.,

A.G. MAGRATH.