



# The Palmetto Vindicator

The Newsletter of the Palmetto Battalion, Inc.  
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## Field Orders

**C**omrades,  
We had our first staff meeting on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> and it went quite well. The largest thing we had to deal with was the schedule of events for the Battalion. Some changes were made that should help us with the schedule as it relates to our insurance.

We established a difference between the Battalion Event Schedule and the calendar. Things listed on the Event Schedule are sanctioned by the Battalion and are thereby covered by our insurance policy. It's set and won't change without first being discussed by the staff. The calendar will have listings that will include the Battalion schedule as well as other doings that may be of interest to our membership. Things may be added to the calendar by sending a note to someone on staff.

We decided to maintain the "Battalion Affiliated" event designation. I believe that was necessary only because the word appears in the by-laws under the item about voting requirements. An event that made it on to the Battalion Event Schedule should meet all the criteria to fulfill the requirements we've established for events and voting privileges. If an event does not meet our battalion definition or does not adhere to our standards of safety, then it should not go on the schedule and therefore should not count towards one of the three events necessary to vote in Battalion matters. As it stands it's more of an issue of semantics and changing the by-laws requires a vote of the membership. We'll cogitate on it and see what ideas present themselves.

Along those lines we dropped the "Maximum Effort" designation from the event descriptions. It did not serve us at all last year, so we won't use it this year.

We have two out of state events planned that are on the official Battalion Event Schedule. They are Tunnel Hill in Georgia and Averbosboro in North Carolina. Selma and Resaca fall on dates with events hosted by our own groups. I would have hoped to do more out of state events, but there wasn't a lot to choose from. Gettysburg met with some problems for us. There is enough consternation based on site inspections and meetings with event staff that there is little promise of a good event. Three members of the NSA met with event staff and toured the site. All three came back with the same evaluation, that it was bound to be a very poor event. I attended the reenactment in 2001 and understand that it will be the same site for 2003. All the battles take place in front of the grand stands that were erected so the spectators could see better. The battlefield is quite unremarkable and could scarcely accommodate 1000 combatants. It is easy to expect that 10 to 15 thousand reenactors will show up. At the 135<sup>th</sup>, there were estimates as high as 50,000. The Confederate camp did have a wonderful view of the parking area. The same folks that put on Sharpsburg are in charge, as well as the same command staff. That would be the same groups that give us such fine camp and battle assignments. Sometimes you have to go to one of these events to see what it could turn out like. Maybe it'll be another 135<sup>th</sup>

Gettysburg or 135<sup>th</sup> Sharpsburg. But with so many indicators pointing towards a poor experience, we elected not to sanction the event this year.

**Field Order #2.** *There will be no pets brought to a Palmetto Battalion sanctioned event by a member of the Palmetto Battalion.*

Our insurance policy protects us against all manner of accidents. That doesn't mean we can conduct ourselves without some degree of consideration for our own safety and that of others. What we're doing is implementing a preventive measure, one that will keep an incident from happening.

A recent example of how something unforeseen can happen goes like this. We were all walking along the road and stopped for some water. While resting in the vicinity of a friendly family, their friendly dog came out and was friendly to all of us. I scratched the dog behind the ears and will attest that he was a friendly sort. While the dog was visiting with us, one of our members bent over near the dog. Something inside the friendly dogs mind became angered, or more likely startled, and he bit the bending man in the face. This same scenario could have happened just as easily to a young child visiting our camp and a dog belonging to one of our people. The parents might not be as understanding as the bending man. They might decide to file a claim for medical expenses. They might decide to ask for more than that.

In the scenario above, we would probably be covered well enough. And when it was all said and done, the very next thing received by our adjutant in the mail would be a notification of cancellation of our insurance because they had to pay out on a claim. Finding insurance was difficult enough. Imagine what kind of luck we'd have after an incident.

This field order is an effort to prevent the accidental biting, scratching, or knock downs that one of our critters could do in a moment of anger or excitement. I know that some of you have good-natured animals that you sometimes bring to an event. Unfortunately we can't make an exception. An exception for one is an exception for all and that defeats the effort. Don't take it personally, but don't bring your pets to camp.

At Your Service,

*Tom*



## Sherman in South Carolina

S C Department of Archives  
Patrick McCawley, Reference Archivist  
Patrick@scdah.sc.state.us

S C Dept. of Archives and History  
8301 Parklane Rd  
Columbia, SC 29233

The devastating impact of Sherman's campaign through South Carolina is vividly represented in this letter from Colonel L. J. Jones, ADC, of Newberry to Governor A. G. Magrath. The letter is dated February 28, 1865, at which date Governor Magrath has set up headquarters in Spartanburg.

*"Yours of the 26<sup>th</sup> inst. has been received this evening and I will forward in the morning, by courier, to Columbia the package of letters and your letter to Mayor Goodwyn, and as soon as I get his answer will forward it to you. I will with great pleasure, aid Mayor Goodwyn, in any way in my power in relieving the wants of the people of Columbia. We have sent one wagon of provisions, another going in the morning and on Thursday morning we expect to start some four or five more. These are donations. If I had funds at my disposal I have no doubt I could buy from some that are not willing to give. I will continue to urge voluntary contributions. Mr. J. G. Gibbs writes us that they have the money to pay for provisions if they could only get them to Columbia.*

*I understand the fire commenced some where on Jarvis or bridge Street, thence up to Richardson or Main Street, thence up that street to near butcher town, burning on the left side of Main Street about one square deep and at some points more, and on the right*

*side about two squares and at some places much more. The old state house was burned and the new building somewhat defaced. It is said the following building were not burned. The So. Ca. College & Chapel, the Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Ch., the Baptist Ch., the female College & the Asylum. The people are, I hear, congregated in the Asylum, Female College, and the remaining houses as best they can. Mr. Gibbs wrote last week that they had about provisions enough to last one week.*

*The rumors are conflicting as to the evacuation of Charleston. The last rumor we have is that the city was given up last Saturday week, and that Genl. Hardee was at Kingstree on that day with his command. The lower part of Newberry, the upper part of Lexington and that part of Fairfield which lies along the Broad River have suffered greatly the ravages of the enemy. They came within about eight miles of our Town. They took Henry Summer Esq. out of his barn, put a rope around his neck, made him get on a box and then fastened the rope over a beam, but desisted at that point. It was done with a view to discover whether he had any gold or silver concealed.*

*Very respectfully Yours etc."*

## Dispatches from the Lt. Colonel

**G**reetings to one and all, and wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

Hopefully Santa Claus was good to everyone, and brought you something nice to use for reenacting this year. In keeping with the trend of my past columns, I'd like to talk about how we can go about improving our impressions. This month, however, the topic is something that doesn't cost anything, and can't be brought by Santa Claus! I'm talking about the general background knowledge that we bring to our impressions.

Most of us are fairly knowledgeable about military aspects of the war, and can answer questions about it with some degree of certainty. It is often a different matter entirely when we are asked non-military questions. If we are accurately to portray soldiers of the War Between the States, then we need to know more than just dates and battles.

For example, it is 1864: Do you know who is governor of your home state? Do you know who is mayor of your hometown? What is the name of the minister of your church? Does your family all share your views about the

war? What are your views about the war? Why did you enlist? Do you have other relatives serving?

If you read primary sources you will find over and over again that ordinary soldiers spent much of their conversation talking about things back home. This should hardly be surprising since for many it was their first time away from home for such a period of time, and they missed their families and friends.

This "non-military" information falls into two broad groups. The first group is personal information and can be invented to suit your tastes. The main thing is to be detailed and consistent. It might be helpful to fill out an inventory listing personal information, preferences, etc., in order to make sure it is complete. What sort of things should be here? Besides those already mentioned, consider family members, your occupation, your parents' occupation, your education, your religious beliefs and so on.

The second type of information is factual and would have to be researched. Once you have chosen a hometown, you can learn various things about it. For

example, what are the major crops in the area? How do most people make a living there? What is the climate like? Who are some of the prominent citizens? Is there something unique about the area?

It is possible to get microfilm copies of old newspapers from many areas. These are an excellent source of information and will often have stories directly relating to the war as well. Once you start researching, you may be surprised at just how much fun you are having!

*Bruce*

Bruce Hoover



## The Apple Crate

**F**ellers,  
Another year has come and gone. As always, there have been some good times and some not-so-good times. We've all been both happy and sad.

With Thanksgiving behind us and Christmas just a few short days away as I write this, it's a special time of year to reflect on our lives. How often do we all feel like things can't get any worse, that we are the only one on God's green earth that has problems? As often as I find myself rolling around in a sad-sack frame of mind, I think back to something both my mother and grandmother told me a long time ago. It was advice; pure and simple, and just like bologna, cheap and hard to swallow at times. They said, '... anytime you feel like you're the only one in the world being tested and having a tough go of it, you don't have to look very far to either side of you and see someone who has it much, much worse.' We all have to figure out how to make our glasses half full, not half empty. It's not easy sometimes, but we all must find a way to do just that. Let's all count our blessings.

Having said that, I'd like to share a letter that Gen'l R.E. Lee penned to a daughter, when he was at Coosawhatchie, SC, on Christmas Day, 1861. See if we don't all get some more insight into the inner soul of the greatest American who has ever lived.

*"My Dear Daughter:*

*Having distributed such poor Christmas gifts as I had to those around me, I have been looking for something for you. Trifles are hard to get these war times, and you must not therefore expect more. I have sent you what I thought most useful in your separation from me and hope it will be of some service. Yet how little it will purchase! To compensate for such 'trash', I send you some sweet violets that I gathered for you this morning while covered with dense white frost, whose crystals glittered in the bright sun like diamonds, and formed a brooch of rare beauty and sweetness, which could not be fabricated by the expenditure of a world of money.*

*May God guard and preserve you for me, my dear daughter! Among the calamities of war, the hardest to bear, perhaps, is the separation of families and friends. Yet all must be endured to accomplish our independence and maintain our self-government. Your old home, if not destroyed by our enemies, has been so desecrated that I cannot bear to think of it.*

*I pray for a better spirit and that the hearts of our enemies may be changed. In your homeless condition I hope you make yourself contented and useful. Occupy yourself in aiding those more helpless than yourself. Think always of your father.*  
R.E. Lee"

### ***OK now, can't we all count our blessings?***

On a different note: with each new edition of "The Vindicator", there are articles sprinkled throughout to give us ways to improve our impressions. I'm a believer in

picking the 'low hanging fruit,' the quick and most inexpensive ways of doing some things. Most of you know my feelings on what I consider the cheapest, although maybe not the easiest way to improve our individual impressions and we won't discuss that one right now, but perhaps the next easiest one is maintenance of our equipment. I'll be honest, over the last year and a half of not toting a musket; I have found myself to be the worst of the worst. It seems that every time I'm called upon to use it now, it's dirty. The bayonet looks like a dug relic, all rusty with the keeper not working properly.

The pride that our Confederate ancestors had in their sometimes-meager provisions and equipment can be seen in the impressions that they made on their adversaries? You may remember the statement made by the lady in Maryland as our troops passed by on the way to Sharpsburg ("...there was a certain dash about them that the Northern troops lacked...") Here is something written by a Federal Major, "...who could fight such people? Indians! Worse than an Apache. Just as we would get into line of battle and ready for an advance, a little Georgia Colonel, in his shirt sleeves and copperas breeches, would pop out into a corn field at the head of his regiment, and shout at the top of his voice, "Charge!" Man alive! Here would come the devils like a whirl-wind - over ditches, gullies, fences, and fields, shouting, yelling, whooping, that makes the cold chills run up your back - flash their glittering bayonets in our very faces, and break our lines before you could say "boo! " Do you call that frightening? It was murder.'

That ought to ring loud, strong and clear with all of us. Those boys' very lives depended on how well those weapons operated. Let's all spend a few extra minutes this year making the bayonets "glitter," and a little more time "rubbing the musket." Call me simple if you will, but that's something on my list of New Year's resolutions.

I'd like for all of the Company Sgt's of all branches to please contact me at [sgtmajor@palmettobattalion.org](mailto:sgtmajor@palmettobattalion.org) If you don't have e-mail, don't sweat it. I'd like to up-date the NCO e-mail list so we can stay in contact with each other and pass along info in the same verbage. We attempted something like this last year but never really got it off the ground, as it should have.

See you all at Rivers Bridge!!!  
Merry Christmas to each of you & yours and a very Happy New Year!  
Respectfully,

**Rick**

Sgt Maj. Wm R (Rick) Davis



# Official Records

## January 1865

**3rd:** Skirmish, Hardeeville  
**14th:** Skirmish, Pocotaligo. Sherman's 17th Corps crossed a 600 ft. bridge at Whale Branch and about a mile north of Garden Corners met 2 small regiments of CS Cavalry dug in with two artillery pieces with its front protected by a thick swamp. The Third South Carolina Cavalry and a mounted detachment from the ANV were soon turned and forced to withdraw. Falling back to strong works at Pocotaligo, the Confederates dug in with a swamp in front of the position and at least 5 artillery pieces. Heavy skirmishing in the evening, but "At daybreak we found he had abandoned his works and retreated. I felt obliged to him, for his position was a hard one to carry, being thoroughly fortified" (Howard).  
**20-25th:** Reconnaissance to Salkehatchie River from Pocotaligo.  
**26th:** Skirmish near Pocotaligo.  
**27th:** Skirmish, Ennis' Crossroads.  
**28th:** Skirmish, Combahee River.  
**29th:** Skirmish, Robertsville US troops deployed as skirmishers to drive off Confederate cavalry guarding the town. US Casualties - 3 wounded.  
**30th:** Skirmish, Lawtonville.

## February 1865

**1st:** Skirmish, Hickory Hill. Union forces with artillery support deploy one brigade to drive the Confederates from a swamp.  
**1st:** Skirmish, Whippy Swamp.  
**2nd:** Skirmish, Lawtonville. Advancing from Robertsville, the Federals engaged about 500 dismounted CS Cavalrymen in a thick swamp supported by 2 artillery pieces. In sharp fighting, the Federals captured the town. Union losses: 2 KIA and 12 Wounded. Confederate Losses, 8 KIA and 30 or 40 wounded left on the field.  
**2nd:** Skirmish, Barker's Mills (on Whippy Swamp). In this small skirmish, the 15<sup>th</sup> Corps troops drove off the defending cavalry and captured this important bridge intact, with no casualties.  
**2nd:** Skirmish, Duck Branch, near Loper's Crossroads. Union Losses 5 wounded. Confederate known losses: 2 KIA.  
**2nd:** Skirmishes, Preliminary actions at River's Bridge, Broxton's Bridge, on the Salkehatchie River. In a running series of engagements, 300-400 Confederate cavalry blocked the way to the bridges across the wide, swamp, flooded Salkehatchie. The Federals under Joseph Mower took the advance from Whippy Swamp and drove the Confederate regiment across Broxton's Bridge where there were strong earthworks and a battery manned by the 750 men of the 5th Georgia Regulars, a detachment of the 1st SC Cavalry (dismounted), and 3rd Georgia Reserves. At least 750 rifles here along with a battery. Leaving some troops here, the rest of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division turned toward River's Bridge.  
**3rd:** Action, River's Bridge and its vicinity, Salkehatchie River. Union loss, 20 killed, 103 wounded, 4 missing. Confederate

Units: 47th Georgia, 32nd Georgia, 3rd Arkansas Cavalry, 3rd South Carolina Cavalry, Palmetto Light Artillery (SC). Confederate Loss, 8 Killed, 44 wounded, 45 missing (Federals reported capture of 27).  
**3rd:** Skirmish, Dillingham's Crossroads or Duck Branch. US losses 1 man KIA, 1 WIA.  
**4th:** Skirmish, Angley's Post Office.  
**4th:** Skirmish, Buford's Bridge, Salkehatchie River.  
**5th:** Skirmish, Combahee Ferry.  
**5th:** Skirmish, Duncansville.  
**6th:** Action, Fishburn's Plantation, near Lane's Bridge, Salkehatchie. Union Losses: 5 WIA. According to Union reports the brigade opposing them, Andersons, was about 1500 men strong.  
**6th:** Skirmish, Barnwell, or Morris's Ford. Confederate Losses: 1 KIA, 3 WIA.  
**6th:** Skirmish, Cowpens Ferry, Little Salkehatchie River.  
**7th:** Skirmish, Blackville. 8th Indiana Cavalry. Known Union losses, 1 Confederate losses: 14 Captured.  
**7th:** Skirmish, Edisto R.R. Bridge.  
**8th:** Skirmish, Williston. Union loss: 25 killed, wounded and missing. Known Confederate losses: 8 to 10 captured.  
**8th:** Skirmish, White Post.  
**8th:** Skirmish, Walker's or Edisto (also called Valley Bridge).  
**8th:** Skirmish, Cannon's Bridge, South Edisto River.  
**9th:** Skirmish, Binnaker's Bridge, South Edisto River. Union losses: 3 KIA 7 WIA. Known Confederate losses: 1 KIA, (Major Robert Newton Hull), 3 captured.  
**9th:** Skirmish, Holman's Bridge, South Edisto River. Union Losses: 1 KIA, 1 WIA.  
**10th:** Skirmish, Johnson's Station. Confederate losses: 1 WIA.  
**11-12th:** Skirmish at Orangeburg. A two-day fight where Confederate forces were flanked and compelled to withdraw from the town. Union Known losses: 3. Confederate casualties: 6 KIA, 14 WIA, and 27 Captured  
**11th:** Skirmish, Aiken (heavy skirmish). Union losses: At least 54 casualties. Kilpatrick claims to have inflicted 31 KIA, 160 WIA, 60 captured. Wheeler claims only a loss of 50. Wheeler Claims to have inflicted 53 KIA 270 WIA, 172 captured.  
**12-13th:** Skirmishes on North Edisto River. Known Confederate casualties, 2 KIA, 57 Captured.  
**14th:** Skirmish, Wolf's Plantation.  
**14th:** Skirmish, Gunter's Bridge, North Edisto River.  
**15th:** Skirmish, Congaree Creek.  
**15th:** Skirmish, Savannah Creek.  
**15th:** Skirmish, Bates Ferry, Congaree River.  
**15th:** Skirmish, Red Bank Creek.  
**16th:** Skirmish, Two League Crossroads, near Lexington

**16-17th:** Skirmishes about Columbia. Union loss, 20 killed and wounded.  
**18th:** Occupation of Charleston. 52d Pennsylvania Infantry.  
**22nd:** Skirmish near Camden.  
**22nd:** Skirmish, Wateree River.  
**23rd:** Skirmish near Camden.  
**24th:** Skirmish, Camden.  
**25th:** Skirmish, West's Crossroads.  
**26th:** Skirmish, Lynch's Creek.  
**26th:** Skirmish near Stroud's Mills.  
**27th:** Skirmish, Mount Elon.  
**27th:** Skirmish, Cloud's House.  
**28th:** Skirmish near Cheraw.  
**28th:** Skirmish near Rocky Mount.

## March 1865

**1st:** Skirmish, Wilson's Store.  
**2nd:** Skirmish, Thompson's Creek, near Chesterfield.  
**3rd:** Skirmish, Thompson's Creek, near Cheraw.  
**3rd:** Skirmish, Juniper Creek, near Cheraw.  
**3rd:** Skirmish near Big Black Creek.  
**3rd:** Skirmish near Blakeny.  
**3rd:** Skirmish near Himsborough.  
**4-6th:** Expedition from Cheraw to Florence and skirmishes.  
**5th:** Skirmish near Cheraw.

Thanks to Chris Crabb for compiling this data. For a complete list of units go to the "Sherman's March Though South Carolina" website at <http://members.aol.com/x69xer/>

## The Burning of Columbia Official Records Series 1 - Volume 47 (Part I) Report of General Sherman

The Seventeenth Corps followed the State road, and the Fifteenth crossed the North Edisto from Poplar Springs at Shilling's Bridge, above the mouth of "Caw Caw Swamp" creek, and took a country road which came into the State road at Zeigler's. On the 15th (of February, 1865) the Fifteenth Corps found the enemy in a strong position at Little Congaree bridge (across Congaree Creek) with a tete-de-pont on the south side, and a well-constructed fort on the north side, commanding the bridge with artillery. The ground in front was very bad, level, and clear, with a fresh deposit of mud from a recent overflow. General Charles R. Woods, who commanded the leading division, succeeded, however, in turning the flank of the tete-de-pont by sending Stone's brigade through & a cypress swamp to the left, and following up the retreating enemy promptly he got possession of the bridge and the fort beyond. The bridge had been partially damaged by fire, and had to be repaired for the passage of artillery, so that

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night closed in before the head of the column could reach the bridge across Congaree River in front of Columbia. That night the enemy shelled our camps from a battery on the east side of the Congaree, above Granby. Early next morning (16) the head of column reached the bank of the Congaree, opposite Columbia, but too late to save the fine bridge which spanned the river at that point. It was burned by the enemy. While waiting for the pontoons to come to the front we could see people running about the streets of Columbia, and occasionally small bodies of cavalry, but no masses. A single gun of Captain DeGress' battery was firing a- their cavalry squads, but I checked his firing, limiting him to a few shots at the unfinished State-house walls, and a few shells at the rail- road depot to scatter the people who were seen carrying away sacks of corn and meal that we needed. There was no white flag or manifestation of surrender. I directed General Howard not to cross directly in front of Columbia, but to cross the Saluda at the factory, three miles above, and afterward Broad River, so as to approach Columbia from the north. Within an hour of the arrival of General Howard's head of column at the river opposite Columbia, the head of column of the Left Wing also appeared, and I directed General Slocum to cross the Saluda at Zion Church, and thence to take roads direct to Winnsborough, breaking up, en route, the railroads and bridges about Alston.

General Howard effected a crossing of the Saluda, near the factory, on the 16th, skirmishing with cavalry, and the same night made a flying bridge across Broad River, about three miles above Columbia, by which he crossed over Stone's brigade, of Woods' division, Fifteenth Corps. Under cover of this brigade a pontoon bridge was laid on the morning of the 17th. I was in person at this bridge, and at 11 a. m. learned that the mayor of Columbia had come out in a carriage and made a formal surrender of the city to Colonel Stone, Twenty-fifth Iowa infantry, commanding Third Brigade, First Division, Fifteenth Corps. About the same time a small party of the Seventeenth Corps had crossed the Congaree in a skiff; and entered Columbia from a point immediately west. In anticipation of the occupation of the city I had made written orders to General Howard touching the conduct of the troops. These were to destroy absolutely all arsenals and public property not needed for our own use, as well as all railroads, depots, and machinery useful in war to an enemy, but to spare all dwellings, colleges, schools, asylums, and harmless private property. I was

the first to cross the pontoon bridge, and in company with General Howard rode into the city. The day was clear, but a perect tempest of wind was raging. The brigade of Colonel Stone was already in the city, and was properly posted. Citizens and soldiers were on the streets, and general good order prevailed. General Wade Hampton, who commanded the Confederate rear guard of cavalry, had, in anticipation of our capture of Columbia, ordered that all cotton, public and private, should be moved into the streets and fired, to prevent our making use of it. Bales were piled everywhere, the rope and bagging cut, and tufts of cotton were blown about in the wind, lodged in the trees and against houses, so as to resemble a snowstorm. Some of these piles of cotton were burning; especially one in the very heart of the city, near the courthouse, but the fire was partially subdued by the labor of our soldiers. During the day the Fifteenth Corps passed through Columbia and out on time Camden road. The Seventeenth did not enter the town at all; and, as I have before stated, the Left Wing and cavalry did not come within two miles of the town.

Before one single public building had been fired by order, the smoldering fires, set by Hampton's order, were rekindled by the wind, and communicated to the buildings around. About dark they began to spread, and got beyond the control of the brigade on duty within the city. The whole of Woods' division was brought in, but it was found impossible to check the flames which, by midnight, had become unmanageable, and raged until about 4 a. in., when the wind subsiding they were got under control. I was up nearly all night, and saw Generals Howard, Logan, Woods, and others, laboring to save houses and protect families thus suddenly deprived of shelter, and even of bedding and wearing apparel. I disclaim on the part of my army any agency in this fire, but, on the contrary, claim that we saved what of Columbia remains unconsumed. And without hesitation I charge General Wade Hampton with having burned his own city of Columbia, not with a malicious intent, or as the manifestation of a silly "Roman ~ but from folly and want of sense, in filling it with lint, cotton, and tinder. Our officers and men on duty worked well to extinguish the flames; but others not on duty, including the officers who had long been imprisoned there, rescued by us, may have assisted in spreading the fire after it had once begun. and may have indulged in unconcealed joy to see the ruin of the capital of South Carolina. During the 18th and 19th the arsenal, rail road depots, machine shops, foundries, and other buildings were properly

destroyed by detailed working parties, and the railroad track torn up and destroyed down to Kingsville and the Wateree bridge, and up in the direction of Winnsborough.

**General Hampton's statement before US Commissioner Brooks regarding the burning of Columbia**

"...(General Hampton) instructed the Mayor of Columbia, Dr. T.J. Goodwyn, to send out a flag of truce to meet the advance guard of Sherman's army, and to announce that the city was evacuated and that he had come out to surrender it. This was about six o'clock on the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup>. General Hampton...called his attention to the cotton that was lying along Richardson Street, and recommended that he put a guard over it, telling him that there was a danger that it would take fire, and if it did, it would endanger the city. The cotton had been removed from warehouses where it had been stored, in order to transport it to the open fields adjoining the city, where it might be burned; but finding there was not sufficient means of transport it was left in Richardson Street. The Mayor, with a flag of truce, met the leading column of the Federal army, composed of Stone's brigade, and surrendered the city. General Hampton moved out by the Asylum road, with one of Butler's brigades, and stationed himself at the upper boundary street, facing towards Richardson Street. From the position he occupied, he commanded a view of the whole town and vicinity. He saw the Mayor come back with the flag, and surrounded by columns of troops. It was about 10:00 am when the Federal troops entered Columbia, and about 9:00 am when General Hampton had the conversation with the Mayor in the vicinity of the cotton. There were no Confederate troops in Columbia when the Federal army entered. General Hampton was the last officer in the town, and he left just prior to the entry of the Federal army. He states positively that up to that time there were no fires in progress in Columbia. When asked what orders were given in reference to the disposition of the cotton in Columbia, immediately prior to the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, general Hampton stated that an order had been issued by General Beauregard on the 14<sup>th</sup> to Major Allen J. Green, the post commander to have the cotton moved out of the warehouses to a place where it could be burned, if it became necessary to do so, without endangering the town. Not having the transportation at his disposal, Major Green had placed it in the streets. On the night of the 16<sup>th</sup>, when General Hampton was assigned to duty at Columbia, he called General Beau

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-regard's attention to the position of this cotton, telling him that if it burned it would endanger the town, and urged him to order that it should not be burned. This he did. Being asked whether that order not to fire the cotton had been carried out by the Confederates, (General Hampton) answered that he knew by official investigation and by personal observation that it had not been fired by them."

**General Hampton's letter to General Beauregard  
Wild Woods, Miss., April 22d, 1866**

General,

General Sherman having charged me in his official report with the destruction of Columbia, and having repeated the same falsehood in a recent letter to Benjamin Rawlins of that city, may I beg you to state such facts in reference to this matter as are in your possession? You were in command of the Confederate troops when Sherman entered Columbia; you had left the city just before he occupied it, and you gave orders not only as to the movements of troops, but as to the disposition of all the public property, as well as of the cotton which was in the city. You were, therefore, fully cognizant of all the facts relating to the burning of the city, and you can state with entire certainty who is answerable for this atrocious crime.

I am, very respectfully your,  
Wade Hampton

**General Beauregard's endorsement of the forgoing letter.**

New Orleans, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1866

The above statement of General Wade Hampton, relative to the orders issued by me at Columbia, S.C., not to burn cotton in that city, is perfectly true and correct. The only thing on fire at the time of the evacuation was the depot building of the South Carolina Railroad, which had caught fire accidentally from the explosion of some ammunition ordered to be sent towards Charlotte, N.C.  
G.T. Beauregard

**Governor Orr's letter to General Hampton.**

Washington, Dec 28<sup>th</sup>, 1872

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter inquiring as to my recollection of a conversation that occurred in the executive office in Columbia, in 1867, between yourself and General Howard, of the United States Army, as to the burning of Columbia. I do not remember all that was said; but General Howard said, in substance, that the city was burned by United States

troops; that he saw them fire many houses, and that he tried to arrest the conflagration; and that he regretted the destruction of the city. Without undertaking to give his words, the foregoing contains the substance of what he said relative to the destruction of Columbia.

Very Respectfully,  
James L. Orr

**Extract from the Rev. A. Toomer Porter's testimony before the Committee of Citizens, appointed by the Authority of the South Carolina Legislature**

"...In the bright light of the burning city, General Sherman recognized me and remarked: "This is a horrible sight!" "Yes," I replied, "when you reflect that women and children are the victims." He said, "Your governor is responsible for this." "How so?" I replied. "Who ever heard," he said, "of an evacuated city being left a depot of liquor for an army to occupy? I found one hundred and twenty casks of whisky in one cellar. Your Governor, being a lawyer or a judge, refused to have it destroyed as it was private property, and now my men have got drunk, and have got beyond my control, and this is the result."

*Letters and testimony extracted from Alfred Roman. The Military Operations of General Beauregard, Volume II. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1884*

**Casualties in the Battle of Rivers Bridge  
The Soldiers' Accounts**

**From the National Park Service** <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/94rivers/94facts3.htm>

**The Horrid Results of Every Battle**  
*Diary of Lt. Col. Oscar L. Jackson, 63rd Ohio Infantry, from The Colonel's Diary (Sharon, Penn.: N.p., 1922), pp. 177-178:*

3 r d . . . . .  
9:00 P.M. Again at the hospital I see the horrid results of every battle. Men mutilated in every shape conceivable, groaning, begging for assistance and gasping in death. Many of our wounded will have to lie all night in that horrid swamp, it being impossible to find them and carry them out on the narrow footbridge that has been made. Many have had their heads propped up out of the water where they lay to keep them from drowning. Many censure General Mower, commanding our division (the 1st Division, 17th A.C.) for shoving his men against the enemy in such a place, even after he knew the crossing had been made by the other divisions, which he did know, as I was present when a staff offi-

cer reported it. He ordered Lieutenant Harrison with a company of the 63rd Ohio to charge along the causeway and with an oath told him not to stop until he got into the enemy's fort. He [Harrison] started, but finding his men being swept off by the enemy's artillery, moved them off the causeway into the water, when finding Colonel Parks of the 43rd Ohio, he received orders from him not to try to go any farther as it was madness. General Howard is said to have criticized the whole of Mower's operation, but it is Mower's style.

**Died From Loss of Blood**

*Memoir of Sgt. John A. Moore, 3rd South Carolina Cavalry, from "A Glance at the Long Ago," Bamberg Herald, April 20, 1905:* I note, in my pocket roll of Co. "C," 3rd S.C. Cavalry, which I carried at the time and still have, opposite the name of John B. Woods, "wounded, 2, '65." He was shot in the leg in a skirmish with the Yankees, just below Broxton's Bridges, and died that night of exhaustion from loss of blood. Dr. Kirkland, our surgeon, said, "he believed he could have saved him if he only had some whiskey." Woods was buried at Rivers' Bridges, where he died. He was a good soldier--one that could be depended upon in any emergency. During the fight the next day . . . our troops were forced to abandon their position to prevent being taken in the rear by the enemy. One of our squads . . . rode right in among the Yankees. Cox and Jim Floyd were captured. Corp'l Ed. Robinson and Spilliards escaped by a bold dash. Robinson received a bullet though the folds of his blanket rolled behind his saddle and into his haversack, where it wadded up in a pair of woolen gloves.

Floyd lived to get home after the war, but Cox, poor fellow, died in a Yankee prison.

**Bang! I Got it in the Neck**

*Letter of Capt. Ephraim Wilson, 10th Illinois Infantry, to his wife, from Memoirs of the War, by Captain Ephraim A. Wilson, of Co. "G", 10th Illinois Veteran Volunteer Infantry, In One Volume (Cleveland: W. M. Bayne Printing Co., 1893), pp. 407-413:* Officer's Hospital, Beaufort, S.C. Feb. 9, 1865.

I was wounded at a place called River's Bridge . . . where we were forcing the rebels out of a position they had taken up on the opposite side of the stream. ...On the opposite side they were strongly entrenched. In order to effect a crossing of the stream we were obliged to fall trees across. My Com-

(Continued from Page 10)

# Charge - BAYONET!

By Pvt. A.J. Clamp, Co. H, Palmetto Battalion

*"The reply of the gallant Gregg to a message of mine is worthy of note: 'Tell General Hill that my ammunition is exhausted, but that I will hold my position with the bayonet.'"* - Maj. Gen. A.P. Hill, report on 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas<sup>1</sup>

*"One may fight at long range as a patriot and a Christian, but I believe that no man can engage in one of these close struggles, where he can look into the eyes of his adversary and see his blood, but he becomes for the time at least, a mere beast of prey."*

- Lt. J.F.J. Caldwell, Gregg's Brigade, on the action at 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas<sup>2</sup>

*"Let us die here, my men, let us die here."* - Brig Gen. Maxcy Gregg at 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas<sup>3</sup>

Charge - BAYONET! Upon hearing this command in battalion formation, what does the rear rank do? Some of you might say you should assume the position of "right shoulder shift" and some might say "arms port." Both may have historical correctness for a particular regiment at a particular time, but doubtless neither was used by all of the units that participated in "the late unpleasantness." The problem lies in that Hardee's drill manual (or Gilham's or Casey's for that matter) does not explicitly say what the rear rank should do on that command. "Charge bayonet" is taught in the School of the Soldier, when the men are in one rank. While the command is reiterated in the higher schools, it is only done in open ranks, with no hint as to what one should do in closed ranks.

It is thought by many re-enactors that the common practice of the rear rank going to "right shoulder shift" is the result of a misinterpretation of a passage about the battle of Shrapsgurg contained in the reminiscences of John B. Gordon. This particular passage reads, *"The men in blue filed down the opposite slope, crossed the little stream (Antietam), and formed in my front, an assaulting column four lines deep. The front line came to a "charge bayonets," the other lines to a "right shoulder shift."*<sup>4</sup> While it is reasonably clear that Gordon is not speaking of the rear rank of the first line doing anything different than the front rank, but of both ranks of the following three regiments or brigades coming to "right shoulder shift," there have been secondary sources that have misinterpreted the words and this is possibly, either directly or indirectly, the source of some re-enactors belief that "right shoulder shift" is the proper position for the rear rank to assume on the command "charge bayonet."

There is a rather influential article written by Dom Dal Bello that advocates using the tactic described in the 1830 manual, *Abstract of Infantry Tactics...for the use of the Militia of the United States*. While this opinion is by no means conclusive or without controversy, it is not without its merits. This manual is sometimes called "Scott's Militia Manual" or "Scott's Abstract," but it should not be confused with Winfield Scott's 3-volume manual of 1835. Scott's name appears as the first on the list of those who condensed the 1825 manual for the use of militia, thus the confusion. In actuality Scott's is more like Hardee's, Gilham's and Casey's than it is like the manual that I like to call simply *"The Abstract"*. This manual details a method for a bayonet charge technique where both ranks come to "arms port" and the front rank brings the piece<sup>5</sup> to "the charging position" when they reach the enemy.<sup>6</sup> While this manual is

archaic compared with the manuals normally associated with the Civil War period, it cannot be dismissed due to its wide distribution and usage. The front says that 60,000 copies were to be printed. I know not whether this was achieved, but due to the large number of extant copies (at least a few identified to antebellum SC militia units) found in used book stores and on ebay, it can safely be said that the manual was very common. There exists a painting done by a member of a Yankee regiment executing a bayonet charge at "arms port" apparently utilizing the technique found in *"The Abstract"*. While it is very doubtful that the majority of bayonet charges were done in this fashion, doubtless some were. This would have, however, been executed by commands other than "charge bayonet," so it can certainly be said that either rank going to the position of "arms port" upon hearing the command "charge bayonet" is incorrect.

We cannot completely dismiss the old practice of the rear rank going to "right shoulder shift" as a re-enactorism and a misinterpretation. There is an interesting letter on-line from a soldier of the Army of Tennessee that clearly states that his regiment did that very thing during a drill competition in April of 1863.<sup>7</sup> It should be noted that the regiment was advancing at a "double quick," however, and being that "right shoulder shift" is automatically assumed at a double quick, had they been marching at normal "quick time," the rear rank may have simply remained at "shoulder arms" ...or they may have done exactly the same thing as the front rank.

In a number of instances, Scott's 1835 manual can fill in some of the gaps that Hardee's leaves out. Scott's manual basically uses a three rank system with modifications for using two ranks. The instructions for "charge bayonet" in this manual include the following: *"The recruits of the centre and rear ranks will take care not to touch their file leaders with the points of their bayonets."*<sup>8</sup> Scott's also includes a drawing in the "plates" section that shows all three ranks at the position of "charge bayonet."<sup>9</sup> There is a nice website from England that, in addition to having a very interesting article on the use of the bayonet in the War in general, shows a period photograph of Louisiana Zouaves advancing with both ranks at the position of "charge bayonet."<sup>10</sup> Von Steuben's Revolutionary War drill manual has the front rank executing "charge bayonet" in a manner similar to that with which we are familiar, the rear rank doing essentially the same thing with the exception that "the muzzles of theirs so high as to clear

the heads of the front rank."<sup>11</sup>

While the vagueness of the manuals on this point probably led to different interpretations during the War, just as it does now, I expect that the most common interpretation of the command "charge bayonet," owing both to tradition and the influence of West Point generals and others trained in Scott's manual, was that *both ranks* went to the position of "charge bayonet" as described in individual instruction in the individual in the School of the Soldier.

Another and perhaps more difficult question to address would be just *when* the command "charge bayonet" is appropriate. The Official Records have many references to the term. Sometimes it is obvious that it refers to the *command* as we understand it; sometimes it obviously refers not to this but to an actual *bayonet charge*; sometimes it's difficult to tell.

As to which interpretation we follow and how much latitude authenticity is given for safety reasons, I am now blessed with not having to make that decision. I aim to be a good private, which includes being quiet and following orders.

## FOOTNOTES

- 1 ...The Official Records... Ser.I, V.12, Serial#16, p.671
- 2 J.F.J. Caldwell - *History of a Brigade of South Carolinians First Known as "Gregg's" and Subsequently as "McGowan's Brigade"*, p. 64
- 3 as quoted by Lt. Col. Edward McCrady, Jr., 1<sup>st</sup> SC, *Southern Historical Society Papers*, Vol. 13, p. 34
- 4 John B. Gordon - *Reminiscences of the Civil War*, Chap. VII, p. 84, 85
- 5 "Piece" is the word typically used by Hardee's, Casey's and Gilham's much as the word "weapon" is used today. *"The Abstract"* uses "firelock" to mean the whole weapon, not just the lock. Scott's 1835 manual uses "piece" for the most part, but occasionally reverts to "firelock."
- 6 Winfield Scott et al - *Abstract of Infantry Tactics; Including Exercises and Maneuvers of Light-Infantry and Rifleman for the use of the Militia of The United States*, p. 40, SC#466, 467, p. 37, SS#272, 273
- 7 William D. Rogers, 1st Florida Infantry, Army of Tennessee. Letter to parents dated April 17th, 1863. Motlow State Community College, Civil War Research Center. 28 December 2002 [http://198.146.113.9/C\\_war/rogers1.html](http://198.146.113.9/C_war/rogers1.html)
- 8 Winfield Scott - *Infantry Tactics or Rules for the Exercise and Maneuvers of The United States Infantry*, p. 45, SS#188
- 9 Ibid, Appendix, p.13, plate V.
- 10 <http://members.lycos.co.uk/lazyjacks/bayonet.htm>
- 11 Frederick William Baron Von Steuben - *Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of The United States*, p.25, Chap.V., #XXIV

## Improving Your Impression - How They Did It

### Care and Cleaning of Your Musket

The Sergeant Major has given us clear guidance on how he feels about dirty muskets and bayonets. As we try to represent the equipment and conditions of the Civil War soldier. No soldier would neglect the very instrument that his life depended on in battle. This includes cleaning and caring for the not only bore and lock internals, but the exterior as well. The rust pits and grayish brown patina on some originals is the result of the years they spent neglected in some closet, attic or basement when they were nothing but obsolete guns with no value.<sup>1</sup>

"About the only drawback resulting from our being caught out in the summer rains was the fact that the water would rust our muskets....In our time we were required to keep all their metal parts (except the butt plate) as bright and shining as new silver dollars. I have put in many an hour working on my gun with an old rag and powdered dirt, and a corncob, or pine stick, polishing the barrel, the bands, lock-plate, and trigger guard until they were fit to pass inspection. The inside of the barrel we would keep clean by use of a greased wiper and plenty of hot water. In doing this we would ordinarily, with our screwdrivers, take the gun to pieces and remove from the stock all metallic parts. I never had any head for machinery, of any kind, but, from sheer necessity, did acquire enough of the faculty to take apart, and put together, an army musket, - and that is about the full extent of my ability in that line. We soon learned to take care of our pieces in a rain by thoroughly greasing them with a piece of bacon, hich would largely prevent rust from striking in."<sup>2</sup>

While the author above was a Federal soldier, the Confederate soldier was certainly no less professional in performing his duties. Speaking of Confederate troops at Shiloh he writes, "*Suddenly on our right, there was a long wavy flash of bright light, then another and another! It was the sunlight shining on gun barrels and bayonets- and- there they are at last a long brown line with muskets at right shoulder shift.*"<sup>3</sup>

Rusty barrels and bayonets don't reflect sunlight in that manner. Re-enactors who use Enfields with blued barrels and brass mounts are going to have it easier but even a blued barrel will rust if neglected and brass will tarnish.

As the Sergeant Major said, Let's make those muskets and bayonets glitter!

<sup>1</sup> Alan Bowling. Care and Cleaning of the Civil War Musket Part I. 2002. The Fifth Missouri Infantry CSA. 17 June 2002 <<http://members.tripod.com/fifthmoca/newsart.html>> Used with Permission

<sup>2</sup> Leander Stillwell. The Story of a Common Soldier of Army Life in the Civil War, 1861-1865 (Alexandria, Va.: Time-Life Books, 1983) 90-91

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, 45

### A Solider's Day in the Army

The letter below captures a typical day and some typical activities for a young Confederate soldier. Marching, picket duty, drill and more drill. Not to mention building fires, writing letters, being cold and wet. Sounds like our event schedule. Look forward to seeing everyone at Hagood's March, Rivers Bridge, and Aiken. The editor

FAIRFAX, CO. H, August 3, 1861.

TO MY MOTHER:

Though I have written I think three times since the battle to assure you of my safety, yet the news which Mr.-- brings, that I am reported among the killed in Baltimore, makes me anxious to embrace this new and certain opportunity of setting your mind at rest on this score... I lay in my tent the other morning while the rain poured in torrents outside, and pictured to myself the dear old place with the damasks on the porch, so fragrant, and then I entered the door in imagination and saw you all seated at a comfortable breakfast-table while I was almost drenched and obliged to fly to my crowded tent before completing my breakfast by half.

You should see me engaged in cooking, making fires, washing, etc. It is truly hard work and young men like Duncan, Wilson Carr and myself find that it is a difficult thing to make bread and coffee good enough to support life. Our mess consists of ten., some of whom I will mention; Duncan, Wilson Carr, Willie Colston, Giraud Wright, Charlie Grogan, McHenry Howard. We have no yeast, and so our bread must needs be heavy and indigestible, as we have no means of rolling it out into biscuits. We make rice cakes though, and frequently get corn meal and make first-rate corn bread. We are able occasionally to get our bread cooked by the country people and we buy sometimes eggs, with a stray chicken or two. You have no idea how one gets accustomed to any sort of fare. I can now eat salt junk of the very fattest with great gusto, and drink coffee without milk, made in the company pot, and feel refreshed. The first hard washing of my clothes, which I did, burned off the skin from my arms dreadfully. Sometimes we have ben out all day and part of the night in a drenching rain. In that forced march from Winchester to Manassas we knew no distinction between night and day, but marched during both without rest almost, and almost entirely without food. Our regiment marches very fast and finds it very tiresome marching behind some Virginia and Tennessee regiments. We passed through Millwood, and Aunt Jane had her house lit up and was giving supper to all the soldiers who came in on their way. From five to six o'clock in the afternoon till three in the morning she was cooking for them, till she was eaten out of house and home nearly. We forded the Shenandoah up to our breasts and then marched on to Piedmont where we were delayed some time.... As I told you, during the whole march we had not a single regular meal. Immediately after the victory we were marched back to Manassas (some six miles) and stayed there all Monday in a drenching rain, without tents, blankets or overcoats. Our company was out on picket duty night before last and e could hear the drums beating in the enemy's camp nearly all night long. We were within seven miles of Alexandria.

You would like to know how I spend a day here. The bugle sounds at half past four and then we go out to drill till six. Then we get breakfast, wash and get ready for drill again at nine o'clock. Then we drill an hour and a half or two hours. Then sleep, or write a letter, or clean up camp, or wash clothes, or put the tents in order. Then get dinner ready-- drill again in the evening (the whole regiment together, battalion drill) at five o'clock. Dress parade at 6.30 P.M. Then supper. Soon after, at nine o'clock, the tattoo sounds and roll is called; then at 9.30 come three taps on the drum and all lights must instantly be extinguished. I have been very sick all day for the first time, but am nearly well now. Good-bye, my dear mother,--God bless and keep you all. I am sad often thinking of my dear home and longing to hear from you. Wish I could see you again just for one little day or week. Never cease to pray for your fond son.

From "A Soldier's Recollections: *Leaves From The Diary Of A Young Confederate*" by Randolph Harrison McKim, 1842-1920, found at docsouth.unc.edu

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## Improving Your Impression

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### What They Knew

ALAS! The weary hours pass slow,  
The night is very dark and still,  
And in the marshes far below  
I hear the bearded whip-poor-will.  
I scarce can see a yard ahead,  
My ears are strained to catch each sound;  
I hear the leaves about me shed,  
And the springs bubbling through the ground.

Along the beaten path I pace,  
Where white rags mark my sentry's track,  
In formless shrubs I seem to trace  
The foeman's form with bending back.  
I think I see him crouching low,  
I stop and list—I stoop and peer—  
Until the neighboring hillocks grow  
To groups of soldiers far and near.

With ready piece I wait and watch,  
Until mine eyes, familiar grown,  
Detect each harmless earthen notch,  
And turn guerrillas into stone.  
And then amid the lonely gloom,  
Beneath the weird old tulip trees,  
My silent marches I resume,  
And think on other times than these.

### The Countersign

By Fitz-James O'Brian

Sweet visions through the silent night!  
The deep bay-windows fringed with vine;  
The room within, in softened light,  
The tender, milk-white hand in mine,  
The timid pressure, and the pause  
That oft-times overcame our speech—  
That time when by mysterious laws  
We each felt all in all to each.

And then, that bitter, bitter day,  
When came the final hour to part,  
When clad in soldier's honest gray,  
I pressed her weeping to my heart.  
Too proud of me to bid me stay,  
Too fond of me to let me go,  
I had to tear myself away,  
And left her stolid in her woe.

So rose the dream—so passed the night—  
When distant in the darksome glen,  
Approaching up the sombre height,  
I heard the solid march of men;  
Till over stubble, over sward,  
And fields where lay the golden sheaf,  
I saw the lantern of the guard  
Advancing with the night relief.

“Halt! Who goes there?” my challenge cry:  
It rings along the watchful line.  
“Relief!” I hear a voice reply.  
“Advance, and give the countersign!”  
With bayonet at the charge, I wait,  
The corporal gives the mystic spell;  
With arms at port I charge my mate,  
And onward pass, and all is well.

But in the tent that night awake,  
I think, if in the fray I fall,  
Can I the mystic answer make  
Whene'er the angelic sentries call?  
And pray that Heaven may so ordain,  
That when I near the camp divine,  
Whether in travail or in pain,  
I too may have the countersign.

*Camp Cameron, July 1861.*  
Harper's new monthly magazine.  
Volume 23, Issue 135, August, 1861

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### Material Resources

**Richmond Depot Jackets.** Ben Tart has taken up the uniform business full time. I understand his slogan is now “Authentic uniforms at a mainstream price.” Although he's still running the PB special mentioned in previous issues, he has some new specials, one of which is an accurately reproduced RDII in jean, with buttons included for \$110. You won't find a better jacket for the money. He is also an excellent source for fabric. Contact Ben at 919-478-7668 or Tart, Brantley, and Benjamin, Box 28, Spring Hope, NC 27882, [www.bentart.com](http://www.bentart.com)

**Hats** – A hat is the most visible part of your impression. A good one can make it good. There are some fine hat makers out there: Dirty Billy at 410-775-1865 or [www.dirtybillyshats.com](http://www.dirtybillyshats.com) Clearwater Hats at (870) 347-2252 or [www.clearwaterhats.com/](http://www.clearwaterhats.com/) Tim Bender at (610) 582- 0327 or [www.livinghistorynet.com/timbender.html](http://www.livinghistorynet.com/timbender.html) and Tim Allen at (410) 549-5145

**Leather Accoutrements, rubber blankets and ponchos.** David Jarnagin does an exceptional job reproducing cartridge

boxes, cap boxes, scabbards, and belts. The Jarnigan rubber blanket (or poncho) is the most accurate one on the market and can be had as the same price as on sutler row.

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Box 1860  
Corinth, MS 38835-1860  
307-287-4977  
(Fax 287-6033)  
[www.jarnaginco.com/](http://www.jarnaginco.com/)

**Blankets** - Pat Kline of Family Heirloom Weaver's has woven a very fine Federal Issue Blanket based on several originals he viewed this past year at The Horse Soldier in Gettysburg. The Blanket is tan with dark brown end stripes. It is not as heavy as the Abe Thomas Blanket of Quartermaster Woolens but will fit nicely in a pack and will do well on the warmer early spring/fall evenings. The Blanket costs \$85.00 + shipping and includes the thread and pattern to sew the “US” in the blanket. If you order 10 blankets at once, you get a discount of \$20.00 (\$65.00 + Shipping) per each blanket. [www.familyheirloomweavers.com](http://www.familyheirloomweavers.com)

(Continued from Page 6) Official Reports

pany was the first to cross. As soon as the tree was cut I sprang upon it and crossed and ordered the men to follow. In a moment our whole Company were safely over, and in another they were deployed as skirmishers and were engaging the enemy fiercely. ...I had only fairly got my Company deployed and nicely to work, when bang! I got it in the neck, and fell to my knees in water to my waist. I quickly pulled myself to my feet and took a hurried inventory of the damage done me. The blood was gushing out of my wound in great streams and running into my boots. Knowing that I could not stand this loss of blood very much longer, I sent word of my mishap along the line up to the Orderly who was on the right, requesting him to come and take command. On his arrival I wished the boys God-speed and safety, and tottered back to the log over which we had just crossed and struck out for the shore. The balls were flying thick and fast, and if I had been so unfortunate as to be hit again by the enemy, or had fallen off the log in that deep river it would have been all day with me, as I was so crippled in my arms I could not swim. From the river I moved back to where the Regimental Surgeon was stationed and he staunched the flow of blood, then waded back three miles to the field hospital, in water from knee-deep to the waist. ...they wanted to give me an anaesthetic, but I said, "Go ahead, I can stand it." And so I did, but it hurt me frightfully, just the same, to have that great scraggly minie ball cut out of my back.

**Left for Dead**

*Memoir of Capt. Benjamin S. Williams, 47th Georgia Infantry, from "A Confederate Soldier's Memoirs," Charleston News, March 8, 1914:*

At River's Bridge, in the hottest of the fight in the afternoon [Feb. 3, 1865], Capt. Thompson--Joe--went down, a minie ball striking him on the left cheek under the eye and crushing though, came out near the angle of the jaw on the right side of his face. The young captain was left for dead, and was so reported in our "report" of the battle. At our first stop near Branchville, S.C., I kept my promise and wrote to my good friend, Old Col. Thompson, a long letter of condolence and sympathy, informing him of the death of his son, my friend and comrade. On my first visit to Savannah, after the war, in the fall of 1865, while on my way to call at Col. Thompson's home, I met Capt. DeWitt Bruyn, captain of Company E, of my regiment, and told him of my intended visit and expressed my dread of the meeting the family on account of Joe's death. Bruyn

threw his arm around my shoulder and said: "About face and march with me only a block. I want to show you some one and then you can pay your visit to Col. and Mrs. Thompson."

We halted at the open door of an office and Bruyn said: "Go in." I stepped in, aman wheeled about toward me and I stood face to face within five feet of Joe Thompson, ex-captain of Company C, 47th regiment, Georgia volunteers, who had been "killed" at River's Bridge. His face was disfigured and his speech affected, one eye gone, but--there he was. The young captain had, before our retreat, regained consciousness and, one of the favored, had been cared for and removed. He reached Augusta, Ga., and from there, finally, Savannah, and in the chaotic condition of all things, was in his home rapidly recovering when my letter describing his death--reached his family. He had married his pretty sweetheart, Miss Lizzie Gannon, and years after Joe told me that when at home, if feeling kind of blue and reminiscent, he would get out of a safe-keeping place my letter of condolence to his father and read it aloud to his wife and children.

**Thirty Years of Suffering**

*Letter of Frances M. Cherry, from the pension record of Pvt. Edgar W. Cherry, 32nd Wisconsin Infantry, wounded 3, 1865 at Rivers Bridge, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.: Washington D.C.,*

Oct., 12, /97

Hon Commissioners of Pensions:

Dear Sir:

I wish to have my pension case reopened as I am satisfied that my husband died of his army service just as much as though he died in his bed. He went in to the army in perfect health at the age of twenty-eight, leaving me with two little children. After he came out he never saw a well day; his right eye was put out, his nose shot off, so that he was always obliged to breath through his mouth, which brought on lung trouble. He had frequent hemorrhages and spells lasting two weeks at a time that he could only speak in a whisper. While at the hospital at Madison Wis., the doctors gave him chloform which drove him crazy, so they had to lock him in the operating room for the night with nothing on but cotton drawers and this was in april and he was afterwards three hours at one time and two hours in another, under the surgeon's knife with out taking any opiate whatever. He never recovered from the exposure or shock. His brain was never just right after that. After thirty years of suffering he died leaving me without any means of support. I send two physicians certificates. What more proof do I

need to get? I hope you will give my case your earliest attention, as my little pension is all the support I have.

Respectfully

Frances M. Cherry

#113 Park Place N.E.

My husband served in the Co., A.

32nd Wis., Infantry.

**Palmetto Battalion 2003 Calendar and Event Schedule**

Battalion Affiliated Events are marked.

If your event is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please notify:

[vindicator@palmettobattalion.org](mailto:vindicator@palmettobattalion.org)

Jan 24-26 Hagood's March

**Jan 31-Feb 2 Rivers Bridge (BA)**  
Ehrhardt, SC

**Feb 21-23 The Battle of Aiken (BA)**  
Aiken, SC

**Mar 7-9 The Columns (BA)**  
Florence, SC

**Mar 14-16 Battle of Averagesboro (BA)**

Averagesboro, NC

**Apr 4-6 Cheraw, SC (BA)**  
Cheraw, SC

**Apr 12-13 Fort Sumter LH (BA)**  
Charleston, SC

**Apr 25-27 Fairview Church (BA)**  
Fountain Inn, SC

Apr 25-27 Selma, AL

**May 3 Confederate Mem. Day (BA)**  
Columbia, SC

May 11 Memorial Day Charleston

May 16-18 Sandy Springs, Laurens, SC

May 16-18 Resaca, GA

Jun 14 Fort Lamar LH, James Island, SC

Jul 3-6 140<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg, PA

**Sep 5-7 Tunnel Hill (BA)**

Tunnel Hill, GA

**Sep 20 Sat, 11:00, Battalion Elections**

Columbia, SC

Oct 4-5 Perryville, KY

Oct 11 Ghostwalk, Charleston

Oct 17-19 Blue Springs, Mosheim, TN

**Oct 24-26 Brattonsville (BA)**

Brattonsville, SC

Oct 31-Nov 2 Richland Creek, Saluda, SC

**Nov 7-9 Battle of Secessionville (BA)**  
Mount Pleasant, SC

Dec 5-7 Buck Head Church, Millen, GA

## From the Adjutant's Pen

A year ago the PLHA had a very small Living History that we were doing in conjunction with the South Carolina State Parks. I wandered up that morning in my very best "Sherman's Vermin" impression and spent the morning talking to the few folks that would talk to a "Yankee." Two of the participants were presenting the Confederate side of the picture and getting a bit more traffic. Later that morning the talk amongst the participants turned to the "Authentic" movement in the hobby. One of our comrades there (not a Battalion member at that time) seemed to be a bit unhappy with the efforts he perceived within this "new" progression of our hobby. It was a bit odd to me as he was in the midst of at least two fellows who, though novices, were pursuing the "Authentic" avenue as quickly as possible!

Press on to September of 2002 and Sharpsburg, MD, and that little walk sponsored by the PLHA (and excellently organized by our own Neill Rose!) from Harper's Ferry to Antietam NMP. Everyone knew that we were serious about inspecting all marcher's for non-period items in an effort to push the "authentic envelope", but this same fellow that nearly a year earlier had spoke ill of the "Hardcores" was there leading more than 30 of his men on this "hardcore" march of 17 miles. I was pleasantly surprised that the inspections were welcomed by ALL of the participants and that precious little was attempted to be "squeezed by" the inspector's.

What does this little story have to do with authenticity?? Well, a few weeks ago I received a check for 2003 Battalion dues for this "new" man who spoke poorly of the "Authentic" movement with a note attached stating the great fun he had on the March!! *Fun??* Having all modern conveniences taken from you and forcing you to walk 17 miles in 12 hours. *Fun??* Getting wet, crossing a rather chilly river. *Fun??* being issued hardcrackers, slab bacon, sweet

potatoes, dry peas and meal. *Fun??* Standing camp guard at 2:00 am in the morning for 2 hours!! Yep!! *FUN!!* BUt more importantly how "they" did it or at least as close as we can come today!! This man paid to join the Battalion so that he could be a welcome participant in the "Authentic" movement within the Battalion; the same one he was so unsure of a year ago. He wasn't forced, prodded or cajoled into join the Battalion (or making the March for that matter!!). He joined because it seems he found something that he felt had been missing from his impression of this hobby of Civil War Reenacting. He found men who were willing to make an honest effort to try to recreate, as close as possible, the experiences that the men of 1861-1865 endured.

The Palmetto Living History Association is a loosely formed group within the Palmetto Battalion that strives to accurately present this period of history to other Battalion members, the public and themselves. This is done by using one major element - Research!! Reading letters from soldiers, studying images of camps and soldiers, pouring through State Archives for Unit issue info regarding uniforms, engagements, etc., studying the construction and material of original relics worn or carried by the soldiers in the American Civil War. The list could continue!! The biggest difference between the "authentic" movement and the "mainstream" movement is that in most cases, the "authentic" movement just does not accept the status quo as a standard unless there is adequate research to support it. We've seen this in the last year through efforts to simply eliminate incorrect "reenactorisms" in drill commands, in uniform pieces and accouterments. There is only one "real" requirement to participate in the "movement." The desire to "do it right" — as we understand right today! Why did I place that qualifier at the end?? We are continuing to revise what we see as "authentic" through the

aforementioned research. Very few things are seen as absolute, but many things after careful research are deemed "Plain, Everyday, Common" or PEC.

*"But wait a minute, he didn't say a thing about uniforms!! He didn't say having lot's of money!! He didn't mention belonging to the "right" group!!"* **Nope!!** I certainly did not!! Researched uniforms are important, but they are only as good as the man in them! Attitude is a key. Your desire to put yourself in the shoes of the men of '63 will make the rest happen. You *can* pay a lot of money for a very good recreation of a period uniform or you can do like others and me and LEARN to make your own. It is easier than you may think, especially with help from folks who have already taken that route.. The other benefit of learning to sew or work leather is the ability to support your "new" habit by making goods for your pards! 'Right group'?? There is No such thing! There are groups within and without the Battalion, (official and otherwise) that do the research and most, if not all, only ask for you to have the desire to improve your attitude and impression!!

To sum it up, "authenticity" is a desire to do justice to the memory of the men who participated in greatest conflict in this nation's history. It is not counting stitches or insulting those whose desires are different!! It is shared research, not watching the other guy. It is ATTITUDE!!

David Chinnis



# The Palmetto Vindicator

103 Inwood Place  
Summerville, SC 29485  
vindicator@palmettobattalion.org  
www.palmettobattalion.org

Stamp  
Here



First Class Mail  
Address Correction Requested

## SC Confederate Relic Room & Museum

John Bigham  
Curator of Education

jbigham@crr.state.sc.us  
803-737-8097

**T**hings That “they” Tried to Take, Took or Shot.  
**Mayor Boatwright’s flag:** The canton with the familiar battle flag cross is all that remains of this flag. Family legend says that the flag was buried in a cemetery, retrieved by the pre-war mayor after the Yanks left, and that the reason little of the flag remains is that the white part was used to make clothes for the children. Whether the flag was a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> national is unknown. The flag is not on exhibit but can be viewed with advance notice.

**General Wade Hampton’s mercury glass goblet:** Mercury glass was a popular decorative piece in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was manufactured by using a sandwiched colored glass into which mercury or silver nitrate was poured. Glass was made into candlesticks, goblets, and other things. The metal was poured through a hole in the bottom of the glass and covered over so that the drinker was not actually drinking mercury. This type of glass is quite delicate and not suitable for hard campaigning. Perhaps Gen’l H himself sipped Madeira from the goblet, which is decorated with etched grape leaves and vines. A Yank took the goblet from Millwood, Hampton’s Columbia home, during the passage of Sherman’s army through the area. After the war the soldier returned the goblet and it has been on display in the museum ever since.

**Flag returned from Indiana:** In a 1964 ceremony, Indiana Governor Mathew E. Walsh returned a Stars and Bars captured from the Capitol in February 1865. Lt. M. H. Parks, 12th Indiana Volunteers, had given the flag to Indiana. It was forgotten and lost in the Indiana State Library until rediscovered in 1963. The flag was given to SC Governor Russell. US Senator Thurmond welcomed the Indiana delegation, and the flag was placed in the Confederate Relic Room where it remains. The flag is not on exhibit and can be viewed with advance notice.

**20 pounder Parrott shot:** The story goes that they fired 325

shots into the city of Columbia. We have one of them on exhibit. Some believe that it was one that hit the State House, but it is in fact one picked up and saved. Here is a little math test for you – If they fired 325 twenty-pound shots into Columbia on February 17, 1865, how many pounds of shot did “they” fire? That was just for target practice, one could say, and nothing like the guns of the Seven Days, Gettysburg or Atlanta.

For many students of the War, it is the giant amount of material and raw effort that makes each new generation fascinated with the War. For others, it is to walk the ground that their Northern grandfathers did, right here in SC and vice versa. The War has always been there regardless of movies, million selling books, and will continue as long as history is written. Once you’re hooked on the War, you must come to South Carolina, The Seceder. We daily see all kinds of War people in the Relic Room, and we want to see you, too.

Thanks for all you do!

John



Answer: 6,500 lbs or 3+ tons of metal