

# The Palmetto Vindicator

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www.palmettobattalion.org

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## Field Orders ~ Tom Grazioli, Colonel

Our spring season is at an end. By the time this copy of the Vindicator arrives we will already have passed the Fairview Church event and Confederate Memorial Day in Columbia. Looking back at what we've done so far seems like a lot but it really hasn't been that much. Except for Averasboro, everything has been in state. It would seem that the schedule was accommodating with the distances to drive being relatively small. With that we didn't see any one event with a great turnout for the Battalion. We had good numbers at a few but not the kind that I'd like to see. Rivers Bridge might have been the exception if we counted both sides together.

What is it that made us complacent over the past couple of years? Is it because we have too many events crowding the spring and fall seasons? Over the past several years we've seen an increase in the number of in state events contributing to this argument. The most dedicated reenactor won't do several in a row if they're stacked up for two or three or four weekends. If your unit hosts an event, keep that in mind. You don't help yourself or the Battalion if you shoehorn something into an already busy schedule.

Proximity and the distance to an event is another consideration. Of course it's a lot easier to drive 3 hours than it is to drive 13. You think of that when you're figuring your time off from work. Everyone wants to leave soon enough on Friday to get camp set up and hope they can get home on Sunday early enough to get some sleep. Sometimes the ride is the best part of the trip. Get 3 or 4 of your friends and everyone ride together. You'll get a chance to rest and you might enjoy the company of your pals while you're on the way. A bunch of us caravanned up to Sayler's Creek one year and didn't get there until after midnight. I don't remember that being a big deal but I remember having a good time on the trip. You may have strolled into Chickamauga at 1:00 am and watched your buddy get attacked by a possum. He didn't really get attacked; it just caught us both off guard. A long trip can be a good trip if you stop at Exit 97 for cigars or pass through "Eastabooga" and have a CB in the truck. And how many times have you solved all the world's problems while driving to an event? Another thing I've noticed is that it's about 8 hours from Murrells Inlet to Gettysburg if you don't have much traffic and you drive with purpose. That's one hour farther away than Selma, Alabama.

The current state of our nation might have some impact on how willing folks are to get out and about. The economy made a big turnabout. Terrorism has become a concern for all of us. The activity in the Middle East is certainly on our minds because many of us have family or friends serving in the military. The things going on around us and around the country may be giving some a down sort of feeling. That probably acts to discourage us from going out as much as gas prices being \$1.65 a gallon. There's another reason for caravanning. We really can't do much about the national economy or gas prices. But you can bet that a couple of days in camp with no TV's, radios, or traffic jams will help you unwind. And what could be better to let off some steam than shooting Yankees?

The decrease in participation at events is likely caused by all the

reasons above, and probably some not mentioned. What hasn't changed? That's pretty simple. We love to do this. Those reasons are many, but we still do. I can't wait until the next time I can go out in the field. I enjoy the events we regularly do, but I look forward to events that show me something different. Or events that show me a challenge. The march at Sharpsburg last year was a great example that was both. Like everyone else I also want to be part of a grand event. You wouldn't trade anything if you were at Franklin when wave after wave of Federals came over the hill, or if you were part of Pickett's Charge at the 135<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg.

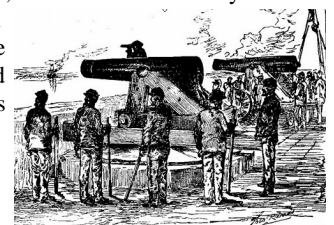
We didn't declare a maximum effort event this year because last year it didn't seem to matter. We also didn't have a national event scheduled because the western groups didn't have anything at the time and Gettysburg has shown signs of poor planning from the outset. So are we going to skate through the year without making a strong appearance anywhere? I don't like that prospect because it means we didn't do enough or we chose to take the easier course too often. We've got to get out of state a couple of times each year to show the other organizations that we're for real. And that means going with more than a dozen people. When we show up in North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia or Pennsylvania with 4 strong companies, and show them we know what we're doing, then those groups remember us. And if we do it regularly, when a national event is planned we'll get an invitation and a good battle assignment instead of the crap we usually get when we have to ask to be included.

Resaca was May 16 to 18. It wasn't included on the Battalion Schedule. That was an oversight on my part. Next year the way we plan our schedule will be changed so we can incorporate out of state events that don't have a representative present or events that come up after the schedule is set. Keep in mind that the Resaca weekend doesn't fall on any events or living histories taking place in the state. It's two weeks after Confederate Memorial Day and a month before the Ft. Lamar living history. That makes the timing good to travel the 7 hours it takes me to drive there from the coast. This is a good event to do Federal and show our western partners that we're alive and well, and score some points by doing Yankee too. The next battle event on our schedule is in Georgia too: Tunnel Hill in September.

At our next staff meeting I'll entertain ideas about how we can increase the attendance at Battalion functions. If you've got some thoughts, get in touch with your unit rep and tell him to bring it on. You are the Battalion and it exists to serve your interests. Without your participation and that of others, we have no credibility and no chance to move forward. But with your help, your Battalion, the Palmetto Battalion, will stand proudly on the field and make others take notice.

With Regards,

*Tom*



## From the Lt. Colonel ~ Bruce Hoover

Greetings to all. The first thing I would like to do is to apologize to the battalion for my inability to attend all the events that I would have liked to this past spring. Some of you know what we have been going through, but one of the worst parts of it was the fact that it took me away from all of my parades and the events I love so much. The good news is that things are finally settled down and I'm way ready to be back in the field.

One of the events I was able to attend was the PLHA sponsored Living History at Fort Sumter on the 142nd anniversary of the Union Surrender. About a dozen of us portrayed the Federal Heavy Artillery unit that was stationed at the fort, and we spent Friday night at the fort. That was a very special time for all of us, and we want to thank Rick Hatcher and the NPS for letting us do it. After the tourists went home and the lights went out, we could easily imagine that we were transported back in time. That is, until the local karaoke band started up on the Charleston shore! But that started me thinking about period entertainments and amusements, which is the subject of my column this issue, so maybe it wasn't a bad thing after all!

Music was one of the most important diversions available to the average soldier. He could sing to pass the time while marching, sing in camp with his friends, and sing before battles to boost his courage. He might sing hymns, old songs that he learned from his parents, or popular songs of the day. There was a great business in popular music, with a successful song reappearing in other versions or even in parodies. The song publishers were businessmen too, so we have northern versions of Dixie, and southern versions of Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, etc. These sheets were printed in such large numbers that originals can still be had for very reasonable prices. I have several sets of sheet music from the period that cost less than \$5 for the sheet. One of the most popular forms of all though, was minstrel style music.

There are reports of military units rehearsing and performing minstrel shows. Friends from other units, as well as visiting dignitaries, would have been the audience. In fact early in the war, some even had programs specially printed for the occasion. Minstrel shows were popular before the war as well, so there was a good chance that the song you were whistling while you chop wood was one that you first heard in a minstrel show. This influence is seen in a variety of places. For example one of Robert E. Lee's horses was Lucy Long, after the popular minstrel tune of the same name by Dan Emmet. (The song was so popular that it was still being performed by The Skillet Lickers in the 1920s.)

Minstrel shows had been popular as early as the 1840s. In fact, both Emmet and Joel Sweeny had toured in Great Britain. Emmet had a full-time job in New York City through the 1860's writing show tunes (this is where he wrote Dixie), and the popularity of this kind of music lasted well beyond the war. Emmet gave a standing-room-only tour of the US in 1895.

At the 135th anniversary Battle of Sharpsburg Brian

Pohankas' zouave unit sponsored a period minstrel show, and it was one of the highlights of the weekend for me. Performed outdoors, with torches for lights, using authentic instruments, and original scripts. This is the sort of amusement our ancestors would have enjoyed in their camps.

Almost everyone knows the first verse to Dixie, and most of us can hum along on Old Dan Tucker or Turkey in the Straw, but perhaps we should broaden our repertoire and learn songs like Lucy Long, Dandy Jim, or Old Joe.

There are a lot of groups out there doing "Civil War Music" but much of it is on modern instruments, using modern techniques, etc. While it is great fun to listen to, it's not a good indication of what was being played and sung during the period. To get you started, I've included a list of groups that Nicky Hughes compiled several years ago for those interested in learning more about period correct performances. Lets get out there and sing!

*Homespun America: Music for Brass Band, Social Orchestra, and Choral Groups from the Mid-Nineteenth Century.* Eastman Wind Ensemble and Chorale; Vox CDX5088 (Good sampling of Civil War era musical styles; not all instruments are of the period; extensive and informative notes).

*Union and Liberty: Music Heard on the Northern Homefront during the American Civil War.* D.C. Hall's New Concert and Quadrille Band; Dorian Recordings DOR-90197 (Superb performances of vocals and "social orchestra" music; good notes; this CD is the group's second – the first one was good too).

*The Civil War: Its Music and Its Sounds.* Frederick Fennell and the Eastman Wind Ensemble; Mercury (Phillips Classic Productions) 432 591-2 (pioneering recording originally issued during the Civil War Centennial; some tunes never performed better since).

*The Music of Francis Johnson and His Contemporaries: Early Nineteenth Century Black Composers.* The Chestnut Brass Company and Friends; Musicmasters 7029-2-C (artful orchestral performances but arrangements are often conjectural).

*Our Musical Past: A Concert for Brass Band, Voice, and Piano.* Frederick Fennell, Director; Library of Congress OMP 101/102.

*The Wildcat regimental Band: The Regimental Band of the 105th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.* Wildcat Music, Home, PA (good representation of a very large brass band).

*Music of the Civil War.* Americus Brass Band, Summit records DCD126 (good performance by one of the longest-lived Civil War style bands).

*Honor To Our Soldiers.* Classical Brass, Musicmasters/BMG Music 0612-67075-2 DDD (accurate arrangements and instruments; well played but by a small ensemble).

Yours truly,

*Bruce*

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## The Apple Crate

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**W**ell folks, May is the month that we set aside for memorials for all of our military personal that have, over time, given that last full measure. You all know me and my strange sense of humor. The not-so-closet cynic that I am, I find many of our holidays a bit ironic. Take some of these for example.

1) National Potato Week. Hey, scoff if you will, but I always try to take at least one day off each year in honor of this very special occasion.

2) Canadian Thanksgiving Day. Off the top of my head, that's sometime in October. In fact it might be close to falling within National Potato Week. So as not to offend anyone, you might have to alternate celebrating one event one year and then the other one the next.

And I could go on and on, but my point is this. I wonder why we use only one day of the year to remind people to give thanks on "Thanksgiving Day"? Why is it that we are reminded that our Mothers are due "special" honor one day of the year? The same with letting the special loved one in our life know that they mean the entire world to us on Valentines Day. The same goes for Memorial Day, either Confederate or National Memorial on the last Monday of the month of May.

Many of us have watched the coverage of what has taken place in the ancient area of Babylon, the very place that as kids we were taught was the cradle of civilization. As their photographs and names were given a brief 15 seconds of recognition across our TV screens, I'm sure each of us has said at least a silent prayer for the young men and women of our country that paid the ultimate price for freedom. Not their freedom, but for the freedom of a people from another land.

Folks, we've supported many Memorial services in May, but perish the thought, let's not put that reverence back in the closet until next year. Let's all remember those who have given their all, with all the honor and respect due them each and every day. All year long.

So many, many, many times I find myself asking the question, "Could I have done some of the things that they were called on to do?" And the answer many times is this, "I'm not sure..." I'd like to throw out my chest, pound on it and say sure, no problem. But deep down, I have to answer, "...I'm not sure."

I remain, Respectfully,

*Rick*

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## SC Dept. of Archives

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**A**s the summer of 1863 approached, Governor Milledge Bonham became increasingly concerned over the lack of protection for much of the northern part of the South Carolina coast. The deficiencies of manpower and armaments throughout the South and the forceful take over of the Port Royal area by Union forces had forced the Confederate commanders in Charleston to leave parts of the coastline undefended. General Robert E. Lee, who held command for a few short months beginning in November 1861, had been the first to propose a defensive scheme that focussed on protecting Charleston and Savannah and the crucial railroad that connected the two cities. Under his successor, General John C. Pemberton, the defenses to Georgetown located at Cat's Island and other points around Winyah Bay were abandoned in April 1862. The guns and troops were moved to points below Charleston to help thwart Union advances from Port Royal. For the rest of 1862 and the first half of 1863, Georgetown and the plantations beyond the town lay open to Federal attack.

On June 17, 1863, Governor Bonham ordered John R. Niernsee, Major of Engineers for the South Carolina Army, to survey and report on obstructing the Pee Dee River, the Waccamaw River, the Black River and Lynches Creek. Niernsee completed his investigations by the end of the month and reported that all of the watercourses were unobstructed to enemy gunboats except for the Great Pee Dee River. The Pee Dee was partially protected by a floating raft obstruction at Stone's Landing Bluff about 30 miles south of the

Wilmington-Manchester Railroad Bridge, designed to protect the new naval yard at Mars Bluff. A two-gun battery had also been constructed, but had since been dismantled. Niernsee recommended the obstructions and fortification be repaired and rearmed and other well-fortified obstructions built on the Waccamaw and Black Rivers and lower down on the Great Pee Dee River. Bonham, under pressure from planters in the region, instructed Niernsee to present his plans to General P. G. T. Beauregard, the latest Confederate commander for South Carolina, with the hope of obtain his blessing and the guns to mount in the proposed batteries.

Beauregard's reply on July 3, 1863 clearly reflects the ongoing problems of the Confederate military. "It is thought that the Batteries at Mayrant's, Fraser's, & Cat Island, Winyah Bay, if properly armed, manned & supported are amply sufficient to protect against any predatory excursion of the Enemy...Guns, artillerists & a supporting force of Infantry are what we are most in need of." Beauregard did say that if the state could build and man the additional works they had his permission to do so. The same day, Major W. G. Eason, acting Ordnance Officer of the state, reported to Governor Bonham that the Ordnance Department had no guns or field pieces to furnish for the proposed works. Further, Eason noted "we have issued, everything we had, in the shape of Ordnance, to the Confederate government." The whole issue became moot a week later, when the Federal batteries on Little Folly Island opened up and the desperate struggle for Morris Island began.

**F**irst, Thank You very much for your continuing support of the Confederate Relic Room! We appreciate your purchase and donation of the image and badge of Private John Long. It is a perfect addition to our collection. Thank you!

SC units engaged at Gettysburg: July 1 – Perrin’s brigade, i.e., 1<sup>st</sup> (Gregg’s), Orr’s Rifles, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, SCV Infantry, PeeDee Artillery, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> SCV Cavalries, and Hart’s Battery. July 2 – Kershaw’s brigade, i.e. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> SCV Infantry & 3<sup>rd</sup> SCV Bn. German Artillery, Garden’s Battery, Brook’s Artillery. From this stellar assemblage, one might think that the Relic Room has a few relics from these units, and we do. To mention a few:

“The flag of the First South Carolina regiment was the first Confederate banner raised in Gettysburg,” recorded J. F. J. Caldwell in **The History of a Brigade of South Carolinians**. This same flag is the first flag that you see upon entering the Confederate Relic Room. It’s not a battle flag, but the blue silk and white embroidered regimental colors of the regiment. An account in **A Colonel at Gettysburg and Spotsylvania** recalls, “The brigade (Gregg-McGowan) had now reached the town, which General (Abner Monroe) Perrin (commanding brigade) ordered the First and Fourteenth to enter. This they did simultaneously with flags unfurled, the First by the Chambersburg turnpike, and the Fourteenth passing to the left...Then moved between the town and the Seminary, where we rested. General Lee then came up, and all honor was then given to ‘the South Carolina brigade that captured Gettysburg.’”

Private Alexander D. Grant, Co. E, 8<sup>th</sup> SC Infantry was shot in the foot at Gettysburg. His leg was amputated below the knee. Invalided out of service, he returned to Marlboro District and later became a post master. Grant’s peg leg is on exhibit.

## Improving Your Impression ~ Method

From OR Series 4, Vol. 2, p. 467

CIRCULAR SURGEON-GENERAL’S OFFICE,  
Richmond, Va., April 1, 1863.

Medical directors will direct medical officers to make persevering and well-regulated efforts to have collected for the use of the sick in the field affected or threatened with scurvy daily supplies of the within-enumerated or other native edible plants and herbs growing in the vicinity of camp, viz: Wild mustard, water cresses, wild garlic or onion, sassafras, lamb’s-quarters, sorrel, shoots of the pokeweed (bleached preferred), artichoke, plume of the dandelion (bleached), garden parsley, peppergrass, wild yam. Company commanders should also be urged for the prevention of scurvy to procure in like manner by detail from their companies supplies of the same for the use of their companies. Those charged with collecting should be impressed with the vital importance of exercising a careful discretion in the recognition of the different articles to be collected. As an additional security in doubtful cases, inspection by a medical officer is recommended. He should also give instructions concerning the methods of preparing and using each article as best calculated to secure good effect. Medical officers in charge of hospitals will be instructed to furnish the sick with as liberal an allowance of succulent vegetables as their condition and the state of the hospital fund will allow.

SAMUEL PRESTON MOORE, Surgeon General

Then

there’s always Lt. Col. Elbert Bland of whom we have a number of artifacts. Bland was shot in the leg at Gettysburg and used his sword as a crutch to hobble back to Virginia. The sword remains in the family, the scabbard point bent outwards and the blade bent.

Dr. Benjamin W. Taylor, surgeon of the Hampton Legion and of the ANV Cavalry under Gen’l H, left us his medical chest. It is full of medicine bottles, tins, and other artifacts. Taylor used the chest for many years postwar so some of the items are later than wartime.

Hart’s Battery guidon, a beautiful silk magenta and white color with magenta rosettes traveled to Gettysburg with Louis Sherfessee. He kept it for years afterward and even has the guidon, both sides, engraved on his tombstone.

Battle flags of the 3<sup>d</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> SCV Infantry are in the collection, possibly the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> actually at Gettysburg. The 7<sup>th</sup> is a later flag design. A late battle flag of the 12<sup>th</sup> SCVI, several company colors of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> SCVI also reside in the Relic Room, but likely were not at G’burg.

And from our library, flag captures and losses on July 1, from **A Colonel at Gettysburg and Spotsylvania**, “A soldier boy of the Fourteenth captured a large flag of the 149<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania in the works, where all its guard were slain. Another captured a smaller one, and folding it in his bosom fell two days afterwards advancing in the picket line in front of Cemetery Heights. (Sgt.T.) R. Owens, color bearer, son of Captain R. S. Owens, who had fallen at Frazier’s farm, was shot dead while carrying the flag of his regiment (14<sup>th</sup>), and all his color guard but one was slain.”

Thank you from all of us, Allen, Shirley, Beth, Joe, part-timer Kathy, grad assistants Wynne and Sarah, and yours truly, John

### 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)

Jun 14	Fort Lamar LH, James Island, SC
Jul 3-6	140 <sup>th</sup> Gettysburg, PA
<b>Sep 5-7</b>	<b>Tunnel Hill (BA)</b> <b>Tunnel Hill, GA</b>
<b>Sep 20 Sat,</b>	<b>Battalion Elections 11:00 am</b> <b>Sesqui. SP, Columbia, SC</b>
Oct 4-5	Perryville, KY
Oct 11	Ghostwalk, Charleston
Oct 17-19	Blue Springs, Mosheim, TN
<b>Oct 24-26</b>	<b>Brattonsville (BA)</b> <b>Brattonsville, SC</b>
Oct 24-26	NSA Murfreesboro/Stones River Spring Hill, TN (NSA Event)
Oct 31-Nov 2	Richland Creek, Saluda, SC
<b>Nov 15-16</b>	<b>Battle of Secessionville (BA)</b> <b>Mount Pleasant, SC</b>
Dec 6-8	Buck Head Church, Millen, GA

## Using Research to Improve Your Impression ~ A Process Not an Event ... A Guest Column by Curt Heinrich-Schmidt

**A**chieving "authenticity" as expressed in the life and times of the common Civil War soldier is an evolution not an event. One develops the attitude and desire first. With a proper mindset, one can then branch out and start taking the steps on the journey toward the Past. While the usual view of the "hardcore" is that they discuss and belabor the details of minutia and the material culture of the civil war, that is only a part of the whole picture.

In addition to the material culture of clothing, gear, kit, and all physical elements needing high standards and research there is the "common man." Meaning first, how the elements of an upbringing, education, occupation, personality, religion, etc., produce the historical person. Second, how that gets internally and outwardly expressed in beliefs, politics, actions, speech, physical appearance, mannerism, egocentricities, etc. Third. How does the material culture combine with the "man" and get demonstrated in a historically recreated environment. Take away any one of these elements, and it is no longer living history.

Remembering that everyone is on the path of their own personal "journey" and moving at different speeds along the way; one needs to keep questioning and challenging assumptions and what we hold to be true about the Past. To evolve and learn and grow, one should perhaps:

- 1 Ask questions.
- 2 Affirm, deny, or back that up by seeking answers from primary, secondary, tertiary resources.
- 3 Seek answers from period images, surviving artifacts, and relics in public and private collections.
- 4 Seek reference books, on-line electronic resources, and human resources. A good, basic, and affordable federal "primer" is the Columbia Rifles' Research Compendium. It contains loads of useful information for Confederates too.
- 5 Find like-minded individuals to serve as resources, guides, or mentors (units, messes, or just persons).
- 6 Focus on one great impression and hammer on it. Don't try to "do" too many impressions at one time, as they can get diluted and muddled in the beginning.
- 7 Divide up the tasks. Research clothing and gear as separate endeavors that then can be combined, enhanced, improved upon. Research the "Civil War Era" to see what is going on around the man and "in the man's head." . Research and attend events that support the growth process, and historical environment
- 8 To improve your first person impression, continually ask "Who am I?" "What do I have?" and "What am I doing here and how did I get here?"
- 9 Plug what you learn back into Step 1, and constantly work at refining, improving, and updating the three elements. (clothing and gear, the physical and mental "man," and historical based activities)

### Some Research Basics

Having once been a professional researcher, I would borrow some definitions of research terminology regarding sources of information.

**Primary:** Sources that contain raw, original, non-interpreted and unevaluated information. These are best when the information comes from an "eye witness" or "participant." While the written word is considered better than oral tradition or oral history, there is also the value of period images as well as artifacts. (Historians love these.) Primary sources tend to come first in the publication cycle. Often in newspapers, weekly and monthly-produced magazines; letters, diaries, correspondence, diplomatic records. Primary sources are also surviving artifacts, as long as you keep in mind that they require their own additional research in the form of analysis and evaluation to put them into a correct period context of material culture, technology, application, and circumstance. An antique or relic, taken out of its period context, standing alone, is called a "statistical artifact," and may or may not be valid or supportive of the research idea, theory, or hypothesis.

**Primary sources are:** biography (only if it's on an autobiographical record), cases, correspondence, description and travel, diaries, contemporary fiction, interview, personal narrative, pictorial works, poetry, short stories,

**Secondary:** Sources that digest, analyze, evaluate and interpret the information contained within primary sources. They tend to be argumentative. Secondary sources tend to come second in the publication cycle. Often scholarly periodicals and books. (Professors like these.) Articles in scholarly journals analyzing the war, possibly footnoting primary documents; books analyzing the war. **Secondary sources are:** biography (only if it's describing a biography--not an autobiography), criticism and interpretation, history, history and criticism, government policy, law and legislation, moral and ethical aspects, political aspects, politics and government, psychological aspects, public opinion, religion, religious aspects, social policy, study and teaching

**Tertiary:** Sources that compile, analyze, and digest secondary sources. They tend to be factual, however how reliable and valid they are can vary based upon the methodology of the research or the analysis, and interpretations drawn. Tertiary sources tend to come last in the publication cycle. Often "reference" books. **Tertiary sources are:** abstracts, bibliography, bio-bibliography, chronology, classification, dictionaries, dictionaries and encyclopedias, directories, encyclopedias, guidebooks, handbooks, manuals, etc., identification, indexes, registers, statistics, tables, index

The combination of well-done primary, secondary, and tertiary sources comes together to form the "hinge pin" of where our collective Civil War knowledge rests at any given moment. New questions lead to new research and often open new knowledge and push the model forward. However, the model has to work from the starting point of primary sources and

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Battle Summaries (Battle Accounts)

Report of Brig. Gen. J. B. Kershaw, C. S. Army,  
commanding brigade, McLaws' division

JUNE 3-AUGUST 1, 1863.--

The Gettysburg Campaign. O.R.

SERIES I--VOLUME XXVII/2

HEADQUARTERS KERSHAW'S BRIGADE,  
*Near Chattanooga, October 1, 1863.*

Maj. J. M. GOGGIN,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report the operations of my command from the commencement of the march from Culpeper Court-House until the return of the army to that place.

*Tuesday, June 16.*--The brigade marched to Sperryville.

*17th.*--To Mud Run, in Fauquier County. These two days were excessively hot, and on the 17th many cases of sunstroke occurred. At Gaines' Cross-Roads, the wagons were sent by the way of Front Royal. Rice's battalion was detached as a guard to the division train.

*18th.*--Marched to Piedmont.

*19th.*--To Ashby's Gap, where Rice's battalion rejoined the command.

*20th.*--Crossed the Shenandoah River at Berry's Ford.

*21st.*--Recrossed, and took position in line of battle near Paris, to resist a threatened attack of the enemy.

*22d.*--Returned to camp on western side of the river.

*23d.*--Obtained 503 new arms from Winchester.

*24th.*--Marched to Summit Point.

*25th.*--To Martinsburg.

*26th.*--Crossed Potomac River; encamped near Williamsport.

*27th.*--Marched by the way of Hagerstown, Middleburg, and Green-castle, and encamped 5 miles from Chambersburg.

*28th.*--Marched through Chambersburg, and encamped 1 mile beyond. Remained in camp until the 30th, when we marched to Fayetteville.

*July 1.*--Anderson's and Johnson's divisions and General Ewell's wagon train occupied the road until 4 p.m., when we marched to a point on the Gettysburg road, some 2 miles from that place, going into camp at 12 p.m.

The command was ordered to move at 4 o'clock on the morning of the 2d, but did not leave camp until about sunrise. We reached the hill overlooking Gettysburg, with only a slight detour from trains in the way, and moved to the right of the Third Corps, and were halted until about noon. We were then directed to move under cover of the hills toward the right, with a view to flanking the enemy in that direction, if cover could be found to conceal the movement. Arriving at the hill beyond the hotel, at the stone bridge on the Fairfield road, the column was halted while Generals Longstreet and McLaws reconnoitered the route. After some little delay, the major-

general commanding returned, and directed a countermarch, and the command was marched to the left, beyond the point at which we had before halted, and thence, under cover of the woods, to the right of our line of battle. Arriving at the school-house, on the road leading across the Emmitsburg road by the peach orchard, then in possession of the enemy, the lieutenant-general commanding directed me to advance my brigade and attack the enemy at that point, turn his flank, and extend along the cross-road, with my left resting toward the Emmitsburg road. At the same time a battery of artillery was moved along the road parallel with my line of march. About 3 p.m. the head of my column came into the open field in front of a stone wall, and in view of the enemy. I immediately filed to the right along and in front of the wall, and formed line of battle under cover of my skirmishers, then engaged with those of the enemy, these extending along the Emmitsburg road.

In the meantime, examining the position of the enemy, I found him to be in superior force in the orchard, supported by artillery, with a main line of battle entrenched in the rear and extending to and upon the rocky mountain to his left far beyond the point at which his flank had supposed to rest. To carry out my instructions, would have been, if successful in driving him from the orchard, to present my own right and rear to a large portion of his line of battle. I therefore communicated the position of things to the major-general commanding, and placed my line in position under cover of the stone wall. Along this wall the division was then formed, Semmes in reserve to me and Barksdale on my left, supported by Wofford, in reserve. Artillery was also placed along the wall to my right, and Colonel De Saussure's Fifteenth South Carolina Regiment was thrown beyond it to protect it. Hood's division was then moving in our rear toward our right, to gain the enemy's left flank, and I was directed to commence the attack so soon as General Hood became engaged, swinging around toward the peach orchard, and at the same time establishing connection with Hood, on my right, and co-operating with him. It was understood he was to sweep down the enemy's line in a direction perpendicular to our then line of battle. I was told that Barksdale would move with me and conform to my movement.

These directions I received in various messages from the lieutenant-general and the major-general commanding, and in part by personal communication with them. In my center front was a stone house, and to the left of it a stone barn, both about 500

yards from our line, and on a line with the crest of the orchard hill. Along the front of the orchard, and on the face looking toward the stone house, the enemy's infantry was posted. Two batteries of artillery were in position, the one in rear of the orchard, near the crest of the hill, and the other some 200 yards farther back, in the direction of the rocky mountain. Behind the stone house, on the left, was a morass; on the right a stone wall running parallel with our line of battle. Beyond the morass some 200 yards was a stony hill, covered with heavy timber and thick undergrowth, extending some distance toward the enemy's main line, and inclining to our left, and in rear of the orchard and the batteries described. Beyond the stone wall, and in a line with the stony hill, was a heavy forest, extending far to our right. From the morass a small stream ran through this wood along the base of the mountain toward the right. Between the stony hill and this forest was an interval of about 100 yards, which was only sparsely covered with scrubby undergrowth, through which a small road ran in the direction of the mountain. Looking down this road from the stone house, a large wheat-field was seen. In rear of the wheat-field, and between that and the mountain, was the enemy's main line of battle, posted behind a stone wall.

Under my instructions, I determined to move upon the stony hill, so as to strike it with my center, and thus attack the orchard on its left rear. Accordingly, about 4 o'clock, when I received orders to advance, I moved at once in this direction, gradually changing front to the left. The numerous fences in the way, the stone building and barn, and the morass, and a raking fire of grape and canister, rendered it difficult to retain the line in good order; but, notwithstanding these obstacles, I brought my center to the point intended. In order to restore the line of the directing battalion (the Seventh South Carolina), as soon as we reached the cover of the hill, I moved it a few paces by the right flank. Unfortunately, this order given only to Colonel Aiken, was extended along the left of the line, and checked its advance.

Before reaching this point, I had extended an order to Colonel Kennedy, commanding Second South Carolina Regiment (my left center regiment), then moving in magnificent style, to charge the battery in their front, being the second battery mentioned above, and which most annoyed us, leaving Barksdale to deal with that at the orchard.

Meanwhile, to aid this attack, I changed the direction of the Seventh Regiment (Colonel Aiken) and the Third (Major Maffett) to the

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

left, so as to occupy the rocky hill and wood, and opened fire on the battery. Barksdale had not yet appeared, but came up soon after, and cleared the orchard, with the assistance of the fire of my Eighth South Carolina (Colonel Henagan), on my left, and James' battalion (Lieutenant-Colonel Rice), the next in order of battle. This brigade then moved so far to the left as no longer to afford me any assistance.

In a few minutes after my line halted, the enemy advanced across the wheat-field in two lines of battle, with a very small interval between the lines, in such a manner as to take the Seventh South Carolina in flank. I changed the direction of the right wing of the regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Bland, to meet the attack, and hurried back to General Semmes, then some 150 yards in my right rear, to bring him up to meet the attack on my right, and also to bring forward my right regiment (Fifteenth South Carolina, Colonel De Saussure), which, separated from the command by the artillery at the time of the advance, was now cut off by Semmes' brigade. Its gallant and accomplished commander had just fallen when I reached it, and it was under the command of Major Gist. General Semmes promptly responded to my call, and put his brigade in motion toward the right, preparatory to moving to the front. I hastened back to the Seventh Regiment, and reached it just as the enemy, having arrived at a point about 200 yards from us, poured in a volley and advanced to the charge. The Seventh received him handsomely, and long kept him in check in their front. One regiment of Semmes' brigade came at a double-quick as far as the ravine in our rear, and for a time checked him in their front. There was still an interval of 100 yards between this regiment and the right of the Seventh, and into this the enemy was forcing his way, causing the Seventh to swing back more and more, still fighting at a distance not exceeding 30 paces, until the two wings were doubled on each other, or nearly so.

Finding that the battery on my left had been silenced, I sent for the Second South Carolina Regiment to come to the right, but by this time the enemy had swung around and lapped my whole line at close quarters, and the fighting was general and desperate. At length, the Seventh South Carolina gave way, and I directed Colonel Aiken to reform them at the stone wall, some 200 yards in my right rear. I fell back to the Third Regiment, then hotly engaged on the crest of the stony hill, and gradually swung around its right as the enemy made progress around our flank. Semmes' advanced regiment had given way. One of his regiments mingled with the Third, and, among the rocks and trees, within a few feet of each other, a desperate conflict ensued. The enemy could make no progress

in front, but slowly extended around my right. Separated from view of my left wing by the hill and wood, all of my staff being with that wing, the position of the Fifteenth Regiment being unknown, and the Seventh being in the rear, I feared the brave men about me would be surrounded by the large force pressing around them, and ordered the Third Regiment and the Georgia Regiment with them to fall back to the stone house, whither I followed them.

On emerging from the wood, I saw Wofford coming in in splendid style. My left wing had held the enemy in check along their front, and lost no ground. The enemy gave way at Wofford's advance, and, with him, the whole of my left wing advanced to the charge, sweeping the enemy before them, without a moment's stand, across the stone wall, beyond the wheat-field, up to the foot of the mountain. At the same time, my Fifteenth Regiment, and part of Semmes' brigade, pressed forward on the right to the same point. Going back to the stone wall near my rear, I found Colonel Aiken in position, and at the stone building found the Third South Carolina and the regiment of Semmes' brigade. I moved them up to the stone wall, and, finding that Wofford's men were coming out, I retained them at that point to check any attempt of the enemy to advance.

It was now near nightfall, and the operations of the day were over. Gathering all my regiments, with Semmes' brigade, behind the wall, and placing pickets well to the front, I commenced the melancholy task of looking up my numerous dead and wounded. It was a sad list. First among the dead was the brave and able officer, Col. W. D. De Saussure, the senior colonel of the brigade, whom I had been pleased to regard as my successor in command should any casualty create a vacancy. His loss to his regiment is irreparable; to his State and the country not to be estimated. Major McLeod, of the Eighth South Carolina Regiment, a gallant and estimable officer, was mortally wounded. Col. John D. Kennedy, of the Second South Carolina Regiment, was severely wounded while gallantly leading his command to the charge. Lieutenant-Colonel Gaillard conducted the regiment through its subsequent operations. Lieutenant-Colonel Bland, of the Seventh South Carolina Regiment, while commanding the right wing of the regiment with his usual courage and ability, was severely wounded, as was also Maj. D. B. Miller, James' battalion [Third Battalion South Carolina Infantry]. A long list of brave and efficient officers sealed their devotion to the glorious cause with their blood, each of whom merits special mention did the proper limits of

this report admit it.

All the officers and men of the command behaved most admirably, and are entitled to the gratitude of the country. I am especially indebted to the members of my staff--Captain Holmes, assistant adjutant-general; Lieutenant Doby, aide-de-camp, and Lieutenant Dwight, acting assistant inspector-general--for most efficient services on the field under the most difficult circumstances.

About dark, I was ordered to move my brigade to the left, to the peach orchard, where I remained until noon of the next day, when I was ordered to return to the stone wall. An hour later, I was directed to return to the wall where I had first formed line of battle. Hood's division, then commanded by General Law, was engaged with the enemy's cavalry in his front, his line being formed across our right flank. Lieutenant-General Longstreet directed me to move to the right, so as to connect with Hood's left, retaining my then front. This I did, and remained in that position until the night of the 4th, when, about midnight, I moved with the army, via Franklin, to Monterey.

On the 6th, marched through Hagerstown, via Waterloo, and encamped near Funkstown.

On the 10th. I was directed to proceed, with my own and Semmes' brigades, and a section of Fraser's battery to the bridge across the Antietam, near Macauley's, and defend that position, the enemy having appeared in force on the other side. Some unimportant skirmishing occurred here, and next morning I rejoined the division, near the Saint James' College.

We remained in line of battle, with the enemy in front, until the night of the 13th, when we marched to Falling Waters, and recrossed the Potomac on the 14th. March was continued next day to Bunker Hill, where we rested until the 18th, when we resumed the march for Culpeper Court-House, via Millwood, Front Royal, Chester Gap, and Gaines' Cross-Roads, arriving at 10 a.m. on the 24th.

I cannot close this report without expressing my thanks to Maj. W. D. Peck, assistant quartermaster, and Maj. Joseph Kennedy, acting commissary of subsistence, of the brigade staff, and all the regimental officers of their departments, for their assiduous and efficient exertions during this important campaign.

The reports of regimental commanders accompany this. The casualties have already been reported.

I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. B. KERSHAW,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

## Improving Your Impression ~ The Man

Wm. M. Blackford, Esq. Lynchburg, Va.  
HdQrs. Military Court, 1st. Corps, Army  
North . Va (With Pickett's Division) Sunday  
June 28, 1863. 3 miles north of  
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania; U. S.  
Sunday June 28, 1863.  
My Dear Father,

I wrote you a long letter last Tuesday night from our HdQrs. near Berryville... Wednesday morning last, 24th. Inst, we broke camp near Berryville and marched 20 odd miles. The start was made was at 3 o'clock A.M.; uncommonly early. .... Early Thursday morning Charles and myself started before the troops and went to Martinsburg where we breakfasted, with Gen. Pendleton and other officers, at Mr. Conrad's. We received a most hearty welcome from Mr. & Mrs. G. and the young ladies, all of whom seem in high spirits at seeing us back again and at the prospect of an invasion of the enemy's country; which will we hope guaranty them immunity for a longer time than usual from their hated presence. Miss Jane, Mr. Conrad's eldest daughter unmarried, has been very unwell lately and though much better now appears still far from well. Mr. & Mrs. C. & Miss Nannie appear in the best spirits and full of enthusiasm for the cause. They are all pretty warm against Maryland, who, they say, has been trimming in such a way as to escape the hardships of war from either party, at the expense of her honour. They think the State very questionably on our side; I think her undeniably in sympathy with us, but completely cowed by the Yankees....

In Martinsburg I saw nearly all of my old friends who received me with much cordiality and their usual hospitality. They are certainly unsurpassed in their self-sacrificing devotion to our cause, and the family to whom I refer deserve to be kindly remembered by every friend of the South, and advocates of its uncompromising support. I spent the day until 4 o'clock in Martinsburg, and then rode on to our Hd.Qrs., fixed for the night in Md. 1 or 2 miles from Williamsport, and about 14 from Martinsburg. For nine miles after leaving the latter place I rode by an almost continuous train of troops and wagons -- chiefly of Longstreet's Corps. --

Wednesday and most Thursday was cloudy, but dry: excellent weather for marching. Thursday afternoon however it began to rain and during almost the whole of Friday it thus continued. Early Friday morning we started from our Hd.Qrs. on toward Hagerstown. Five miles after leaving our camp we reached Hagerstown, where we found A.P. Hill's Corps encamped and just starting out as we got to the edge of town.

This delayed the passage through of Longstreet's advance division for five or six hours. It seems that this contretemps was unexpected by Gen. Lee and very distasteful to him: such at least in the report. In Hagerstown I met with a very pleasant bevy of Southern sympathizers, including 4 or 5 of the prettiest girls in the place. At one house I was hospitably entertained both at breakfast & dinner and had various other kindnesses extended to me. These good people I shall always remember with especial gratitude. I would fain mention their names, and those of other nice people I met, thinking you might know of some of them, but the remote chance of this letter's falling into the hands of the enemy prevents me from doing so. I cannot run even the smallest risk of criminating them with the Yankees, whose well-known valour in oppressing and tormenting women and other obnoxious non-combatants, I can never be unmindful of. For the beginning of my acquaintance in Hagerstown I am indebted to Major Green of Gen. Kemper's staff (Miss Mary Green's uncle) Subsequently I multiplied my acquaintance. I met one very pretty girl who had recently been staying with the Ross' in Frederick city. They, it seems, remembered me kindly and recommended me to her favour, if I should happen to fall in with her during the campaign. When I was introduced she asked me if my name was not Launcelot & then told me of this. I also met with a very pleasant family, accidentally, when Eugene had taken tea last Sunday evening, and apparently commended himself to their liking. I did not leave the town until about 4 P.M., spending most of the time standing about corners and porches, chatting with ladies while the troops were passing. Though it rained almost continually the ladies stood thus for hours, bestowing welcome & encouragement on our veterans, as, drenched with rain though they were, they marched with firm elastic step and true soldierly bearing along the streets, all the time in good spirits, and whenever they passed the ladies, shouting lustily at their presence and encouragement. I pointed out to two very pretty girls with whom I was standing, with much pride, the 11th. Va. Inf. -Co.G. in particular - as the former commands of the hero who fell at Boonesbora, my noble townsman Gen. Garland. I see Pickett's Division on the march constantly, and really of the many fine regiments it contains, none strikes my eye for general bearing and physique as does that commanded by Maj. Obery. The excitement became greatest, and the smiles, nods, waving of handkerchiefs, etc. most striking when, toward noon Gen's Lee & Longstreet, followed by their

respective staffs and Corps of Couriers, rode gracefully by -- in twos. The two Chiefs both courteously rode uncovered a few seconds, in acknowledgement of the welcome, but did not stop. The beautiful majesty of Lee's whole person, and the lion-like serenity of Longstreet, seemed to produce a profound impression. It was hard to determine which enjoyed this view of the commander-in-chief-most, the Hagerstown ladies who saw for the first time the renowned general, or the officers and others of his command who stood near and witnessed with undisguised pride and satisfaction the sensation his passage produced. After dinner I rode on with Major Walton, of Gen. Longstreet's Staff, to our Hd.Qrs., fixed that night 8 or 10 miles beyond Hagerstown, Md., and about one short on Greencastle, Pa. From Hagerstown to the Penn'a. line a very fine turnpike extends all the way. At the line it abruptly terminates & the way continues in an inferior road, not less broad however than the turnpike. A wretched little village called Middleton, is situated immediately across Mason's & Dixon's line, giving but a poor idea of boasted Yankee civilization.

Nothing of interest struck my notice during the march from Hagerstown to camp near Greencastle. Md. & Pa. looked pretty much alike that far. Saturday morning - (yesterday) we resumed our march and advanced via Greencastle and Chambersburg, about 15 miles to this point, where we laid over to day. In the village of Greencastle the people swarmed about doors and windows and sullenly gazed on our troops passing by. Several women wore the U. S. flag on their bosoms, where it was seen by our men. Such natural and innocent indications of loyalty to their government, our soldiers would of course scorn to object to. It would be a matter of indifference to me if every woman in Pa. had one on her person, and every house one floating from its roof. Another indication of the reasonableness of our men is seen in the fact that last Sunday in Hagerstown the Rector of the Episcopal Church (a Yankee) with commendable independence said the usual prayer for the President of the U. S., though the house was full of C. S. soldiers. The only notice taken of it; one who was present tells me, was one officer leaving the Church. I learn that the same course was followed in Hagerstown last fall. Last Sunday Gen. Ewell & other officers of rank attended the Roman Catholic Church by invitation of the priest. I think I should have done likewise, without an invitation, had I been there, though like Gen. Ewell, an Episcopalian. I do not

*(Continued on page 9)*

(Continued from page 8) *Improving Your . . .* think I could stand the ministrations of St. Paul himself, if a Black Repub'n.

Yesterday was a fine day for marching. No rain, but cloudy and cool for the season. We made Chambersburg by noon, it was only 12 miles distant. The country passed through is interesting enough. It is fertile and highly cultivated, and more like our Valley than anything else. It is 2 or 3 times as thickly settled however; the fields are much smaller, the houses more frequent & handsomer; (generally of stone or brick) and the barns bigger and more complete than any I have ever seen. Many are of stone and brick, and have glass window sashes. An indifferent building of this sort is hard to find, and the average of the most inferior is better than that of the best in Eastern Virginia. One I saw, on the premises of a Mr., or Judge McClure, this side of Chambersburg, which was not only of very large size, but really elegant: painted snow-white, with ornamented

eaves, pendants. The house and whole property of this individual however are beautiful and complete beyond description. I spent some hours in Chambersburg, which is a pretty town of 5600 inhabitants. The stores were all closed when we entered the place, but many of them were opened by threats of violent entrance by armed force if it was not done quickly. When opened, guards in most instances--not all--were posted at the door and but a limited number allowed to enter at a time. When we did get in we bought what few things we could find that we wanted with C. S. money. Their prices varied in an advance of from 10 to 50 per cent on old figures, but at this no one complained. At some of the stores the soldiers got in, and not being restrained by a guard, took a good many things without pay. There was, in short a good deal of lawlessness, but not as much as might have been expected under the circumstances. I did not know of more than 6 or 8 stores in all being opened. I

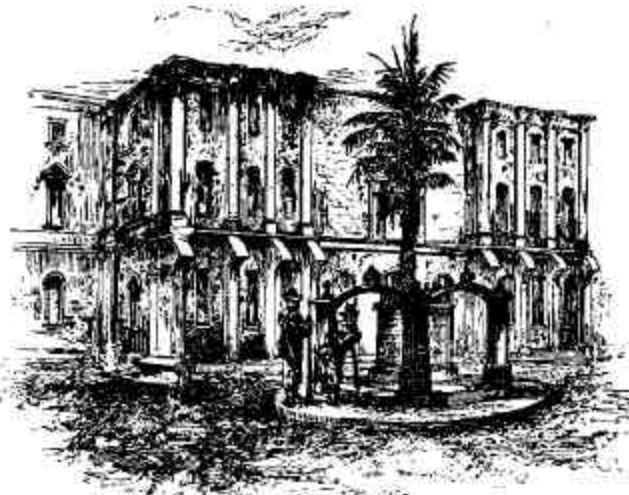
secured some needed things, for our messmenage, and for myself a handsome black felt hat, and material for military shirts. To send home I could only get a few dozen spools sewing cotton, superior quality, No's. 16,40,& 24. and some buttons. These are for home and Sister Sue. The stock of dry goods I got at was very meagre. Shoes, gloves, pins, etc. unattainable. I shall keep the interests of the "home department" constantly before me, however. Our whole party re-hatted themselves. We have held court today, though Sunday, and I have been very busy: therefore am very tired now. The army is in splendid condition: marches almost wholly without straggling, and is in the highest spirits. Lee is making a bold stroke for peace. Pray that it may succeed.

Your affectionate son  
L. M. Blackford.

(Continued from page 5) *Guest Column*

resources. All too often, we want to start at tertiary sources, or worse yet, hearsay, hobby lore, and myth. For a variety of reasons, some valid some not, we tend to be consumers of research of various quality rather than producers of research of various quality. Meaning, we all too often want to simply use tertiary sources as evidence simply because the author got his correct or incorrect analysis and opinions in print (publishers print to sell books and return initial investments, not to establish truth or veracity). Worse, is the ability of bogus and incorrect information to be posted on web sites and have it pass as researched fact. On discussion forum, such as the Authentic Campaigner, that which is outside of the "hinge point" can be challenged, supported, defended, proved or disproved where a static website is immune to question.

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The Palmetto Monument at a Burned Capitol in Columbia

### Prayers

Folks, please remember to keep Karl Mason in your prayers. The injury he received during the storm at Aiken left him permanently blinded in one eye and deaf in one ear.

**Battalion Dues are payable no later than July 1, 2003 for the 2003/2004 year.**

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