



# The Palmetto Vindicator

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PALMETTO BATTALION, INC.  
WWW.PALMETTOBATTALION.ORG

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## Field Orders ~ Tom Grazioli, Colonel

**E**lections are upon us shortly. By this time if you haven't paid your dues then you will have to beg the indulgence of the adjutant otherwise you won't get to vote. A roster was posted on the Battalion website so there shouldn't have been any surprises. Remember to check with your unit rep before raising your cane with my staff.

I accepted the position of colonel because of the opportunity it offered me to contribute to the Battalion. I don't know how ready I was for the spot, but the need was there and I'm happy I was able to step in. It's been a learning year for me and I still have farther to go on that curve. The fact is that I may never reach that leveling off place because there's so much more to know, see, and do. If I make it as far as my predecessors, I'll be pleased. By the way, has anyone seen my Hardee's?

When I accepted the position, I made a commitment for three years. With or without challenge I'll pursue the position of colonel again. There are still things I want to do with the Battalion and for the Battalion. My feet are wet now and I have a better notion about how things should go. And we are going to move forward. I've always said that reenacting had a cycle to it. We've been in a down cycle for a while now and I think we're in for an upturn.

This year we're going to try some new stuff along with the old standbys that we've become accustomed to. I've spoken to event coordinators and know of plans to "shake things up a little". Changes to scenarios and different types of events altogether will add some pepper to the same old stew our schedule has become lately. I'm going to solicit from you, the membership, at least three events that we can support from a Battalion standpoint. I want the events to incorporate the national events that are coming up. I also want to see out of state events that will strengthen our relationships with our eastern and western counterparts. But most of all, I want the events to be ones that you want to do.

Also, it sounds like there's more interest in the campaign style impressions. We've got a few events that

lend themselves to that. Rivers Bridge affords you the chance to sleep in the works. The Columns has an area in the bottoms near the battlefield that is far enough away from the sutlers and other doings to give you just what you're looking for. And if you check with the other event hosts, there are probably places suited to that impression as well.

An idea that I've been kicking around goes like this. I want one of the events this year to be an immersion event. We'll carry our gear in and drop a camp where we're supposed to be. We'll have a ration draw, a resupply of ammunition on the field, and anything else that was practically available on a campaign. One of the fellas suggested a pay call. I like it. At the forthcoming meetings and events we'll talk about it. Get your ideas together and send them on.

With that let me say that we're not going to abandon the people that want or need to set up large camps. If you find yourself in the civilian camp for an event because you need more than a shelter half for the weekend, rest assured there that we're not making a move to an extreme. It's an effort to take our experience up another level. And to provide a new, or another, experience for those who are interested.

Last year this ship that is the Palmetto Battalion traveled somewhat as the winds would take us. I've figured out some of the riggings and we'll go with the prevailing winds, but if I'm still the colonel this year it'll be with a better direction.

Still At Your Service,

**Tom**

Colonel Tom Grazioli



## The Apple Crate

**F**ellers,  
The theme for this issue is "Using Research to Improve Our Impression and Knowledge". It would be great to have one place, one book, one museum...one resource that was sort of like a Wal-Mart. Kind of like a "everything you wanted to know about the hobby, but were afraid to ask" kind of thing. Sorry, it ain't there. One of the best ways is probably to tap the wealth of knowledge that we have within the Battalion by simply asking questions. Another is without a doubt, the wonderful source held within the Relic Room in Columbia. Looking at examples of uniforms, cloth, caps, hats, shirts, shoes, belts, buckles...everything.

After thinking about this topic (and fellers for me, this one was much different than discussing a certain '60's campaign, a particular battle, or series of battles), if I could only choose one place, one book (and that includes some of the wonderful coffee table books loaded with photographs etc.), only one resource to dig into, I think it would be to read and re-read "The Life Of Johnny Reb"...The Common Soldier of the Confederacy...by Bell Irvin Wiley. It was written, not to pay tribute to the "Lost Cause" or to discuss at length the exploits of our great military leaders and their genius, whether working as independent entities or in consort with a complimentary genius within one or more of our great armies, but to pay tribute to the foot weary soldier that fought for what he believed in and for what he thought was right.

I enjoy reading of how they swapped things, especially depot issued clothing, back and forth until they got their best fit. Of how they would share the goods that were sent from home with their pard; the cakes, cookies, the preserves, the things that reminded them of home, of peaceful times, of family.

We live too fast now. Most of us remember or don't know or what it was and is like for this time of year to come around. The time when the rural folks especially, would begin to "put away" the bounty from the summer. I'm sure that those boys savored every morsel that

came in those packages, (when they did come).

We read about how so many of them joined up and went off to war "for the adventure". I think too many times, that a lot of us fail to remember, or forget that just like the fictional people we all read about when we were kids, Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn, that kind of boy, young man, young adult was alive and well in SC during that period.

When I get into that zone, that way of thinking, it's so much easier for me to envision myself, for me to put myself right smack-dab into the thick of things during that period of history. I spent my boyhood chasing gators at night, catfishin', running rabbits, sleeping with a blanket by the creek, the branch or the North Fork of the Edisto with a fire, with some of my boyhood mates. We'd swap and share whatever tobacco we could swipe from our houses, stretch out and just talk about how that was really the life. That part of our lives is when we learned to cook over fire...coals...we burnt our first food!

Many of you fellers grew up here in South Carolina. Some of you grew up in the country, where we knew some of the older men in our communities, and those older gentlemen of our boyhood times, who still carried those same simple values. Who could idle away the leisure time that they had under some shade, enjoying a smoke, knowing that after a hard days work, nothing cut the dust like a good cool drink of well water.

After writing this, I really don't know what it has to do with improving our impressions, other than to say, so much of our impressions might be determined by our state of mind, or rather putting ourselves in a simpler state of mind.

If any of you haven't read that particular book by chance, dig into it some. See if it can't help you see and feel a simpler state of mind. One that seems to help attain a '60's state of being.

See you all soon.

Respectfully,

**Sgt. Maj. Wm. R. (Rick) Davis**

## Relic Room Lecture Series

*The Confederate Relic Room and Museum has been awarded a grant by the South Carolina Humanities Council to help sponsor a lecture series. All lectures will be at the Confederate Relic Room, 301 Gervais Street, in the Columbia Mills Building, which also houses the State Museum. The lecture schedule is as follows:*

**Saturday, November 8, 2 p.m.:** Bill Koon, Professor of English at Clemson University will speak on the Apocalyptic View in Southern Fiction. The South seems to have a keen sense of an approaching apocalypse. Is this the result of its religiosity or of the devastation of the Civil War?

# Improving Your Impression ~ Resources

Daniel Fodera,  
Editor

## Definitions

**Replica:** *A copy. A replica is virtually identical to the original in every detail. Signs of wear or age may or may not be copied and the item still be considered a replica.*

**Reproduction:** *An item using period materials and construction techniques. The variation in a reproduction and an original is the same as "the next one off the production line." For example, a garment might have details attributed to a certain depot, but still retain the variation seen in different seamstresses. A reproduction may be modeled off an existing artifact or it may be conjectural based upon research.*

If you've made the decision to look, act, and think more like the boys of '61, then you've made the first step to improving your impression.

The next step is to recognize the compromises that one has made. (How much polyester is in the fabric of my trousers? Am I wearing period bootees or modern shoes? Are my glasses 19<sup>th</sup> century or just old? Is that a polyurethane finish on my musket? Are the grommets too big on my gum blanket?)

The next step is to decide one by one, which of those compromises are no longer acceptable. (My trousers aren't a correct pattern; I must get new ones. My Dr Scholl's inserts keep me injuring my feet so I can go back to work on Monday; I'm keeping them in my shoes. I can see okay without glasses. That plastic finish has to go.)

The next step is to prioritize and do something about it. If we're talking about method, like drill or cooking, we read up, put it into practice, and change our ways. If we're talking about the material part of our impression: we must either fix or remove what's wrong or get (make or buy) new stuff.

What should our priorities be? Priority number one, in this order: hat or cap, jacket, trousers, shirt. These are the most visible elements of our kits.

Priority number two, (your choice of order) musket, canteen, haversack, accoutrements, shoes and blanket.

Priority number three (your choice of order), socks, drawers, rations, car-

tridges, gum blanket, shelter half.

Why do I include this section, material resources, in the newsletter? Simply to help those in the Battalion who want to look more like the boys of '61. We've discussed at length "improving your impression" through study and research. But let's face it, it takes time and effort. The easy way is to let someone else do the study and research. If you see a resource listed here in the Vindicator, you can be sure that the item listed will be an accurate reproduction of period clothing or equipment.

**Richmond Depot Jackets.** Among his fine reproductions, Ben Tart has a Richmond Depot II jacket in his "Silver Needle Line." It's in jean, with buttons included for \$115. You won't find a better jacket for the money. Ben is running a current special on a Columbus Depot jacket for \$148 + shipping. He is also an excellent source for fabric. Contact Ben at 910-594-1332 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 <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

**Confederate pants.** I've gotten very good service and product from Casey Osgood at Osgood Historical Reproductions. He uses his own research and C. Childs patterns. Contact him at 607-734-0080 or write Casey Osgood 3394 Maple Ave Elmira, NY 14901 <http://osgoodreproductions.tripod.com>

**Leather Accoutrements, rubber blankets and ponchos.** David Jarnagin does

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

C & D Jarnagin  
Box 1860  
Corinth, MS 38835-1860  
307-287-4977  
(Fax 287-6033)  
<http://www.jarnaginco.com/>

## Shoes, Knapsacks, Leather Accoutrements.

Missouri Boot and Shoe, Bob Serio  
951 Burr Crossing Rd  
Neosho, MO 64850  
(417)451-6100  
<http://missouribootandshoe.tripod.com/>

**Fabrics, blankets, and coverlets** check out Family Heirloom Weavers, Pat Kline 125 O'San Lane Red Lion, Pa 17356 (717)246-5797 [www.familyheirloomweavers.com](http://www.familyheirloomweavers.com)

**Clothing Patterns.** If you're lucky enough to have a seamstress or tailor in the house, check out "Homespun Patterns" for a full line of military and civilian clothing patterns, taken from original garments. They are available through Del Warren at James Country Mercantile P.O. Box 364 Liberty, MO 64068 816-781-9473 [www.jamescountry.com](http://www.jamescountry.com)

**Federal shirts and pants:** CJ Daley Historical Reproductions, Inc, Chris Daley PO Box 133 Chewsville, Maryland 21721 301-766-7112 [www.cjdaley.com](http://www.cjdaley.com)

**Charlie Childs:** Patterns for CS Jackets and Trousers; US Jackets, Coats and Trousers; kits and fabric. [www.bright.net/~crchilds/index.htm](http://www.bright.net/~crchilds/index.htm)

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**SC Confederate Relic Room & Museum**

 John Bigham  
 jbigam@cr.state.sc.us

 Curator of Education  
 803-737-8097
 

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**T**he Staff members of the Confederate Relic Room perform research via walk-in's, telephone, mail or email. We receive requests daily from people seeking information concerning how to find their Confederate ancestor, identification of antiques in their possession such as their great grandfather's sword, artifacts in our collection and/or any combination of the above. Usually, a complete answer to any question is not found in any one location. If it's your ancestor, you are going to have to go to the Confederate Relic Room to *hopefully* find a related artifact to his regiment. Then you have to go to Patrick McCawley at Archives & History to pin down his compiled service records, census data, pension application, &c. If you're looking for info on an object, you just might find that one reference book does not have the total answer thus making you look even deeper into the subject. I know a few people who ended up writing books on the very subject they thought would only take a minute to research.

The museum has an archives consisting of a number of

letters, news clippings and a few diaries. Our library contains many of the necessary reference works including Confederate Veteran, Confederate Military History, the UDC Recollections & Reminiscences, 1861-1865 series, The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, and company, regimental and brigade histories. We have files varying from scant to full on museum artifacts, including SC regiments.

Enhancing information is a specialized group of outside researchers with a wide degree of knowledge on various subjects. These network people are a vital part of our asset to the worldwide community that is intrigued by the Civil War. When we cannot answer a question, we forward it to the specialists in our network. So, if you the reader want anything from your museum, please let us know. We will do our best to find the answer to your question. Thank you for everything that you do for the SC Confederate Relic Room. Yours truly,

**John**

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**SC Dept. of Archives**

 Patrick McCawley, Reference Archivist  
 Patrick@scdah.sc.state.us
 

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**P**lans continue to move forward for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on South Carolina Civil War History. I hope many of you will be able to attend. There is so much misinformation that circulates on historical topics that I think events like this are important. I hope the Civil War community in South Carolina will support this event and help make it a notable annual occurrence. I think our selection of speakers gives us a wide variety of topics and demonstrates the avid interest this period has to many Americans. The Speaker Reception at the Confederate Relic Room on Friday, September 26, will be an opportunity to engage many of the speakers among the wonderful displays of the Museum. The intimacy of the reception often makes conversations more lively and interesting than in the formalized setting on Saturday.

Those of you interested in the weaponry of the period will want to hear Dr. Jack Meyer during the morning session. His knowledge of gun making, especially in South Carolina is unsurpassed. He has promised that he will have a few "show and tell" items for his talk. His article in this issue will give you a sample of what you will hear on September 27<sup>th</sup>. I am especially pleased that we have Dr. Andrew Billingsley, formerly the president of Morgan State University. He is currently a Scholar in Residence at the University of South Carolina, while he works on his next book, **The Family Legacy of Robert Smalls**. In the afternoon, Jim Ogden, a historian with the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, will present his research on the decimation of Gist's Brigade during the Battle of Chickamauga. The evening banquet with Harry Pecorelli of the Hunley Project will be especially exciting. Harry was not only the diver that first uncovered the Hunley in 1995, but has been part of the recovery and excavation of the submarine ever since. His slide show is sure to provide everyone with an up-close look at this historical naval vessel. For more information and a registration form, please call me at

803-896-6203 or check out our website at [www.state.sc.us/scdah/sccivilwar03.htm](http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/sccivilwar03.htm)

I would also like to take the opportunity to demonstrate the dangers of relying on information on the web. Back in April, the Columbus (OH) Chapter of the Organization of Chinese-Americans in conjunction with the Ohio Historical Society erected a marker to honor 17 supposed Asian-Americans from Ohio that served in the American Civil War. The names were taken from website of Civil War soldier with Asian sounding surnames, such as Au, Lau, Koo, Meng and Wang. Despite a disclaimer on the website about the names and with no further research, the marker went up with great fanfare. Subsequent research has shown that most of the men listed were not Asian, but were mostly German natives or of German descent. The marker has recently (and quietly) been redone with names removed, proving once again there is no substitute for thorough research.



## Using Research to Improve Your Impression ~ Archives & Collec-

**F**or some of us, our desire to learn, grow, and evolve, has reached a level of interest and application where Civil War textbooks are no longer adequate, and primary source material has become an integral part of our Civil War studies. One source of primary written documents and records are public archives, usually either governmental or libraries, but they can also include historical centers, historical sites, historical societies, and museums. An “archive” can refer to either a collection of documents and records, or to just the place where those documents are housed or stored. There is a wealth of information contained in the Civil War era documents stored at archives. Roughly over the last ten years a great deal has done to improve accessibility.

Secondary sources such as Civil War textbooks, reference books, articles in journals, should (though not always) provide citations to documents that were used to write them.

Publishers print books that they believe will sell and return their investments, not necessarily because of the accuracy of the author’s work or words! The value of written works can lie largely in the references (and inferences and interpretations made from them) used. And, more academic pieces and more weighty tomes often list a full bibliography of primary source material and where to find it! This may give you an idea of which “archives” you will need to visit. These references are cited with full archival references, which will save you time when you get to the archive and start searching.

One cannot just show up at an archive and expect to immediately start work by reviewing original documents! There are a number of things to do first:

1. Never assume anything - always check first by phone, mail, e-mail or the website. The website will often list hours, rules, holiday closings, and sometimes have guides to the collection.
2. Find out where the archive is, if one is not familiar with the area, one can waste a lot of time wandering around or at the wrong building. Most can provide basic maps if you are driving, or details of the nearest bus route. Those with web sites often include links to maps and travel information.
3. Know the hours. Archives rarely adopt an 8:00 till 8:00 P.M., 7 days schedule. Late opening hours are often compensated for by an early or half-day closure. It is important that one check opening times, especially if traveling from distance. Some archives close for a period of time each year for inventory, etc., that may even vary from year to year. In South Carolina, budget problems have state forced the archive to drop Saturday, Sunday, and evening hours because of staff cutbacks.
4. Register. Most archives require one to register with them when first arriving, and obtain a “pass” or readers ticket. Required identification will vary from archive to archive, but will often be two- one with your name and address (utility bill) and another will be a formal or

legal identification (driving license, credit card or passport).

5. Make an appointment. In addition to registration, many archives also require a scheduled “reservation” or booking, in advance. Especially where space can be limited. This is often true if one is working with materials that have to be viewed on microfilm or microfiche- especially if there are genealogists around!
6. Get special permissions when needed. Some collections are restricted. Check to see whether there are any special requirements for collections, especially those that have been deposited by private individuals. One may need permission from the owners of the collection before use, or provide a letter of introduction for the owner. Usually, the archive can provide details of what might be required
7. Learn the rules and regulations of the archive. Documents and artifacts are rare, unique, and irreplaceable, and need to be handled with utmost care. Rules are put in place to protect the documents, and therefore there are restrictions on what you can take into the reading rooms. Here are some of the rules one may find to guard against theft or damage:
  - no coats or jackets
  - no book bags, or knapsacks- only loose sheets of paper
  - no food and drink in the reading rooms (don’t expect plugs or outlets)
  - pencils only, no pens, or markers
  - no colored pencils (unless special permission is granted)
  - no erasers or pencil sharpeners
  - library silence or sometimes soft voices
  - no cell-phones
  - no cameras (some allow cameras with no flash)
  - keep one’s desk or workspace neat
  - make sure the documents rest fully on the work surface - no part of the document should hang over the edge
  - do not touch the text unless absolutely necessary - use a paper bookmarker to keep the place turn pages from the top, and not the bottom, of the document
  - use foam wedges to support the spine of a volume
  - do not place anything else on the document (especially one’s elbows!)
8. Protect the documents. Fingerprints and oils from one’s hands can do real damage to documents. White cotton gloves may be required to handle the artifacts.

Each archive will employ their own cataloguing system to list the documents in their collection. These can be difficult to understand, especially in the larger archives such as the National Archives. Most archives have at least one inquiry desk where one can ask for advice. Trained staff, who are familiar with the collections, are there to help - or will know someone

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5)

who might. Some archives may require that one's session be monitored, meaning some items can only be viewed with someone watching over one's shoulder

*Some final tips:*

Read through the material first before transcribing it - make sure you know what the document is saying.

Transcribe material in full - you never know what will be of use later in your research.

Make a full note of the document reference as you will need to cite any quotations that you use; make a note of the page or even line you quoted from, in case you have to review that document.

Place the document into its contemporary context (see the Sergeant Major's article in this issue on 1860's state of mind) so that you can interpret it correctly. Researchers make mistakes because they

misinterpreted the contents of the document. One should try to research some background to your source material: who created it, who used it, and why. Maintain concepts of reliability and validity (discussed in my article in the July 2003 Vindicator), as well as keeping the document or artifact in context as to unit, time, and place.

These articles have only covered the basics of using research to improve your knowledge. Interpreting, analyzing, questioning, making inferences, making linkages and connections, making applications. It all must come together to make concrete improvements to your impression. The things that make the man, your mindset, new insights into how things were done - the method, and greater understanding of what was used - material. In other words, our challenge is *applying* what we learn.

## From the Adjutant's Pen

Folks,

If you're getting this your dues have been received and noted. If you desire the On-Line version of The Vindicator instead of the paper copy please email with that request. Every person in the Battalion that takes The Vindicator On-Line saves us nearly \$8.00 per year. That \$8.00 can be put to other uses such as preserving relics for the Relic Room or other worthy causes.

It is critical that I have your current mailing address along with your email address (if applicable) in order for you to receive The Vindicator. If either address is incorrect we'll have problems. I'll assure you that no addresses will be provided to anyone without your permission unless it is official Battalion business and that email addresses are NEVER provided to anyone outside the staff.

If you are reading this Vindicator over someone's shoulder or if you have a copy forwarded by someone else, please let me know! Every other month I get several questions or comments like: "Where is my Vindicator?" or "I haven't received a Vindicator in several months." or even "What is the password to get into the On-Line edition?". Great questions all, but if you wait four months to ask them, you'll miss some excellent work done every other month in this fine publication! Email me at [adjutant@palmettobattalion.org](mailto:adjutant@palmettobattalion.org) or call me at 843-851-2616 and leave a message. If I don't know there is a problem, I can't get it fixed and fixing the problem is what I want to do. This past year I've had several member's Vindicator returned and after two returns I remove the recipient from the mail roster after alerting the unit contact of the bad address.

In that regard, if you move or the Post Office changes your address, remember to send a Change of Address card to the return address

listed on the Vindicator, I get at least two Vindicator's back each month with a Return to Sender label on them. Just in case, my address is: Adjutant, 103 Inwood Place, Summerville, SC 29485. If you're having problems electronically make certain that you're entering the username and password EXACTLY like they were sent to you!!

At your Service,

**David Chinnis**

Adjutant

### 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)

<b>Sep 5-7</b>	<b>Tunnel Hill (BA) - Dalton, GA</b>
<b>Sep 20</b>	<b>Battalion Elections 11:00 am, Saturday</b>
	<b>Sesquicentennial SP, Columbia, SC</b>
Sept 26-27	SC Civil War Symposium, SC Relic Room, Columbia, SC
Oct 4-5	Battle of Perryville - Perryville, KY
Oct 11	Ghostwalk - Charleston, SC
Oct 17-19	Blue Springs - Mosheim, TN
<b>Oct 24-26</b>	<b>Brattonsville (BA) - Brattonsville, SC</b>
Oct 24-26	Murfreesboro/Stones River - Spring Hill, TN (NSA)
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

## Weapons Production in South Carolina 1850-65

Jack Allen Meyer

Throughout the nineteenth century there was very little organized production of military weapons in the South, and especially in South Carolina. The area possessed neither the infrastructure nor the skilled work force necessary for such an activity. Two notable exceptions were the Palmetto Armory and the State Military Works. The Palmetto Armory grew out of the Secession Crisis of the 1850s and the State Military Works was a product of the War Between the States. In both cases the end result was far below the expectations of those involved in establishing and running these establishments.

The Secession Crisis developed out of attempts by northern states to limit the expansion of slavery to the territories obtained as a result of the Mexican War. The Wilmot Proviso, an attempt to ban slavery in all of the newly acquired territories, was never enacted but sent alarms sounding throughout the southern states. Southern Rights Associations sprang up everywhere. In South Carolina, where the movement was particularly strong, Governor Whitmarsh Seabrook proposed to the General Assembly in December of 1850 that monies be appropriated to establish weapons factories, purchase cannon and provide increased funding for the militia. Part of this martial preparation was a contract between the State of South Carolina and a consortium of businessmen made up of William Glaze, James Boatwright and Benjamin Flagg to produce muskets, rifles and edged weapons for the state. The contract of 15 April 1851 called for 6,000 muskets with bayonets, 1,000 rifles, 1,000 pair of pistols, 1,000 cavalry sabers and 1,000 rtilery sabers. These weapons were to conform to the standard Federal patterns then in use, were to be manufactured wholly within the state and were to be delivered by December 1852. This was optimistic by any standard. Benjamin Flagg, from Milbury, Massachusetts, had prior experience in weapons production and some machinery for producing muskets and pistols but Glaze and Boatwright had no experience at all. However, the Palmetto Armory was established in Columbia and the partners set out trying to create a workable manufacturing establishment.

Almost immediately the partners had

problems obtaining machinery. In April 1852 a committee from the Board of Ordnance reported that such problems had resulted in Glaze obtaining lock plates, brass barrel bands, etc., outside the state, a clear breach of the contract. All was forgiven, however, and Glaze was given an extension to the contract with delivery by December 1853. This extension also deleted the artillery sabers and increased the number of cavalry sabers to 2,000. By May 1853 the crisis had wound down, funds were short because of the funeral of John C. Calhoun and the contract was terminated. By this time the Palmetto Armory had delivered 6,020 muskets with bayonets, 1,000 rifles, 2,000 cavalry sabers, 526 *artillery sabers*, and 500 pair of pistols. Unknown to the Board of Ordnance almost all of the work had been done outside the state and the parts merely marked and assembled in South Carolina. The first attempt to develop a weapons manufacturing capability in South Carolina had failed. Glaze would obtain a small contract for artillery shells and round shot in 1861 but failed in his efforts to interest the Board of Ordnance in giving him further contracts. Perhaps the Board knew more than they let on in 1853.

The genesis of the State Military Works may also be found in a crisis, one of far greater proportions than the Secession Crisis. When South Carolina seceded from the Union on 20 December 1860 the stage was set for a bloody conflict that found the state woefully unprepared. A few weapons were captured from Federal armories but by and large the militia was poorly armed. For example, on 4 October 1861 Captain R. G. M. Berry was issued ninety obsolete flintlock pistols for his troop of cavalry. Recognizing the problem Governor Francis W. Pickens recommended in November 1861 the establishment of a factory to make war materiel. Early in 1862 David Lopez was appointed Superintendent of the newly established State Military Works. Temporary workshops were established on the State House grounds in Columbia while Lopez looked for a more suitable site. He chose Greenville because a Mr. Vardry McBee gave the state twenty acres of land in Greenville near the Greenville and Columbia Railroad. Construction began at nce and at some time between June and September 1862

[there is some disagreement over the date] the State Military Works was in operation.

While the State Military Works manufactured or repaired a wide variety of war materiel such as gun carriages, ammunition chests, tools, kettles and the like, it is for the production of the Morse breech loading carbine that the establishment is best known. This carbine was a modern design using a brass cartridge very much like a modern centerfire rifle cartridge. There are three types, differing mainly in the way the breechblock latches when closed. The carbine has a brass frame and is elegant to look at. Unfortunately only a few more than 1,000 were made during the course of the war. The State Military Works also produced the Morse inside lock musket, a strong, simple, design but essentially obsolete in 1863. Only 163 of these were produced. The major problem in each case was that these weapons required considerable hand fitting at a time when northern arsenals were mechanized. In the same time it took Morse to produce 1,000 carbines 50,000 Spencer carbines, 50,000 Burnside carbines and 65,000 Sharp carbines were produced.

By December 1863 it was apparent that the State Military Works was not a viable operation and the governor was authorized by the Legislature to dispose of it. No buyer came forward. As late as 1866 the state was still trying to dispose of the property. In the end the State Military Works fell victim to poor location, poor design of the infrastructure and low productivity.



## Palmetto Soldiers Relief Society to Hold Swap Shop

PSRS will be holding another swap shop at elections this Sept 20 (if we don't get "blown away" again!!!). If you wish to sell something may bring it that morning. Have in mind a price that you would like to get for the item then add 10% to it for the PSRS commission. Also, bring money to rack up on some bargains! Please ask be sure to pick up your unsold items or money before you leave for the day.

# The Palmetto Vindicator

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www.palmettobattalion.org

Stamp  
Here

First Class Mail  
Address Correction Requested



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## From the Telegraph Wire ~ A Closing Thought . . .

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**V**isions are wonderful things. I sit and visualize about things all the time. The boss will yell in at me to stop daydreaming and get back to work. And I try to tell him that I'm working on a better way of doing my job by seeing in my mind's eye the way it should be. Then he brings me back into the real world by reminding me that if I don't get my butt back to work, I'll have lot's of time to think of a better way while I'm unemployed.

I visualize about the Battalion too. I think about how I personally can make it better. The difference though is whether you're doing something about it or not. What about you, individually or collectively? Talk is cheap. In the immortal words of another literary giant, "Show me the money!" (Reference the recent trend on the Bulletin Board to quote people.)

It's not fair to put everyone in the same group. I see what some are doing. They work on their impressions to get them as historically accurate as possible. They acquire the right gear in the right condition, and then set up camp as their impression dictates. And



they look good...when we see them. And we do see them, at: Resaca, Averasboro, Perryville, Selma... What really gets my goat though, are the people that will tell you - and me - how the Battalion should be, when we don't see them. It seems like we only hear from them. You might have the best, most authentic impression in the entire south, and your ideas may have some real merit, but if we don't see you on the field then they sound pretty damn hollow.

I like some of what I've reading on the Bulletin Board of the Battalion website. There's good, constructive discussion involved. We could keep that up indefinitely. And I'm even getting some ideas from it. But if you want to make your point even better, I hear best when I'm sitting by the fire, at an event, with a tin cup in one hand and a cigar in the other. Regardless of your rank, come see me. I'll be all ears.

At Your Service - in the camp and on the field,

*Tom Grazioli*