

**The Vindicator**  
**The Newsletter of the Palmetto Battalion**  
**August 2008 edition**  
**Website: [www.palmettobattalion.org](http://www.palmettobattalion.org)**



**Battalion Staff**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Claude Sinclair, Colonel                   | <a href="mailto:clsinclair@comporium.net">clsinclair@comporium.net</a>   |
| Bruce Blackmon, Lt. Colonel                | <a href="mailto:bruceblackmon@bellsouth.net">bruceblackmon@bellsouth.net</a>   |
| Archie Kennedy, Adjutant                   | <a href="mailto:archiedkenedy@yahoo.com">archiedkenedy@yahoo.com</a>   |
| Ernie Black, Sgt. Major                    | <a href="mailto:annie51055@aol.com">annie51055@aol.com</a>   |
| Mike & Julia Barnes,<br>Vindicator Editors | <a href="mailto:juliabarnes@charter.net">juliabarnes@charter.net</a><br><a href="mailto:mhbarnes@barnesfarm.org">mhbarnes@barnesfarm.org</a> |



**UPCOMING EVENTS (not full list of all events possible)**

- Sep 20-21      145th Chickamauga - North GA  
Sep 28          Palmetto Battalion Elections - Sesqui Park - Columbia, SC  
Oct 18-19      Brattonsville - McConnells, SC  
Nov. 8-9        Secessionville - Charleston, SC



**Parade Rest – Col. Claude Sinclair**



I hope this finds you in good spirits and in good health. We all had a good time in Gettysburg, well, at least I did. As with most National events it was hurry-up and wait. Hurry-up and wait is something that we have all learned to love. Chickamauga is now upon us and the A.O.T. is hosting the event. We are members of the A.O.T. and I am proud that we are. If it is anything like Mill Springs, KY then we will be busy and in the thick of things. I am hoping to have three 30+ companies. If everyone attends that has registered then we will meet that goal. At Chickamauga we will have to step it up a notch or two than we are accustomed to. I have already heard the concerns that everyone don't agree with our camping arrangements. For those who traveled to Corinth and Perryville you should have no problem with it. We will actually be reenacting at Chickamauga. Tent flies and some shelter halves will be permitted. This does not mean putting up a dining fly with tables and chairs. Tables and chairs will not be appropriate for

this event nor will two piece camping chairs. You ask where will I sit? You sit on a box, log, or ground. The army had just marched in and the supply wagons had not made it in. And the supply wagons did not carry common tents for the army, only the officers. To be fair, I will not bring my common tent. There will be no modern camping and the civilian camping will be period. There will be mandated guard duty and passes will be given out to those wishing to leave the camp. If you are sleeping in the civilian camp then you will not have a pass, meaning that you may be civilian for the weekend as you will not be allowed in the camps without a pass. It will be much easier to visit the civilian camps than it will to visit the military camps. These are the event rules for the A.O.T. When you arrive do not say that I am a member of A,B, or C Company or a member of the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, or 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will send you to the independent camping area. Say you are with the Palmetto Battalion.

The Palmetto Battalion is a family friendly Battalion. When I joined the Battalion so did my wife. She stayed in my tent and dressed out. No one ever said a word regarding her. I have never said a word directly to anyone. I only started speaking out when families started purchasing wall tents and several companies started allowing them on company streets. Wall tents do not belong on company streets and they are not accepted on streets at most of our out of state events. Some think that I am being unreasonable for requesting that all NCO's should be camping with their men. It is very difficult to present a military impression if you are off sleeping in the civilian camp. My suggestions are only suggestions and should be taken as such. I will still be the smiling friendly positive kind of person that everyone loves regardless of how you camp.

To have a good impression not only involves uniforms but it involves how you camp. Our battalion is not hardcore nor are we heading in that direction. We would lose over half our members if we even tried. But as a mainstream battalion we can do better. Each and everyone of us should strive to be a better reenactor and to help those who are new to the hobby. If no one tells a person what tent to purchase, they may purchase anything. Now if a new person joins and sees others with wall tents, they may just purchase one because others have done so. I really don't mind families camping in wall tents in the civilian area but the military men should be in the military camp.

One more thought. Please encourage your company members to join the Battalion. There's no reason that they should not.

Your Obedient Servant,  
Claude Sinclair  
Colonel  
Palmetto Battalion



# Palmetto Battalion



**From the Adjutant**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Archie D. Kennedy**

It's time for a new season. Gettysburg was a great event, and here comes Chickamauga. I am pleased that so many have registered for Chickamauga. I think the count is up to 132 military and civilian members. I do hope more of you will be able to register and attend.


I would like to commend the unit reps for getting battalion dues to me by July 1<sup>st</sup>. At this time there have been 302 members register for the 2008/2009 season. If it is like last year there will be several who join throughout the year.

Elections are coming up on September 28<sup>th</sup> at Sesquicentennial State Park in Columbia. We'll have lunch, and then take care of the battalion's business. I have emailed absentee ballots to all the members that were eligible to vote and that I had email addresses on. I will be mailing out hard copies to all the members I did not have an email on and all the ones that did not respond that they had received my email. Those should go out around the middle of this month. If you have not received your absentee ballot by September 1<sup>st</sup>, and your name is on the eligible voter list that is posted on the battalion website, then please have your unit rep contact me.

I have to take the time to remind everyone to please be recruiting. Take the time to tell someone about our hobby and why it means so much to you. You never know when just requesting someone to come out and join us that it could turn into a new member. We currently have six infantry companies in the battalion (A, B, C, E, G, & H). Taking the highest number of rifles at any one event from each of those companies, and putting them at the same event would have been a battalion of 160 rifles. That is rifles...not total of men, but total rifles! We should strive to make this happen somewhere this year. Wow could you imagine the Palmetto Battalion somewhere with that many rifles. I have heard the stories from the past where that was not just a wish...but a reality. I would love for that to be a reality again. I know there are some in the Battalion who are recruiting constantly, and I believe it is imperative to recognize them. Gary Byrd (20<sup>th</sup> SCVI), Hub Clapper (Zimmerman's Battery), Daniel Gregory (Hampton's Legion), Sid Keisler (13<sup>th</sup> SCVI), and I'm sure there are others that I am not aware of. Thanks to all of you!

There has only been one check written since the last financial report; check # 1041 to Barry Turner in the amount of \$180.27 for hamburgers and hotdogs at the Camp of Instruction. We have had four deposits from dues totaling \$5,950.00. Our current checking balance is \$11,067.49. There is still one outstanding bill owed to Daniel Williams for \$195.30. This bill is for port potties and diesel for the tractor at the Camp of Instruction. I should receive his bill soon, and will square up with him at that time.

I look forward to seeing most of you at Chickamauga.



## The Lt. Colonel's Corner

Bruce Blackmon

You all have heard me say this before, but it is worth repeating. Do you realize that we are only two years away from the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WBTS? Karl Marx said that 'people who are separated from their history are easily persuaded'. In our modern world, we hear a lot of talk about globalization, a global economy and a new world order. It is up to us, as much as we can, to preserve the old world order for future generations. The Palmetto Battalion will be at the forefront of the 150<sup>th</sup> round of events within the state. We should push event hosts to help us put on better and different events. We should expect more and better from ourselves and our parads. We should work on our impressions and our drill. The men who came before us deserve it and I think personal honor demands it.

Those of you who missed the Camp of Instruction missed a good time and good fellowship. I actually heard some folks say that we should have had another thirty minutes of drill in addition to the hour and a half that we did drill. I've been reading Hardee's and other manuals like it was the King James and hopefully can bring these maneuvers into play on the drill field.

Battle during the WBTS was all about maneuver. Firepower alone is not enough if you can't put the men where they are supposed to be on the field. The backbone of the company and of the Battalion is the NCO's. Knowing their placement in the line and being able to talk to the men to tell them what to do is a critical part of the Battalions success and getting the company from point A to point B. Our plan is to provide additional training opportunities for the NCO's during the upcoming reenacting season.

I saw the old Palmetto Battalion pride come out at Gettysburg. The rain was a minor annoyance, but it kept the heat down. The ceremony honoring the real Veterans in our ranks was moving and having the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina band play the Star Spangled Banner for us at the end was special indeed. The only frustration was the changeable minds of commanding generals, who issued contradicting orders about every fifteen seconds. This is a problem with the mega events in the east. It is good to see numbers on the field, but officer egos are never in short supply and the lack of communication at the organizational levels is a wonder. The camping area was good and we got to fellowship with our North Carolina parads.

Speaking of which, the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina has invited us to participate in a living history at Appomattox with them for the weekend of October 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. Bring 40 rounds and be prepared to have a fine time. Contact me if you are interested at [bblackmon63@yahoo.com](mailto:bblackmon63@yahoo.com)

There is still time to register for Chickamauga. We will get to portray South Carolinians. Be sure to read the field orders from General Rambo on the Battalion website. Until next time, with kind regards I remain

Your obedient servant,

Bruce Blackmon  
Lt. Colonel  
Palmetto Battalion



## ***EXPLOSIVE NOTES***

***FROM: Bob Wolf, Palmetto Battalion Artillery Commander***

In one of the articles that ran last year, we talked about horses and their value to a battery of light artillery, being the motive power to get it from one place to another. The men depended on their horses and many became attached to their mounts, who served them well.

The primary reason for "light or mounted artillery" is to be able to keep up with Cavalry and to support them wherever the artillery fire is needed. In addition to the crewmen who were mounted, the battery had several types of drivers and its these men who I would like bring into the lime light; few re-enactor's who serve in them artillery know about them and the jobs they performed.

### **THE DRIVER(S) OF THE PIECE**

This is the most well known drivers job in the battery. This driver rides the trace horse (left, front horse in the hitch, looking to the front from the limber) and the 2<sup>nd</sup>. and 3<sup>rd</sup>. horse also had drivers. Here is what these members of the battery did:

- The number of drivers ranged from three (3) in a six (6) horse hitch down to two (2) in four (4) horse hitch.
- Their primary responsibility was moving each piece, with its limber attached, in the field and help set it up for action, inspection or in the gun park, by positioning the piece and removing the horses and their harnesses to a safe location.
- The left leading horse was called the "wheeler" or turning horse, because his job was to lead the others.
- The man on that horse was called the "lead driver"; he was in charge of the team of horses and the other drivers.
- All of them worked under the immediate direction of the "Chief of the Piece" (a Sergeant), who along with the other crew men, was mounted.
- All of the drivers were Privates, selected for their skill and horsemanship.
- All drivers were armed with pistols, used to shoot any horse that went down in the rig and a large, very sharp knife, usually a double edged blade approx. 6"-8" long, used for cutting heavy harness leather.
- All drivers wore a cast iron Gaiter approx 17"H on their right leg to protect them from the double tree rigging, chains and the draw bar. This device was shaped in a semi-circle and it was strapped around the leg just below the knee and under the shoe or boot; these are not reproduced today and they are extremely rare and collectible artifacts.
- Most drivers of the piece wore the 14"H artillery drivers boot, when it was available.
- All drivers carried their belongings in a "Portmanteau", which is a round leather saddle case about 8" in diameter and 20" to 24"L. This was strapped to the cantle of the saddle, behind the driver or was strapped to the saddle of the horse to the driver(s) right side.

- These drivers wore leather gauntlets with cuffs to protect their hands and the lead driver only used a “Quirt” to help move and motivate his horse, so the others followed.
- The “drivers of the piece” all had specific positions on the gun, once the guns were deployed, with one (1) man being the horse handler after the horses had been moved to the rear. This means that eight (8) more members of each gun crew were mounted (total of 32 additional personnel).

#### THE DRIVER(S) OF THE CASSION

- In addition to the hitch layout described above for a six (6) or four (4) horse setup, the caisson drivers, worked in the same positions as the drivers of the piece.
- Their primary responsibility was to move the caisson, which is larger than the limber and has two (2) ammunition chests attached to, along with one (1) spare wheel, in the field and to set it up for action, inspection or in the gun park, behind the line of fire.
- All of the responsibilities listed above for the driver(s) of the piece apply to the drivers of the caisson, except for the commander.
- The driver(s) of the caisson and all wagons were under the immediate control of the 4<sup>th</sup>. Lt. (Jr. Lt.) who was known as the “Chief of the Caissons”. Once the piece was positioned on the field for firing, he took charge of the caisson(s).
- The caissons were positioned to the rear of the limber chest, at a distance deemed to be safe to protect the caisson(s) from any explosion that may occur at the limber(s).
- The drivers worked to unhitched the horses and their harnesses and moved them to a safe location at the rear.
- The drivers and crewmen of the caissons did not work the guns; they handled replenishing the ammunition to the limber and served as spare men for the gun crew.
- The horses were placed in the care of the “Senior Hostler” (horse handler/ trainer) and his assistant(s) who strung picket lines or staked them out to the rear of the caissons, in a secure manner and safe location. They remained with the horse during the fight to keep them calm.

#### THE ARTIFFICER, HARNESS MAKER & CARPENTER

These three (3) positions are little known and less understood, as they have been absent from the US Army since before WW1. In 1862, they represented important positions that the battery could not be without. Here are their job descriptions, although in some batteries one man did more than one of these jobs:

#### THE ARTIFFICER (MECHANIC)

Was a worker in metals and was responsible for all gun tubes, iron and steel parts that were found on the guns, the limbers, the caissons, the wagons and the leather rigging. He manned a forge and did all of the blacksmith work for the horse shoes and repaired anything in these mediums that broke or wore out. The forge was usually hauled behind the supply wagon that carried the extra iron, coal, wood and leather parts. In the Federal Army, the artificers insignia was a pair of silver crossed sledge hammers (approx. 3”L)

sewn to the right sleeve only, where NCO chevrons would normally go. During a fight, the artificer stayed at the front to help with any gun related issues.

#### THE HARNESS MAKER

Was a worker in leather and he serviced and repaired all saddles, tack, rigging, parts and pieces on the guns, the limbers, the caissons, the wagons and items used by the men that were made of leather.

He carried spare leather with buckles/ parts and all tools to make repairs in the field, in the supply wagon. During the fight, the harness maker stayed at the caissons and helped where needed.

#### THE CARPENTER

Was a worker in wood and he serviced and repaired all thing made of wood, including the gun carriages, the limbers, the caissons, the wagon boxes and any camp supplies. He carried spare wood and all tools necessary to make repairs in the field in the supply wagon. During the fight, the stayed

At the caissons and helped where needed.

All of these experienced artisans men were also trained as wagon drivers and they took turns in handling the supply wagon and handled their own horses, usually with a four (4) horse hitch. The teams were driven from the wagon box, using conventional reins. The artificer was considered to be the "senior position" and he was in charge of this group. Most of the men were Privates at the battery level, with the Senior Hostler and Artificer sometimes being Corporals; at the Battalion or Regimental level, they could also have Sergeants, depending on the number of men.

#### THE SUPPLY WAGON(S)

Most CS batteries had several supply wagons and cook wagon and the wagon train could be adjusted depending on the size of the battery relative to manpower. At full strength, the baggage wagons would be 4-5 wagons, with one (1) cook wagon. Each wagon had a driver and a hostler to help with the care and feeding of the horses in the hitch, with a four (4) horse hitch being most common.

The drivers operated the hitch from the wagon box, using conventional reins and the wagons carried the tents, personal equipment and the supplies of the battery, including spare small arms ammunition. The cook wagon was equipped in the same manner, but it carried only the food, drinking water and food preparation equipment for the battery.

Consider that these guys who were supporting the battery had 37 men working on a 4 gun battery and they used and were responsible for 64 horses in their combined hitches or as mounts. This does not included the balance of the gun crew members (troops), NCO's and Officers who were mounted.

In our modern re-enacting efforts to correctly demonstrate history, we have lost a valuable piece in not being able to show what these men contributed, because we do not have horses and the batteries are not mounted. There are only few fully mounted batteries in the

whole US, outside of what the US Army has and they are always a BIG HIT when they come on the field at an event.

The next time you see them on the field, try to imagine their jobs, compared to the gun crewmen who we all work hard to portray. These men represent the unsung hero's of every battery of light artillery and they are worthy of additional research and praise.

I've said enough for one sitting, so chew on this for awhile and feel free to contact me by E-MAIL at: "boomboomwolf1863@yahoo.com" or call my cell phone at 843-992-5489, anytime.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Francis Marion/Swamp Fox Symposium

**Oct 10-11, 2008**

**Manning, South Carolina**



"Explore the Revolutionary War Southern Campaign, Francis Marion and his Contemporaries" Sponsored by Swamp Fox Murals Trail Society.

Immerse yourself in Francis Marion's world and learn from his contemporaries: Horatio Gates, Nathanael Greene, John Rutledge, Hezekiah Maham, as well as the Significance of Francis Marion; the modern applications of Marion's style; the Legend of the Swamp Fox: Marion in Life and Lore; and the South Carolina Militia. Dinner Theater Saturday is an evening in history with Mary Esther Videau Marion, presenting life at Pond Bluff with the General. Site: FE DuBose Campus, Central Carolina Technical College, I-95, Exit 122, ½ mi E US 521, Manning, SC . Approximate times: Friday Oct 10, 2008: 2 PM - 10 PM and Saturday Oct 11, 2008: 9 AM - 10 PM .

Registration form below: mail check & form to PO Box 667, Manning, SC 29102. Register soon to come to Clarendon County Oct 10. Please also forward to others interested in Marion and history. Early registration discounts by 9/21/08: \$85 / person (\$155 / couple), Registration info below: Swamp Fox Murals Trail Society 803-478-2645 cell: 919-730-3533 [www.francismarionsymposium.com](http://www.francismarionsymposium.com). Contact persons: Carole & George Summers.

Info Needed: Name, address, city, state, zip, phone , email

2008 Important Dates for 6th FM Symposium

September 21 Close of Early Registration

October 3 Close of Registration

Fees include: All lectures, Friday evening reception with Hor d'oeuvres. Saturday snacks, lunch, and dinner theater . Price \$ 95 (\$165 / couple) Before 10/3/08 . [Early Bird Fee (before 9/21/08) \$85 / person (\$155 / couple)] . Payment: Make check payable

to Francis Marion Symposium, (Non-refundable after 10/3/08). Mail to: Francis Marion Symposium, C. Hester , PO Box 667, Manning, SC 29102

---

---

**Visit the Palmetto Battalion website:**

[www.palmettobattalion.org](http://www.palmettobattalion.org)

## **SC Civil War Symposium**

September 19 & 20, 2008 at the SC Archives & History Center, Columbia (same weekend as Chickamauga)

Featuring Joseph T. Glatthaar, Stephenson Distinguished Professor at UNC-Chapel Hill and noted Civil War historian. Author of "General Lee's Army: From Victory to Collapse", "Forged in Battle: The Civil War Alliance of Black Soldiers and White Officers", "The March to the Sea and Beyond"

### **Other presentations include:**

- Krissy Dunn Johnson – The Colin J. McRae Business Papers
- Tom Elmore – The Burning of Columbia
- Dr. David Stone – Vital Rails: The Story of the Charleston and Savannah RR
- Robert Johnson – Reconstruction, America's Second Civil War: The Story of Major William Stone
- Christopher Zeigler – Castle Pinckney: America's Forgotten Castle
- Charles A. Barreras, Jr. - A Secession Family from Union: The Gists of Rose Hill

### **Other features include**

- Friday reception at the SC Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum with a preview of the newly restored Pee Dee Rifles flag
- Speakers sessions on Saturday with lunch provided
- Saturday banquet with featured speaker
- Behind the scene tour of the Department of Archives and History (free)
- Guided bus tour to the Saluda Factory historical site (limited participation)

Symposium registration \$70, students \$40, dinner only \$25, bus tour \$15. Checks payable to **SC Archives and History Foundation**, FEIN# 57-0955680. Mail to **SC Civil War Symposium**, 8301 Parklane Road, Columbia, SC 29223.

Please send information for the next Vindicator to:  
Julia Barnes - juliabarnes@charter.net

---

---