

THE PALMETTO VINDICATOR

The Official Newsletter of the Palmetto Battalion

Parade Rest

Colonel Claude Sinclair

This past Rivers Bridge is another one to talk about. It was cold and raining but that is what you come to expect during late January or early February. You could never tell that the event was put on by a skeleton crew because every thing seemed to be in place.

The Winter Camp and NCO School is upon us and we need for you to commit to it. We will have an officers round table talk with input on how to improve the Palmetto Battalion. The Sgt. Major will be working on some things for the NCO's and Sgt. Barry Turner will be assisting him.

Please let me or Bruce know if you can attend so that we will have the proper number of handouts. The site will be at the Battle of Columbia site on the 20th and 21st of February. We will use part of the afternoon to drill on what we will be using at the Battle of Bentonville.

The hosts of the Columns have coordinated the event to fall on mine and Sid Keisler's birthday. Since it is always on my birthday I have secretly called the Battle of The Columns as my big birthday party. I can pretend, can't I?

The Battle of Bentonville

The Battalion has more than 240 people registered



for this event and I have already put four people on the waiting list. If all of the infantry shows up we will have 200+ in the ranks. When is the last time that has happened? If you find that you are not going to attend please e-mail me ASAP and if you find that you want to go and did not register please let me know likewise.

Camping will be campaign appearance just like we have done at all of the out-of-state events. If someone can't attend unless they have to throw up an A Frame then we will have a place for you but it will not be with your company. The main camp will abide by the Generals request and by the Battle of Bentonville host request. Bring you shelter tent or fly. With proper planning you will stay dry and comfortable. We will be representing SC troops both days so let us proudly represent our ancestors. On Sat-

urday we will represent the 10th and 19th SC and on Sunday we will represent the 1st SC Infantry (Butlers), the 1st SC Artillery (they fought as infantry), and Lucas's Battalion.

150th Firing on Fort Sumter

We almost have everything in place regarding the 150th Firing on Fort Sumter. The rules and guidelines for this event are stricter than any event that we have ever attended and it is invitation only. Even though the Palmetto Battalion was invited it is not hosted by the Palmetto Battalion. I have heard the complaints that with such high standards there will not be many attending. I thought that at first but now the first 50 to be in Fort Moultrie have paid their material deposits and 3 100 men companies have committed for the outside of

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Special points of interest:

- Winter Camp: This weekend
- The Columns: Florence March 6-7
- Bentonville: NC March 20-21
- Cheraw March 27-28
- Charleston April 17-18
- Confederate Memorial Day May 1
- Battle of Columbia May 1

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Parade Rest

the fort for the first part of the week. I gave the battalion first choice for being in Fort Moultrie and we had until December 1, 2009 to pay the material deposit. It was extended several times and after February 15, 2010 I am going to open it up to non-battalion members. If someone does not have a smoothbore but wants to participate please let me know and we will try to find you one to borrow or to rent, de-

Orderly Sgts. Call

Gentlemen,

Rivers Bridge is in the books and we are well on our way into another campaigning season. The Battalion, like a hibernating animal, has woke up out of the Holiday Season, knocked off the rust and tested its feet and gear at the Bridge. Around the corner is Winter Camp, The Columns and Bentonville. The following are just a few thoughts I have written down for the men to read and think on.

For Winter Camp myself and other instructors are mainly going to focus on Guards/Pickets and Skirmish Drill with a class on Paperwork. The Army might move on its stomach but it runs on paperwork. I collect the form 1's and there are a dozen different ways they are being filled out. We will learn ONE! A growing trend I have seen in the past few years is guards being placed not only at our local in-state events but Nationals. At Bentonville we have been ordered to provide Grand Guards for the Brigade and this is why we must work on this. Also, coming into the 150's we can show time and time again that our Brigade Commanders can count on us to provide skirmishers for our Brigade.

On Guards, I will provide the Orderly Sgts. with a guard form in which they will list the names of privates they will supply for Guard Duty. Do not place a man on guard duty because of some mistake that they have done. There are many other fatigue duties they can per-

pending upon the owner's request. Company A of the 1st SC Artillery Battery was issued the M-1842 musket.

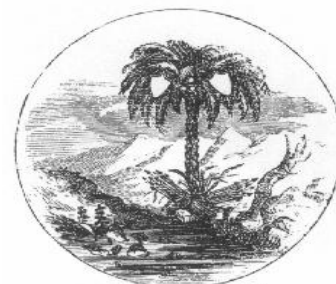
Your Obedient Servant,
 Claude Sinclair
 Colonel
 Palmetto Battalion



form. Guard duty was the most important duty a soldier was responsible for. What is more important than protecting your flanks and perimeter while their pards are a rest and undefended. You did not assign guard duty to a screw up. The list will only include names of privates. The list with the names of the NCO's will be kept at the Battalion Headquarters by the Adj. and Sgt. Major. I will inform the appropriate 1st Sgt. which Corporals and Sergeants I will need for Cpl and Sgt of the Guards. All NCO's should know this duty. There is much more to being an NCO than just going to the Sutler and purchasing stripes. Let the screaming begin.

On Skirmish, Sgts you need to learn your place. If there is a reserve, your Captain can manage that body with its Cpls. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sgt. (if available) need to be on the line in the function of the Right, Center and Left Guides while the line is moving. It is your responsibility to insure your line remains in contact with each other and halts when contact is made. You then drop back as file closers and maintain that contact, relaying information thru

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SOUTH CAROLINA.

Fred Polson, Sgt. Major

your Lt to the Captain of obstacles, strong points and weak points in the line. You need to do this so your Captain can have as much information as he can gather of what is in his front. From this he can decide to put in his reserves or keep pressing on. Sgts., you need to be aware of the tactical situation around you at all times to best support your company. Being a Sgt. is not a popularity contest. You must lead your Company. In the beginning of the War, there were plenty of Political Officers appointed to their post because of who they were. Most of these did not make it to the second year because the men need leadership not a figurehead. Sergeants LEAD YOUR COMPANY!

If any enlisted man ever needs help or has a question because they don't understand some thing, my tent is always open and I would be more than happy to explain a drill, maneuver or anything pertaining to your everyday function as a Confederate Soldier. Officers, not leaving you out, I can advise and recommend my best judgment to you on any military situation or just shoot the breeze with you, but to your duty related matters I must pass you up the Chain of Command to the Colonel or Lt. Colonel because that is proper.

Can't wait to see every one in the field again soon. Lord, I miss the screaming.

Fred Polston
 Sgt. Major
 Palmetto Battalion

For Our Boys

Heather King, PSRS President

St Valentines Day

A Solemn Warning to Single Men

BACHELORS all, of St. Valentine's Day beware!

This year is Leap Year: The ladies may chose!

How then you get in the fair sex's way beware,

Or both your hearts and your freedom you'll lose.

Princesses-----waitresses,

Curly or straight tresses,

Fond hearts, or traitressess,

Short ones or tall:

Elderly---youthful

Deceitful or truthful,

Unfeeling or ruthful,

Beware of them

all!

This petticoat government's acts will be terrible,

Over our hearts most tyrannic in sway;

Rings for all fingers, and rings for each merry bell,

Their laws insist on a Valentine's Day.

For there's no need for angling

To set the bells jangling---

For white favors dangling,

For bridesmaids a score;

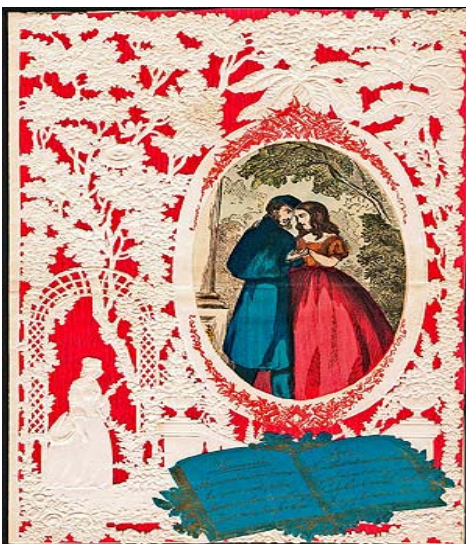
For white orange flowers,

And weddings and bowers,

Since they hold full powers,

Leap year, sixty-four.

(From London Society, An Illustrated Magazine, London, England, 1864)



Artillery Notes

Lt. Ken Moore

First Lieutenant Simeon Kirby, Casualty at River's Bridge, 1864

From my office window at Elim Baptist Church, I can see the grave stones for several men who served the nation created by the secession of South Carolina from the Union in 1861. The larger stone is for the Reverend John Morgan Timmons who was pastor of the Elim congregation for forty (40) years. The Reverend Timmons attended and placed his signature on the South Carolina Articles of Secession. Another stone is for an artillery officer in the Confederate Army who was a casualty at the battle of River's Bridge. His name was Simeon Kirby. Here is his story.

Simeon was born in the Darlington District of South Carolina in 1838. His great-grandfather, James Kirby, had served in the military during the American Revolution. As Simeon grew, he made the best of his opportunities and was active in the local church at Elim. In 1856, with the help of Pastor Timmons, he received an appointment to attend the South Carolina Military Academy (The Citadel) where he would major in Theology. The church at Elim, which was not prosperous by any stretch, undertook the responsibility to buy the books Simeon would need to complete his studies. (A practice still maintained by the church to this day for ministerial students from its membership.) The young man did well and graduated with the Theology degree in 1860.

In 1861, Simeon entered the ministry and was ordained by Elim Baptist Church to serve in Baptist churches. After Secession and the creation of The Confederate States of America, Simeon entered Confederate Service in 1862 with the South Carolina Third Artillery, Palmetto Battalion, Company A, The Furman Artillery, commanded by Captain William Earle. During June of that year at the South Carolina Baptist Convention, he was appointed as an official colporteur for the convention. His ministry task was to deliver bibles, testa-

ments and pamphlets published by the convention to the soldiers in the field. One year later he reported to the convention and was commended in the minutes for his service to the Lord, the soldiers to whom he ministered and to the Convention.

As a Lieutenant of Artillery, Simeon participated in the following engagements: the Battle of Charleston Harbor, the shelling of the USS Boston, and finally at Rivers Bridge. Simeon's gun was located in the redoubt near the bridge. The Union approach had been stalled with the stiff defense put up by the artillery and infantry. During a lull in the action, First Lieutenant Kirby, was leaning on the wheel of a gun reading from the bible. A senior officer came by and suggested that the Lieutenant not be reading at a time like this. Moments later, a Federal sniper shot and killed Lieutenant Kirby. One of the gunners saw the sniper and after borrowing a musket from an infantry soldier, took careful aim and killed the sniper.


Soon after this action, the battery was ordered to withdraw. The body of the beloved Lieutenant was loaded on the caisson. The unit was able to link up with a still functioning railroad and the body of Simeon Kirby was placed on the train which brought it to the station at Effingham. There his family claimed the body and it was duly prepared for burial in the church cemetery.

I stand at my office window and look at the iron cross and the small battle flag and can only imagine the level of sacrifice and devotion to duty to his country and the Lord God that the patch of ground and the inscription represents: "Simeon S Kirby was born February 20, 1838 died February 3, 1865. He loved and served God."

DeoVindice

Respectfully yours,

First Lieutenant Ken Moore, Aide de Camp



WINTER CAMP

FEBRUARY 20TH AND 21ST

BATTLE OF COLUMBIA SITE

BRING 40 ROUNDS FOR SUNDAY

ORDER ARMS.

BENTONVILLE MARCH 20⁰⁰⁰⁰-21ST



"It was a hot old time, and things were lively if they were not lovely...After we had been engaged perhaps half an hour, the soldier who had the flag was knocked down by a ball. My color bearer companion seized the flag as it fell, and was instantly killed. I got it and was hit slightly in the face, but carried it through the fight without any further damage to my person, but I had my clothing pretty badly shot up (and) had my Sunday vest ruined...The idea of a man carrying a flag and being a target for every gun of the enemy is to my mind, radically wrong." **Pvt. W.A. Johnson, 2nd South Carolina, Kennedy's (Conner's Brigade).**

"The enemy's fire from their artillery, which had been concealed in the woods was very deadly...In approaching their battery (or batteries)...about half of our regiment on the right had come out into the open, in a field where there was nothing to conceal or protect them. Our men fell rapidly...under what seemed a tremendous concentrated firing upon us." **Pvt. Robert W. Sanders, 2nd S.C. Artillery (fighting as Infantry), Elliott's Brigade.**

The Death of Willie Hardee

Willie Hardee served as an aide-de-camp to his father, General William Joseph Hardee. General Hardee had promised his wife, like all good fathers that he would look after the boy and not let him go into the fight.

The young 17 year old Willie begged his father to join up with the Texas Cavalry. No doubt he entertained romantic notions about life in the cavalry and admired the dash and appearance of the men.

After much reluctance the 49 year old Hardee allowed his son to 'jine the cavalry' for what would be the last cavalry charge of the Army of Tennessee.

Hardee ordered the Texas Rangers to charge and take Mill Creek Bridge.

"Within about a half a mile of the bridge we passed a small brigade of infantry 'double quicking' in the same direction. We saluted each other with a cheer as we passed, for all felt that it was a critical time in the battle.

They came upon General Hardee, who was observing from some high ground.

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Guides Post

Bruce Blackmon, Lt. Colonel

Greetings all:

There is no more sadder story in my opinion that the 'Death of Willie Hardee'. It touches me to read that Hardee dismounted and kissed his wounded son. Willie was oh so representative of the all the young men of the time who were filled with patriotism and enthusiasm to do something, to fight for their Homeland and for their friends and relatives. How tragic that he was killed at one of the last engagements of the war. It is hard to imagine the toll that death took upon the nation. Even Generals like Lee and Hardee were not immune. How hard it would have been to continue to do your duty, like Hardee and direct troops and take care of the men, even though you were suffering through such great personal loss. I don't know if we will get a chance to pass over Mill Creek Bridge, but if we do, I hope we will tip our hats and offer a salute to both of these men.

Bentonville is one of my favorite battles. Our South Carolina ancestors gave it their best. I'm excited about having one of the largest Battalion on the field. If everyone who registers shows up, we will have a fine time and show these other states what we can do. I'm ready to go now.

If you want a first class living history experience then please read the information that is on the Battalion website about the 150th event at Ft. Moultrie. We are planning a full slate of activities for the week. I want as many of you that can to stay for the full week. As always I remain, your obedient servant,

Bruce Blackmon

The Death of Willie Hardee At Bentonville

"We had a good view of the enemy across an open field about 500 yards distant". The column closed up and Hardee ordered Captain Matthews to have the Rangers face to the right in line, then directed the Rangers to charge the advancing enemy. "It looked like the old regiment was this time surely going to it's grave...Matthews gave the order, 'Charge right in front'. And with that wonderful rebel yell we charged.

An irresistible impulse seems to have overcome Hardee himself. Perhaps it was the presence of Will—they tipped their hats to each other as Willie went into line. Perhaps it was the rush of old 2nd Dragoon memories—the spontaneous dash at the stone bridge, Puente de Moreno.

The Confederate Generals fighting blood was up, and he attacked like a reckless 18 year old. The Rangers rode directly toward the enemy. "They dashed by us at breakneck speed," a member of Cummings brigade related, "right into the line of infantry". They "broke through the line of skirmishers" reported Wheeler, "without breaking their impetus and pushed on, striking

the main line almost the same moment in which Allen's gallant Alabamians, which thre the entire force of the enemy in a most rapid and disorderly retreat". Having exhausted our carbines, "We rode them down and emptied our pistols at close range." The shock effect demoralized the Federals. "They fell back in confusion, the Rangers immediately withdrawing with quite a number of prisoners, brining out their dead and wounded" and empty saddles.

Among the casualties in Terry's Texas Rangers was Willie Hardee. He "was shot through the chest—a dangerous wound." "Held in his saddle by a ranger who sat behind him," Willie was brought to the rear. Meanwhile, his father, unaware of Willie's wound, rode back with Wade Hampton. Hardee's face was 'bright with the light of battle,' Hampton related. "He turned to me and exclaimed" That was Nip and Tuck, and for a time I thought Tuck had it." As he entered the Confederate lines Hardee saw Willie. He dismounted, went over to his wounded son, kissed him and directed that he be placed in an ambulance and taken to the rear. The general 'remounted and proceeded to give or-

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"That was Nip and Tuck, and for a time I thought Tuck had it!"

General William Hardee

ders respecting the disposition of the troops.

There were no Confederate ambulances, however so Willie was placed in a wagon. He survived a tortuous wagon ride to Smithfield that night through Raleigh and on to Hillsborough. He was nursed by his stepmother and sisters.

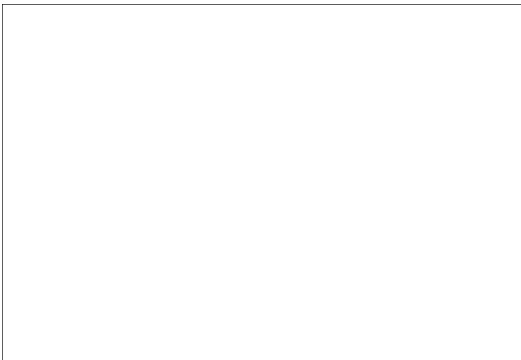
Private Hardee died on March 24 and was buried 'after the military funeral he would have wanted in the churchyard of St. Mathew's Episcopal Church, Hillborough, N.C. Benton Roy, using stoic language his commander would have felt appropriate, noted in his diary on the twenty-fourth "General H went to Hillsboro to be present at the funeral of his own son."

From 'Bentonville' by Nathaniel Cheairs Hughes, Jr., University of North Carolina Press, 1996.

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From the Federal Perspective

On Sherman's right on the Tuesday morn- seriously to being made a target for the ing of Bentonville, General Howards wing enemy to practice on. Captain Howard was active and aggressive, far more so once said at 'Ezra Chapel,' that 'riding in than Slocum's. How- battle with a man ard himself was eve- who is always pre- rywhere, it was dan- pared to die is not gerous even to ride as pleasant as one might think" I tirely agree with with him. One of his staff officers, Lt. Col. William E. Strong, lamented: Captain Howard.

I have been rid- ing with General Howard for five hours, backwards and forwards, along our skirmish like, exposed to a deadly fire. I thought both of us would be killed. I never hesitated yet to go where my duty called me, or where ordered, but I do object most

"Riding in battle with a man who is always prepared to die is not as pleasant as one might think."

Lt. Colonel William E. Strong

Lt. Colonel William E. Strong.

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