



Captain's Comments

With this edition of the Sentinel, we are launching our first communication of 2009 to the members of the **Sixth North Carolina State Troops**. Let me first of all say that I hope everyone is off to a great start for the New Year!

Regardless of what your take is on the happenings of the past twelve months, we are all starting out at the moment with a clean slate in front of us. One thing that I certainly hope you all will begin doing is penciling in some time and commitment to **Company I** for 2009.

To help us all with this effort, we have our annual Business and Planning meeting coming up on January 17th in Raleigh. I trust you are already aware of this meeting to some degree, based on our remarks at the Christmas event at the state Capitol. I really appreciated the fine turn out in Raleigh this past December and hope it was an omen of things to come. Even without the benefit of our usual "fire pit" we had an enjoyable time and a great meal. Our time together was a wonderful way to wind up a good year in the field.

I encourage everyone to take a few moments and look over the prospective event list for 2009 that is included elsewhere in this communication. Our Board began discussing possible schedule options at the Seagrove event and they have compiled a list of events for our consideration at our Business meeting. As we continue down our War Between the States time line, we are entering the 145th anniversary of the 1864 events, so that means the 150th series is not too far behind. We want to spend some time at our meeting discussing the 150th series and take a long view at some of the plans that the Carolina Legion is working on for the upcoming four or five years. I'm hoping that the 150th commemorations will generate some excitement similar to what we saw for the 135th and 140th events. More to come!

Our Company staffing has been undergoing some review this past quarter as well. A number of recommendations are on the table from the BOD as

part of an effort to reinforce our command structure and help us begin strengthening our ability to support the 150th series. The BOD recommendations will be discussed at our January meeting, along with the proposed company staffing plan for the upcoming year.

As usual, there will be a rather "healthy" agenda to cover at our meeting. We'll touch on a number of items that are important to each of us in the company, so your presence is vital. Please make a concerted effort to attend and participate. The **Sixth North Carolina** is **OUR** regiment, and it requires all of us collectively to give it a life and a historical presence to the public.

It has been my privilege to hold the position of Captain of Company I for several years now, and I'm very proud of the men and ladies who serve with me in the Cedar Fork Rifles. It goes without saying that what I cherish most in the Sixth are the friendships and camaraderie that I have developed with each of you. I'm looking forward to many more opportunities to be with you in the upcoming year!

With Regards,
Cpt. Stan Morton Cmd'g. 

NOTICE!

6th NCST Business Meeting January 17, 2009

The Cedar Fork Rifles annual business meeting will be held in its traditional location in the North Carolina Capitol on Saturday, January 17. In the event of inclement weather, the business meeting will be held on the following Saturday. The business meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00 am. Annual dues are payable for 2009. Dues are \$25 and checks should be made payable to "Cedar Fork Rifles".

2009 Proposed Events

February 27-29	Carolina Legion Camp of Instruction	Walnut Cove, N.C.
March 7-8	Battle of Hampton Roads	Hampton Roads, Va.
March 27-29	Latta Plantation (Tacticals and Battles)	Near Charlotte, N.C.
March/April/May	144 th Federal Occupation of the N.C. Capitol	Raleigh, N.C.
April/May	Onslow County Museum Living History	Richlands, N.C.
April 25-26	145 th Battle of Plymouth	Plymouth, N.C.
May 1-3	145 th Battle of Spotsylvania Court House (Carolina Legion)	Spotsylvania, Va.
May 2	<i>FYI – Confederate Memorial Day</i>	<i>Oakwood Cemetery</i>
May 16	Museum of the Cape Fear Living History	Fayetteville, N.C.
May 25	<i>FYI – Memorial Day Observance</i>	<i>N.C. Capitol</i>
June 5-7	145 th Cold Harbor Living History (Carolina Legion)	Cold Harbor, Va.
July 4	<i>Fourth of July Observance</i>	<i>N.C. Capitol</i>
July 17-19	Ft. Defiance	Lenoir, N.C.
October 16-18	145 th Battle of Cedar Creek (Carolina Legion)	Cedar Creek, Va.
October 31	<i>FYI - Oakwood Lantern Walk</i>	<i>Raleigh, N.C.</i>
November 6-8	Fort Branch	Hamilton, N.C.
November	Seagrove Pottery Festival Living History	Seagrove, N.C.
December 12	Confederate Christmas at the Capitol	Raleigh, N.C.



2008 Confederate Christmas at the Capitol December 13, 2008

The Sixth NCST again held its annual Confederate Christmas on the grounds of the North Carolina Capitol on December 13, 2008. The weather had a definite Christmas feel, but despite the chill, around 20 company members were present to interact with spectators, partake of a period Christmas meal and enjoy a relaxed visit with comrades-in arms. 🎄





Wes Jones, Zack Tyler and David Lanier provided much-appreciated period music during the Christmas Living History.



A batch of new recruits were schooled in the art of drill by Captain Morton and First Sergeant Walton.



Seagrove Pottery Festival

November 21-23, 2008

Gentlemen of Company I,

In November 2008, the Pvt. Lorenzo Leigh Bennitt ~ Pvt. Robert F. Duke Camp #773 SCV of Durham, held it's annual living history encampment at the Seagrove Pottery Festival. We could not do this without the help from you fine gentlemen. It was our third year at the festival, and we had several members of Company I come for the first time. I am glad to say that this year we had our Captain to lead us in our drills. We noticed from the drilling that this event may be a good fall camp of instruction for the Company in the future.

I and several other members of the Camp had noticed that we did not have as many spectators visiting the campsite as in the past. The problem, to everyone's surprise, was that we had set up camp in the middle of a "pottery war". It seems that the potters split into factions of the "new potters" and the local "traditional potters". That is the way I understood it. It is probably more to it than that, but we couldn't get much information from anyone. 2007 was our best year as far as spectator and audience participation in the Q&A sessions after the flag and uniform programs. We were hoping that 2008 would be even better. Due to the conflict between the different factions there were two pottery festivals going

on at the same time! This had a disastrous effect on the number of people coming to visit our campsite and to watch us drill and fire.

Next year we plan to run an advertisement in the local paper before the festival to let people know we will have a period camp set up. I would like to have some kind of sign in front of the school where we are located to also let people know we are there in the area behind the tents. The two festivals running at the same time only hurt sales for the potters. Hopefully they will call a truce next year.

I sincerely hope the low turn out of visitors to the camp in 2008 does not dampen participation our 2009 living history. The Bennitt ~ Duke Camp could not do it without the help of the Company.

The Bennitt ~ Duke Camp would like to thank all of the participants from Company I, 6th North Carolina State Troops for their support at this event.

For the Camp,

William G. O'Quinn
Corporal, Co., I, 6th Reg., NCST
Commander Bennitt ~ Duke Camp #773 SCV
Commander Capitol Brigade, NC Division,
Sons of Confederate Veterans 



Members of the Sixth gathered around the fire to keep warm at Seagrove's Pottery Festival Living History.



Bennett Place Living History

August 22-24, 2008

The Carolina Legion had the privilege in presenting a Living History at the Bennett Place in Durham on the weekend of August 23-24. Along with a good showing from the 26th, the Sixth managed a decent sized company, with around 20 members present - at least for Saturday's events. It was a fairly laid back weekend, with plenty of time to interact with visitors before and after a couple of drill/firing demonstrations for the public, as well as time to visit the museum. Sunday's events were much the same, along with the opportunity to present a tribute to the North Carolina troops that had been present at the Bennett Place. 



Oakwood Lantern Walk

October 25, 2008

The Oakwood Lantern Walk is hosted annually by the Garner Sons of Confederate Veterans camp to raise funds for the continued restoration and upkeep of the Confederate Cemetery in Oakwood. There are nearly 1400 hundred Confederate Veterans interred in the cemetery. It would not have been possible to hold the Lantern Walk without the help of many volunteers, and as usual, several members of the Sixth stepped up to help. Sixth members included Robert Conner, Rick Walton, Zack Tyler, David Lanier and Ed Hills. Other Sixth members, who are also Polk camp members, were Tim Morton, Gary Pierce, Woody Ragan, James Izzell, Matt Holder, and Marc Cheek. 



Zack Tyler and Matt Holder portrayed Cherokee members of the Thomas Legion in a skit (above), while Gary Pierce played the role of Alphonso Avery in "The Search for Col. Avery" skit. (below)





The Sixth in step during company drill at the Bennett Place Living History.

Pfeiffer Headstone Dedication Oakwood Cemetery

August 8, 2008

Several members of the Sixth participated in the dedication of a new headstone in Oakwood Cemetery on August 8, 2008. The dedication was for Private Jacob Pfeiffer who for 143 years was misidentified as a Confederate soldier. In actuality, Private Pfeiffer was a Federal soldier from New York. Apparently, after his death in a field hospital following the Gettysburg battle, Pfeiffer's name was transcribed as Jacob Piper and his unit was listed as a North Carolina regiment. Later his body was mistakenly sent to Raleigh. Thanks to the efforts of Charles Purser of the Garner SCV camp, Pfeiffer's true identity was finally determined. The honor detail was John Roderick, Woody Ragan, Tim Morton, Zack Tyler, Ed Hills, Robert Conner, and Marc Cheek. 🇺🇸



26th N.C. Battle Flag

Captain Morton and I had the honor of being part of the Honor Guard present when the Gettysburg flag of the 26th North Carolina came home from restoration. I have to say that it was quite moving to be there when the flag was brought in to the Museum and unboxed. To see the flag that was carried to the "high-water mark" of the Confederacy was an incredible experience. The 26th battle flag is now on display in the N.C. Museum of History. 🇺🇸

There have only been a few times in my life that I can truly say, "I wouldn't have missed this for the world", and today was one of them. To be able to stand and watch the 26th flag return home after almost 145 years was awesome. Last week, while conducting a tour a Gettysburg, I told the group that on Monday, the descendants of the last two members of the 26th to carry the flag would escort the flag home to North Carolina. Today, I saw that happen.

Nineteen uniformed, five in civilian attire, and two members from our brothers in the 6th NC were present at the NCMOH to see our flag back. At Four PM, all uniformed members formed an Honor Guard, under command of the undersigned, lining the hallway. As Jackson Marshall's two sons played "The Old North State" on fife and drum, the Honor Guard rendered "Present Arms", the battle flag of the 26th was rolled down the hall under escort of Captain Dennis Brooks and Private Ken Thomas. As the flag passed the Honor Guard, members stepped out and followed the procession into the museum conservation room. When all were in the room, "The Old North State" was rendered again under "Present Arms". At the conclusion, Dennis and Ken helped the museum staff remove the box and wrapping around the flag.

At this time, remarks were made by Captain Burt, Captain Brooks, and Private Thomas. I don't believe there was a dry eye in the room. Tom Belton then allowed all of us to closely inspect the flag for 10-15 minutes. Then, the flag of the 37th NC and the

26th Gettysburg Flag

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artifacts belonging to General Grimes were opened for our viewing. General Grimes' effects were viewed directly, without glass or other interruption. Marshall said that the museum staff was surprised at the number of our folks that came for this event and at the emotion that was displayed. He also said that it was probably a good thing, the staff seeing their work means so much to people.



I guess I've said about enough. I trust that you can see what this meant to all of us. Thank you for working so long and hard to make this happen.

Your brother in arms,

Fred W. Burt
Captain, 26 NCT



145th Gettysburg

July 3-6, 2008



The Utah contingent of the Bloody Sixth in the field at the 145th Gettysburg. (above)





See You In the Field

Rick Walton

The importance of foot placement when firing from the rear rank.

When I was a fresh fish, and found myself in the rear rank, my sergeant would closely monitor our foot placement whenever we were about to fire our weapons (After all this is the job of the file closers.). I often got confused about where my feet went or was so distracted by everything else going on I just simply forgot. My Sergeant was fond of saying “If you’re not **uncomfortable**, you’re doing it wrong” referring to the contorted position required to comply with Hardee’s instruction on this point... well at least when firing at the oblique. As it turns out, it is not too hard to remember the proper foot placement if you take a minute to learn the basics.

Why is something this simple and this important to **safety** so misunderstood or ignored? Is it to give us file-closers job security? This is one item I consistently have to remind men about. I don’t want to be a pain in the you-know-what, but it **really** is a safety issue and it’s not hard to do it right! I know, because my Sarge was always after me to shape up too!

The first step is easy. On the command of “**Ready**”, you T your feet... EVERY TIME. Your feet should be doing a lot of moving for this exercise!

At the next command, “**Aim**” You shift your foot position. Easy, right?

I often see some of the rear-rank guys **stay** in this T position and other guys take the stance of a front rank soldier....both are **incorrect**.

In **School of the Soldier, Part II, Lesson II**, Hardee describes the proper foot position as part of the “Aim” Command

175. When recruits are formed in two ranks to execute the firings, the front rank men will raise a little less the right elbow, in order to facilitate the aim of the rear rank men.

*176. The rear rank men, in aiming, will each carry the **right foot about eight inches to the right, and towards the left heel of the man next on the right**, inclining the upper part of the body forward.*

In plain English- **Step** slightly forward and to the **right about 8 inches** and bend forward slightly to aim over your file mate’s **right shoulder**, remembering to center his head between your front and rear band.

That’s not so tough is it? If we were in the field, in drill, we could practice it...T→step, T→step, T→step, etc...you get the idea...lots of foot movement ...

OK, Now here comes the tricky part- **Firing at the Oblique**.

In School of the Soldier, Part II, Lesson IV, Hardee describes the proper foot position when firing from the oblique:

*Position of the two ranks in the Oblique Fire to the **right**.*

*269. At the command, aim, each front rank man will aim to the right **without deranging the feet**; each rear rank man will advance the **left foot about eight inches** toward the **right** heel of the man next on the right of his file leader and aim to the right, inclining the upper part of the body forward and bending a little the left knee.*

*Position of the two ranks in the Oblique Fire to the **left**.*

*271. At the command, aim, the front rank will take aim to the left **without deranging the feet**; each man in the rear will advance the **right foot about eight inches** toward the right heel of the man next on the right of his file leader, and aim to the left, inclining the upper part of the body forward and bending a little the right knee,*

This is a little tricky, but **very important to remember**. They

Firing from the Rear Rank

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key is you **ALWAYS** fire over your file mates **RIGHT SHOULDER**, and you **ALWAYS** step to the **right. Right? Right!**

But which foot do you step with?

- When you oblique right, left foot to the right
- When you oblique left, right foot to the right

When you do this, it naturally pulls your upper body in the direction of the oblique and helps you aim your rifle correctly.

OK lets Practice.... T→step, T→step, T→step, etc...you get the idea.

Taking the time to do this right is safer, looks sharper and helps me from sounding like a broken record having to remind the rear rank for every firing evolution.

Remember: If you're not uncomfortable...you're doing it wrong! 

1st Sergeant's Corner

Robert Conner

As quickly as the 2008 year began, it has long since fled and 2009 was more than eager to fill the void. From gas prices that seemed to be using Energizer batteries to spending eight hundred billion dollars to buy bad debt to Federal soldiers that seriously need to consider changing their tactics to actually firing in a direction where there is an actual threat. Not that a passing deer couldn't be seen as a threat, but when there are two hundred Confederates knocking on your back door, having Bambi's dad for dinner should be the last thing on your mind. So in this edition, we'll do the year in review for 2008, and hope we get just as many laughs from 2009.

The year begins as any other, it's the middle of February, it's cold so it's the perfect time to drill. And so, as usual, the Camp of Instruction leads the way into an exciting new year buy giving everyone a case of the flu. Luckily *cough*, yours truly, *cough* had caught the flu *cough* the week before *ACHOO*.

Next up was everyone's favorite little event, Averagesboro. In the past it had been a pretty decent event. But, to those that were there in 2008, Averagesboro is an event that dare not speak its name.....EVER. Let's not talk about the battle, cause well, it wasn't a battle. Napoleon himself

wouldn't even consider it a skirmish and Caesar would probably see it as two armies playing hop scotch. Then there was the flood. Forty days of rain, in four hours. Dr. Lanier, where in the Book of Revelations is the passage damning WBTS reenactors to an eternal following of rain at the most in-opportune time? I know there was a touch of divinity about the event when Dave not only stood on water, but built a fire on top of it just to smite the gods. This stuff can't be made up! What began as a group of thirty dwindled to a collective of ten, and with the next onslaught from the heaven, only the Irish remained. And so the Muddy Six of the Bloody Sixth began the morn with the utmost anticipation.....of going home, and decided to watch in awe as the rest of our brothers in arms marched out in the mud to the exact same thing as the day before. And, when the battle was over, there was much rejoicing.

A merry old day in the month of May, and I'm heading to Virginia. So much for the merry part. I kid. Another opportunity to march in the blazing sun, in a wool uniform, on paved roads in shoes that were designed to walk on soft ground and I'm the first one to get excited. The Legion's annual Living History/Walking Tour took us to Chancellorsville where what has been argued as the single greatest military maneuver in American history took place. Not only did myself, Marc Cheek and Dave Lanier have the unique opportunity of being part of one of the three groups that have ever replicated Jackson's flank march, the others being a small group that made the trek during the 135th anniversary and the other was Jackson himself of course. Not only that but we did it on the actual date, which is a very rare opportunity. We saw lots of things, the railroad cut where Jackson's rear guard was overtaken, the last opportunity for them to take on one, a VERY friendly biker who was a Confederate sympathizer. And, at the end, we stopped at the convenience store where Jackson got a lemon flavored lolly-pop before turning Howard's flank. Speaking of which, the next day we became only the second group in history to have fired shots on the ground where Jackson made his turn. Very cool. This was one that I did not want to end, but before we left we got one more unique experience. In Hazel's Grove, we made the charge of the 5th NCST in a perfect line. There are several ways of explaining how that made me feel, all of them are far too explicit to name here, so I will just say that the knees were a bit wobbly.

Pamplin Park.....dare I say more? Those that went will know what I'm talking about. Those that didn't, I'll just say this "Leap frog anyone?"

"Your objective will be that clump of trees, yonder." It was by these words that many a DVD were sold. Gettysburg, say the name and you'll have closet historians nipping at your heels. Five days of fun, fun, fun in the Pennsylvania

sun, or clouds, or eminent downpour. Dr. Lanier, see note on Averasboro. We begin with the LONG drive, and I'm not talking about golf. We started the event with a recreation of Ewell's marching on the town. I have never been so emotional in my reenacting career...period. There was something about marching into THAT town in uniform with a thousand others that just overwhelmed me and it is something that I will not forget. After we broke from that, Rick led a wonderful tour tracing the steps of Avery's Brigade during the battle. Rick is a serious authority on the subject, and my hat's off to him. And a special thanks to Cindy Pierce for making sure we had good vittles. The next day we linked up with the boys from Utah that had fallen in with us for the weekend, and fell in for the monumental task of waiting. Once we started down the road, it was pretty obvious why we were waiting. I had never seen so many Confederates in my life. As best I can guess there were at least 15,000, it was an awesome sight. The first "essence" event that had ever happened to me came later that day. We were marching by a column of companies with the field music in front, and I just happened to look down the line to make sure everyone was still dressed and all I could see were legs kicking in and out of the line and I fell into a trance. It was the most hypnotic thing I'd ever witnessed and it was so perfect, I had to literally force myself back to reality. The last day started much the same as the day before, except we marched out to the field and waited which is always good for a change of pace. Before we left camp we drew hit cards. I'm not going to say what mine had on it, but I had several people suggest I say, "My boys, my boys, I can't see what's happened to my boys!" Needless to say, I did take my hit. But, I knew I had an ancestor that was captured at the wall, so I roused myself and caught up to the line. The line was literally disintegrating. By the time we were within ten feet of the stones, I was all that was left of the company. As I pulled myself up to the wall, I looked back to a field littered with bodies and men straggling back to the reserves. One line passed through my mind, "It is well that war is so terrible, lest we grow too fond of it." I'm ready to go back.

The North Carolina Park Service's living history at Bennett Place will forever be known as "The Night of the Chiggers." I still have the bite marks to prove it too. This little living history soon turned into a full on camp of instruction leaving many Confederates demanding for a refund. When they were told there was no registration fee, they still wanted a refund. Oh the effects that skirmish drill has on the mind. Including one discussion between Dave Lanier and Captain Morton.

Captain- *Dave bring up that line to the First Sergeant.*

Dave- *I'm trying to find Rick, but I can't see him.*

Captain- *Rick's not there, Rob's filling in.*

Dave- *Well that explains why I can't find him.*

Sunday's drill was suspended. Church attendance was

unusually high that day.

Sampson County, USA it's where all the hip kids are going. A fine collection of vintage cars and a WIDE variety of food vendors that were more than willing to take federal greenbacks was what made the trip worth while. They even had tractors, which is the equivalent of dying and going to Elysium in ancient Rome. Not only that, but I got some real corn meal made from real corn that I watched a real man grind. Not that stuff they sell in the markets and expect you to believe that anything that vile came from the Earth. Did I mention the ice cream? Excellent event. I say if we go back this year we reenact the Battle of Rocky Road.

As the year begins to wind down, the surplus of pottery in the Seagrove area begins to reach critical mass. Solution: have a festival. As always, plenty of wood, plenty of insane campfire stories and plenty of liquids to drink. Saturday morning began with a Board of Directors meeting. At least that's what we told everyone. Two hours later, we had a new Lieutenant, 1st Sergeant, Second Sergeant, Third Sergeant and a partridge in a pear tree. The afternoon was filled with drill, the point of swords at certain people, more drill, the swinging of swords at certain people, followed by a steel cage match in the center canopy. As always, Seagrove never disappoints. Many thanks to the Nash brothers for the stew Saturday night. I can still taste it, though I'm not really sure if that's normal.

Lastly, we have Christmas at the Capital. The perfect way to end the year. It's always fun sitting around and telling stories from the year while Dave and Zach play music around the make believe campfire. This year we had an opportunity to fall in for a wreath laying ceremony hosted by the Civil Air Patrol which was interesting. And then of course we drilled. The Captain has been reading Skip Smith's play book, "How I Whipped 'em Every Time", too much methinks. But we survived, and went home for a well deserved rest before the year ahead.

My hat's off to each and every one of you boys. We had a very good year in terms of attendance, and I hope we can keep the momentum going in 2009. I'm honored to have been appointed as the First Sergeant of such a fine group of gentlemen, and to be so at my age is an honor in itself. I will do to the best of my abilities everything I can to keep us well oiled and operating freely, and hopefully not get mugged in the process. No man makes a company; it is by the efforts of individuals that we will succeed. See you in the field.

**Your Obedient,
1st Sgt. Robert Conner, General Pain**