



Captain's Comments

Men of the Sixth,

I trust that by the time that you receive this that you are well on the way to finalizing your plans for participating in two major events coming up during the next three

weeks. The first of the two is this weekend (June 21 - June 22) at Pamplin Park, VA. This event was discussed in detail within our most recent **"Rally On The Colors"** edition, so I only encourage you to complete the assembly of your gear and join us in Virginia this weekend for what should be a most unique reenacting weekend. Be sure to bring some period rations, as there will be an opportunity to do some real cooking.

The second event deserving our attention is the Gettysburg 145th commemoration on July 4 - July 6. We have been talking about this event since last fall and it is now almost upon us. Elsewhere in this month's newsletter you will find details about the weekend, including Thursday's pre-reenactment "march on Gettysburg", to be conducted by elements of Hood's Division. The Carolina Legion will be represented in this historic and probably once-in-a-lifetime event.

In preparing for Gettysburg, please be aware that there have been some last minute changes in the commissary situation. You will have to adjust your meal planning accordingly. Due to some unexpected events, our commissary staff will not be able to attend or cook for this event. We are working on some plans to possibly mitigate the impact of this situation and provide some type of meal support, although not to the extent that we would expect with a full blown commissary. We will be trying to work out some details while we're at Pamplin Park. In any case, you should be planning and expecting to provide your own meals, unless the company can come up with some other strategy within the next week or two. We will issue some information regarding the outcome of the meal discussion prior to Gettysburg, in either case.

If you are registered for Gettysburg, one of our NCOs will be contacting you and asking for confirmation of your attendance, travel plans and arrival date. We are strongly encouraging that you car-pool for this trip and make your

plans with other members of the company. 1st Sgt. Walton is keeping a tabulation of who is planning to drive and who is riding with whom, so he can help us all understand who might have an open seat or space to offer for the trip. If you have not teamed up with someone else by now, contact Rick or one of our NCOs immediately and let them help you run this down. With as many men as we have heading up, no one should have to drive or travel by themselves. The Sunday afternoon battle begins at 3PM, so it will be a late day and long evening for everyone traveling back to North Carolina on Sunday. A travel partner will be an important asset with helping to have a safe trip back.

Be prepared for HOT weather at Gettysburg. The July 4th weekend at G'burg has traditionally been a warm event almost every year. Unless we get lucky, expect temps in the upper 80's to low 90's. Drink clear liquids and hydrate your body as much as possible the week BEFORE you leave. I can't overemphasize this enough. Stay off drinks with sugar and drink plain old water, lots of it. You won't regret it. If you can get in some exercise before then, take the time to do it. We will have battles on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, so be prepared for a lot of action.

As a company, we have informed the Colonel of the Legion that the Sixth will take Friday morning and early Friday afternoon and do some sightseeing, but we plan to be back in time Friday afternoon to participate in the battle to assault Cemetery Hill. We will do the Friday morning roll call and morning report and then be on our own, to eat breakfast and make our tour run. Sgt. Walton will be our unofficial guide and is planning to provide us with a whirlwind tour of the path the Sixth took into and around Gettysburg before falling back after the battle. If any of you have been with Rick on this tour before, you know what a fine job he does with this.

Please make note of the information provided in this Sentinel edition. If you have ANY questions, contact any of our NCOs or myself. We want to make this as an enjoyable a trip as possible, in spite of \$4.00/gal gasoline. This could be one of the few remaining "whopper" events (as my brother Jeff has christened them) that many of us may have the ability to participate in or afford. So let's get our plans in order and make this one of the more memorable events of our reenacting careers.

See you in the field,
Capt. S. Morton

145th Gettysburg

July 3-6, 2008

Schedule of Events

1st Battalion, Carolina Legion / Stepp's Brigade / King's Division

Wednesday, July 2

12:00 pm Camps Open

Thursday, July 3

5:45 am Musicians Call
6:00 Reveille
6:30 Breakfast
7:00 Morning Reports Due to Battalion HQ
8:15 Depart Camp for Staging Area
9:00 Stage at Gettysburg Middle School
10:00 Gettysburg Parade
11:30 (Free time until 4:00 when all should
 report to camp)
4:30 School of the Solider
5:30 School of the Company
6:30 Skirmish Drill
7:30 Supper
9:00 Tattoo

Friday, July 4

5:45 am Musicians Call
6:00 Reveille
6:30 Breakfast
7:00 Morning Reports Due to Battalion HQ
8:00 Battalion Drill
10:00 Recall from Drill
11:30 Mid-Day Meal
12:00 pm Stage for Battle
1:30 Willoughby Run and McPherson's Ridge
4:30 Stage for Battle
6:00 East Cemetery Hill
7:30 Supper
9:00 Tattoo

Saturday, July 5

5:45 am Musicians Call
6:00 Reveille
6:30 Breakfast
7:00 Morning Reports Due to Battalion HQ
8:00 Battalion Drill
9:00 Recall from Drill
12:00 pm Mid-Day Meal
3:30 Stage for Battle
5:00 Hood's Division Attacks
7:30 Supper
9:00 Tattoo

Sunday, July 6

5:45 am Musicians Call
6:00 Reveille
6:30 Breakfast
7:00 Morning Reports Due to Battalion
 HQ
8:00 Church Call
9:00 Battalion Drill
9:30 Recall from Drill
9:45 North Carolina Roll of Honor
 Ceremony
12:00 pm Mid-Day Meal
1:30 Stage for Battle
3:00 Pettigrew / Pickett's Charge

The 6th NCST Flag at Gettysburg

First Sergeant Rick Walton

When the discussion turns to flags, a question I am often asked is, "Which flag did the 6th NCST carry and when?" If you go to the museum link on our website, you will see 2 battle flags, the "Fisher" regimental flag as well as a company flag. Not shown is a silk state flag that was issued to the first 10 regiments.

The answer is ...who knows? We weren't there and those that were seem reluctant to talk about it.

When reviewing letters, diaries, battle reports, newspaper articles and other primary source material, the flag is rarely mentioned. I think that perhaps this was such a commonplace, well understood object, that it did not have to be mentioned, anymore than a 21st century person would write about the operating system on their computer. We all know what it does, how it works and why its there. It would be redundant and unnecessary to focus on it, unless something out of the ordinary was to happen involving it. This makes the historians task somewhat daunting and difficult, but fortunately the flag was mentioned occasionally and those commonplace, well understood norms of the 1860's can be discovered and applied to help us determine a most likely "what would have been" in the absence of undisputable facts.

Since we are heading to Gettysburg, let's ask the question:

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What flag (or flags) did the 6th NCST carry at the battle of Gettysburg in 1863? Well, you're in luck, because I think I know the answer. Why? Because they told me.

On July 8, 1863, Major Samuel McDowell Tate commanding the 6th NCST wrote a note to N. C. Governor Zebulon Vance from near Winchester. Thinking hostilities could resume at any time, Tate wanted Vance to hear of the bravery and accomplishment of North Carolinians, especially the 6th NCST, at Gettysburg. "(W)hile I am yet spared", he began and described the actions on July 1 and the heroic charge up East Cemetery hill on the evening of July 2nd, "75 North Carolinians of the 6th Regt and 12 Louisianans of Hays' brigade scaled the walls and planted the colors of the 6th N. C. and 9th La on the guns."

When the promised support never arrived, the men coolly retreated under the cover of darkness, but this was a bitter pill to swallow and Tate makes sure Vance knows it: "Of course the reports are not written out but I know the disposition so well that I look for no special mention of our regiment, while it is the only one in the A. N. V. which did go in and silence the guns on the heights and what is more if a support of a brigade had been sent up to us the slaughter of A. P. Hill's corps would have been saved on the day following." But that's another story...

So... we know the Sixth NCST planted their colors, but what colors were they?

Captain Neill W. Ray, a member of the 6th NCST, a participant in its many battles and marches and an eyewitness, describes the "regimental flag" in **Volume I**,



**The 6th NCST Regimental Flag
Flown at Gettysburg**

Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War 1861-1865, edited by Walter Clark and published by the State of North Carolina in 1901. This is the blue silk flag we call the "Fisher Flag". The one we re-dedicated at 1st Manassas a couple of years ago. The one with the motto **"Deeds NOT Words!"**

He described this flag as: "...it waved over the regiment at the capture of Rickett's Battery at First Manassas, and over Rickett's Battery and Weidrick's Battery on Cemetery Heights at Gettysburg, July 2d, 1863. It was not always used in battle, especially after battle flags had been distributed to the army."

So we know from someone who was there that the regimental flag was certainly flown at Gettysburg and was most likely the very "colors" Tate describes as being planted on the heights.

But when Tate said "colors" could he have mean plural? We always call our flag "the colors" but if we had two or three flags (which we sometimes do at events) we would call them, collectively, "the colors" too.

Let's think about this...would 75 men need to carry TWO flags? We have fielded more than 75 men in the legion, so we can easily picture the size of the regiment. In a brigade formation (They were with the rest of Hoke's Brigade and Hay's brigade during this charge) I think 2 flags would have been confusing.

In Hardee's Tactics, the illustrations and descriptions concerning the formation of a regiment indicate a single regimental banner.

In **The Damned Red Flags of the Rebellion**, Richard Rollins describes the tactical importance of the battle flag, as we have experience ourselves in the field. "After the first volley, the colors are often the only thing that could be seen through the smoke...thus in the eyes of the men and the officers, the flag was the material embodiment of the regiment." He describes how the flag is used to position the line, as a rally point and to be used as a marker when aligning the troops. Imagine the confusion that would be caused by two flags. What if one went forward while the other retreated, which one would you follow? The sight of multiple flags fluttering proudly is inspiring in a parade, but could be deadly on the battlefield. No, I think that there was only a single flag.

But why carry this flag instead of the normal battle flag? Perhaps the flag was chosen so the 6th NCST would stand out in the brigade line. Remember, Hoke's brigade is now being led by their former colonel, Isaac E. Avery and this is his first big action. Maybe they wanted to honor his accomplishment, or give him some extra confidence when

he looked over the field and saw "Fishers" flag fluttering over the trusted men of his former regiment as they climbed East Cemetery hill.

Perhaps the Regimental "Fisher" flag was chosen specially for this Historic moment to demonstrate "Deeds not Words". Remember, the 6th NCST has rolled the Yankees back through Gettysburg to this hill the previous day and even though they were dug in, the 6th NCST may have felt confident that one more push would deliver success. Several 6NCST post war accounts bitterly fault General Early with not supporting the attack and actually feel the battle was lost because of it.

Perhaps the battle flag wasn't even there. We know that the company I flag was captured in Captain York's baggage in 1863. Perhaps the regimental battle flag was likewise packed away in baggage trains and simply wasn't available because of the rapid movement of Hoke's brigade to the foot of East Cemetery hill.

As part of the ANV, the 6th NCST was issued a Confederate battle flag. One was captured just 4 months later at Rappahannock Station, Va. on Nov. 7, 1863 by James H. Littlefield, Co. I, 5th Maine Volunteers. That flag, in the NCMOH Collection, is a 3rd wool issues type with no battle honors and white border, BUT...did this or any other regimental battle flag ever fly at Gettysburg. I wish I could say for certain.

My research has shown me that while there are tidbits of flag info out there, people rarely report directly about flags. Flags are generally mentioned as an afterthought. I have yet to discover the history of the flags of the 6th NCST tied up in a neat narrative. Have you found some other information that would shed more light on this story? If so, I would greatly welcome your scholarship.

So in summary this is a very long winded way to say ...Yes I know the 6th Carried the Blue "Fisher Flag" at Gettysburg And that's what we need to carry when we visit in July... because they told me so. 🌀

After Action Report Battle of Averasboro, N. C. March 15,16, 1865

Pvt. William G. O'Quinn

On the evening of Friday, March 14, the Company was bivouacked on the outskirts of the tiny North Carolina village of Averasboro. Most of us knew that the next day we would be facing that Yankee dog Slocum. They destroyed the arsenal at Fayetteville last week, and we were hearing horrid reports from

the people that were fleeing in advance of that black-hearted Sherman. We had heard that some of Sherman's bummers were hanging people by the neck until told where to find that persons valuables, meager as they were. They are truly an unholy people.

The next morning, March 15, we awoke to a late reveille around 7:00 AM. We then had breakfast and got ready for first call and morning inspection. After this, we marched to a cleared field where we enjoyed a little company drill. Captain Morton asked Private Conner and myself to demonstrate the manual of arms for the company so those who had forgotten or were just waking up could see them executed with perfect military precision. Of course we were more than happy to oblige our beloved captain. Captain Morton had Corporal Burgess act as 2nd Sergeant during the drill. Corporal Burgess was more than glad to have a chance to demonstrate his talents. We proceeded to practice the movements which Colonel Smith said the Battalion would be executing momentarily. After about forty-five minutes we ended company drill and started our favorite pastime - battalion drill. I will pause here from levity for a moment to say that Colonel Smith's dedication in the area of proper and historically correct drill and maneuvers make the Carolina Legion one of the most respected units in the reenactment community today. After a rollicking drill in the morning sun we marched back to camp for lunch.

After lunch, pickets reported seeing cavalry moving in our rear, Kilpatrick no doubt. We had heard he was in support of General Slocum with the Third Cavalry. The Yank's like to call him "Kill Cavalry". Well, if he ever gets close enough and in our sights he will be a killed cavalryman. That's for dang certain!

We marched to the high part of a cotton field about five-hundred yards in front of a tree line. We knew they would be coming through those trees. Sure enough, just a few minutes later we saw that striped rag on a pole just a waving with those blue devils on either side. About that time our artillery opened up with everything they had. The poured it into the Yankee line for about fifteen minutes. On our left, the Yankee cavalry came out of the woods. They made a pass on our front, but they may as well have been on parade. They didn't do a bit of damage. We let go a volley, but them Yanks must have been tied to their saddles 'cause not a one fell off his mount.

After the cavalry retired, we sent our skirmishers out. We moved forward for about one-hundred to one-hundred and fifty yards before there was an order to halt. We must have fired for about a quarter of an hour, but they was good at ducking them balls 'cause I didn't see a one of them fall either. We were then ordered to fall back still in

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the skirmish line. We then formed up for the rest of the show.

The blue heathens began to move forward toward our line but halted after the Colonel ordered the Battalion to fire by battalion. We did that a couple of times, and then we got to firing at will. Through the gaps in the smoke I noticed that not too many of them were getting hit. Private Ragan and myself thought they must have been issued some kind of new fangled armor or something. It's hard for a whole battalion not to hit a stationary line of men at one-hundred yards! We finally came to the conclusion that we had been issued faulty rounds.

We then fell back a ways and the shooting stopped. There was an informal truce called I guess and some fellow blew on his horn, and then we headed back to the place where we bivouacked the night before. It was a little after mid-afternoon but you would have thought the sun was going down for the black clouds that rolled in on us.

Captain Morton brought out some powder to pass around to the men who had not received their issue for signing on for another year. Private Holder told the Captain that he hoped this powder was better than what we shot at them Yankees in the field. Corporal Lanier retorted; "Private Holder, you couldn't hit a bull in the butt with a howitzer filled with the best powder Mr. DuPont ever made!" About that time the sky let loose with what was in them black clouds. Everybody was running around trying to make sure their tents were buttoned and the gaps were closed over the ridge poles. We were throwing our muskets into tents, cars, trucks, and anything that we thought would be dry.

We all sat around under the company fly waiting for the monsoon to abate. After several hours it was clear (some where else) that the rain had no intention of letting up any time soon. Captain Morton's articles were soaked as well as First Sergeant Walton's. Corporal Tim Morton's belongs were getting soaked too and Private Holder's tent was just a roof for his own private lake. One by one our company started to shrink. By morning there were only six of us left that had weathered the storm. Everything in my tent looked dry. I thought I had dodged the bullet. I crawled into my tent to rest my weary bones and pulled back my blanket to find my sleeping bag sopping wet. The edge of my ground cloth had fell down to form a funnel at the corner of my tent, the water went right under my bag. However, if I had not had it, my tent would have been filled with water. I threw my poncho on top of the bag and pulled a blanket over me and was out like a light.

Those of who did stay got to witness an almost magical event. Corporal Lanier performed a feat which very few have seen since ancient times. Not since the days of Alexander and the Pharaohs

of Egypt has anyone seen what we few saw that night! Only one has walked on water, but our own Corporal David Lanier built a fire on water!

Thanks to Dave we stayed warm and had hot coffee! Those of us who have been to Averasboro more than twice know that you can not get through the weekend at that reenactment without a little rain. We had snow flurries one year. However, this last time is one for the books. We are known and proud to be called the "Bloody Sixth". However, now some of us are known as the "Muddy Six" of the Bloody Sixth"! 

Chancellorsville

Pvt. Robert Conner

One hundred and forty-five years to the day, we (Private Robert Conner, Private Marc Cheek and Corporal David Lanier) made a venture north into the neighboring state of Virginia, to a place where Stonewall Jackson made what is arguably his greatest military achievement. It was a Thursday, it was sunny and the trees were in full bloom. I know this is true because the entire time I was at Chancellorsville, I couldn't help but notice the strong presence of pollen in the air. We North Carolinians are accustomed to pollen, but not in this magnitude. Our campsite was in the woods, of course. So, on top of the ever present pollen, we must now deal with the dust from the past season's dead fall coupled with the lack of rain Virginia had been experiencing. Honestly, I've looked at star nebulas that have had less dust strewn about them than those woods in Chancellorsville. But, I digress. When a North Carolinian steps foot in Virginia, he knows it will be unpleasant.

The first night is always the longest, such is always the case. You get there early, nothing to do except wait. So wait we did. And the morning and the evening made the first day.

The second day was to start at 5:00 am. Apparently the bugler didn't get the memo because it was nearly 7:00 before I heard a peep out of him. We formed on the road through the park, took roll and then proceeded to "Wait for the Wagon." Army custom dictates that one must be rushed into a position of high importance, and that all unnecessary customs must be done in order to formally mix up things and forget why we were doing all this in the first place. Same story, different day. By now we are use to it, and don't think much of it. After waiting to see who actually had a vehicle that could actually carry more than

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two people, we finally moved a battalion of about 70 within an hour. A record by my recollection for the Carolina Legion. I was a bit surprised to see the Colonel himself, who had informed me the night before that this was his first time visiting Chancellorsville and to that end was in nothing short of a state of being equivalent to that of a school girl, was to be carrying a rifle and marching in the rank and file. I think it appropriate for an officer to carry a musket at least once a year, lest they forget how heavy the blasted things are when they forget to give us an arms change.

The tour began at Catharine's Furnace, where the rear guard of Jackson's line was hit. The Park Service ranger was a little red headed ball of fire who was more ecstatic about us being there than we were about doing the march. The mood changed when she informed us that before our march that afternoon, there were only two other groups of men under arms that had traced those roads. The first was Jackson's men; the second was a group of about 10 reenactors during the 125th anniversary. That was more than enough to keep my spirits up for an eight miler. And so we began.

After a short overview at the furnace, we began the march. We stopped in the railroad cut where the remnants of Jackson's rear guard gave up. This time, we were the first to have been under arms in that particular area since the time of the battle. Again we took up the road, for about a mile or so, and took a break. Considering the weather, the march wasn't that harsh, the trees helped immensely, as well as the breeze. Another mile or so and we stopped for lunch. The surgeon treated those who had sores. The Colonel, who was wearing a new pair of brogans needed tending to, I had one hot spot on my left foot, but I had the remedy in my pack which solved the problem quickly. The march had carried us out of the sanctuary of the woods, and onto the main roads of Virginia. Apparently someone didn't tell the driver's that automobiles were not period correct for 1863, and they were sure to tell us that they really didn't care. The last stop was where Hancock's trenches from the Battle of the Wilderness were. From there it was said to be a quarter mile to the end of the road, but that soon turned into a mile and a half, where we stumbled upon a convenience store. Jackson knew how to plan a march. From there we were shuttled back to camp - to rest and cook rations. That night we had a program at the visitor's center, and got to stand on the ground near where Jackson was shot at the exact moment, which was a nice treat.

Saturday, we went to where Jackson turned on Howard's line. It was a pasture; at least it would be if there were cows in it. If it were mowed for hay, the owner would have made a fortune as the grass was over my hip, which gave new meaning to "high-stepping." We "marched" and I use that term loosely since it was more

like a waddle, to a staging area for drill. Colonel Roberts was kind enough to let us drill without arms, but this field was as unforgiving as the day is long. It was by far the worst ground I have ever seen, and I've seen enough ground to make the world three times over. A crowd of spectators had gathered for us to do a demonstration, so we fulfilled the need. We marched past them giving the rebel yell, which made the hairs on my neck stand up. We did a firing demonstration then we charged them which is always fun. Afterward the park ranger tells us we are the first to fire shots on the field since the battle which is just plain awesome.

That evening, we went to Hazel's Grove and did a few stops, when the rangers interrupted and asked us to do a demonstration. We were somewhat reluctant but we figured since they had been nice we would honor our duty. Of course, we form in hurry then we wait. An hour passes and the boys are getting ill. It's hot, it's muggy and we're tired. Finally, we get to move. Hazel's Grove was full of ups and downs, long ones and short ones. But we forgot all about them with one little piece of information. We had been carrying the flag of the 5th NC all weekend. Not really thinking about it, we ended up making a charge up Hazel's Grove where the 5th did. And then we find out we were the first to do so. It was a good way to end the day.

Sunday, we marched out to the highway. If you've never seen reenactors play Frogger in real life, it is a sight to be seen. Four lanes of traffic later and we reached our stop. Bob Crick was leading a tour, and so we stopped and listened in with them, before we went down into the swamp to pay homage to North Carolinians that died there. After a church service we proceeded back across the road, broke camp and returned back to civilization. If you weren't there you missed a good time. 🌞

See You in the Field

First Sergeant Rick Walton

Are you ready for the 145th anniversary reenactment of Gettysburg? Here are some helpful hints to get prepared

Who is going? There are about 22 of us registered. We will also be hosting 8 reenactors from Utah. They are flying in and renting a car and expect to arrive Wednesday evening or Thursday morning, so if you bump into them, please introduce yourself and show them some of our Southern hospitality. The Gettysburg website is projecting 10-15,000 reenactors will be

attending. You can verify your registration on the Gettysburg Website:

<http://www.gettysburgreenactment.com/regsearch.asp>

How do I get there? I would suggest we carpool. Your Board of Directors has been contacting the members who have registered to discuss your plans and help facilitate carpooling. If you need a ride or can offer to drive, let me know. The directions can be found on the Gettysburg website:

<http://www.gettysburgreenactment.com/maps.htm>

Note: The CSA camp is across the street from the main reenactment site. I have been told we have a nice wooded site.

Here are some important Arrival and Registration reminders from the organizers:

- Reenactors may begin to arrive no earlier than noon on Wednesday, July 2nd. All reenactors must first check in at the registration barn upon arrival at the event site.
- SITE REGISTRATION HOURS:
 - Wednesday, July 2nd: Noon - 10.00 p.m.
 - Thursday, July 3rd through Saturday July 5th: 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 - Sunday, July 6th: 6:00 a.m. - Noon.
- You must have valid ID to register.
- When you arrive, ask for Hood's Division (Jack King commanding); Stepp's Brigade (Jeff Stepp commanding); Carolina Legion 1st Infantry Battalion...
- After registering, each reenactor is required to present their pass upon entering the reenactor parking and camps.
- **Important NOTE!** Even though reenactors will be able to check in at Registration after dark, they will not be allowed take vehicles into the camps between 11p.m. – 6a.m. due to safety and logistical considerations.
- For your convenience, there will be an on-site shuttle exclusively for registered reenactors.
- Any civilians should camp near the 26th commissary, which is where their civilians are camping

What else do I need to know? Check out all the reenactor news and rules at:
<http://www.gettysburgreenactment.com/reenactorUpdates.htm>

Thursday, July 3rd: We will help re-create Gordon's Brigade's taking of Gettysburg with a 1.1 mile march into Gettysburg...this has never happened before and will probably be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity...the march starts at 10 am...we will depart camp probably about 8:30 or so and drive into town and park at the staging area...Join us if you can.

Friday, July 4th: The Board has designated this as a touring day. Since many of us rarely get to Gettysburg, the board felt it would be worthwhile to take some time away from the reenactment to tour the actual battlefield and make your trip worthwhile. Famed historian Rick Walton will be leading an exclusive tour focused on the 6th NCST at Gettysburg, but if you have other interests, feel free to tour on your own.

Dealing with the heat: It looks like its going to be **HOT**, so don't wait...get OUTSIDE all this week to get acclimated. Take a walk EVERY Night. And start phasing off soda and tea and get yourself HYDRATED with plenty of **WATER**.

I know most you have done this before...but here is a quick checklist of some other things to think about:

1. Do I have my uniform ready? Plan on bringing some extra shirts, underwear and socks. You are going to sweat in whatever you are wearing until its dripping wet and it is best to have something dry to change into and let the wet one dry out...**especially underwear**. There is nothing worse than a rash on your legs caused by chafing wet underwear.... My suggestion...pick up some Lycra bike shorts that wick sweat away and bring some powder... If you have been there, you know what I mean!
2. You might want to prepare a "kit" for the trip home and leave it in the car... including a small towel, deodorant, clean socks and underwear, clean shorts and 6th NCST Logo t-shirt. I like to change out of the wet, sweaty period clothes, towel off and put on my dry 21st century clothes. I may still smell like a Frenchman, but clean dry clothes are still a little more comfortable. (And appreciated if you are a guest in someone else's vehicle!)
3. Do I have my 'couters ready? CLEAN rifle-musket, FULL cartridge box, full cap pouch, extra caps and cartridges (you still have time to get rolling), bayonet with functioning scabbard (make sure the scabbard tip is secure), tin plate, cup and eating utensils, canteen or two, extra water .
4. DON'T Forget your **6th NCST belt buckle (remember the 6th NCST was in the fight on**

July 1 and July 2).

5. Do I have my ride arranged or have I re-mortgaged the house to cover the gasoline bill?
6. Do I have a map of how to get there and do I know what to do when I get there? **See above link.**
7. There is NO commissary? Do you know what you are going to eat? Who your mess-mates will be? Have you bought some spare snacks? Water? Gator-aid? (BTW- The Gettysburg web site says there will be food vendors exclusively for reenactors near the CSA camp.)
8. Plan ahead...when we're in the field ...and its 101 degrees (and your body feels like 201 degrees) and the **Angels of Mercy** are bringing around **ice cubes**...what will you do? **Think handkerchief** or stuff sack or something to hold some ice for you to chew, put on your head, your neck, etc.
9. Have I reviewed the basic drill movements? Facings, wheels (lean in, look out- http://www.10thbattalion.org/left_wheel.php) arms carries, the difference between company into line (http://www.10thbattalion.org/by_company_in_to_line.php) and on the right, by file into line (http://www.10thbattalion.org/sos_148.php), etc
10. NCOs should have a copy of Hardee's and a small pad and pencil to record duty rosters and orders, and study up on drill and your duties! You should have an updated copy to the Legion NCO manual.
11. when making up your grocery list think about the following important but often overlooked items:
 - TP in case the porta-john is out
 - small flashlight

- hand cleaner
- Insect repellent
- Sun screen
- Gold Bond powder (for your feet and wherever else needs soothing)
- Moleskin for your foot blisters
- small boxes or "pouches" of Gatorade for your haversack
- disposable camera
- Water, water, H2O
-

Did I mention... It looks like this is going to be **HOT**, so don't wait...get **OUTSIDE** all this week to get acclimated. Take a walk **EVERY** Night. And start phasing off soda and tea and **get yourself HYDRATED with plenty of WATER.**

When you get to the reenactment, don't overdo it, drink plenty of **WATER**, cut down on soda, caffeine and alcohol. They may taste good, but they are not going to rehydrate you in 90-100 temps. Sweating is **GOOD** (maybe unpleasant, but if you stop sweating, you are in trouble)

If you have a medical condition, are overweight, have heart problems, or are out of shape then you may want to get some medical advice before spending a weekend exerting yourself in this heat. We want everyone to come, but we also want everyone to come home safe and healthy! If you feel sick or overheated...Then **STOP**...use your common sense and seek help if needed...no one will judge you for playing it safe.

Some last minute advice from the Colonel: Travel light...we will be a little ways from everything...at the 135th Gettysburg several of us went in on Wednesday with what we had on our backs...it worked perfect...probably one of the best events I have ever attended...we carried our packs with us on the Sunday fight and stacked them before we went into the fight...after it was over, we retrieved them and were able to walk to the cars.

Spend some time getting prepared, **DRINK WATER**, Plan for the heat and have a safe trip!

See you on the field,

Rick

THE CEDAR FORK SENTINEL

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For information or submittal of articles, please send to the Editor at: mgcheek@earthlink.net

145th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg Redding Farm Battlefield

