

# **THE GEORGIA VOLUNTEER BATTALION**

**BATTALION E-BULLETIN**

**WWW.GAVOLBN.ORG**

**March, 2006**

Gentlemen,

Before you is the inaugural issue of the GVB Electronic Bulletin. This is the first issue of what is hoped will become an important communications too with which we can improve our communications between events. Hopefully, with better communications, we can improve our attendance and our experiences. Please help in this endeavor by telling everyone on your email list about this bulletin. They can subscribe/unsubscribe at any time by emailing [bulletin@gavolbn.org](mailto:bulletin@gavolbn.org). When this bulletin goes out over email, it will be viewable with the free Adobe Acrobat Reader, available from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). Many will receive this first issue in print at Manassas. This is a one time only deal! ALL future issues will be emailed. You can print them out or read them online as your preference dictates. This bulletin is completely free.

## **Take a Part!**

Take a part in this e-bulletin by sending letters to the editor, (using the same guidelines as the forum), want ads, (for sale or wanted to buy), event listings, pictures, and suggestions. Email them to [bulletin@gavolbn.org](mailto:bulletin@gavolbn.org).

## **FROM THE GENERAL!**

**To the Officers and men of the Georgia Volunteer Battalion,**  
Congratulations on your new venture into the 21st century cyber world, with the issue of a new "E" newsletter. We must always use whatever methods work best to communicate to our troops, and this is an excellent way to do so. I have no doubt that this endeavor will reflect the best of the Battalion and I look forward to seeing it.  
For the South  
Gen. T. L. Jessee

### ***ELECTIONS!?***

This years Battalion elections were held at Olustee as planned. The new Battalion Field Officers for 2005-2006 are:

Colonel M. Hunter Poythress  
Lt. Col. David Young, Right Wing Commander  
Major Paul Jerram, Left Wing Commander

The Battalion Staff Appointments are:

Lt. Jeff Yoder, adjutant  
Sgt. Major Jim Boone, Battalion Sgt. Major  
Sgt. Don McWaters, Battalion Color Sgt.  
Sgt. Buddy Jowers, Bugler and Principal Musician

### ***EVENTS!?***

#### **1. Reidsville, Georgia, March 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>**

Also known as Manassas, the 53<sup>rd</sup> Georgia and the Tatnall Invincibles SCV camp put on an excellent, reenactor-friendly event, 1 hour west of Savannah. All amenities are provided in abundance. Saturday's scenario is based on Sherman's advanced troops capturing an earthen militia fort near a vital crossroads. Sunday's battle occurs when the reinforced militia companies storm the fort and recapture it from the Federal troops. Friday's school days generally draw around 500+ schoolkids, so if you can show up early, please do so. There will also be a battalion-planning meeting on Saturday evening. POC's for this event are Lee Murdock @478-986-5290 and Tommy Wallace @ 912-557-6649.

#### **2. Okefenokee BBQ & Tactical, April 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>**

Held in Blackshear, Georgia, this event is hosted by Co. K of the 26<sup>th</sup> Georgia. POC is Paul Hagan, paul\_hagan @ hotmail.com

### 3. Columbus Georgia, April 1<sup>st</sup> –2<sup>nd</sup>

The Encampment at Port Columbus is hosted by the Port Columbus National Civil War Naval Museum. POC is Capt. Matt Young of the 17<sup>th</sup> Georgia. 706-327-9798(W), 706-575-1581(H). Gentlemen, the museum is worth the trip alone. It is one of the best-designed and best-stocked museums of any type in this country.

### 5. Battle of Kennesaw, April 21-23, 2006



Battle will be held one mile from downtown Kennesaw, on original battle sites and camps of the 1864 Battle of Big Shanty. Fire wood, water, and straw in well-shaded period & modern camps. There will be a dance on Saturday night, and all participants in period dress will gain free admission to the museum, which is well worth the trip on it's own. They have added a large collection of original items that are unique and interesting . .

Artillery is By Invitation, Bounty for first

10 Full Size ( 57" wheel, 6 Pdr. and up) Pieces pre-registered and in battle, NO SCALE ARTILLERY OR MORTARS. Bounty for largest Cavalry unit on field. Unit Registration Form by April 1<sup>st</sup>. NO Re-enactor Fee/Fees, donations are accepted , Sutlers and Artillery by invitation. \$35.00 Sutler Fee. For this event, all Alabama Division Safety Rules and guidelines are in effect. Copies are available on request. **ABSOLUTELY NO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ALLOWED ON SITE, VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED**

This event is hosted by the 35<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry, the 28<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry, Cleburne's Division, the Alabama Division, The Army of Tennessee, Stephen's Light Artillery, and the 125<sup>th</sup> Ohio.

#### Participant Information

K.E. Sumner  
621 Victoria Lane  
Woodstock, GA 30189  
(770) 926-1229  
[MtnRifle@bellsouth.net](mailto:MtnRifle@bellsouth.net)

#### Event & Museum, Information

Harper Harris  
Southern Museum  
2829 Cherokee Street  
Kennesaw, GA 30144  
(770) 427-2117 ext.106  
[hharris@kennesaw-ga.gov](mailto:hharris@kennesaw-ga.gov)

#### :Sutler Registration:

Chuck Johnson  
2695 Emerald Drive  
Jonesboro, Ga.30236  
(770) 471-3621  
[oldsouthart@aol.com](mailto:oldsouthart@aol.com)

#### Online Registration:

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

#### **4. Clinton, GA May 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

Old Clinton War Days is sponsored by the Old Clinton Historical Society and the 16<sup>th</sup> Georgia. The POC is Earlene Hamilton at 478-986-6383.

#### **5. Resaca, GA May 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006**

Recreating the Battle of Resaca on the original ground, the efforts of reenactors have helped save substantial portions of the battlefield from development. Sponsored by the Georgia Division, this year's Resaca will see the Confederates commanded by Col. Lamar Godfrey, past GVB commander. Let's lend him our support!

#### **Welcome to our New Brothers in Arms!**

Please welcome the 56<sup>th</sup> Georgia, 7<sup>th</sup> Georgia, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Georgia Infantry to the ranks of the Georgia Volunteer Battalion.



**THE 17TH GEORGIA, AT OLUSTEE, 2006**

## FROM THE COLONEL

To the Officers and Soldiers of the Georgia Volunteer Battalion:

Once again the GVB showed its mettle in the Battle of Olustee. Fielding over three hundred men, we managed to completely rout the Federal contingent, and drive them headlong back to Jacksonville. This was one of the largest GVB turnouts we have had since the battalion's inception, and I am proud to have served you there. Special thanks are extended to Colonel Godfrey and his staff for a fine year of service as commander of our Battalion. We wish him well as he resumes command of the 49<sup>th</sup> Georgia.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your expressions of congratulations and confidence as we set to another great year of service to history. The coming year promises to be a very busy one for us all, and we must begin to make preparations so that we can provide for our troops. At Manassas, we will have an important meeting to finalize the schedule through the next year. The events that we will be discussing in detail will include Kennesaw Mountain, Resaca, the 140<sup>th</sup> Battle of Manassas, Lovejoy Station, Tunnel Hill, Missionary Ridge, Andersonville, Jonesboro, and Atlanta. If you have any questions or comments about these or any other events, please offer them at our meeting.

Because of the fast approaching deadline for 140<sup>th</sup> Manassas, please communicate your unit's intentions to Lt. Yoder or me as soon as possible. I hope that Georgia will stand in good stead against the first tides of the coming storm.

Your Humble and Obedient Servant,

**M. HUNTER POYTHRESS,**  
Colonel Commanding, GVB

## FROM THE ADJUTANT

Greetings Everyone,

First of all I would like to say that it was my pleasure to serve you this past year, and I would like to thank all of you for allowing me that privilege again this year. I hope that everyone had a great time at Olustee and most important returned home safely. The battalion made a great showing putting over 275 men in the ranks for Saturday's and Sunday's battles. Next month, March 17th 18th and 19th we have the Battle of Manassas at Fort Wallace Wood coming up. I hope that all of you are planning to attend. The event is hosted by the Tattnell Invincibles SCV Camp and the 53rd Ga. And if you have never seen the camp show on Saturday night you are in for a treat. Two weeks after Manassas April 1st and 2nd, Matt Young and the 17th Ga will be hosting a Civil War Encampment at the Columbus Naval Museum in Columbus, Ga. Please check the website for details.

[www.portcolumbus.org/upcomingevents.htm](http://www.portcolumbus.org/upcomingevents.htm). Let's support the 17th at this great facility.

On the subject of upcoming events, I hope that all of you are giving some consideration to the 145th anniversary of the Battle of 1st Bull Run in June 21st through June 23rd in Middletown Va. If you have any questions about this please give me a call at 770-787-1181 or my cell 770-714-2131. I've also included the link to the website.

[www.cedarcreekbattlefield.org/reenact/bullrun.php](http://www.cedarcreekbattlefield.org/reenact/bullrun.php)

Once again thank you for allowing me to serve you. If I may be of any assistance please feel free to call me. Home 770-787-1181, Cell 770-714-2131

Your Most Obedient Servant  
Lt. Jeff Yoder  
Adjutant Georgia Volunteer Battalion  
2nd Battalion Department of the Gulf

## **FROM THE SGT. MAJOR**

Gentlemen of the GVB

Andrew asked me to write a column for the new E-bulletin so here goes.

First, I would like to thank all the Company 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeants' for their support and help at Olustee this year. Gentlemen without you at the head of your company, keeping things going and organized we can't function. I tip my hat to each and every one of you.

We did have a couple of things that happened on the field Saturday that I would like to address. First, we lost one soldier due to temperature and dehydration this is one of my pet peeves which all will find out as the year moves on. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR COMPANY IS HYDRATED. I know its hard getting people to drink water when there are so many other better tasting items out there...but we must make sure they drink at least two quarts of water in the evening before the battles on Saturday and Sunday. The water you drink the night before is what keeps you going the next day. I want all 1<sup>st</sup> sergeants to insure that your troops do this at every event. Second, on Saturday we had one private darn near take his fingers off with a weapon "cooking off". Gentlemen this should never happen. I checked his weapon and found that he had fired and then cocked and flipped the spent cap off the nipple and then proceeded to load powder. I understand he was properly trained on loading procedures but alas as we all have done at one time or another he had mental laps that cost him some badly burned fingers. All NCOs when your company is on the firing line it is your duty to be behind the files watching and making sure all privates are adhering to safety rules and proper loading procedures.

Gentlemen, I am the Sergeant Major of the Battalion and as such am your voice on staff. If you have any concerns please let me know so that I can assist you in any way that I can. My tent is always open to any NCO in the battalion let me know what you need and I will get it taken care of.

Your Obedient Servant  
Jim Boone Sgt. Maj. GVB

**The Dress Parade.**  
**From “The Dress Parade,” by Lt. Col. Leonidas Jones, Liberty Rifles.**

The adjutant is in total control of the formation. When he is satisfied with the alignment, he will direct that the captain of the first company put his company at Parade Rest. That captain will take one step forward, and command, **Shoulder-ARMS, Order-ARMS, Parade-REST.**

When the first company is at Parade Rest, the captain of the second company will repeat the procedure. Each company should be brought to Parade Rest successively, from right to left. When the adjutant sees each company at Parade Rest, he will order the music, under the command of the principal musician to **Music, Beat-OFF.** The music will play a slow march, as they march from right to left in front of the battalion, and then back to return to their position. Note that trooping the color is NOT part of the dress parade.

Once the music has returned to its position, the adjutant will command , **Attention-BATTALION, Shoulder-ARMS, Prepare to open ranks, To the rear open order-MARCH.** All company officers including lieutenants not in command) should march four paces forward, captains opposite their position in line, lieutenants opposite their place, in other words in front of their commands, (platoons or sections). Lieutenants will pass through the captain’s interval to take position. The lieutenant colonel and major will dismount, and march from their positions behind the line to a place six paces in front of their wings, or two paces in front of the line of company officers. Once the ranks are aligned, and the commissioned officers in their places, the adjutant should command, **FRONT.**

The adjutant will then march along the battalion front to the center, face right in marching, and pass the line of company officers eight or ten paces, face about, and command , **Present-ARMS.** He will then face front, salute the colonel, and report, Sir, the parade is formed.

The colonel, still with sword in scabbard, will return the salute with a hand salute. The adjutant will take post three paces to the left, and one to rear of the colonel, passing around his right. The colonel will draw his sword, command **Battalion, Shoulder-ARMS,** and drill the battalion in the manual of arms, as he sees fit, ending with **Order-ARMS.**

The adjutant will then pass around the colonel’s right, taking post midway between the colonel and the line of company officers. He will then **command First Sergeants, to the front and center-MARCH.** At the preparatory command, (all that before March) they will shoulder arms, march two paces forward, and face inward. At the command MARCH, they will march to the center and halt. Note that they do not face to the adjutant until his command.

The adjutant will then command, **Front-FACE, REPORT.**

At this, each first sergeant, beginning on the right, will give the rifle salute, and report the result of the roll call. In the GVB, it is our practice that the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Report with his company designation, and the number of men present. Thus, the report would be, **“Sir, Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Georgia, 20 men present.”**

After the reports, the adjutant will command, **First sergeants outward-FACE. To your posts-MARCH.** The sergeants will face out and return to their positions in line.

The adjutant will face to the colonel, salute, and report the results of the roll to the colonel, who will then direct that the orders be published. The adjutant will face about, and command **Attention to Orders**, at which time he will read such orders as the colonel may direct. He will then face to the colonel, salute and report that the order has been carried out.

### **First Sergeants.**

The first sergeant, for the most part, acts as though he were in company or battalion drill. When the adjutant commands To the rear open order, he steps back four paces as he usually does. When the captain marches to the front, he replaces him in the front rank. If lieutenants are present, he may need to step to the front, in front of the first file of his company, to allow them to pass to the front of their companies.

The most important function of the first sergeant is the report of the roll call. ON the adjutant's command of First Sergeants to the front and center, all first sergeants will shoulder arms, march two paces forward, (midway between the front rank and the line of company officers) and face inwards. On the command MARCH, they march to the center, and halt, still facing inwards. On the command Front-FACE, they face the adjutant. On the command REPORT, the first sergeant of the first company gives the rifle salute, and reports the result of the roll. The suggested form is First Company , all present or accounted for, Sir. If there are soldiers absent without permission, report them as such. All others are accounted for.

On the command, First Sergeants, Outward Face, all face out. At To your Posts-MARCH, all return to their posts and order arms.

### **Lieutenants.**

The only real duty of the lieutenant in the parade is to take post in front of the company. On the command To the rear, open order-MARCH, they should march to the front of their commands, passing by the captain's interval, the first sergeant stepping to the front to allow them to pass. A first lieutenant would stand four paces in front of the second platoon. A second lieutenant would stand four paces in front of the second section of the first platoon. A third lieutenant would stand four paces in front of the second section of the second platoon. All will obey the manual of arms commands as far as the sword manual permits. Of course, all lieutenants should be familiar with the duties of captains, in the absence of those officers.

### **Captains.**

Captains should see that their companies are formed and aligned at the first drum call before the parade. They should march their companies to the parade ground only on the sound of the Troop, which is the second music heard after the initial drum call. Do not bring your company early, as they will then have to wait for the color-company to form on line.

The captain of the color company, however, will form his company and march to the parade ground as soon as possible, preparing for the adjutant to place it next to the color-guard.

Remember that the formation of the battalion is according to the principles of successive formations. DO NOT BRING YOUR COMPANY TO ORDER ARMS. Bring them to the support instead. Remember that this is true in all formations of the battalion, nit just for dress parade.

When the adjutant directs the captain of the first company to bring them to parade rest, he will step one pace forward and command Shoulder-ARMS, Order-ARMS, Parade-REST. He will then step back into line and take the position of parade rest. The captain of the second company will then repeat the procedure, and so on successively down the line.

At the adjutant's command, To the rear open order-MARCH, all captains will march four paces forward and halt. From that point, simply obey manual of arms commands as allowed by the sword manual.

Remember that the end of our parade usually rolls into a formal inspection in column. When the adjutant commands Parade is dismissed, await further orders. If we are going to do something different, you will be forewarned.

#### **Field Officers and Chiefs of Cavalry and Artillery.**

The lieutenant colonel and major, after seeing that the companies are forming on their parades, will take their positions twelve paces behind their respective wings in line of battle. This distance will probably need to be adjusted to a small battalion front. On the command, To the rear open order-MARCH, they will march to the front, passing through the two pace interval between the adjutant or sergeant major and the battalion. Their position is six paces in front of their respective wings. As a matter of practicality, it is well to step off when the preparatory command is given. Thus you should be at the battalion line in time to remind the company officers to march four paces forward.

#### **Colonel.**

The colonel directs the adjutant as to the exact location of the line. He then takes position a suitable distance from the front of the battalion, depending on the length of the front. His sword should be in the scabbard until the adjutant takes post behind him, and he instructs the battalion in the manual of arms. He should be familiar with the adjutant's job, as he is in an excellent position to remind him of the order of the parade. He is responsible for informing the adjutant of the orders to be read.

#### **Adjutant.**

The adjutant is the main player in this particular drama. He prepares the line for the parade, and forms it before turning it over to the colonel. Even then, he initiates most of the actions of the parade. Rather than repeat, I suggest that all that wish to learn the adjutant's part study the overview. Most of that refers to the adjutant. If you know the adjutant's part, you know the parade!!

## ***PRESERVATION!!***

Gentlemen,

Through the efforts of the Henry County Board of Commissioners, and Mark Pollard, Henry County has moved to save hundreds of acres of battlefield land from the developers shovel. Recently featured in the AJC, Mark's efforts are an important victory for preservation. This August, a Living History and Dedication will be held on the original ground. Look for more details to come here, on [WWW.GAVOLBN.ORG](http://WWW.GAVOLBN.ORG), and on [WWW.HENRYCOUNTYBATTLEFIELD.COM](http://WWW.HENRYCOUNTYBATTLEFIELD.COM)

## ***ADVICE FOR NEW REENACTORS!!***

In your first few events you will have a lot of new information thrown at you. There is a lot of equipment to buy and it all seems expensive! The best first investment is a good pair of brogans. Most units don't have loaner shoes to lend. A good pair of brogans must fit right, and be made to last. Take the

socks you intend to wear, (knit 100% wool is the best) to try them on with. It does you no good to try them on with thin modern socks! Get heel plates installed to prevent excess heel wear, and keep them clean and cared for between events. Use mink oil, (available at Wal-Mart in the shoe care section) liberally. This will prevent cracking and leather deterioration, as well as make them more waterproof. Buy the right size, the heel can't slip or it will give you bad blisters.

If your tin canteen is full of rust, use boiling water to remove any sediment or remnants of the old beeswax lining. Fill the canteen with half ketchup, and half water. Let it sit for three days and then rinse thoroughly. The acid in the ketchup will remove much of the rust. Rinse several times with boiling water so that evaporation will dry the inside before the moisture can start rusting again. Re-coat the inside with beeswax before using.

### **Coming in Next Month's Issue**

- Book Review of Hell's Broke Loose in Georgia: Survival in a Civil War Regiment, courtesy of Sgt. Major Boone
- Customs and Courtesies: Military and Social Protocol for the Living Historian
- Expanded information on the preservation efforts of Lovejoy Station.
- Artillery Safety for Infantrymen

