




THE CHEROKEE RANGER

American Civil War Reenactors
And
Historic Interpreters

19th Alabama Infantry, Co. I
And
42nd Indiana Vol. Infantry
Co. I

Proud Members of the
First Confederate Legion
And First Confederate Division



August 2008

Inside this issue:

Attention Company	1
1st Sgt Tent	2
File Closer	3
Canteen and Haversack	4
Calendar	5
Unit Organization	6
Color Line	7
How To: Sewing Stripes	8
Editor Notes	9

Attention, Company!

By Capt. Nick Nichols

As our summer comes to a close, I would like to reflect on some events that have influenced many of us. We experienced sadness and loss with the passing of our cherished Don Ray. Many of us attended the funeral to honor the Admiral and to celebrate his life, he will be missed. The spring also brought something the 19th Alabama soldiers have not seen in many years. We had over 25 rifles to take the field at every reenactment, and our soldier membership has increased by more than fifty percent. I want to say thank you for the effort this took, and for making this company out front in the hobby. Finally, we welcomed back Russ Spry from his duties in Iraq safe and sound and ready to pick up his rifle and join our ranks again

Our Company outing took us to Chickamauga for a wonderful lunch and guided tour of the battlefield where the 19th Alabama fought in one of its hardest waged battle engagements. We had a beautiful 19th Alabama flag cake for all to enjoy and celebrated three birthdays that weekend. The turnout was wonderful; Miss Scarlett's Tea Room served 56 meals. Thank you for your support, I know with gas prices as they are it was a major commitment for everyone. It just shows how strong our organization has become. I'm looking forward to the sharp, crisp air in the morning and the beginning of a new school year as I'm sure all of you are. Our fall calendar begins with the Battle of Chickamauga. We have 50 soldiers and 17 civilians registered. What a way to start after the summer break!

Support for our School Program at Laidland and Living History at the Bicentennial Mall in Nashville is very important because it is at these opportunities that we can teach our youth about our nation's history. We honor those from the past by learning the history and about the everyday life challenges of those that wore the uniform or supported the army of 1861-1865.

“Break Ranks”

Your Obedient Servant,
Robert G. Nichols
Captain, 19th Alabama Infantry



ALABAMA.

From The 1st Sergeant's Tent

By 1st Sergeant Jim McCall

I first want to thank each and every one of you for your devotion and commitment to this year's re-enactment and living histories. It shows the strong leadership and future leadership of the 19th Alabama. To the NCOs' of our company, thank you for your support and stepping up when you're needed. That is one of the things that make you so special and so valuable to our company and to the Civil War hobby.

We need to continually keep in mind as we are in camp and on the field that we are looking at the future NCOs' and Officers of our company. Let's continually train and share our knowledge and experiences with all. To the command of our company, what a superb job you guys have done. Please keep up the great job and know that we are behind you all the way. It takes great leadership to make great soldiers on and off the field. My hat's off to you. I would personally like to welcome all of our new recruits that have joined one of the top, or should I say THE top, re-enactment company in the hobby. (I'm biased)

As we continue to look into the rest of the year, I would like to see more communication among each other as soldiers, NCOs and command. I feel that we all need to know what is going on and report more often as our numbers continue to grow. Do not wait to inform the Corporal of your section that you need help or anything that may keep you from attending; they can assist you. These Corporals and Sergeants are top notch and full of wisdom and experience and waiting to help you in any way. We all need to respond to our emails and follow up on details of emails so all are on the same page before we take the field or camp.

I appreciate the large turn out at Chickamauga luncheon and tour of the battle field.

To our great Civilian Corp, thank you for all you do and keep up the great work that makes you special in all of our soldier hearts, especially those great times of reminiscing (eating Food). As you know our young privates have grown fond of your camp area and vittles. As 1st Sgt. you make my job harder trying to keep watch over them. (Ha Ha)

At last, I am looking forward to the remaining year schedule. I promise starting off with Chickamauga and ending the year with Christmas event will be very exciting and fun filled. You won't want to miss any of these dates. I anticipate large numbers for all events on schedule the rest of the year. Again, thank you to all members of the 19th Alabama for letting me have the privilege to serve you as 1st Sergeant and also your friend.

1st Sgt. McCall



The File Closer
By 1st Lieutenant Jerry West

Gentlemen of the 19th,

I want to welcome all our new members. We are excited about having you and hope that your experience is all you thought it would be.

Our first event for the fall will soon be upon us. With that said, I would like to bring up safety. It is our mission to make sure that all who make the battle, actually live thru it.

With Chickamauga just down the road, I would suggest that all soldiers start doing a little walking or other exercises. This will help you more than you think. Russ has an excellent low impact walking program that is included with this article and is available on the website <http://www.19thalabama.org/marchtraining.doc>

We had a soldier go down last year with the heat. We want to avoid this at all cost. So when in the field, make sure you are taking water on a more than a regular basis. Not cold drinks or the like. Also make sure you are eating. The incident could have been avoided had the soldier been hydrated and had something on his stomach (he did not drink enough water if any before hitting the field). So when we holler for you guys to eat and drink it is for your, and our, own good.

Also would like everyone to become familiar with their weapons and study up on safely handling such. We will be going over this in more detail when we get together.

Just remember, this is a fun and exciting hobby when done safely.

SO LETS BE SAFE!

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE IN THE FIELD!

YOUR MOST OBEDIANT SERVANT

1LT. JERRY WEST

**NEXT YEAR NSA EVENT:
PEA RIDGE/ELKHORN TAVERN**

<http://www.pearidge-elkhorntavern.org/>

MARCH 7 - 8, 2009

Canteen and Haversack

By Capt. Nick Nichols

(Reprinted)

The two most visible pieces of equipment you carry is the canteen and haversack. They are also the most used items and are a reflection of your personality.

The best choice for a CS impression is a tin drum canteen with a leather sling. If you elect to cover your canteen it should be with brown or gray jean wool. A leather or hemp string should be used to secure the cork. For your Federal impression a tin smooth side canteen is the best choice, also with a brown or gray jean wool cover. For Early War you should use a leather sling and for Mid to Late War a linen sling. You should also use hemp string to secure the cork stopper. Your name and "I" number should be on your canteen in accordance with our company standards. It is very important to have your canteen full and in good repair at all times. It can mean whether you are able to participate and complete an event or be a burden on your fellow reenactors.

The haversack has been the focus of much discussion. The bottom line is, the haversack is and was used to carry your food, utensils and the items needed for the days march. The best choice for your CS haversack is a plain white or off-white cotton canvas with a bone button closure. The Federal haversack should be of black painted cotton canvas with a buckle closure. Both the canteen and haversack are worn on the left side for the man in the ranks at or above the belt. If you are wearing a knapsack and on the march, the canteen should be the last item of equipment put on. This will help you to drink from and refill your canteen. Remember we camp or campaign for 2, 3, or 4 days in reenacting. In the coming season we want to stress period correctness in camp and on the march. The company Captain and First Sergeant publish the event orders that give guidance and the mess arrangements. The responsibility falls on the Section Corporals to enforce the standard and the food preparation. Listed are recommended items you can carry based on orders in the haversack.

- Mess furniture (common for both CS and US impressions)
 - tin cup/boiler
 - plate or canteen half
 - knife, fork, spoon
- Food items: Selection of the items you carry to an event is the most important decision you make other than attending. Civil War soldiers cooked their food prior to the march. Usually on orders they prepared 3 days rations. Simple and basic items work best. Seasonal fruit and vegetables to the area of the event and the time of year must be considered. If your impression is CS or US will make a difference with bread, a food staple you carry.

- corn bread	- salt pork	- coffee beans	- apples	- corn nuts
- hard tack	- thick slice bacon	- brick tea	- potatoes	- goobers
- loaf bread	- smoked ham	- raw/cone sugar	- onions	- rock candy
- biscuits	- dried beef	- farmers cheese	- rice	- eggs
- Use paper, cloth ration bags and line rags to cover and carry all food. (NO PLASTIC)
- Additional items that can be carried based on the mission (personal effects)

- bible	- tooth brush	- housewife	- period glasses	- pill case
- pocket knife	- tobacco pouch	- pipe	- paper & pencil	- candle
- match safe	- newspaper	- wallet & ID	- pr socks	- cartridges



19th ALABAMA INFANTRY REGT., Co I 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT & LOCATION	IMPRESSION	UNIFORM	EVENT COOR.
Jan 17, 2009	19 th Ala Annual Meeting , Henry Horton State Park, TN		Modern	Captain/BOD
Jan 25, 26, 27	FCL & FCD Meeting Nashville, TN	FCD meeting to review our 5 year plan & NSA Events		Capt/Officers
Feb prior 28 th	Company Inventory, 1Sgt, 1Lt, 1Cpl, 2Sgt, 3Sgt All company property inventoried and reported to the 1Sgt			Captain / Mayor
Mar 28,29,30	Siege at Bridgeport (Coy: Soldier MAX EFFORT)	Campaign Camp Civilian Camp	Federal	Captain / Mayor
Mar 29	BOD Meeting at Bridgeport during reenactment time TBD		Federal	Captain / BOD
Apr 18,19,20	Battle of Selma , AL (FCL: Soldier MAX EFFORT)	Campaign Camp	Federal	Captain
May 16,17,18	Battle of Resaca, GA (Cotton States BN: Soldier & Civilian MAX EFFORT)	Campaign Camp Civilian Camp	Confederate	Captain / Mayor
May 23,24,25	Battle of Tannehill, AL	Civilian Camp		Mayor
Jun 7,8	Fort Defiance (Living History) Clarksville, TN	Civilian Camp		Mayor
Jun 7	BOD Meeting at Fort Defiance during LH time TBD		Federal	Captain / BOD
Jun 13,14,15	Parker's Crossroads	Civilian Camp		Mayor
Jul 12	Company Historical Tour Chickamauga Battlefield, GA		Modern	Captain
Aug	No Events Scheduled			
Sep 19,20,21	Battle of Chickamauga, GA (NSA & FCD: Soldier & Civilian MAX EFFORT)	Campaign Camp	Confederate	Captain/Mayor
Sep 25,26,27	Lairdland, TN 19 Ala School Program (Coy: Soldier & Civilian MAX EFFORT)	Campaign Civilian Camp	Confederate/Federal	Captain/Mayor
Sep 27	BOD Meeting at Lairdland time TBD			Captain / BOD
Oct 9,10,11	TN Bi-Centennial Mall Nashville 19 th Ala & 4 th KY Living History (Coy: Soldier & Civilian MAX EFFORT)	Garrison	Confederate	Captain/Mayor
Nov 15	Coy Holiday Dinner @ Greenbrier, AL		Modern	Dennis Marshall
Dec	No Events Scheduled			

19th Alabama Company "I" schedule for 2008.

**Tannehill, Fort Defiance, and Park's Crossroads
(Soldier Recruiting Station & Assist with LH program)**

19th Alabama Officers and Board of Directors
Campaign Year 2008

Company Officers

President – Captain / Commander: Robert Nichols

Vice President – First Lieutenant / Safety Officer: Jerry West

First Sergeant: Jimmy McCall

Mayor of Civilian Corps: Bill Hoover

Company BOD

Treasurer: Karl Ryan

Company Clerk / Secretary: Ruth Sines

Member at Large: Joe Stegimer

Member at Large: Ann Jarrett

19th Alabama cadre, special staff & Town Council

Soldier Cadre: Captain Appointments

2Sgt: Ron Bednarczyk

3Sgt: Dennis Marshall

1Cpl: Joe Stegmaier

2Cpl: Dave von Kannon

3Cpl: Travis McCall

4Cpl: Larry Rubitsky

Civilian Town Council: Mayor Appointments

Sheriff: Steve Buffington

Town Council: Melanie Barksdale

Town Council: Betty Buffington

Company Special Staff: Captain Appointments

Doctor / Capt: Gary Mund

Medical Steward / Doctor: Kelly Lynn

Musician: Lane Chisenhall

Color Sgt: Karl Ryan

Orderly: Kyle McCall

Recruiting Officer: Jerry West

Military Recruiter: Karl Ryan / Jason Hastings

Civilian Recruiter: Mary Ann Hoover

Ordnance Sgt: Tom Brown

Quartermaster Sgt:

Administrative Functional Areas: Captain Appointments

Web Master & Newsletter Editor: Russ Spry

Veterans Museum Coordinators: Rick Somers, Tom Brown, Karl Ryan

Special Brevetted Cadre for Chickamauga NSA National: Captain Appointments

B/1Lt: Russ Spry, B/5Cpl: Barry King, B/6Cpl: Jon-David Wiley

Captain Robert G. Nichols
19th Alabama Infantry

The Color Line

By Karl Ryan

The Color Sergeant

From Paragraph 418 Customs of Service

418. The Color Sergeant- In each regiment a sergeant is selected for his gallantry and military bearing, to carry the regimental colors. He is accompanied by a color-guard, composed of 5 corporals, who are also distinguished for their military conduct. They parade with the colors on all occasions when the regiment is formed for the march, parade, review, or for battle. The sergeant is in the front rank, two senior corporals are on the right and left of the sergeant, and the three junior corporals are in the rear rank. The post of the color-guard is on the left on the right center company. All the romance and heroism of the regiment center in the color-guard and the emblem with which they are entrusted. On it is described the battles in which the regiment has participated and which recall the deeds it has performed. Much depends upon the courage and daring of the color sergeant. Wherever he will carry the flag, the men will follow to protect and defend it; and no non-commissioned officer occupies a post that is so likely to bring distinction and promotion if he does his duty; whilst none is more certain to bring disgrace if he proves recreant to his trust.

I have been asked to be the color sergeant this year. It is a very great honor to be entrusted with the Federal colors (the National and the regimental flags). A little history about our flags. Way back in the day Mark Williams, a previous company commander of the unit saw the original flag of the 19th AL. It was owned by some folks in Florida. This 3x5 flag was of the standard Southern Cross Battleflag. The Alabama Archives people verified the authenticity of the flag. It was sold at private auction to parties unknown for an enormous amount of money. The unit did try and get the folks to donate it to the Archives, but it was not to be.

This began a discussion. The discussion reached its peak when now Captain Nichols donated the full size National Colors to the unit. I was tasked by the leadership to locate the regimental flag. The originals of both the National and Regiment reside at the Indiana War Memorial in Indianapolis. The unit has a standing invitation to see the flags.

Our regimental flag was painted by Steven Hill. He is a nationally know authority on flags. He currently lives in Gaithersburg, Maryland. He made the flags used in *The Last of the Mohicans*.

Please take time to really look over our regimental flag. It is a true labor of love. You can see the brush strokes and the hand knotted tassels. And remember, the regimental color was constructed with money donated by the members of the company. It will be a lasting legacy to us and our unit in years to come.



Right: 42nd Regiment National Colors make their debut in 2002 at Tunnel Hill

How To: Sewing on Stripes

By Joe Stegmaier

When it comes time to sew on those “stripes” here is a little help. Civil War stripes are located a little differently on the arm than modern day stripes. I researched many old pictures of Civil War soldiers wearing their stripes as well as modern day pictures of a number of original Civil War uniforms that had stripes on them in order to determine how to position them for sewing on your uniform.

The stripes need to be positioned lower on the arm than modern Army stripes. Start by getting someone to help you and stand in front of a mirror. Take the rear part of the stripe and line it up vertically against the rear seam on your jacket sleeve about a third of the way down the arm from the shoulder. Have your helper loosely hold it there. Then, while holding your arm down at your side, bend your arm forward at the elbow so it forms a right angle

Adjust the rear part of the stripe (which is being held against the rear seam of the jacket) up or down so that the "point" of the stripe is about an inch above your elbow. Lightly mark on your jacket with a piece of chalk where the "point" is. Have your helper then pin the rear part of the stripe against that rear seam of the jacket. Holding the stripe against the jacket and using your mirror, adjust the other end so the stripe looks even and horizontal. Then pin that forward part of the stripe to the jacket. Take several good looks at it in the mirror to ensure it is straight and also check to make sure the "point" is still close to the chalk mark you made. If everything looks good you can then go ahead and put additional pins around the strip to hold it in place for sewing.

Move on to the other arm and follow the same procedure. This usually goes a lot quicker because you have a much better idea of where the strip should go. The location of that rear edge of the stripe against the rear jacket sleeve should be the same distance down from the shoulder as it was on the first sleeve. So you should really just have to adjust the stripe so it is level and pin it. I then look in the mirror to make sure the stripes look to be in the same position on both sleeves.

After getting both stripes pinned in place you can take off the jacket and are ready to start sewing. Sew that rear edge of the stripe that was against the rear jacket seam first since it is always your "reference" line. Then move forward along the stripe smoothing out the jacket cloth as you go to ensure you have no "puckers" in the jacket cloth. This may require you to re-adjust slightly the location of the forward edge of the stripe. That's fine, just make sure and use your chalk mark to keep the "point" of the stripe at the right height on the sleeve. I have always just used a "straight" stitch around the edge of the stripes. You can make your stitches as close as you like but the closer they are the more time it will take to sew. I used stitches about a quarter inch long and have found that seemed to work fine.

-- Joe Stegmaier

Editor's News

By Russ Spry

Now that I am back I figured we should return to the business of having the best newsletter in the hobby! It has been far too long since the 19th Alabama has put out a newsletter and considering the huge numbers of members we now have, we should have no trouble finding writers, material, and photographs.

Many of you will be asking me about my experiences in Iraq. I will save those stories for the campfire as many of them are not fit to print due to the language. Soldiers these days don't use adjectives, they use expletives.

What I will say about Iraq is that it gives me a whole new perspective on this hobby and why it is important that we do what we do. This isn't simply dress-up or "amish camping," or a reason to shoot guns. What we do as a hobby is honor our ancestors and the sacrifice they made, both Union and Confederate. I despise using the word "hobby" to describe what we do as if it were some fleeting thing that you dabble in. Golf is a "hobby." What we do should be considered a "mission," or our "charge," anything but "hobby."

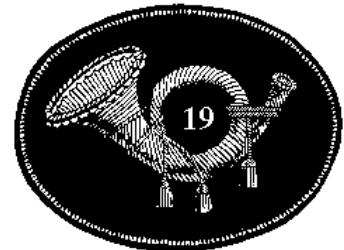
We stand up on a routine basis and remind our neighbors, our friends, our communities, that at some point in time men were men, willing to risk it all for what is right as they saw it. They were also dedicated to their brothers and fellow soldiers in the ranks. They were disciplined. They had honor and they defended that honor.

We display the complexity of the time. We educate the public that the war was more than just about slavery, or union, or states rights. It was about leaving your wife and kids at home at a time when Walmart wasn't just down the road and direct deposit wasn't available to make sure your wife had access to your pay. It was a time when you fought in one state while your enemy may be marching through your home state. It was a tough time to live. Our outstanding Civilian Corps can attest to the difficulties on the homefront. That is their charge.

Just last month I had a history teacher from another state, tell me that all most students needed to know about wars were the starting point, the turning point, and the end result. I was stunned at his minimalist attitude. We have the benefit of knowing different and we should make it our mission to help others understand that.

We share a deep sense of camaraderie and have some good times doing what we do. Fun in camp is one of the things we all look forward to. But remember why you are here, work on your skills, your drills, and know your stuff. All the hard work should occur before you arrive at the event. Their memory deserves your best.

I look forward to taking the field with all of you. There will be many new faces and I am horrible with names so have some patience. On to Chickamauga!



19th Alabama Inf., Co I.
PO Box 4323
Huntsville, Alabama 35815