

The Monthly Muster

KEY WEST AVENGERS NEWSLETTER | JUNE, 2025

Next Event | *Summer Break*

The 2024-2025 season has come to a close. As we head into the summer, take a moment to check out the schedule. We have three events on the calendar for the fall, and we hope to see everyone at some of them!

2025-2026 Schedule



Captain's Desk

Captain David Hendrix



Resaca marked the end of this year's campaign but may have been the best event of the year! As I reflect upon this year's campaign I am proud of the accomplishments of all the individuals who contributed to making Company K such a good reenacting group. We welcomed a group of new members who immediately immersed themselves in Civil War History and the fabric of Company K. This year we welcomed Matt and Grant Anderson, Darryl Kinman, Morgan Jones, Ayan Jones-Fourie and Chris Sanders as new members. The Company answered the long roll of drums at Dade City Pioneer Village, Ocklawaha, Otter Springs, Outsee, Ft Clinch Spring Garrison and Resaca.

Thanks to Chris Hendrix we added an Instagram Page and a Newsletter to our communications package. The Company witnessed our very own Keith Van Leuven promoted to the roll of Lt. Colonel of the Battalion. Other promotions include Steve Sanders and Ralph Tadlock stepping up to become NCO's and sewing on the Corporal stripes. We shared wonderful fellowship by the campfire, discussed some cool history, had some great food, and kept Christine at Charleston Tintypes busy! Thank you for all that each of you did this year to make it a special year. I look forward to seeing you all in the fall.

Event Recap | *161st Battle of Resaca, May 16-18, 2025*



What a fantastic turnout for Resaca! Company K had 14 members in attendance, and was supplemented on the field and in camp by Captain Short and three members of his company. The Florida Battalion fielded four companies in two hot fights, masterfully commanded by our new Colonel, Jay Welch, and our new Lieutenant Colonel, our very own Company K member, Keith Van Leuven.



During the Sunday fight, the Florida Battalion carried our 7th Florida regimental colors into the field, allowing our battalion to portray the men of the 7th Florida who fought on this battlefield 161 years ago. Thank you to the leadership of the Florida Battalion for allowing us to do so!



First Sergeant's Report

First Sergeant Lawrin Ellis



At Resaca we saw the very rare use of *Carry Arms*, a position we rarely utilize in reenacting. This is a position that comes from Gilham's Manual of Arms, rather than the more common Hardee's Manual.

In Gilham's, the rifle is on the left at *Shoulder Arms*. The command *Carry Arms* is always given to return to the shoulder from *Support Arms*. So, in Gilham's, you would never receive the command to *Shoulder* from *Support*. The implication is that when we get/issue *Carry Arms*, it's always from *Support* to the left shoulder.

Gilham's doesn't have much about *Carry Arms*, and no illustration. The manual states:

First motion. Carry quickly the right hand to the small of the stock.

Second motion. Place the left hand under the butt, as in the position of shoulder arms.

Third motion. Let fall smartly the right hand to its position, and drop with the left, at the same time, the piece into the position of shoulder arms.

When reading this, remember Carry Arms is only called when at Support Arms, so you're essentially using your right hand to assist in sliding the gun down your left side, so your left hand is gripping the butt, with the gun resting against your shoulder. The musket does not rotate, so the hammer is still out.

Carry Arms is a position of attention, less formal than *Present Arms*, but in some manuals or uses, more appropriate than *Shoulder Arms*. The most famous use during the war was when Brevet Major General Joshua L. Chamberlain ordered his men to *Carry Arms* as they accepted the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. Here, it was used as a salute to their brothers in gray.

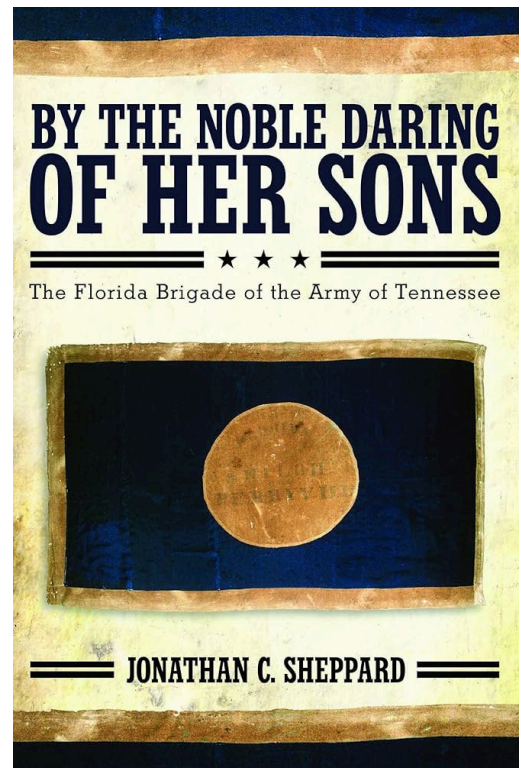
Book Recommendation

By the Noble Daring of Her Sons

Jonathan C. Sheppard

The only comprehensive study of the Florida Brigade of the Army of Tennessee, Sheppard starts his research with secession and follows the regiments that would make up the Florida Brigade until the end of the war. Sheppard uses primary source material to tell the stories of these regiments, including the 7th Florida.

[Find it on Amazon](#)



[Schedule](#)

[Join Us](#)

Connect with us on Facebook



Check out our site [→](#)

This email was created with Wix. [Discover More](#)