

EXCERPT FROM: HISTORICAL RALEIGH (NC) FROM 1792  
 BY: MOSES M. AMEL 1902 - RPK - 3 SEP 2014 PG 176

CROSS REF

FORTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT—COMPANY C.

△ 47TH REGT NC - CSA

△ SPDN MART ROGERS

This company was organized in Raleigh in February, 1862, with Everard Hall, captain; Campbell T. Iredell, 1st Lieutenant; David W. Whitaker and Geo. M. Whiting, 2d Lieutenants. Other members of this organization were: Nat. L. Brown, J. C. Syme, Wm. J. Hall, L. M. Green, George B. Moore, W. P. Bragg, Jonas Medlin, Lieut. Jas. M. Royster, Joseph Woodward, E. A. Williams.

Other officers and men of this regiment, but members of other companies, were: Col. Sion H. Rogers, Chaplain W. S. Lacy, Capt. Geo. M. Whiting, Lieut. Jno. T. Womble, Lieut. Chas. C. Lovejoy, Lieut. C. Hutchings, Jas. F. Andrews, A. D. Royster, Jno. S. Primrose, Mart. Thompson, Drum Major W. D. Smith, W. C. Stronach, Richard Putney, Nicholas Gill, Geo. S. Hines.

CEDAR FORK - WAKE CO, NC

○ CAPTAIN YORK AND THE CEDAR FORK RIFLES

BY ERNEST DOLLAR<sup>21</sup> - Wake Treasure Vol 9 No 2

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NOTE: This article and another in the same issue deal with Company I of the 6th NC Regiment - CSA in which several Upchurches of Western Wake Co, NC were enrolled. This article gives much detail on the formation of the Cedar Fork Rifles. The area involved was near Mannville but the key site of Cedar Fork Baptist Church<sup>21</sup> may be in today's Durham Co, NC. - Crossfile this page + the article under: War File (Cedar Fork Rifles), Cedar Fork - Durham Co, NC and Cedar Fork, Wake Co, NC<sup>↑</sup>  
Individuals mentioned in article (Place this sheet only in their profiles) 1) Founded 22 APR 1805

I. BRANTLY YORK MDG b. 1805 - In 1838 founded Union Institute  
→ Trinity College → Duke University.

Md (1st) 31 JAN 1828 ( ) FANNIE SHERWOOD & had one son  
both died in 6 years

Md (2nd) MARY WELLS LINEBURY & had 13 children

A. RICHARD WATTS YORK b. 30 SEP 1839 (Randolph Co, NC) / 2

Md 1857 ( ) LOUISA FARRAR FOUSTREE Founded  
Cedar Fork Academy

1. TULLIA L. YORK b. 1859

AT 15 JAN 1860 MEETING → CAPT CO I

Colonel H. Weatherspoon (wife Lizzy)  
Sidney Scott, Secretary → Eq. orderly Sgt  
Colonel C. Lowe → Lt  
Marcus W. Page → 2nd Lt  
R. W. York → 3rd Lt  
Dr W. Lowe → 4th Lt  
John Pennington

1860-1865:  
William H. Lyon 18 in 1861 SIS Fannie Lyon  
Marcus Williamson Page of Mannville  
A. H. Merritt; Dr T. W. Young  
A. D. Blackwood, Pastor Cedar Fork  
Lt Wyatt Allen; Col Robert F. Welch  
Col Charles F. Fisher & 21 JUL 1861 (KIA)  
Commander 6th Regt. Sister: Christine Fisher  
Dan Frances (Fisher) Tierman (AKA Christian Reid)

## Captain York and the Cedar Fork Rifles

*Researched by Ernest Dollar*

Educator, Professor, Military leader. All of these words describes one of Wake County's unknown individuals. He started an academy in northern Wake County, organized a pre-Civil War unit, and took them through four years of bloody war. His story is that of a man who was admired by those who met him for his intelligence and his dedication to principles which he believed in.

The unit he organized in 1861 from his friends and neighbors was like any other unit from across the South, but it was very special to those whose fathers and sons were in its ranks. The story of the Cedar Fork Rifles begins with the opening chapters dedicated to its founder Richard Watts York, his life which begins in Randolph County and the powerful influence of his father, Brantley York.

Brantley York was born in 1805. He was an ambitious young man who was deeply moved by his religious convictions. He became a charismatic and highly successful minister, preaching throughout central North Carolina. It is said that his motto was, "If there is no way, make one."<sup>1</sup> But the pious preacher was best known as an educator and professor. In 1831, York had started teaching school and by 1838 would found Union Institute which evolved into Trinity College and ended up as Duke University." It is probable that Brantley York organized more schools than any other man in America." In addition, York filled the void in textbooks for his students and wrote several English readers like York's Grammar and York's High School Grammar. Rev. York was aggressive in his quest for intellectual and spiritual growth in others and this crusade took a toll on him, causing exhaustion at times and eventually caused him to go blind. The Professor did somehow, find time between lectures and sermons to have a large family.

His first marriage took place on January 31, 1828 to Miss Fannie Sherwood. This bore him one son, but after six years both wife and infant were dead. York remarried, Mary Wells Lineburry, and fathered 13 children. Richard Watts was the first boy of the family born on September 30, 1839 at the their home in Randolph County.

The young life of Richard was one of constant change. Moving from place to place, a heavy emphasis on education, and a father who was constantly away doing his good deeds for others. The young York was constantly in ill health and this would plague him for the rest of his days, but by age 17, he had completed his collegiate course work with high honors.<sup>2</sup> At age of 20, Richard was involved in the Masonic order belonging to a lodge in Chatham County, the George Washington Lodge No. 174, and was married to Louisa Farrar Foushee in 1857, who gave birth to a daughter Tuilla L. two years later.<sup>3</sup> In 1860 York was becoming a man known of his own efforts. He founded a new school, the Cedar Fork Academy, which opened up in western Wake County. The school derived it's name from the church which stood near by and in turn the church, organized on April 22, 1805, was named for the creek which ran nearby.<sup>4</sup>

The Cedar Fork Baptist Church had owned the land on which the school was built. It seems the building for the academy was started in 1859. "By request of Brother H. Weatherspoon the church granted leave to the trustees of the Cedar Fork Academy to build an academy on her land."<sup>5</sup>

York was an informed and educated man. He monitored the changing political and sectional atmosphere. It was a time when tempers were flaring in the North and South creating a dangerous mixture, ready to explode at a moments notice. He was a Whig and opposed secession but realized that events were approaching a climax. In the wake of John Brown's failed raid in Virginia in October of 1859, York decided something had to be done.

On January 7, 1860 a letter was written to Governor John W. Ellis, written by the members of a public meeting organized by Richard York. York called men of the Cedar Fork community to meet at the academy to discuss the possibility of "forming a volunteer company." The men arrived at the schoolhouse and filled the classroom. The meeting was then called to order. York called a local militia commander, Colonel H. Weatherspoon to chair the meeting and Sidney Scott to act as secretary.

As he had seen his father preach on countless occasions, Professor York, began to orate for the assembled crowd. He explained to the men the purpose for their meeting by "reviewing the present agitation & impending crisis of affairs relative to the South," He was referring to the attack on the arsenal in Virginia three months earlier by John Brown. York closed the meeting by urging, "his fellow citizens to prepare for any emergency that may arise."<sup>6</sup> The men assembled then stepped up and enrolled in York's company.

Again York, the guiding spirit of the meeting, moved that a committee of five individuals be appointed to select a uniform and a name. The Wake Riflemen was the name chosen and officers were then elected. Colonel H. Weatherspoon was chosen as the Captain due to his skills as a militia officer; Colonel C. Lowe: First Lieutenant; Marcus W. Page: Second Lieutenant; Professor York: Third Lieutenant; Dr. W. Lowe: Fourth Lieutenant; Sidney Scott: Esquire Orderly Sergeant. Lieutenant York then moved that the new commissioned officers, "be instructed to go to Raleigh immediately, & call upon the Governor for the purpose [of] procuring the Long Range Rifle." This motion was adopted as well as one that specified that the proceedings of the meeting be sent to Governor Ellis and the North Carolina Standard and Raleigh Register newspapers for publication. This was the birth of the unit, which was to become the Cedar Fork Rifles.

War was on the horizon for York and North Carolina but it did not affect the daily life of those in the Cedar Fork Township. The next minutes of the Cedar Fork Church which mention the school is from May 1860. A report from the building committee to the Raleigh Association of churches saying that they had granted leave to the students of the Cedar Fork Academy to hold their examinations and exercises in the church. In that early spring, Rev. Brantly York came down to see his son and attend the graduation. The elder York preached the annual commencement sermon and Mr. John Pennington delivered the literary sermon to the students.<sup>8</sup>

By December, the thunder was heard. South Carolina seceded and the rest of the lower South followed in successive months. As the clouds of war began to thicken over the country York began to drill the young men of the school, marching the cadets to and fro, in columns and ranks across the open field next to the academy. The young female students watched in fascination, from the second story, at the strange drills.<sup>9</sup> But on April 12, Southern forces fired on Ft. Sumter, in Charleston Harbor, and America changed instantly. The news exploded at the school like the shells themselves

over the Federal garrison in Charleston and was followed by disturbing silence. York suspended literary studies and began drilling the boys in earnest for the now, unavoidable war.<sup>10</sup>

One student at the academy, William H. Lyon, was only eighteen when the war began. He wrote that he and "the entire personnel" were enlisted and lead by York. "Thus a fine school of splendid boys, bright, vigorous and active, in time of peace, was converted over night into an armed force ready to be drilled and drilled in the military maneuver."<sup>11</sup> In a day or two the small corps of cadets had grown with men from the old Wake Riflemen and others coming in to join, causing the Academy to transform from school to barracks.

The women and young girls were also eager to support their husbands and sons in the best way they could. These wives, sisters, and mothers came together and organized a the Cedar Fork Sewing Society. Mrs. York became the president followed by Mrs. Lizzie Weatherspoon, secretary, and Miss Fannie Lyon as Treasurer. Immediately and vigorously these women started the massive mission of outfitting the company. Sewing machines were indeed a luxury and none were to be had forcing the ladies to hand sew nearly 120 uniforms, haversacks, and tents! In addition, they made cloth blouses for the canteens and lent for bandages.<sup>12</sup> Mrs. York and the other ladies decided that it was only fitting, after their tireless work, to present the company with a flag. The women of the society quickly raised forty dollars for the constructions and chose Miss Partridge of Raleigh to make it from one of Fannie's blue silk dresses.

On May 20th, North Carolina seceded from the United States and joined the Southern Confederacy. Commissions for York and others were back dated to May 16th and the company was officially accepted into service. York was just twenty-two and the old Wake Riflemen were about to evolve into the unit they would remember for the rest of their lives.

These men met on May 28th, 1861, and raised their hands and took the oath and officially entered into the Confederate army. Five days later, on June 1st, the men and boys of the Cedar Fork Rifles met at the academy with their bags in hand and together marched the four or so miles down to Morrisville. Waiting for them on this bright June morning were residents of the community who had come together and prepared a decadent send off for their new soldier boys. The women were dressed in their finest dresses and hoops, fathers smirked with unbridled pride at their sons, and little brothers sulked at missing of the "fun" that was going to be had in the army.

The party was to be held at the house of Malcus Williamson Page near the train depot in Morrisville, which would take them off to war. Food was prepared and set out on tables and a party atmosphere prevailed. The older sister of Cedar Fork cadet William H. Lyon, Miss Fannie Lyon, had worked so hard on uniforming the men, came forward and presented the silk flag to the company. It had the seal of North Carolina, figures of Liberty and Plenty looking toward each other. Liberty, the first figure, standing, her pole with cap on it in her left hand and a scroll in the right. Plenty, the second figure, sitting down, her right arm half extended toward Liberty, three heads of grain in her right hand, and in her left, the small end of her horn, the mouth of which is resting at her feet, and the contents of the horn rolling out. Across the bottom was inscribed, "To the Morrisville Grays by the Ladies of Cedar Fork" and on the reverse side, "The Old North State Forever." It was presented and accepted by Lt. Page, who gave a short speech on behalf of the men. The eager soldiers exploded with cheers and

shouts, which echoed through the small hamlet. Patriotic and encouraging speeches were given by Capt. York, Mr. A. H. Merrit, Dr. T. W. Young and others. Together, soldiers and civilians sang songs honoring the new Southern Confederacy and all was bliss in the bright spring sun. After a one hour intermission to eat the array of plentiful home-cooked meals, Rev. A.D. Blackwood, the pastor of the Cedar Fork church, stepped forward and gave a sermon to the men which was followed by presenting each man with a bible.

Lt. Wyatt Allen then came forward and made a few words of acceptance of the gifts.<sup>13</sup> The men grabbed their possessions, kissed wives, mothers, and children farewell. Tears fell and handkerchiefs fluttered, all overtaken by the excitement and energy of the party and all unaware of the death and destruction that they would a part of and oblivious to the fact that for many this would be the last time they would see their families.

The black smoke belched from the engine and the iron wheels slowed rolled away from Morrisville toward their destination of Company Shops where the rest of the regiment was massing, making ready for war. They would be mustered in as Company I, 6th Regiment of the North Carolina State Troops and fight in every major campaign from Manassas to Fredericksburg, and from Gettysburg to Appomattox. York would be promoted to Major before war's end and ill health would keep from many duties, but York survived to return to Wake County. Many others who marched on the grounds of the Cedar Fork Academy and tasted the sweet cakes on that June afternoon did not return.

The commander of the 6th Regiment was Colonel Charles F. Fisher who received his appointment from Governor Ellis 16 May 1861. His sister, Miss Christine Fisher, presented the regiment with a fine silken regimental flag she had made. Her brother, Col. Fisher, commanded the Sixth N. C. Regiment and was killed in the regiment's first battle at Manassas on July 21, 1861.

Col. Tate as surviving colonel of the Sixth Regiment, had preserved the tattered regiment flag relic and as such, had a just claim to the flag. However, in correspondence with Christine Fisher after the war, he expressed his feelings that this relic, with its history, should be "sacredly preserved by the State, here, where it can be seen and read of all men."

Col. Fisher's daughter, Frances Fisher Tiernan (pen name Christian Reid), gave her consent and approval to the flag committee that had been formed by honorable men who had worn Confederate gray and who were "working to keep alive" the principles of the Confederacy.

Col. Tate presented the flag at a special ceremony to Mrs. Frances Fisher Tiernan, who in turn, presented the relic to the North Carolina Historical Commission, forerunner of the present North Carolina Department of Archives and History. The flag was accompanied by Colonel Fisher's dress uniform, coat, hat, sword and saddle-housing. These relics were originally displayed in the Hall of History, located in the Education Building in the city of Raleigh. They are presently in the possession of the Museum of History in Raleigh along with other related correspondence and papers.<sup>7</sup>

Only one history of the Sixth North Carolina State Troops, written during the war, has been found which was written by Colonel Robert F. Webb in April 1864 while a prisoner of war at Johnson's Island prison near Sandusky City, Ohio, which follows:

**BATTLES IN WHICH THE SIXTH N.C. REGIMENT PARTICIPATED**

- MANASSAS** 21 July 1861. Regt. commanded by Col Fisher—who was killed. Lt. Col. Lightfoot was in command until Sept. 1861—when he was relieved by Col. Pender.
- BATTLE OF ELTHAMS LANDING** 7 May 1862. Regt. commanded by Col. Pender, the only Regt. of the Brigade engaged—was honored by the General to carry the Brigade flags.
- BATTLE OF SEVEN PINES** 31 May 1862. Regt. commanded by Col. Pender (had the honour to save the Regt. by detecting the U. S. Flags among troops reported to be our friends). Pender promoted; command turned over to Maj. Webb. Ungrateful conduct by Gov. Clark. Capt. Avery promoted Lt. Col. over Maj. Webb.
- BATTLE OF GANES FARM** Regt. commanded by Col. Avery who was wounded. 27 June 1862, Splendid practice of Rowan Battery under Capt. Riley from the North side of Chicahominy.
- BATTLE OF MALVERN HILL** 1 July 1862. Regt. Commanded by Maj. Webb, gallant conduct of the Regt. under a heavy artillery fire for 10 hours losing nearly 90 men.
- BATTLE OF FREEMANS FORD** 24 August [1862] Regt. Commanded by Maj. Webb.
- 2ND BATTLE OF MANASSAS** 29th & 30th August [1862] Regt. commanded by Maj. Webb, *see* official report [of] Gen. Hood & Laws.
- BATTLE OF BOONSBORO GAP** 14 Sept [1862] Regt. commanded by Maj. Webb, *see* official report [of] Gen. Hood & Laws.
- BATTLE OF SHARPSBURG** 19 Sept. 1862. Regt. commanded by Maj. Webb who was wounded. Bloodiest fight of the war. *see* official report [of] Hood & Laws. Avert returned to the Regt. Promoted Col. Maj. Webb promoted Lt. Col.
- BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG** 13 Dec 1862. Regt. Commanded by Col. Avery.
- BATTLE OF CHANCELLOR & FREDERICKSBURG** 4 May 1863. Regt. Commanded by Col. Avery who took command of the Brigade by Gen. Hoke being wounded. Col. Webb in charge of the Regt. Gallant conduct of the 6[th] who were pushed through the enemys (sic) line in a charge, being unsupported where in danger of being cut off, its own gallant firmness saved it.
- BATTLE OF WINCHESTER** 13 June 1863. Commanded by Lt. Col. Webb.
- INVASION OF MARYLAND & PENNSYLVANIA** Col. Webb had to retire in consequence of the breaking out of his old wound.
- BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG** 1 July & 2 July [1863]. Commanded by Maj. Tate. Col. Avery Killed—Webb promoted Col.
- BATTLE OF FAIRFIELD** 4 July 1863. Regt. commanded by Lt. Col. Tate.
- BATTLE OF SOMERVILLE FORT** 19 Sept. 1863. Regt. commanded by Col. Webb.

**BATTLE OF RAPPAHANNOCK BRIDGE** 7 Nov. 1863 Commanded by Col. Webb where the whole concern was gobbled up.

Capt. York was in command a few days after the Battle of Sharpsburg.

Gen. Pender wounded at Gettysburg, died at Stanton, VA.

Col. Webb was sufering (sic) from his old wound at Chancellorsville, went in the fight with his arm in a sling.<sup>7</sup>

Endnotes:

1. Ails, S.. *Alamance County: The Legacy Of it's People and Places*. Alamance Co. Historical Museum, Inc., 1984, p. ----
2. *Brantly York File*, Duke University Archives. Obituary newspaper clipping.
3. *1860 Wake County Census records*. By August of 1860, living in the Morrisville census district and was teaching at the new Cedar Fork Academy in eastern Orange County.
4. *A History of Cedar Fork Baptist Church 1805-1970* Durham, NC: by a church committee, 1967, p. 1. In July 1861, it seems that work was still going on with the building of the academy. The minutes of the association meeting were amended to read: "By request of Bro. H. Weatherspoon, the church granted leave to the trustees of Cedar Fork Academy to build an Academy on the land belonging to the church and instructed the church to grant the trustees of the Academy and title to the same for the use of said trusted Academy and to their successors in office." The original location of the church was a mile from its current location.
5. *Ibid.* p. 3.
6. Iobst, Richard W. & Louis H. Manarin. *The Bloody Sixth, the Sixth North Carolina Regiment*. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission, 1995. pp. 264-265.
7. *Ibid.* pp. 266-267 *Adolphus Williamson Mangum Papers*, SHC, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, after 1865. History sketch of the "Battles in Which the Sixth N.C. Regiment Participated" written in April 1864 by Col. Robert F. Webb, while at Johnson's Island Prison, near Sandusky City, Ohio, to his friend and kinsman, Rev. Adolphus W. Mangum (presented in full here).
8. York, Brantly. *Autobiography of Brantly York*.
9. *Fannie Lyon Speech*. Oct. 1, 1892. History File for Cedar Fork Flag, NC Museum of History at Raleigh, NC.
10. *Ibid.*
11. *William H. Lyon Reminiscences*, 1920. W. H. Lyon Papers. Southern Historical Collection (SHC) at Chapel Hill, NC.
12. *Fannie Lyon Lowe speech*. NC Museum of History at Raleigh, NC.
13. A. J. Ellis. "Company I, 6th N.C. Troops", North Carolina Newspaper Clipping File. NCC. UNC., 1928.

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[Roster of "Company I" follows after Letters to the Governor]\*



Western Wake Herald WED 8 DEC 1993 Apex, NC

## Roster of Civil War regiments published by state archives

A new Civil War roster volume containing the histories of four North Carolina Confederate regiments and the service records of the men who served in them is now available. This publication is the 13th volume of "North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster," published by the N.C. Division of Archives and History's Historical Publications Section.

The histories of the 53d, 54th, 55th and 56th North Carolina are included in this new volume. Of particular interest are accounts of the 53d's participation in Gen. Jubal Early's Shenandoah Valley campaign and attack on Washington, D.C., the 54th's valiant performance at Fredericksburg, the 55th's farthest-to-the-front role in the Pickett-Pettigrew Charge at Gettysburg and the 56th's misad-

ventures in the Gum Swamp, near Kinston.

Volume 13 contains the service records of the approximately 7,000 soldiers who served in these four regiments. Individual service records include information such as county of birth and residence, age at time of enlistment, prewar occupation, promotions, desertions, instances of injury and capture and place, date and cause of death.

The 752-page volume contains an index, an introduction, 16 maps and 12 photographs of North Carolina soldiers. Copies can be ordered postpaid for \$41 from the Historical Publications Section (N), Division of Archives and History, Department of Cultural Resources, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27601-2807.