

THE SIXTH REGIMENT OF UNITED STATES INFANTRY

The Regulars



The Sixth Regiment of United States Infantry got their start in January 1812 as the 11th Infantry when Congress authorized the strengthening of the Army in preparation for the pending hostilities with Great Britain. Their nickname, "Regulars," was coined during the Regiment's engagement in the Battle of Chippewa on 5 July 1814, during the War of 1812. The name came about as the result of confusion regarding uniform color. The Infantry coattee was generally blue. However, a shortage of blue wool during the War of 1812 caused the troops under the command of General Winfield Scott to be issued short jackets of gray cloth, which they wore into the Battle of Chippewa. At first, the British mistook these "regulars" for militia. But when Scott's brigade of regiments courageously advanced without wavering through a hail of artillery and musket fire, the British commander Major General Phineas Riall realized his mistake and cried, "*Those are Regulars, By God!*" The regiment steadfastly held the flank and line, which earned the regiment's first battle streamer 'Chippewa' and the moniker of "*Regulars.*"

Following the War of 1812, the United States Army was downsized. The 11th Infantry was consolidated with four other regiments. The new regiment was given the designation of '6' based on the commanding officer, Colonel Henry Atkinson, who was the sixth-ranking colonel in the Army.

Today, volunteers recreate the Regulars of the Sixth during the period from the War of 1812 through the 1820s. At Fort Atkinson State Historical Park, we portray the light and artillery companies, Company A and Company G respectively. Our unit and organization prides itself not only on attention to historic authenticity but to developing and maintaining a high *esprit de corps* among its members. The Sixth, along with our sister unit, Company I of the Rifle Regiment, portray the soldiers of this frontier post at our regularly scheduled living history days. Together, these units also attend off-site living history events across the United States and Canada.
