



Vol. XVIII. April, 2019 Issue III.

Captain's Column

F Company welcomed the month of March with two activities both of which took place at the fort. The first was the fort work day and the other was our annual COI which is always held at the fort.

The fort work day was Saturday, 9 March. We had several members present, at least an adequate number to accomplish the work that needed to be done. There was not a lot of overgrowth in the fort probably due to the cold winter temperatures and spraying last fall. But we did cut down what there was and continued with the clearing of debris from the moat. Jack cleaned the outhouse and made sure the flagpole was functional. The work was finished in a timely matter, actually quicker than we anticipated.

The Camp of Instruction was held two weeks later, 22-24 March. The Thursday before camp had seen a lot of rain, so much so, that the grounds were pretty well soaked. Because of that we decided to park the vehicles close to the fort so as not to worsen the condition of the muddy dirt roads. The weather during the day was great but at night it was unseasonably cold/ freezing. But we made it through.

The Company Cook, Mark Riemer, provided us with excellent meals. The ribs and sweet potatoes we had on Saturday night were especially good. We ate well. Thanks Mark!

Attendance was somewhat down from previous years. Unfortunately, there were no new recruiters or even potential recruits. That probably helped facilitate the company drill going as well as it did. Saturday we did manual of arms and the various firing drills. We did our annual live fire that afternoon. Sunday we had both marching and skirmish drill.

All in all, Camp went very well; no real weather issues except dealing with the cold. Would it have been nice to have more members present? Of course! But it is always good to put on the uniform and "beam" back in time to that era that we commemorate by participating in this hobby. There is nothing like Civil War reenacting!

As far as April is concerned, there are no company events scheduled. So enjoy the month and have a happy Easter. Remember Christ, our Savior, is risen. Glory to God!

With kindest regards,
Captain Turley

1st Sergeant's Column

F Company was busy in the month of March w/both the Fort Clean-Up Day (9 Mar) as we got ready for the Camp of Instruction (22-24 Mar) held at Fort Harvie. Please note below those soldiers registered for the battle of New Market (17-19 May) as we don't have any scheduled company events for the month of April.

A piece of news, while attending/working at the MD Arms Collectors Show held at the MD Fair Grounds in Baltimore I encountered a former old member of F Co, Brian Burkett, which some of our members will remember from years ago. Brian, now grown, has children of his own including a son attending VMI! Brian was at the show looking for Maynard tape primer conversion muskets which he collects. Good to have seen him. Incidentally, the Maryland show is the largest antique gun and collector show held on the East coast and probably the biggest in the US, so you ought to attend!

Fort Clean-Up Day (9 Mar 19)- Our co efforts and preparations went well for this event! The weather cooperated which was cool, but agreeable w/no rain. Utilizing our usual work plan we got the outhouse cleaned-up; checked and found flagpole lanyards and rope was all ready to go along w/cleaning up the interior of the Fort as well as continuing to clear the moat plus checking rifle range area and insuring that sufficient target frames were in shape for range musket firing. We did note a small problem w/the foot bridge sagging in one spot from a railroad tie footer which is starting to give way and will have to clean w/this at our Fort Work-Day in August. Attendance was good w/both Alexander's; Clements, Firth, Hanson, Ray; Marshall, Turley and Vice.

Camp of Instruction (22-24 Mar 19)- Our early campaign season COI came off well w/good weather, but low turnout of the membership. I brought in the advance party w/two of our New England members, Gorgone and Riemer, arriving on Fri afternoon around 1330 hours. The road around the fields was not in great shape due to previous day's heavy rain, but we four wheeled it thru the one bad spot and got into camp ok.

Fortunately, the sunshine and wind was helping to rapidly dry out the dirt road and clear-up the mud. We got all our camp gear and tents unloaded along w/co mess gear and rations for the event by around 1530. The requested ½ cord of oak firewood had been delivered to the Fort despite the heavy rain which had occurred the day before, so myself and the Co Cook (Riemer) went looking for our supplier so we could pay him. Having completed that task we got to work refining the needed camp set-up as well as starting a cooking fire for our evening meal. Our dinner having been completed, we enjoyed ourselves around the campfire and we're joined later in the evening by Chris Marshall. While the day had been fairly pleasant the evening proved to be pretty cool, or should I say cold! I was glad I'd brought along two heavy blankets as temperatures got down in the 30's!

Troops began to appear early on Sat AM w/the arrival of the Alexander's; Clements; 2nd SGT Firth and Captain Turley for a total attendance of only 9 participants at the Camp of Instruction! Can't say it was a very impressive turnout, but we made the most of it w/our training as well as excellent rations! With first call, the Cook got the breakfast meal going w/excellent smoked thick sliced bacon and hard boiled eggs from Adams Co., PA plus later arrivals got up their shelters including the company command tent. Inventory sales were followed by a full field layout of all privates and corporals. School of the Soldier came next w/lots of emphasis on stacking arms as well as firing drill. Having completed the noon meal from our haversacks, we got busy putting up target frames as well as clearing a small path to the musket range. Rifle-Musket firing came off well w/no fouled weapons, however, the wind proved to be a hazard so some our members during the firing sequence. Captain Turley marked individual targets as they were completed followed by team competition between Johnathan Alexander and Clements versus Marshall and Jack Alexander. Captain Turley announced the results of firing later in the evening.

Our Company Cook, Mark Riemer, did himself proud w/an evening meal of beef ribs w/outstanding sauce plus excellent boiled and then skillet fried cabbage including tomatoes, onions and garlic plus really good large boiled sweet potatoes! We'd all been issued half a loaf of bread during the AM, which was to last us for the entire COI which came in handy for noon meals as we also had plenty of butter on hand to go w/our nice round loaf bread!

Sat night proved to be cold once again which is actually good for soldiers so as not to get them to complacent that soldiering is just a big camping trip, but it was a sunny bright morning for all our activities! Soldiers got busy on Sun AM cooking bacon, boiling eggs and toasting bread which was followed by church services conducted by Captain Turley. Morning exercises included company drill along w/refresher training on skirmish drill. Around 1300 we began to break down the camp including loading up co and personal gear, and by around 1400 we were able to depart the Fort w/two wheel drive vehicles leaving first followed by four wheel drive vehicles, but fortunately, the road was in good shape. Once again another successful Camp of Instruction for F Co, 21st VA Infantry!

Battle of New Market (17-19 May 19)- The next company event will be in the Shenandoah Valley at the great New Market battlefield site, that is, the event is held on the original battlefield. Individuals being registered for this event are Adams, Clements, the Hanson's; Turley, and the two Villanueva's.

With Best Regards,
Michael L. Vice, 1st SGT
F Co, 21st VA Infantry



Good Eats!!!!



April 2019 COI

Ode to Joe

