



Vol. XVIII. August, 2019 Issue V.

Captain's Column

All right gentlemen. We have some very important business to attend to in the month of August That is "Is F Company going to continue to be a viable reenacting unit or is it going to disband and fade away?"

So far this year and for the first time in my thirty years of reenacting, F Company has not been able to field a unit at any of the events on its schedule. The season is half over and projections for future events show no improvement. F Company cannot and will not continue on this road. We must pledge to support the unit at these upcoming events and actually have a physical presence at them or the balance of the season may be canceled or at least severely cut back.

I know we all have very, very busy lives. The world is a very different place and the times have changed significantly from when I started reenacting those thirty years ago. But I started with F Company and by George, I will end with F Company. If one just wants to reenact, there are numerous other units or company's out there that one can fall in with. Over the years, F Company has developed into one of the best reenactment units in the hobby today. If you want to be with the best there is only one F Company.

F Company's schedule has been known since the Annual Meeting of last February. The events on this schedule are not just one of many other choices for a particular weekend's activity. Unless providentially hindered or due to family or work

obligations, when an F Company activity comes up, that should be our first choice for that weekend's activity. Actually, it should be the only choice especially if you signed up for the event.

So there you have it, gentlemen. We all need to be at this meeting. If we can't make this pledge to support F Company, then maybe it's time to hang it up. I'm not saying that we all have to go to everything on the schedule, but if we can't get enough support to field a unit at a few select events then we are done. The choice is ours to make. See you 24 August.

Respectfully submitted,
Captain Turley



“The Best in the Field”

1st Sergeant's Column

F Co Muster (Sat, 20 Jul 2019)- The F Co Annual Muster came off well w/9 attendees on a very hot and humid day! Meeting up at the Gettysburg NMP Visitors Center parking lot, we organized our group into two vehicles and were off on our tour by around 0920. We drove along W. Confederate Ave exploring Confederate state monuments, and then stopping at the Virginia state monument to begin our battlefield walk dealing w/Longstreet's Assault (known too many as Pickett's Charge) for the 3rd day battle of Gettysburg. Walking the ground gives one a good appreciation of the physical obstacles faced by attacking CS troops as well as incoming Federal artillery and then small arms defensive fires. After walking almost all the way to the Emmitsburg Road we doubled back to our

vehicles in order to drive to Federal defense lines and view the action from that vantage point, but first stopping at the Longstreet Tower to see the right flank of the Confederate attack. Physical spots visited within the Federal lines included the break through area near the Copse of Trees plus death spot of General Lewis Armistead. This portion of the tour took us up until almost 1:00PM, so from the High Water Mark we proceeded to lunch at Dunlap's Restaurant on the west side of Gettysburg where everyone not only ate lunch, but cooled off as well!

We left Dunlap's a little after 2:00PM driving cross country to the Monterrey Pass battle site and visitor's center which provides a really good interpretation of the almost nightmare aspects of Lee's retreat from Gettysburg on the night of 4 July. We completed this aspect of the tour around 3:15PM and headed back to Gettysburg to retrieve our vehicles where we had ice cold root beer provided by Jack Alexander for all our attendees which was much appreciated on that hot and sticky day! Then everyone departed for home station w/a good general working knowledge of the 3rd day at Gettysburg.

I'd specifically like to thank Johnathan Alexander and Ray Hanson for providing vehicles so we could consolidate our group into two vehicles for our tour. Additionally, I'd like to note that two of our tour participants were Steve Adams's uncle from York, PA, and Travis Clement's dad from the Shenandoah Valley.

Winery at Bull Run (Sat-Sun, 3-4 Aug 2019)- This "fun" event is back on again for this year, but has now gone to a full two days for participants. See attached logistics information sheet from Austin Williams, coordinator for the Winery. There is no registration fee for this event so if you'd like to show up and participate then you'd be more than welcome. We've got the Hanson brothers as well as the Villanueva's signed up along w/Jack Alexander for Sunday. As you see from the attached sheet I've made arrangements for members of F Company to fall-in w/the 33rd VA which has always been a good fit for us. I'd recommend that you bring a minimum of 80 blank cartridges along w/appropriate number of percussion caps as there will be firing demonstrations as well as battle scenarios both days of the event. Plan on bivouacking in the field as a campaigner, and you'll need to provide your own rations.

I've not received the final schedule of events nor campsites, but when received will pass onto those signed up for the event.

F Co Called Membership Meeting (Sat, 24 Aug 2019)- Every member of F Co will have seen Captain Turley's email message calling for this meeting, and now you've also seen his column in the earlier part of this newsletter dealing w/the same subject. I too share Captain Turley's serious concern about the future of F Company. Captain Turley has sufficiently made clear why this meeting is being called, so all of you now understand the gravity and need to be present!

The meeting will be held at Chimborazo Medical Museum, Richmond National Battlefield, 3215 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23223 in downtown Richmond. This is the location of our previous 2018 annual membership meeting. Meeting will begin at 1000 hours and should be wrapped up by 1300 hours so everyone should be able to get lunch and/or drive home as they wish.

Sincerely,
Michael L. Vice, 1st SGT
F Co, 21st VA Infantry

Finalizing Logistics for Civil War Weekend 3-4 August:

Gentlemen-

Thank you all for your patience over the past month as my wedding consumed all my focus and diverted my time from preparing for Civil War Weekend at The Winery at Bull Run. I'm now back from my honeymoon, rested and ready to tackle logistics for the event, which is now only a few weeks away. You'll get much more regular updates from me in the coming weeks as we finalize details. Please also encourage your men to check out and follow the event's reenactor [Facebook page](#), where I've been posting some background info, photos from previous years, etc.... I hope they find it helpful!

My immediate focus is on finalizing our schedule and the location of our campsites. Since the footprint of each force will determine which side stays in which campsite (one is a bit smaller than the other), I would like to request updated number estimates from each unit that hasn't done so already. Below is what I'm currently tracking. This is shaping up to be our biggest year yet! Please let me know if your numbers will change significantly on Saturday vs Sunday, if significant numbers of your men are not planning on staying overnight, the number of civilians you expect to attend, etc.... so that we can factor that into our planning.

- Stonewall Brigade: Circa twenty men
- 21st Virginia: Mike, what sort of numbers do you expect this year?
- 10th Virginia: Bill, will a few of your Manassas area members be joining us this year?
- Confederate Military Forces: Greg, any interest from the CMF contingent this year?
- 28th Massachusetts, Co. B: 10 men, plus two civilians
- 61st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Co. A: Larry, what sort of numbers do you expect to field?
- 3rd New Jersey, Co. A: 8 men (potentially 2-3 additional pending) and one civilian
- 2nd Rhode Island: Gary, what sort of numbers are you looking at for this year?
- 4th US Regulars, Co. H: one man
- 5th New York: John and Stan, I know you all encountered some unexpected conflicts this year. Do you anticipate any of your men attending?
- 3rd US Regulars: Paul and Kelly, will any Buffsticks be joining us this year?
- 7th Maryland (US): Dawn, will the 7th be joining us again this year?
- Stribling's Battery: John/Mike, I am tracking your battery attending with a single gun for Saturday only. Just let me know if anything's changed.
- Battery K, 4th US Artillery: Captain Gist, just wanted to confirm that your organization has decided not to come this year or whether we should plan on you being there

As we are putting together the schedule, please let me know as soon as possible if any of your members have suggestions/contributions for the schedule. For instance, if you have any musicians who would like to put on a demo of music/bugle calls/etc...., a unit historian who would like to lead a chat about your unit, a civilian who would like to present on the role of women in the Civil War, etc.... please just let me know. Each side will have several drill demonstrations each day, we'll hold skirmishes both days, we'll have a children's muster, and I'm dusting off my knowledge of bayonet drill to lead a demonstration, but we have room in the schedule to add things if there is any special impressions or areas of knowledge your men would like to share with our spectators. Please let me know as soon as possible.

Over the past few weeks, I received a handful of logistical questions from various units and I figured I'd address them all here so that everyone is on the same page. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions that come up from your men.

Food: No food/rations will be provided and thus individual units or men are responsible for providing their own food. We will have firewood available to make a handful of fire pits for cooking purposes, as well as water available. If men are interested in supplementing their food, the Winery will have food trucks present selling food for the public. However, particularly as the Winery does not close until 10pm Saturday evening, we'll have public around well into the evening and I would encourage everyone to plan their lunch and supper rations to be period appropriate so that our cooking and eating can be part of our living history impression for the public.

Fee/Registration: There is no fee for your men to participate in the event and no registration is required.

Location: The event is held at The Winery at Bull Run, which is located at 15950 Lee Hwy, Centreville, VA 20120.

It is very easy to find and get to, as it is only a short distance from Highway 66. The Winery entrance is from Highway 29 (Lee Highway) and is located immediately adjacent to the National Park Service's parking lot for the Stone Bridge on the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Once we finalize campsite locations, I'll be sending around event maps with the location of campsites, reenactor parking, etc....

I look forward to hearing from you all as we enter the final stretch before the event. It is shaping up to be a good one! Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

Your ever obedient and most humble servant,

Capt. Austin J. Williams

Stonewall Brigade, Commanding

Southern Division

www.stonewallbrigade.net

www.facebook.com/SWBReenacting/

Ode to Joe

