



Vol. XIX. May 2020 Issue IV.

### Captain's Column

Another month has come and gone. It is spring. Flowers are blooming and the temperatures are comfortable and warming. So, there is some degree of normalcy left in our world.

I hope everyone and their families are doing well and are healthy and safe. Not much has really changed since the April newsletter so there is not much to report. If you have not heard, the living history program scheduled for 6 & 7 June at Cold Harbor Battlefield has been canceled. No real surprise there.

The good news is that conditions seem to be improving albeit rather slowly. Question is how this will affect the rest of the reenactment season and F Company's schedule. I guess the best answer is that we will just have to wait and see.

Hope everyone is working or, if not, has the financial resources or assistance to get by and make ends meet. In the meantime, hang in there. As things progress and conditions improve, we will keep you posted.

Cordially yours,  
Captain Turley

P.S. On a personal note:

I would appreciate prayers for my cousin, Ashley. She has the virus. She is in her early 30's and lives with her husband in Boston. She is in the hospital and is in a bad way but seems to be holding her own at the moment. Please pray for her recovery. Thanks.

### **Message from Lt. Clements**

F.Co.

First let me thank the Company for the honor of being the Lt of the Company this year. I will try to do my best to live up to your confidence. F. Co has meant a lot to me over the years, I started as an 18-year-old kid and now I am 48. Yes, I had a break in the middle, but F. Co has been a major part of my life. Sometimes it has been, hot, - man it has been hot - sometimes, cold, wet, and miserable, definitely exhausting, but it has also been filled with some the best camaraderie with men that I enjoy being around and I wouldn't trade the many good times for any other company. F. Co as a unit was at my wedding and I couldn't have asked for a more perfect wedding. Sure, I had the good-looking girl in a dress, but I was just about as proud of F.Co.! The Co has been there for me and I hope I can be there for them. I was never in the modern military, but F. Co has given me a bit of that sense of common brotherhood that I understand one gets from being out in the dirt, cold, wet as an infantryman weather in WWII, Vietnam, or today's military. Perhaps that is why we have so many vets, it brings that back feeling a bit for them also.

I hope that over the years I have learned a few things that will help the company, and I will do my best to continue the company's proud history moving forward. I had great hesitation in running for Lt. and want to thank Steve for being so gracious. Next year things may change again, and we need to all work together as this is not a politically correct hobby with people knocking down our doors to get in, so we need to stay united.

The last week or so I came up with the idea of asking trivia questions, partly to have fun, partly as an excuse to at least have us talking during this strange time. I hope it is enjoyable. It won't be every day, I am away from my computer a couple days a week on the road, but I will try to keep it up.

I have been thinking about our muster this year which will be in my neck of the woods, I hope I can show you some interesting sites, perhaps the house and grave of Jedidiah Hotchkiss, the answer to my first question. I will of course try to show you some F. Co. sites, Jackson sites, and fill in the geography of the Valley for you. I enjoy going to battlefields as you cannot get the true picture of how and why they did what they did at the time without seeing the ground.

Lastly, I hope everyone is safe as well as their families. We have missed a few events this spring, but perhaps it will make us more enthusiastic about getting back out there the next time we get together.

Thank You,

Lt. Clements

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant's Column

Obviously, nothing terribly exciting to report on either the battle reenactment or living history front coming up anytime soon as the corona virus lockdown continues to blanket the nation. The planned Cold Harbor (Richmond National Battlefield-NPS) living history scheduled for the first weekend in June has been cancelled by the park. Hopefully before the summer is out, we'll see a return to "normalcy" whatever that might look like and be able to continue participation in our hobby. I'm continuing to monitor the event participation possibilities on a continuing basis and will keep the company informed of any potential upcoming events we can attend or carryout our postponed Camp of Instruction.

**F Co Organizational Structure-** You will please note the attached F Co, 21<sup>st</sup> VA Company Assignment sheet w/this newsletter which has been finalized w/the payment of needed F Co dues. Travis Clements is taking the elected position as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant of the company, and Ray Hanson has kindly agreed to be appointed the Corporal of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, a position which was vacated w/Clements election as an officer. You will note the addition of Chuck Arrington as a new recruit in the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, and James Green has returned to our ranks in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon.

I'm going to take advantage of this delay in our schedule to provide other material for the newsletter, and your invited to forward material to me that you'd like to see included in upcoming issues. Please see the following Confederate soldier letter excerpts for your edification, and potential use relating to the retreat from Gettysburg and the aftermath of that major military campaign.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

July 14, 1863  
North of Martinsburg, VA

Pvt Louis Leon  
C Co., 1<sup>st</sup> NC Infantry

“These roads are so bad that it is hard to trudge along. I stuck in the mud several times and lost one shoe in a mud hole, but of course took it out again. One consolation we have got, it is raining so hard that the mud is washed off our clothing, therefore they were not soiled too bad ..... We are now, thank God, on Confederate soil, but oh, how many of our dear comrades have we left behind”

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

July 14, 1863  
Winder Hospital, Richmond, VA

SGT F. M. Ross  
I Co., 13<sup>th</sup> Miss Infantry

“Dear Sister Mollie

I have to perform the sad task of writing the death of your poor Newton (Pvt Nimrod N. Nash) to you he was killed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July ..... in a charge on one of the enemies batteries near sundown ..... Out Co. carried 46 guns into the fight and had 33 men killed and wounded and 3 missing ..... Gen Barksdale and Col. Carter were killed ..... Newtons body was buried the next morning ..... Charles was not in the fight he had been left in Va sick .....

\*\*\* Note- Interestingly enough I grew up in Texas w/Weldon Nash, the great-great grandson of Nimrod Nash.

July 17, 1863  
Bunker’s Hill, VA

CPL Tally Simpson  
A Co., 3<sup>rd</sup> SC Infantry

Dear Sister

The night we left Hagerstown (Maryland) was the worst I ever saw. The mud was almost knee deep and about as thick as corn meal batter. We waded through it like horses, and such a squashing you never heard. I believe I had over fifteen or twenty pounds of mud clinging to my shoes and pants. Poor Harry stuck to it like a man. His shoes gave out completely, and he was compelled to go barefooted. Marching over these turnpikes nearly ruined his feet. But fortunately, yesterday while coming through Martinsburg, he bought an old pair of shoes. They were too short and he cut the toes off, and it looked funny to see him trudging along in the mud with his toes sticking about an inch or two out of his shoes.

..... I can’t imagine where we are bound for. Some think we will remain above Winchester for some time, others think we are bound for Richmond. I think our movements will depend entirely upon the movements of the enemy.

..... Hoping to hear from you soon I remain  
Your affect bro

Taliaferro Simpson

Lewis was a little sick yesterday, but is much better today. Sends his love to his family and to all the negros generally.

That's all from me to F Company for the month of May. Everybody stay well and continue on w/an optimistic attitude as we all face up to the corona virus.

Best Wishes,  
Michael L. Vice, 1<sup>st</sup> SGT  
F Co., 21<sup>st</sup> VA Infantry

### The Engagement of the 21<sup>st</sup> Virginia on Stringfellow Road

One of the joys of living in Northern Virginia is being surrounded by the generations of history. Case-in-point, I was researching the Battle of Ox Hill (Battle of Chantilly to the Yankees) and found that I have been living surrounded by some very important moments leading up to the epic battle. For starters, I live in a neighborhood that is bordered by Walney Road to the west, Stringfellow Road to the east, and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (US 50) to the north. As I was reading the book, *Tempest at Ox Hill: The Battle of Chantilly*, I learned that Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway, a road I take every day, to and from work, was originally the Little River Turnpike. I have known this road since I was a young lad, reading about the Civil War, growing up in California. I could not believe that I have lived on this same road for 3+ years and did not realize it. Also, I learned that after the battle of Second Manassas, General Pope marched his defeated Army to the relative safety of Centreville and its breastworks. Generals Jackson and Lee, knowing that this position would leave Pope's right flank open to be moved around and possibly to cut off the Federal Army from Washington, DC, started the move from Pope's front on a semi-clandestine move around his flank via the Little River Turnpike. As Jackson moved his men eastward down the turnpike, he made sure to send troops south on the North-South roadways to prevent any probes from the Yankees discovering the movement. This is where the 21<sup>st</sup> Virginia perhaps saved Jackson's movement from disaster.

In the late morning of September 1, 1862, Jackson deployed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade under Colonel Bradley T. Johnson, which was composed of the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Battalion, 21<sup>st</sup> Virginia, 42<sup>nd</sup> Virginia, and the 48<sup>th</sup> Virginia, south along Stringfellow Road (approximately where Chantilly High School now resides) along with two guns from Rice's Battery as a blocking movement. The 21<sup>st</sup> had been used as the skirmishers for the brigade and were sent forward as the main force. According to

the book, the 21<sup>st</sup>'s CO, Captain William Witcher moved the company forward to a position by Little Rocky Run (which is down closer to where Rocky Run Middle School now sits). It was here that the 21<sup>st</sup> Virginia and the guns from Rice's Battery encountered two Federal Calvary Regiments, the 1<sup>st</sup> New Jersey and the 1<sup>st</sup> Maine, along Stringfellow Road who had been sent to probe the Confederate line as Pope was now beginning to hear rumors of the potential movement around his flank. The Federals ended up becoming engaged with the 21<sup>st</sup> Virginia for the rest of the day in what was called the Skirmish at Stringfellow Road. The 21<sup>st</sup> held their position and the Federals would not discover the movement of Jackson until later in the day at the Battle of Chantilly.

The losses to either side are unclear, however, there is reference to the owners of the farmland leaving their property because of the bodies left in their fields and Fairfax Cemetery has a monument and mass grave for those unidentified 200 Confederates that gave their lives in the vicinity which, we can only sadly assume, includes members of the brave 21<sup>st</sup> Virginia.

### F Co, 21<sup>st</sup> Virginia Infantry Company Assignment

Captain: Turley, Tony

1<sup>st</sup> LT: Clements, Travis

1<sup>st</sup> SGT: Vice, Michael

2<sup>nd</sup> SGT: Firth, Eldridge

1<sup>st</sup> Platoon- Alexander, Johnathan

Alexander, Jack

Arrington, Chuck\*

Hanson, Greg

Villanueva, Jeremy

Weidman, Brett

2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon- Hanson, Ray

Adams, Steve

Brooks, Paul

Chapman, Kendall

Gorgone, Bob

Green, James\*

Riemer, Mark

\*Recruit/Mentor

Arrington/Vice  
Green/Adams

\*\* Honorary- Jeff Pennise

### COI 2019 revisited



What a great group of guys





That layout is pretty straight



Love the food, yummm!

Ode to Joe

