



Vol. XX. March 2021 Issue II.

1st Sergeant's Column

The attached meeting minutes from the 20 Feb 2021 Annual Membership meeting are the major piece of F Company business conducted in the month of Feb which sees a major command shift as Travis Clements takes over as Captain and Johnathan Alexander becomes the company's new 1st Sergeant. This will be my last 1st Sergeant's column as beginning w/the April newsletter, Johnathan will have the responsibility for its coordination, writing and dissemination. Please note the following F Co business which you need to pay heed to:

Payment of 2021 F Co Dues: Dues must be paid for F Co membership on or before 15 Mar of each year per our By-Laws. Dues this year will only be \$25.00! The lowered dues are one of the very few things we can thank the pandemic for this year! Last year we collected event registration fees which could not be expended as the events had been cancelled. So, our Treasurer, Jack Alexander is giving you the full benefit of this savings as a one-time basis.

Make dues cheque payable to F Co, 21st VA Infantry, and send to Jack Alexander, 6346 Bannister Dr., Frederick, MD 21701 ASAP as F Co does have ongoing expenses which must be met. Your timely payment will be much appreciated.

Event Sign-Up Sheet: Attached is F Co event sign-up sheet for the 1st quarter of 2021. We really cannot make firm plans for future events this year until historic sites and other historic venues begin to make commitments to being open and capable of handling large crowds and participants as pandemic restrictions are loosened or lifted. In order for F Co to make needed plans for our upcoming events it is imperative you provide an event sign-up sheet to 1st SGT Johnathan Alexander as soon as possible. Send to either his email address (tbolt881@gmail.com) or hardcopy to 6346 Bannister Dr., Frederick, MD 21701. All the members attending the Annual Membership meeting submitted a sign-up sheet so it is now up to the rest of you to get those sign-up sheets in! Recommend you send in your sign-up sheet w/2021 dues payment.

Fort Clean-Up Day (Sat, 13 Mar 2020)- Please see the attached work plan. It has been a full year since we have been able to carry out needed work at the Fort. Photos provided by PVT Adams indicate we have timber down inside the Fort as well as other clean-up issues in order to be ready for the April Camp of Instruction. Travis Clements and Ray Hanson have committed to provide chainsaws w/fuel for the needed work, and Greg Hanson will have his leaf blower ready for bridge and Fort interior clean-up. The rest of you need to turnout w/needed hand tools called for in the work plan. No need to be sitting at home when you can be of some use to F Company and Civil War living history!

Farewell as 1st Sergeant- This column will be my last official act as 1st Sergeant of F Company, 21st VA Infantry. Having served some 17 years in two different tours as the 1st SGT of this company it makes me the longest serving NCO in the 35-year existence of the company. Having reached the age of 74 and about to turn 75 in April then it was time for me to relinquish my post and have a younger 1st SGT take over. I will continue to be active w/the company and look forward to future service as a private. My very best to Captain Travis Clements and 1st SGT Johnathan Alexander as they assume their new posts w/the company. I especially wish to bid farewell to Captain Tony Turley whom I have enjoyed working w/during my last five years of service as 1st Sergeant.

With Respect,
Michael L. Vice, Former 1st SGT
F Co, 21st VA Infantry

Meeting Minutes
F Co, 21st VA Annual Membership Meeting

20 February 2021

The meeting came to order at 1033 hours at the Mechanicsville Public Library, Mechanicsville, VA, w/Captain Turley leading the attendees in the invocation and pledge of allegiance. The Captain gave short introductions of those attending the meeting and meeting agendas were passed out by the 1st Sergeant.

The 2020 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes were approved by the membership.

The first order of business was selection of events for the 2021 campaign season which only dealt w/the first quarter of 2021 due to lack of commitment of many historic sites/venues because of pandemic restrictions. Three events were approved by the membership for Fort Harvie. Additional insights were provided by LT Clements on potential for a 12-13 June event at Kernstown Battlefield w/more information to be provided by the battlefield. A lively discussion followed concerning the possibility of a 10-11 Apr event at Yorktown, VA, sponsored by the Waterman Museum. Presentation by the Member-at-Large Greg Hanson indicated several potential activities, but w/o specifics as to schedule of events, logistical support, etc. In the end it was resolved that this would be a voluntary event w/Greg sending out a notice of event to all F Co members. Ray Hanson brought up possibility of his conducting a Sharpsburg battlefield tour as a Muster event, but it was decided that the 2021 Muster would be a continuation of the Valley Campaign, w/2022 Muster being the Sharpsburg event. Paper sign-up event sheets were passed out for members to fill out as well as white board w/magic markers being utilized to fill in member participation. Additionally, the 1st SGT passed out a Fort Clean-Up Plan outlining needed work for event on Sat, 13 March. Committee Reports then followed.

Treasury Report by Jack Alexander, Treasurer, showed the company was in excellent financial condition especially in view of lack of expenses during the pandemic lockdown during the 2020 campaign season. The Treasurer's report showed the General Fund balance at \$2,572.51 while the Inventory Fund was \$3,238.37. The Chairman of the Uniform and Equipage, Mike Vice, then provided his report which noted 4 full sets of accoutrements for either new recruits as well as replacement items were for regular members were on hand. A discussion followed on acquisition of wood canteens w/Chairman noting that authentic, serviceable wood canteens were available from S&S Sutlery and that a stock of them could be acquired for F Co inventory.

The Chairman noted that LT Clements serves as the Co Quartermaster, that is maintaining Co inventory and selling inventory to membership, while Chairman of Uniform and Equipage, Mike Vice, continues to be approval source of uniform and

equipment items for company including the needed acquisition and development of new sources w/assistance by committee member Mark Riemer.

The report on Membership and Recruiting followed w/ Jack Alexander and Greg Hanson discussing general recruiting approaches. It was noted that a large supply of recruiting brochures were on hand which needed to be folded and business cards inserted for use during the 2021 campaign season. Jack Alexander noted current F Co Website program as well as need for someone to take over need of manning the Co Facebook page. Greg Hanson discussed need for a specific recruiting video for the Co and stated that he would be getting back to the Co w/recommendations for this video. It was noted by general membership that recruiting was more imperative than ever as the pandemic lockdown was lifting as well as working to overcome the hostility toward Civil War reenacting/living history being experienced throughout the country. A short Militia Impression report was provided by Coordinator Jack Alexander noting availability of needed uniforms and equiptage for that impression if needed by F Co members for a particular event.

A short break was called w/refreshments including coffee and donuts being provided by LT Clements. A company photo was taken of the 8 meeting attendees which included: The Alexander's; Arrington, Clements, Hanson brothers; Turley and Vice.

The meeting resumed w/Treasurer, Jack Alexander, taking the floor to recommend that dues for 2021 be set at \$25.00 per member due to the surplus of event fees unspent during 2020. This met w/hearty approval by the attending members. Jack then continued in his role as Fort Liaison Officer w/electronic photos of current condition of Fort area being provided by PVT Steven Adams. It was noted that the Fort Clean-Up Day slated for Sat, 13 Mar 21 will see the needed cutting up of fallen timber including removal of large hanging limb across access road. Members Clements and Ray Hanson committed to bringing needed chainsaws, and Greg Hanson noted he would provide leaf blower for clearing bridge area. Photo report noted continuing deterioration of sagging portion of bridge which will be dealt w/on Sat, 15 May Fort Work Day.

The election of officers for 2021 was the concluding piece of meeting agenda. The following officers were elected for 2021:

Captain/President- Travis Clements

1st LT/Vice-President- Left Vacant

1st SGT/Secretary- Johnathan Alexander

Treasurer- Jack Alexander
Member-at-Large- Greg Hanson

With no remaining New Business, the outgoing Captain Tony Turley gave the benediction and closed out the meeting at 1335 hours. Following adjournment, company inventory items were moved into LT Clements inventory trailer including newly acquired musket powder along w/recruiting brochures and additional Jefferson Arsenal musket cartridges.

Michael L. Vice, 1st SGT/Secretary
F Company, 21st Virginia Regiment

**First Quarter 2021
Schedule of Events
F Co, 21st VA Infantry**

Name- Please Print	Place X in space on left if Attending
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_____	13 Mar (Sat) Fort Work Day
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_____	16-18 Apr (Fri-Sun) Camp of Instruction
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_____	15 May (Sat) Repair of Fort Foot Bridge
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*** Note- It will be necessary for the F Co Executive Committee along w/F Co individual members to continually monitor upcoming potential events for the remainder of the 2021 campaign season in the hopes of widening our event schedule for the rest of the 2021. Civil War reenacting/living history finds itself in very tumultuous times w/many historic sites and venues unable to commit to events due to local and state mandated pandemic restrictions. F Co will have to be imaginative and work at creating its own events which it can support within its own resources.

**Fort Clean-Up Day
Saturday, 13 Mar 2021- 0900-1300 Hours**

The primary purpose of our work at the Fort is to prepare the site for the upcoming Camp of Instruction (16-18 Apr 2021) to ensure that everything possible has been done to ensure complete functionality of the site when the troops start arriving for the COI, so to avoid any “improvising” or “surprises” at the last minute! Additionally, we will be

keeping up the conservation and preservation of the Fort as part of our obligation to the landowners, the Harvie family, who allows us to use their property for our F Co activities.

General Outline of Work: Clean up debris and clearing new growth inside the Fort: clean and sweep the bridge; insure there is not any runoff damage to the bridge abutments and that all planking is in place; cutting up any fallen timber inside or adjacent to the Fort; re-stacking/re-organizing current wood supply; clearing growth around bridge; and checking target frames for serviceability and re-building as needed. Additionally, to ensure the flag rope and lanyards are in serviceable condition for hoisting and lowering colors, and that flagpole is serviceable.

Everyone needs to wear work clothes including work boots w/long trousers and leather work gloves as this is not a casual work effort w/exposure to briars and brambles, and possibly ticks. You need to bring a quantity of water along w/any snacks or food that you may want to consume. We will not be taking a break for lunch as all work will be completed in 4 hours.

You need to bring any of the following tools and equipment for this work effort: Machetes, axes and hatchets, shovels, heavy rakes and hoes, bow saws and pruners, brush hooks, picks or pick mattocks, and heavy pruning hooks and loppers. We have a wheelbarrow on site, but need a tire pump to ensure tires are aired up. Additionally, brooms, heavy wire brushes and dust pans are needed for cleaning of the outhouse. When in doubt bring along any and all tools!

Request that Greg Hanson provide his leaf blower along w/additional fuel for easier clean-up of Fort interior as well as bridge. Additionally, its requested that Travis Clements bring a chainsaw along w/needed fuel, oil and bar adjustment tool for cutting up any downed timber or logs, plus heavy-duty weed whacker for clearing any larger new growth inside the Fort.

When driving onto property everyone needs to closely follow the dirt road around the farm fields to the Fort. Park your vehicle in an orderly manner near the entrance to the Fort.

If you have got any questions at all about this project or knowing what tools or equipment to bring then call me at 210-683-7323.

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

Ode to Joe

