

Vol. XX. May 2021 Issue IV.

### Captain's Column

Gentleman,

Last month we had our first event in uniform, the Camp of Instruction, in two years. That was somewhat momentous! Thanks to everyone who came out and spent the weekend at Fort Harvie and drilled. We had 9 members in attendance, one being a new member, Chuck Arrington. Also getting into the field were the Hanson brothers, Steve Adams, Jeremy Villanueva, Jack Alexander and 1st Sgt, Jonathan Alexander. Lastly Capt. Emeritus Tony Turely fell in as a private. Thank you Tony.

We did not have Mark Riemer as Chef, but Greg Hanson stepped up and prepared nice breakfasts and Sat dinner for the company. It was very tasty, and the breakfast was a dish I believe I have talked my wife into trying. Sausage, hominy, with egg on top. Oh, in case my wife reads this the eggs came from her and were a mixture of white, brown, but also green and blue. The colored eggs especially were a hit. Dinner was ham, cabbage and potatoes. Both dishes were something that troops could have gotten together in the field so appropriate. Greg went all out with some tables, all sorts of pots and the largest frying pan I have ever seen. His set up rivaled even the great Reimer collection, and I believe the frying pan was half again as large. Thank you Greg!

The weekend activities included the usual drilling and shooting. It was different not having Mike Vice as Sgt, but new 1st Sgt Alexander performed well and formed the company on Sat and began the drill without arms, working on facings, marching, etc. and getting the bugs worked out of the company. Then we moved on to drill with arms, loading, firing fixing

bayonets, stacking arms, etc. It went about as expected, a few things were forgotten, and we worked on removing the rust. In the end we were getting better. For my part, I found that it is difficult to keep thinking ahead of where the company is in the command sequence. I.e., when loading in 10 times, I am watching, waiting for the ramrod to be drawn without thinking what the next command is, "ram" so I left too much time between commands thinking, "what is next". Or, when marching I need to leave more time before running out of room when wheeling etc. I will work on getting better.

We did work a good bit on stacking arms, fixing and unfixing bayonets, and then the bayonet drill. We only touched on the bayonet drill but other than shortening on the left and right which I forgot about and Jack remembered I think we covered the basics. I will work more on that, and the proper French words for the commands. We also worked on the procedure for mounting and relieving a guard. Everyone got to stand guard for a few minutes, I believe Tony had the record - least - amount of time at perhaps 1:37. The point was not the time, but we may be asked to stand guard at events per a Longstreet's Corp suggestion that came out at their annual meeting and doing it properly will keep up the reputation of F. Co.

Sat afternoon we had our shooting range set up and most members were able to fire their muskets and we had some decent scores. I do believe that it is quite true that it took a lot of lead to hit someone down range if our scores are anything like "typical" for a wartime soldier. If we had a bit of trouble hitting the target at 50-60 yards, a Yank at 100+ is pretty safe, and John Sedgwick's last comment was actually accurate. Jack A. sacrificed his rounds for the betterment of his team by having (nod nod, wink wink) a problem loading his musket. It didn't help though, they still lost.

Sat eve was dinner as mentioned above, by Chef Hanson, and I believe most present had seconds so that tells you it was tasty. After dinner and clean up it was free time and as the weekend was so pretty weather wise, we had a nice time around the campfire talking and getting up to speed on everyone's news. Ray Hanson is planning on chaining himself to the Lee Statue at Sharpsburg and invited all to attend. Tony has found that retirement is perhaps a bit different than expected, Jack A. has stood up for what is right and proper in his school and Greg is going to put on a fireworks show at Yorktown this July 4th. It may be the last thing he does before jail, but he is going out with a "bang".

As for Johnathan, Jeremy and Steven, less is known about their plans, but they did make sure that no beer needed to be taken home the next day. Eventually all made it to bed, but Jeremy left a surprise for the company somewhere along the bridge. Hopefully not near the pier that needs work. He may or may not know where, but it will be interesting to see if he shows up for bridge repair day and or actually gets down to ground level. If he seems to be avoiding a certain section, you may want to also avoid that spot. I always thought Marines could "drink like a fish", being acclimated to an aquatic environment, apparently not.

Sunday morning, we had Church with a good message from Tony, he reminded us that Lee was a great man, an honorable man, a man to be remembered. He was not the person that some people would have us believe. After a bit, more drill we had a medical talk from Ray Hansen. It was a bit of history, practicality and good information about how the medical system was changing at the time and has changed since. Thank you Ray. After that we broke camp and headed home.

The next event on the calendar is the bridge repair day. We are going to jack up the sagging section and get it back to level and replace some of the cross bracing. Please come out if you can.

In June we have Kernstown on the schedule, that will be June 12-13th and we will stay overnight at Kernstown Battlefield. It will be a living history event, but the location is nice and we should have a good turnout as the park will be having some special events on the same weekend as it is a anniversary weekend for them. (2nd Kernstown). They will be having a special walking tour and a SCV meeting that Sat afternoon so there should be a fair number of people in and about that may be interested in us and perhaps we can do some recruiting. So please, if you can come out, please do and look smart.

Thanks to everyone for making COI a success. I have to start over again in leaning the drill as I have found that following a command and thinking of what the command is - before execution - are two different things. I will work on it.

Lastly, thanks to everyone for being a part of F. Co and keeping alive our hobby and history. When we stood there and watched the flag being hauled down at the end of camp, I was thinking to myself I am so glad that I found F. Co all those years ago and how many good people have come and gone and how proud I am of the Company and so glad that we understand better what the war was about and how reenacting is not about politics, but it is about good friends doing something honest and patriotic and remembering our history and ancestors and what they fought for and died. It is so nice to be able to do something with people that think like I do and I am always and forever will be proud of F. Co. Thank you.

Your Obedient Servant,

Capt. Clements.

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

Good afternoon Gentlemen,

I do not believe much more needs to be said about COI that the Captain did not cover. I was pleasantly impressed by the men of F company that were in attendance and the willingness to continue to push to make this hobby great again. It is clear that there is a push, which has been around for years, to continue to degrade the valuable and rich heritage of the history surrounding our nation. I am proud to stand by this organization and its membership and that we will continue to push back against those that would choose to dismantle and remove the past as if it had never occurred.

The next event on the schedule is the bridge repair. This will take place on Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 0930. The current list of attendees are as follows, T. Clements, M. Vice, T. Turley, C. Arrington, R./G. Hanson, and JP./J. Alexander. I believe the more hands the better in this case, so any members that can attend the more productive the work will be. The tools that are requested are hydraulic jacks, chain saws, generators, power saws, Sawzall's, pry bars, lumber, hammers, nails, and of course any apparatus that those in attendance deem necessary. If you think it would be helpful, bring it!

As the Captain mentioned there will be a two-day living history event in Kernstown. I would impel as much of the membership to attend as we are still uncertain how the rest of the year will go and we as F Company get to operate as our unit, which many of you know is when F Company shines the brightest. Get in contact with Cpl. Hanson if you intend to participate in the Kernstown event or if there is a change to your personal schedule and those of you cannot attend. The current list of attendees is T. Clements, M. Vice, T. Turley, C. Arrington, R./G. Hanson, and JP./J. Alexander.

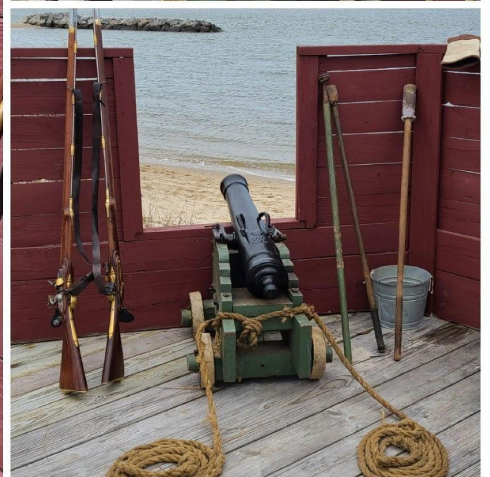
I would also like to apologize to Pvt. Hanson for not including the pictures of his event in Yorktown back in March that he had sent me, so I am including that now for your viewing pleasure.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Fort.

First Sergeant Alexander



Private Hanson recently participated in the creation of a commercial scheduled to be aired in late April on Fox News Channels. The commercial was commissioned by the Patriot Cafe, for Revolutionary CBD oil. Private Hanson is a member/docent of the Watermen's Museum in Yorktown Virginia and participates in many historical reenactments conducted on that site. Sadly, private Hanson was killed during the shoot while portraying a British soldier manning a redoubt which was overrun by a bunch of Patriots. if you see the commercial private Hanson is the one firing the cannon during the assault and the dead guy laying inside the redoubt.







**Eureka, I got it!!!!**



**“Together Again”**



**“Captain Says”**

**Ode to Joe**

