



Vol. XX. October 2021 Issue VIII.

### Captain's Column

Gentlemen,

Fall is upon us and in my opinion the best time of the year. That also means the biggest reenactment of the year is upon us, Cedar Creek. It will be our first full blown battle in two years, so I hope everyone is excited to get out there and defend Virginia from the Yanks!

Cedar Creek is the 15th-17th and I believe we have 7 signed up but I also believe that they are taking walk-ons this year so if you want to come out, please do.

Our last event was the Muster in the Valley, aka The Great Mountain Tour and if you missed it you missed seeing the highest battle of the war. Not the biggest in numbers, or the most well-known but the highest. Imagine snow in August and horses freezing in the winter and you will be sorry you missed the seeing the sites of such interesting happenings. We started out on Sat from my house once everyone arrived and went west seeing Fort Johnson, the Battle of McDowell site, Camp Allegheny, the Battle of Greenbrier site, Cheat Mtn Fort and the Battle of Rich Mountain site. Now you may ask what are some of those? Well, see if you had come to the muster you would now know! Seriously we did tour all day Saturday pretty much following the old Staunton to Parkersburg Turnpike west into West Virginia. At the beginning of the war especially, the turnpike was the Union's route into Virginia. There were a lot of small actions along it where the Confederates were trying to slow or stop the Union advance. We saw those sites.

It really was cold for the troops in the winter of 1861-1862 and we experienced the temperature drop when we went up and down some of the mountains. Since some of you missed it, all I can suggest is you look up Jack and see the pictures.

On Sunday we had breakfast at Kathy's, a local Staunton establishment and then headed out to Cross Keys and Port Republic. At Cross Keys we were standing right in the middle of the Confederate line and could easily imagine the 8th NY troops as their heads came over the crest and they took a volley at about 50 yards without much, if any, warning. Sure Gettysburg, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg etc. have their well know defensive positions but on a smaller scale Cross Keys has them matched. The Confederates inflicted more casualties on the 8th NY in just a few minutes then they would take the entire rest of the war. We also saw Union Church where the battle began with the 15th Alabama skirmishing among the headstones and then the site of James Walkers attack later in the day.

After Cross Keys we went over to Port Republic and talked about the bridge layout and why it was important to Jackson to hold back Fremont at Cross Keys. We also saw the site of his Headquarters, the Frank Kemper house where Turner Ashby was laid out for review by the troops after he had been killed in Harrisonburg. Then we went out the route of Jacksons' march to take on Tyler and the site of the "Coaling", the key to the battle. The whole battle hinged on the Coaling, and it was taken and retaken by each side a number of times.

That is a short synopsis of our tours, in between we had dinner at my house, and I believe that everyone was full. A couple people from last year were missing and I had left over beer, that is a first!

Well, I will conclude by saying that I hope to see as many as possible at Cedar Creek. It will be my and the 1st Sgts first time trying to keep F. Co facing the right direction so please do what I want and not what I say!!!. Back in the day, since I usually have been the tallest man in the Co, 1 Sgt Emeritus Mike Vice used to say to me. "I am the Sgt; I am right even when I am wrong since I am the Sgt". That is fine advice, and he sees things slightly differently than I do, so I need you all to go one step further and make F. Co look good even if that needed right wheel command came out as a left wheel!

See you at Cedar Creek,

Your Obedient Capt.

Travis Clements

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

Happy October everyone,

I am looking forward to the Cedar Creek event on the 15th-17<sup>th</sup> of this month. As of now we have 7 registered to attend the event. They are both Alexander's, both Hanson's, C. Arrington, K. Chapman, and T. Clements. Anyone else that wants to attend you will have to register yourself at the Cedar Creek reenactment walk on registration. The company will cover 30\$ of the registration cost but the member will have to make up the extra cost for the late registration fee. If there are any questions don't hesitate to contact me.

1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Alexander

### **Muster in the Valley 2021**



**Ft Edward Johnson–The adventure begins**





**Confederate Breastworks–Nuff said**



**Root Beer Cheer: Happy Ending :)**

**Ode to Joe**

