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Captain's Column

Gentlemen,

Cedar Creek is behind us and it was a beautiful weekend of Oct. weather and so a very enjoyable weekend. In attendance on Sat were the 1st Sgt, Jack Alexander, Greg and Ray Hanson, Kendall Chapman, Marcel C. and myself. Greg and I camped out on Friday night and it was pleasant, no frost on the pumpkin as we sometimes experience.

On Sat, once all had reported we fell in with the 51st VA as part of the color guard. Being part of the color guard is a new experience for the company and in the morning we drilled with the 51st and worked off some of the rust. They do a few things differently but their 1st Sgt was genial and made us feel needed. He told me at one point over the weekend he could see that F.Co knew their drill better than most units. I was proud of that even if we all had a few mistakes. Kendall was a good sport when I volunteered him to demonstrate the manual of arms. Thank you Kendall.

For the first battle we found that the flags following the General, and then the Battalion dressing on the color company is not always the desired method of marching into battle but that is par for a reenactment. We drove the Yanks back from the first ridge closer to the sutlers, down the ravine towards the Heater house, and were supposed to stop there, but it is difficult to stop a Confederate charge when the troops have their blood up, so the Battalion charged across the ravine and finally into the face of the Federal line. About that point the Yanks let out a fine volley which broke our charge and they hit Kendall and myself. Apparently since I was no longer there to urge

on our section of the line, the Battalion began to retreat back over the ravine, up the hill until the remnants finally gave way in what I assume was a route. Being dead I am not exactly sure how it ended. I do know the Yanks that crossed over my body seemed to get more excited as they chased the last of our troops up the hill.

After the battle, we rejoined the Battalion, headed back to camp and rested for a while. There is a photo floating around that the 51st VA's 1st Sgt took showing how well we "rest after battle" We spent the evening talking and joking as usual around the campfire, eventually Jack and the 1st Sgt; along with Marcel left and we actually hit the hay fairly early, Kendall had little sleep the night before, Ray and I must be getting old, and Greg, well he apparently lost a bit of his energy as even he went to bed early.

The next morning Greg fixed his usual great breakfast, and we had morning parade. The Genera gave his usual inspiring speech and got us excited for the afternoon battle. We had some more drill with the 51st as well as some free time, Church service etc.

The afternoon battle was similar to the first but I saw even less of it. The two flag bearers from the 51st took hits at almost the first Yank volley. Ray and another 51st member jumped to the front and took up the flags, but handed me their muskets. It being difficult to carry two muskets and a sword I took a quick hit also. A shame since I had decided to make it through the whole battle! The battle went well, and Ray tells me that running back and forth with the flag is a good workout, one he may not need again for a while.

At the end of the day, we broke camp, made out way though the traffic jam and our ways home. All in all, it was a nice weekend with great weather and great experiences.

Next up is the Gettysburg Parade in about 2 weeks on Nov 19th. We will meet in our usual spot at the park at 12 so nothing unusual to remember about the Parade, just be there! Our numbers might be a bit slender this year so if you have any friends in the hobby, relatives, in-laws or out laws, invite them and we will throw them into the ranks. F. Company has 4 extra muskets, uniforms trousers etc so we can outfit them if they are about average in size or up to my height. This hobby is more fun the more people we have, and the Parade is a good event to catch someone's interest. They may like showing off a bit for their family, and girls always like a man in uniform, so maybe the bug will bite them. If you do have someone, again, tell me, and also make sure to get there are 12 so we can at least get them stepping off on their left foot and can get down three or four basic commands.

Well, it is getting to the end of another year and all we have is the Parade, so I hope to see you there.

Thank You for your hard work and participation this year,

Travis Clements, Capt. F. Co, 21st VA



Look What I Found



Powder Face Anyone



Good Looking Crew



Good Eats Tonight

Ode to Joe

