



Vol. X. April, 2011 Issue 3.

Captain's Column

I would like to open by thanking everyone who attended the camp of Instruction on Saturday, March 26. We had an excellent turn out with fifteen people present comprised of nine veterans, three new recruits and three prospective recruits. In spite of the dismal forecast we had a great day on Saturday. We had two camp meals (breakfast and supper), lots of drilling, live firing, and of course even some time for camp camaradery. Most of the participants arrived on Friday evening / night which proved to be a little cool but we had the campfire to keep us warm. Because of the even more gloomy and dismal forecast for Saturday night and Sunday we decided to pack up and get out while it was still dry. Sunday morning woke to cold and wet conditions with a mixture of rain, sleet, and snow but thankfully no accumulation. Whatever drill we missed we will make up at a later date / event most specifically skirmish drill, probably at Cold Harbor in June. Again, I want to thank everyone for coming and all who helped with the preparation for the weekend. Now for April we have two events. The first is a living history program in Goochland on Saturday, April 16th. This is a one-day program with no registration so if you did not sign up for it you can still come. This is to help promote the digitalization of historical documents at the J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College campus in Goochland. We are to meet at the Grace Episcopal Church at 2955 River Road West (which is Route 6) in Goochland no later than 9:00A.M. We will be doing demos throughout the day. The number of demos will depend on the crowd response. Bring a full cartridge box, we will probably be there until three or four o'clock. The second event for the month is the reenactment in Buchanan, Virginia set for April 29th – May 1st. This is a new one for us but I hear it is a lot like the old Bedford (Liberty) Reenactment. I will leave the particulars of this one to the 1st Sergeant.

To the new members I want to say, "Welcome" but also please be patient. F Company is experiencing growing pains, which is a great problem to have. We are constantly seeking sources for supplies and equipment that F Company would have used. We will re-supply our inventory and your uniforms will be made in a timely manner. Until then, if need be, we should have enough loaner equipment and uniforms to enable you to attend whatever events you want to attend. So don't despair, we will get you where you want and need to be.

Take care and see you later this month!

With Kind Regards
Captain Turley

1st Sergeant's Report

April is upon us, and we have two events to speak of. The first is a living history day for J. S. Reynolds Community College in Goochland, Virginia. The event has been moved to a site off campus so the muskets can be fired. We will meet at the Grace Episcopal Church in Goochland. Parking will be at the church and festivities at the community center next door. The church is located at 2955 River Road West, Goochland, Va., 23063. Please arrive by 8:30 A.M. Please bring 30 - 40 blank rounds and enough caps, as we will be doing several firing demos. It is a one-day event, so no need to bring camping gear. I am told they will be providing us with lunch.

The event is being put on to publicize the digitizing of records at the Library of Virginia. I have the following people signed up, (Turley, Gammon D., Pate, Bunch, Guillen, and Gunter). This is not a registered event, so even if you didn't sign up, come on out. This could be a good recruiting opportunity. Directions will follow in the newsletter.

The second event is Buchanan, Va. Buchanan is located just off I-81 near Lexington, VA. The event is April 29th - May 1st. I will probably arriving Friday evening. Please try to arrive by at least 8:30 A.M. on Saturday and find the registration tent, which will be located at the intersection of Bedford Street and Lowe Street. There will be two battles, so bring 75 - 80 blank rounds and enough caps.

I have the following people signed up, (Turley, Gammon D., Firth, Pate, Baird, Catlett, Clements, Ward, and Wilson). Even if you did not sign up, they will be taking walk-ons. You will be on your own for food for the weekend. Directions will follow in the newsletter.

If you are signed up for either event, please make every effort to attend. Let's try to start this season off in the right direction.

Your Obedient Servant,
1st SGT. Gammon

Fort Update

I just wanted to say Thank you, to all who attended C.O.I, and for making Saturday night camp pack up quick and smooth. We all pitched in and worked together to leave the Fort in a presentable condition. I am grateful for all of your help. It makes my job so much more pleasant when I don't have to return to the Fort the next day to clean up and spread straw.

Your Humble Little Helper
2nd Corporal Pate

J. S. Reynolds Community College

Grace Episcopal Church
2955 River Road West
Goochland, Va., 23063

Grace Episcopal Church in Goochland. Parking will be at the church and festivities at the community center next door.

Buchanan

Buchanan Town Hall
19756 Main Street
Buchanan, VA 24066

<http://www.townofbuchanan.com/>

Buchanan may be reached by traveling U.S. Route 11. For those on Interstate 81, Buchanan has convenient access at Exit 167 and 168 when traveling from north of the Town, or, Exit 162 when traveling from south of Town. Just fourteen miles from the Peaks of Otter, Main Street Buchanan is minutes away from the Blue Ridge Parkway at milepost 90.9 (Parkway Drive).

The Registration tent will be located at the intersection of Bedford Street and Lowe Street across from the entrance to the Town Park.

A BREIF HISTORY OF HUNTER'S RAID

During the Civil War, the Town of Buchanan served as an important Confederate supply depot for shipment of agricultural produce and pig iron to Richmond via the James River and Kanawha Canal. Buchanan Farmers provided the Confederate quartermaster with beef, cotton, yarn and corn. Buchanan also provided troops for the Confederate war effort, most notably for the Botetourt Artillery. The unit distinguished itself in the defense of Vicksburg.

Federal General David Hunter marched through Buchanan on June 13, 1864 on his ill-fated raid in Lynchburg. The following day Confederate General J.D. Imboden reported that Hunter had driven Confederate troops under McCausland's command out of Buchanan. Period letters tell how McCausland burned the covered bridge over the James River before leaving igniting a fire which destroyed close to thirty buildings.

Personal letters of the era also tell of the devastation to Buchanan caused by the war including the burning of Col. John Anderson's home known as Mount Joy, the three day Federal occupation of Oak Hill, the Anchorage, the Presbyterian Manse as well as other private homes and offices throughout Town. The battle flag of the Botetourt Artillery was said to have been made from the wedding dress of Cassandra Anderson, owner of Mount Joy.

Event Schedule

Friday, April 29, 2011

On Friday evening before enjoying a concert in the Buchanan Theatre witness a street skirmish on Main Street as word spreads about the pending arrival of Hunter's Troops.

Saturday, April 30, 2011

10:00 AM Enjoy a full day of activities throughout the downtown historic district. Civil War Era Camps will open in the morning and remain open all day. Special displays highlight the life and times of the Civil War Era. Many family oriented activities are carried on throughout the day.

Enjoy Civil War Movies in the Buchanan Theatre including “Hunter’s Raid”, Guest Speakers, period music and costumed reenactors and Cavalry. Watch the chaos reenacted when Hunters troops arrived in Buchanan during a Downtown Street Battle, enjoy a period Fashion Show, or, take part in a costumed Confederate Camp Dance. Explore goods being offered by period Sutlers, crafters and artists set up throughout Town.

Sunday, May 1, 2011

9:00 AM Camp Church Services – Public Invited! Experience a period church service conducted by Reverend Alan Farley as he portrays an 18th century, back county circuit rider traveling with his Faith who plays a period organ, and son Benjamin who portrays a farrier. Experience a glimpse of the role of religion in the Civil War while witnessing a firsthand reenactment of troop services.

Battle Of Buchanan - See the flash, smell the smoke and feel cannons roar as reenact the June 13, 1864 Battle of Buchanan. Union troops gathered on the North bank of the James River in Pattonsburg while Confederate troops delayed Hunter's arrival with the firing of the Covered Bridge and battle response from Oak Hill. Battle will take place on the Mutespaugh Field.

Event Rules

1. No pets.
2. No fireworks.
3. No live ammunition.
4. Period weapons only.
5. Quiet after 11:00 PM.
6. All vehicles out of camps by 8:00 am Saturday
7. All participants are required to register upon arrival. All autos must have a pass on the dash to enter the reenactment site.
8. All uniforms and shoes must be of proper period materials and construction.
9. No horses in civilian, infantry, artillery or sutler camps.
10. Flags carried during engagements will be at the discretion of overall commanders.
11. All modern equipment, packages or food are to be hidden.
12. Only registered sutlers will be allowed to sell merchandise.
13. This is a family oriented event. There is a zero tolerance for abuse, there are no illegal substances or alcohol allowed – violators will be referred to the local law enforcement agency. Rowdiness, abusive language or public drunkenness will not be tolerated. Unit commanders are responsible for all unit members – military and civilian.
14. Minimum age to carry a weapon or service an artillery piece is 16. No one under 13 allowed on the field. Ages 13-15 must be functional musicians.
15. All units are expected to bag all trash and deposit pre-arranged points daily.
16. No firearms are to be discharged in or near the camps under ANY circumstances.
17. Infantry long arms should be loaded with a maximum of 70 grains of powder.
18. No penny wrappers, staples, wads or tape are to be used for cartridges.. Pre-rolled rounds only.
19. No hand-to-hand or individual heroics. Direct aimed fire shall not take place within 40 yards and firing is not to take place within 20 yards. All weapons are to be inspected prior to battle. Safety inspections are mandatory.
20. No unauthorized filming or video taping of our event for commercial purposes.
21. Cut out sod and remove before digging fire pits: clean trash out of pits: replace sod.
22. Commanders are responsible for getting information to their troops and are responsible for the conduct of their troops.
23. No rank above captain on the field unless approved prior to event.
24. Eyewear must be of period construction. No sunglasses of any type.
25. Family and friends in camp are encouraged to dress the part. If not, they should depart at the end of the spectator’s day and not return until spectator hours commence the next day.
26. Coggins paper for horses are to be current and will be inspected by cavalry commanders.
27. Please remember we are all guests of the Town of Buchanan.
28. All participants – Federal, Confederate, Civilian or Sutler are expected to have a good time and a great weekend. This is mandatory.

Ode to Joe

