



Vol. XVII. August, 2018 Issue VII.

Captain's Column

I hope everyone is having a good summer. It certainly is flying by. Just to play catch up and review since I did not have an article in the July Newsletter, everyone is aware that the Cold Harbor event was canceled by the National Park Service due to weather related issues and concerns. But the other event for the month of June did go off without a hitch. That was the Manassas Winery event. From everything I heard the event went well. F Co had enough members there to be their own platoon. If you are familiar with the scenario our own Daniel Villanueva was the "thief of the day". Everyone had a good time. For more on the event see Jack's article in the June Newsletter.

The big event for July of course was the 155th Anniversary Reenactment of the Gettysburg Battle. The weather prior to and at the start of the event was very oppressive with all the heat and humidity. But, thankfully, when I got there on Friday the weather broke and we had awesome conditions for the rest of the weekend. No humidity, clear skies, even a little cool at night, just perfect, exactly what I had been praying for.

We had enough guys there by Saturday morning to be F Co. Chris Marshall was the first on site Thursday morning. Steven Adams came in Thursday evening. There were two battles each day except for Sunday which closed out the event with Pickett's Charge. F Co. fell in as part of Longstreet's Corp. We were 6th company of the 1st Battalion under the command of Col Barry Wood.

For the most part the event went very well with lots of hurry up and wait, lots of powder burning, and everything else that goes along with reenacting. Steven Adams served as the

company cook and provided us with excellent meals. He must have been a chef in a prior life. Anyway, with the break in the weather it really turned out to be a nice event. Hope everyone had as good a time as I did.

Now looking at August, we have two activities for the month. The first is on Saturday, 4 August, and that is another fort work day. This will be the second one this year. The first one was to get the fort ready for the COI back in April. This one will be used to get the grounds back in order, clean up debris, and cut down the summer growth along with any other special projects that the 1st Sergeant may deem necessary. We will arrive early that morning and the more people we have the earlier we will get done and avoid the heat of the day.

The second event for August is the annual company muster. This is set for Saturday, 25 August and will be in Gettysburg. This is a continuation of last year's muster. This time it will focus on day two of the fighting. Of course, the tour will be conducted by F Co's resident expert, Mike. Vice. You can bring family and friends if you like.

For more of the particulars on both of these events please see the 1st Sergeants article in this newsletter. I hope the membership will make every effort to support and turn out for both of these events. It is always better when we have good attendance at these events. It is good for company morale and comradery. I hope to see you all there.

Respectfully submitted,
Captain Turley

1st Sergeant's Column

F Company activities for the month of Aug will be a Fort Work Day (4 Aug) and a Company Muster (25 Aug), please see specifics below. The 155th of Gettysburg was our major event for the month of July which saw a fairly large turnout of both the company and living history community w/ten members at one point from F Co, and approximately 4,000 participants in the re-enactment of Gettysburg. Captain Turley and Private Jack Alexander are providing the primary reports on Gettysburg.

Fort Work Day (Sat, 4 Aug 2018)- This event will be used to prepare the Fort for our upcoming one-day COI (20 Oct 2018) and our preservation of this significant Confederate earthen fortification. A separate work plan will be forwarded to the membership later this month, but work schedule will run from 0800 to 1200 in order to take advantage of cooler temperatures. Everyone needs to bring along tools as well as sufficient water and snacks to sustain themselves.

F Co Annual Muster (Sat, 25 Aug 2018)- The muster this year will deal w/the second days fighting at Gettysburg which was a complex battle scenario so be prepared for a full day! Please see the following guidance for this muster:

- (1) Participants- When your Corporal calls you about your participation you need to respond or reply promptly, and include any family members in your headcount who want to attend this event as they are welcome. I need accurate participation numbers in order to organize transportation needs once you arrive in Gettysburg.
- (2) Transportation- We will be moving from place to place using our own vehicles. Everyone participating should plan on having other co member's ride w/them to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum to facilitate easy convoying. Please bring vehicle which can accommodate at least three other persons or better yet a mini-van or dual cab pick-up truck for this muster. Gettysburg battlefield is especially busy during the summer months, so keeping the number of tour vehicles to the smallest number possible is critical to our movements especially when it comes to stopping and parking at key event sites on the park.
- (3) Meeting Time and Place- The tour will begin promptly at 0900 on Sat from Parking Lot 1 of the park's Visitor Center, so you need to be in place between 0830-0900. We'll be meeting in the far end of the lot, that is, farthest from the visitor's center so as to have enough parking space for vehicles being left behind. We'll consolidate riders and then begin our tour which should be concluded between 1600-1700 hours.
- (4) Lunch- In order to allow for maximum time on our tour please bring a sack lunch along w/whatever beverage you'd like. We'll utilize one of the park's picnic areas w/tables and latrines for our lunch meal. Please note some folks didn't take this plan seriously last year about bringing a lunch. If you drop out of the tour group to eat we won't be waiting for you!
- (5) Water and Snack- Bring all the water you think you'll need for the day, and any additional snacks to keep you going as we tour the battlefield.
- (6) Clothing and Footwear- We are going to be dealing w/hot summer weather, so you need to consider wearing a hat along w/long pants (ticks are out!), and comfortable boots or walking shoes as we will be traversing some open and possibly rough ground in some areas of the park. Please NO flip flops or sandals as they just aren't practical!
- (7) General Outline of Tour- We'll be driving from VC parking lot to Culp's Hill to deal w/Johnson's Divisional (21st VA) attack on Culp's Hill then to Federal defensive line at Cemetery Ridge. After lunch we'll deal w/Longstreet's approach march and echelon attack on the Federal left then onto Federal defense at Little Round Top.
- (8) F Company Ball Caps and T-Shirts- Let's wear those ball caps and t-shirts to show that we are making a historical tour of the battlefield and engaging in Gettysburg tourism!!!

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

“The Wall” Pickett’s Charge Or The Magnificent Seven

Unlike most Civil War events, where the commanders rarely consider the fate of the regular soldiers, this event was different. The commanders arranged for 100 pre-determined soldiers to reach and go over the wall during Pickett’s Charge. Even better they let each company have 5 slots and the company could decide which of their soldiers would be the crossovers. With that background the following is the story of F Companies Magnificent Seven and their own story of the “Wall”.

Knowing I was to be one of the five to cross the wall, gave me strength to continue the march, withstand the sun and my hurting feet. Not often is one given this honor and pre-determined opportunity to do something so wonderful. The wait in formation seemed longer than usual, finally we moved off the parade ground across the road and into the staging area, thank goodness it was in the shade of the trees. We watched as the brigade took up their position, just behind our batteries of at least 25 guns. We got the word to move out and take up our position behind the first wave; a very long line of Gray soldiers prepped to hopefully end this cruel War. Suddenly a loud explosion as 25 guns roared into action to begin the bombardment, a signal to all. Some light banner must have helped choke back the fears of those same men 155 years earlier, just as we did. We could not see the blue soldier but heard their reply and sky burst overhead, as the 1st wave moved out and up the hill to that dreaded wall of blue. Our brigade, anxious, moved into the place of the 1st wave which by now was approaching the crest of the hill, looking oh so sharp. I thought nothing could stop us today. Soon the 1st wave disappeared, next it would be us. Slow and steady was heard from the commander down through the ranks as we began our ascent, Slow and steady, slow and steady our lines moved up the hill even as the sounds in our front grew louder, then we were at the top, smoke, everywhere, on our right the remnants of the 1st wave was melting under the heavy Union fire, 15 yards more and at last the word was given to rush the wall. I was in the middle of reloading and off the line went at the double quick, all sense of order broke down, then a mad dash, Confederate falling everywhere, but the wall got closer and closer and we pressed on, with only a few yards to go I found myself all alone, only Yankee musket pointed in my direction, No place to go, I turned my musket upside down, the blue boys offered me a hand and helped me crossover the wall. I was quickly escorted to a holding area, just behind that dam wall, only a hand full made it to the wall, with only Yankee blue to welcome them, I found Johnathan and Jeremy were there in the holding area, none the worse for wear other than the embarrassment of capture, like me.

PVT Jack Alexander

Check out Pictures below from the Event



Chris Marshall's report on Gettysburg

My first visit to Gettysburg is truly a memorable event, as it all started on July 5, 2018 as a Private in F Company. I arrived at Gettysburg at 9 o'clock in the morning and it was scorching hot. When I say hot, it was 95 degrees with 84 % humidity. As I made my way to the Confederate camp I soon realized that I was the only member of F Company present and I knew I had to claim land for camp on behalf of the company. As a proud soldier of F Company, I chose a strategic and advantageous location for camp and I stood guard until reinforcements could arrive. Reinforcements from the Company came at 2 o'clock in the afternoon when the Alexander's showed up in full force and provided shelter and provisions. However, they could not stay due to another mission they had to accomplish, so I found myself alone and unafraid guarding F Company camp again. Before I knew it, first call came at about 5 o'clock for the first battle that used the scenario of General Early against the Pennsylvania militia. Eager to fight, I joined the ranks of another company while representing F Company with honor and dignity. During this battle, the battalion, that I was part of, swept across the battlefield and positioned ourselves along a stone wall, forcing the Pennsylvania militia to flee. The victory was ours! Exhausted from the heat and humidity, I made my way to camp to find F Company member, Steven Adams present. My morale instantly boosted as I was no longer alone, and I knew I would eat good that night compliments to Steven. As the sun set on my first day at Gettysburg, Steven made a delicious stew for dinner that any soldier would be proud to eat and I laid my head down to sleep with my belly full.

As the morning sun rose on day two at Gettysburg, it was a bit cloudy and cooler from the day before and it appeared as if it would rain at some point. Steven and I conducted our morning routine as any disciplined soldier would do by tidying up camp of the rubbish, eating breakfast, and preparing our gear and weapon for battle. As we received the call to form up for battle, we fell in with a company in need of more soldiers, which we gladly joined their ranks. For this scenario we assaulted Seminary Ridge. As we pushed the Federal lines back to the grand stand, we exchanged fires so close that we could see the whites of their eyes. Both sides lost a lot of good men that day as it began to rain as if it was symbolizing the gloomy effects of war and I was painfully lucky to survive it after depleting over 30 rounds of ammunition. When Steven and I made our way back to F Company camp, completely soaked from the rain, we were soon joined by Captain Turley. Once again, our morale was boosted in seeing our Captain and fellow member of F Company. As the rains calmed down, we prepared for the next battle that would represent East Cemetery Hill. At 6 o'clock on day two, the three of us marched into battle and graciously survived East Cemetery Hill by pushing back the Federal lines. Upon returning to camp for the evening, Captain Turley received dispatch that other members of F Company would arrive by morning to reinforce the company. This was joyful news as this means we will be our own company in battle for day three at the battle of Gettysburg.

Respectfully submitted,
Private Chris Marshall
F Company 21st Virginia

Captain Austin Williams Letter on Bull Run Winery event

Gentlemen-

I would like to extend my personal thanks and appreciation for the participation of all your units in Civil War Day at the Winery at Bull Run this past Sunday. The event would not have been possible without the support you all provided. This year represented a big step forward for what's become an annual event - for the first time ever we fielded a legitimate Federal company, backed up by a two-gun artillery section. Cooperation between the eight reenacting groups participating was seamless, leading to what was without a doubt the best skirmish we've ever featured at the Winery. My apologies again for the difficulty we encountered moving the guns into position in the morning, but I appreciated everyone's willingness to work through the issue. I hope you and all your men enjoyed themselves as much as my men and I did.

As discussed earlier, the Winery will be paying a bounty for both guns that attended and I suspect may also be interested in making donations to all participating units as they have in the past. Can you please each send me the appropriate mailing address for either yourself or your unit's treasurer so that I can provide them to the Winery?

The Winery staff took a number of photos and video during the event (including what I'm told are some great shots of the artillery section in action) and I'll forward those on to all of you when I receive them.

We'll enter into discussions with the Winery in the next few months regarding Civil War Day 2019. I'll reach out at that time for any input you'd like to provide on a suitable date for next year's event, as we'd love to have you all return next year if possible. Also, if you or your men have any suggestions for how to improve the event or if you ran into any issues I'm not yet aware of, please let me know so that we can ensure they're taken care of for next year.

Your ever obedient and most humble servant,

Capt. Austin J. Williams

Stonewall Brigade, Commanding

Southern Division

www.stonewallbrigade.net

www.facebook.com/SWBReenacting/

Daniel Villanueva on his experience at Bull Run Winery

I had an excellent time at the Winery event. I enjoyed being the thief at the event. After being caught taking a bag out of a basket, the guards, Steven and Chris, took me to a tree to wait for the drummer. Once the drummer arrived, they marched me around the event, with the sign around my neck saying "thief". The battle at the end was my first event where the barrel was hot to touch. It was a fun event to attend and I am looking forward to attending more.

Respectfully,
Daniel Villanueva

Ode to Joe

