

Vol. XVII. June, 2018 Issue V.

Captain's Column

F Company's event for the month of May was the New Market Reenactment the weekend of 19-20 June. We had torrential rain the entire week prior to the event. I can't honestly say I was looking forward to playing in the mud. We had 10 guys signed up so I was hoping we would be and stay our own unit and we did the whole weekend. I was a little late getting there Saturday morning. Everyone else had come in on Friday night. Kudos to them for having already set up camp, connecting with the 2nd Battalion Commander Tim Smith, and even having drilled new recruit Chris Marshall in the manual of arms. This was Chris' first event. He had not been able to attend the Camp of Instruction. So, they were actually getting along fine without me.

The afternoon battle went off without a hitch. We pushed the Yankees back to the peach orchard and the battle was called there. At 5:00 PM there was a memorial service for a longtime member of Longstreet's Corp, Colonel K. C. Meadows who had recently passed away. In the course of the service we incorporated two seldom used commands, "rest on arms" and "reverse arms". Also, the riderless horse was guided down the Battalion front as part of the ceremony.

Saturday evening, we were treated to a fine supper meal prepared by F Company's unofficial chef, Steven Adams. It was an excellent meal. You know how I could tell? There were no leftovers.

Saturday night we participated in something new and different, at least for us. It was an overnight patrol and security detail encompassing the Longstreet's Corp camping area. It was from 12 midnight to 5:00 AM. Each of the four companies making up the 2nd Battalion had a 75-minute shift patrolling the perimeter of the camp and guarding both commander's tents. An NCO from each company was to be in charge of that company's shift. That task fell to Steven Adams. F Company's shift was from midnight to 1:15 AM. The six remaining privates alternated between patrolling, guarding, and being on break for 25 minutes each segment until the shift was completed. There was also a radio check-in from Registration at 1:00 AM. This exercise went very well, and everyone seemed to be receptive to it.

Sunday, we awoke to bright sunshine and a great breakfast again prepared by F Company's multi-dimensional Lance Corporal Adam's. Again, no leftovers. Our numbers had dwindled to six with the departure of the Hanson brothers, but we were still our own company. When we fell-in, we were 1st in line and the Battalion formed on us.

The Sunday battle began at 1:00 PM. Since I had to work that night I knew I would have to leave early so I left shortly after the battle began. But I knew the unit would be in good hands (their own) and that they would make it through the battle without incident.

So, the New Market Mud Fest turned into the best New Market reenactment I have ever participated in. Thanks, guys, for making it such a great event.

Now, turning to June, we have two events on tap. The first is the Cold Harbor Living History program, 2-3 June at the National Park Service site in Mechanicsville. This is probably the highlight of the year for them. It involves demonstrates for the public each day and a candlelight tour on Saturday night. The other June event is the Living History/ Skirmish at the Manassas Winery on Sunday, 24 June. We have done this the last two years and it has proved to be very popular with the unit. It has been the best attended event each year. There are no registration fees for these events, so you can still come even if you did not sign up. I will let the 1st Sergeant fill you in on the details of each event.

That is going to do it for me. Take care and I will see you all real soon

Respectfully submitted,

Captain Turley

1st Sergeant's Column

We've got two upcoming events for the month of June, that is, right away at Cold Harbor w/the Richmond Battlefield, National Park Service on 2-3 June, and 24 Jun (Sun) at the Winery at Bull Run. Captain Turley has covered the Battle of New Market (19-20 May) which I was unable to attend but sounds as though F Co did itself "proud" at that event!

Cold Harbor Living History (2-3 Jun 2018)- We are back at this NPS living history event after being off last year for "On to Richmond" event. See attachments to this newsletter from Richmond National Battlefield for general information on the program and your participation including evening candlelight tour. Remember this is part of our general support of Richmond NB which gives us access to their facilities for other F Co activities and should be supported by the membership! There is no registration fee for this event, so even if you haven't signed up come on out! Please note the following:

(1) NPS Firing Program- We will be following all National Park Service black powder regulations for this event. **DO NOT** bring any blank rounds or percussion caps to this event in your cartridge box or cap pouch!!! Place all your blank rounds and percussion caps in a small paper bag or plastic bag w/your name on it. The company will gather up these bags to be placed in CW wood ammunition box, provided by F Co, which will be stored by NPS and issued out prior to firing programs. All weapons will be inspected on both Sat and Sun morning prior to firing events, so make sure musket is clean and you have needed implements to clean musket on Sat night. 40 rounds of blank ammunition and 60 percussion caps should be sufficient for this program.

(2) Soldier Mess and Rations- Pvt Adams is taking the initiative to organize needed soldier's messes at this event once participants have arrived. He will be collecting needed ration fees from individuals (\$10-15.00) for three meals (2 morning and 1 evening meal) from you when you arrive. You need to bring your own period correct mess wear (plate, cup and cutlery) w/the company providing needed skillets, pots, and cooking utensils. It is recommended you have other rations to feed yourself for noon meals.

(3) Participation and Bivouac- This event for some unknown reason is attracting a large CS participation this year w/up to 75 CS troops, so we need to cooperate w/all these folks. We will be participating as "campaigners", that is, sleeping in the open or only w/dog tents or tarps, NO A tents! I will arrive on Fri afternoon as advance party to secure our campsite at Stop No 2 of tour route (see attachment). We have ten soldiers signed up for this event: Adams, Jack Alexander (Sat only), Chapman, Clements, Firth, Marshall, Turley, Vice and the Villanueva's. Four members of the 4th NC will be following in w/us as this unit has done in years past.

GPS Directions- 5515 Anderson-Wright Dr., Mechanicsville, VA.

General Directions- From I-295 take Exit 34 to Rt. 156 till you see signs for Cold Harbor Visitors Center.

Winery at Bull Run Event (24 Jun 2018)- Note that this event is on Sunday, 24 Jun at the Winery located adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield. This is regarded as a “fun” event by our membership! There will be one or two drill demonstrations and a skirmish between Federal and Confederate troops in the afternoon. There will be a great deal of personal interaction between us and a lot of visitors at the wine festival which is a great opportunity to create a “positive attitude” toward gray uniformed Confederates as well as the CS battle flag which is badly needed in these days and times!

Neither myself nor Captain Turley will be attending this event, so it is recommended that you fall-in w/the 33rd VA Infantry, Stonewall Brigade, which we have served w/before at other events and is a campaigner unit w/good discipline. I would say that 40-60 blank rounds would be sufficient for this event and a full cap pouch. Recommend that you arrive onsite by 0900 and plan on being there until late afternoon. No registration fee so come on out for a good time!

GPS Directions- 15950 Lee Highway, Centerville, VA.

General Directions- From I-66 take Exit 47 toward Manassas Battlefield. Go to Hwy 29 (Lee Hwy) then take a right turn and start looking on left for signage to the Winery at Bull Run.

Passing of Former F Co Member- On 16 March 2018, Colonel Erven “Skip” Somerville Tyler passed away at the age of 81. Skip as he was always known to us served w/F Co during the 1980’s-1990’s, and last turned out w/F Co for the 150th anniversary of Gettysburg. Skip brought a “lot of real class” to F Co as an unassuming soldier who always performed his duties w/seriousness, and real skill and a vast knowledge of the characteristics and traits of a true Civil War soldier.

Skip was a retired Army Colonel, Field Artillery, who graduated from the United States Military Academy, Class of 1959. After retirement from the Army, Skip continued on as public educator both as a Spanish language teacher and soccer/football coach. His famous large scale, very life like military figures are found in a number of military museums in this country including the United States Military Academy and the US Field Artillery Museum at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. Skip was a serious student of American history w/a large collection of American Civil War and Indian War military weapons and field equipment. Skip will be missed by many of us.

Most Respectfully,

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

Cold Harbor Event Information:

Hello,

Everyone, we are so glad you can join us for Cold Harbor this year, the largest annual event we host in the park!

Here is some info for you to please distribute to your troops:

-Arrival is anytime on Fri, June 1. I am attaching a map of campsites. I will be on site around 4 pm. The event ends at 3pm Sun

-Surface fires only, please... no fire pits. You will all be camping on the actual battlefield. Please don't leave any fires unattended and have a bucket of water nearby. We'll also distribute foam fire extinguishers to the camps.

-Union troops: The 15th NJ will be at the county park, the 3rd US, 48 NYth will be camped at Tour Stop 2 in the park. I will let you make your own arrangements as to camp layout

-Confed Troops: There are a lot of you! The Confed Staff will camp in their usual spot along the trail. The rest of you are in the woods at Tour Stop 1. Again, please make your own arrangements as to camp layout. I am sending photos of both camp areas

-Scott, you'll be set up on the edge of the woods near the Confed Staff. Access is via a mowed path from the tour road.

-Please do not set up anything in or on earthworks, they are original and fragile.

-Please have vehicles out of camp, and modern things put away, by 9 am on Sat

-There will be a porta john at the county park for the 15th NJ, and two for the Union/Confed camps. The visitor center restrooms will also be open overnight. Potable water is at the visitor center, as is firewood. The easiest thing to do is have someone bring a load of wood to your camp once they've unloaded their vehicle

-During public hours, we would like visitors to feel welcome to enter the camps, so any displays/talks/presentations you want to do/have in camps are appreciated.

-There will be a commanders meeting at 9 am Sat at the visitor center, please have a representative from each unit. We'll go over the schedule and answer any questions.

-Ed Sanders, our black powder officer, will inspect weapons prior to each demonstration. We would like to collect cartridges and store them in our trailer. please have each unit's cartridges in a labelled bag/box- I can pick them up Fri night or Sat morning

-We will do a walk-through for the candle light tours at 5:30 pm Sat. They run from 8-about 10. I will get more info to you in a separate message. We can use all of your units for the tours.

-I am attaching the schedule of events here. When not otherwise part of a demonstration, any reenactors are welcome to go on the ranger tours or attend the Gordon Rhea lecture. Also, here is the map of campsites etc.

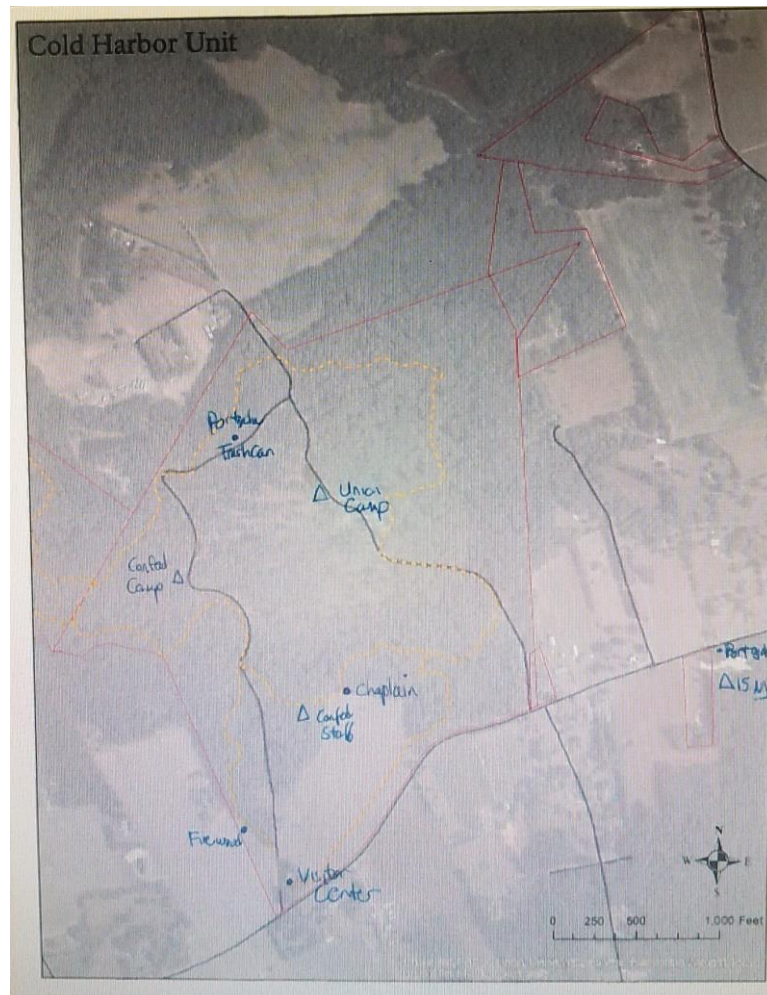
If you have any questions or concerns let me know, we look forward to seeing you!!

Bert

Saturday 6/2

0:900	Commanders meeting
10:00	Ranger Tour- Cleaver "One Regiment's Fate"
11:00	Cannon/Rifle Demo- US; followed by Ranger Tour to CS Camp
13:00	Cannon/Rifle Demo- CS; followed by Ranger Tour to CS Camp
14:00	Ranger Tour- "Union Breakthrough on June 1"
15:00	Cannon/Rifle Demo- US; followed by Ranger Tour to CS Camp-
17:30	Walk Through for candlelight tour
19:00	Gordon Rhea speaks
20:00	Southern Horizon Concert begins Candlelight Tours begin at 8:00, 8:10, 8:20, 8:30, 8: 40
Sun 6/3	
0:900	Period Service for participants (Chaplain Sturdivant)
10:00	Ranger Tour- "Grant's Greatest Regret"
11:00	Cannon/Rifle Demo-US; followed by Ranger Tour to CS Camp
12:00	Ranger Tour- "Union Breakthrough on June 1 "
13:00	Cannon/Rifle Demo- CS; followed by Ranger Tour to CS Camp
1400	Ranger Tour- "Grant's Greatest Regret"

Below are photos of the Campsites and The Map



Here is the link to view the map larger



CampMap.pdf

Here is the info for the Candle Light Tours on Sat night at the event

We'll have tour stop # 4 at your camp along the road. I'm sending some background info, and you all can use this to prepare. There are a lot of you camped here, so if some don't want to participate that's fine.

There will be a walk through at 530 Sat night to prepare

Thank you for helping and let me know if you have any questions!

Bert

Each stop is 5 min

- Wait until the entire group has gathered
- Articulate! The groups are large
- You may either use the original quotes or improvise, so long as you convey the same idea
- Make sure you agree with the rangers on a final line, so the group knows to move on

Stop 4- In the Confed camp

Participants: 26th NC, 11th VA, 12th VA, F Co, 4th NC, 2nd MD, 1st TN

For presentation:

Confederates resting in camp, reading letters from home, discussing letters from wives and the hardships at home. Discuss the draft and the need for more men. Discuss the idea of arming slaves- express varying opinions on it. Some wives are urging men to desert and come home. Anguish over the situation.

Possible sentiments from home:

You enlisted to protect hearth and home, and your family is suffering and in danger, please return.

The concept of fighting for individual State's Rights a challenging proposition for men from distant states fighting in far away Virginia

Last Line:

"If I have to choose between fighting for my *country*, here in Virginia, and protecting my *home*, 500 miles away, I just don't know which to do."

Some more source material for the Sat night candle light tours below:

hopefully this is useful,

Bert

-soldiers could note that prisoner exchanges have been halted. This means that being captured would mean no hope of returning from the terrifying prospect of a prison camp.
-could note the Confederate laxity in allowing deserters/AWOL to leave and return. "I've left before, just long enough to get the planting done, and I always come back."

Robert E. Lee to Samuel Cooper, January 4, 1864

[detachments to round up deserters] "these detachments weaken the army, and I have only resorted to them when in despair of otherwise mitigating the evil."

Lizze Neblett to William Neblett, April 13, 1863:

"Must I offer up this unborn warrior upon the altar of the country for that country's good - But on the contrary if the warrior turns out to be a maiden must I admonish her to multiply and replenish the earth with boys to fight this country's battles?"

-January 16, 1864, CSA passed a law declaring that anyone refusing to serve in the army or deserting would lose their citizenship and thus be subject to have their homes and property confiscated.

-An Alabama man wrote Governor Watts, "if a soldier's family has to go across the lines to Yankees to keep from starving he will desert and go too."

-FEBRUARY 18, 1864 (as part of the Overland Campaign), Grant issued GENERAL ORDER no. 64, stating

"All refugees from the rebel lines and deserters from the rebel armies, and all persons desiring to become such are hereby informed that they will not under any circumstances be compelled to serve in the U.S. army against the rebels."

These orders were mass printed and distributed to the Confederate lines - an interesting thing for the soldiers to discuss.

(in August, Grant added the offer that deserters could have jobs as civilians in a Union military office)

From *Conscription and Conflict in the Confederacy*,

"Confederate officers began offering a thirty-dollar reward to any soldier who apprehended a deserter going through the picket line."

(alternatively, the Union at Petersburg offered their pickets a twenty-day furlough for *shooting* a soldier trying to go through Union pickets)

some quotes:

"I am sick of war... and of the separation from the dearest objects of life... Were the contest commenced again I would willingly undergo it again for the sake of... our country's independence and our children's liberty"

Edward W. Cade (CSA surgeon), July 9 and November 9, 1863

"I enlisted for what I couldn't tell. I did it without reflecting what the life of a Volunteer was... In fact I done it just to be doing."

William A. Clark,

"Nine-tenths of them enlisted just because somebody else was going, and the other tenth was ashamed to stay home."

Cpt Samuel Merrill, January 22, 1863

"If I am killed tomorrow, it will be for Virginia, the land of my fathers, and not for the damned secession movement."

Maj Charles Minor Blackford, 2nd Virginia Cavalry, December 1862

Picture from New Market 2018



Ode to Joe

