



Vol. VI.

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Issue 1.

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

Gentlemen of F Company,

I hope you have just come from a blessed Christmas season, and are now, with your families and beloved friends, about to enter into a very prosperous New Year. Jill and I would like to thank you one and all for the many kind letters and expressions of good will and cheer. We feel so fortunate to be a part of the close extended family that is F Company and now to company business.

We are now a part of the Fighting First Regiment, Col. Carver commanding. He sends his greetings, and invites you to visit the battalion web page at www.1stregiment.org. You will see our new link there that will take you to our site, and a fantastic picture of us firing a volley over the REAL stone wall at Fredericksburg. There will be a meeting of the 1st Regiment in January, and I would like to attend with the LT and all NCO's. I'll let you know as soon as I learn the date and location.

Congratulations to our new 1st Sergeant Tom Stafford, elected by unanimous vote at our very productive meeting at the MOC, to fill out the unexpired term of Mr. Pearson. I expect and hope that Tom

will also be elected at the February meeting, and the one after that, and that; basically, I hope Tom is the 1st Sergeant for many years to come, the Company could not do better. Thank you Tom.

For those of you that rallied to the colors at Fredericksburg, my compliments. You now have a memory of an event that none are likely to equal. Firing demonstrations on truly hallowed ground, behind the stone wall, and on Marye's Heights. And then a lovely end of the season meeting in the snow on the Confederate right, where an old F Company man rallied his gunners by wrapping himself in the battle flag and standing on the parapet, face to the intense enemy artillery fire. That was Willie Pegram, a true Southern patriot, like all the men of F Company, 21st VA Infantry.

I must now mention the other very special event that occurred this month, my phone interview with Sergeant first Class Ken Norman in Bacuba, Iraq. Knowing that he was on duty at such an historic moment (the Iraqi election), and hearing the eerie sound of the wind in the background, made me appreciate how far from Virginia he was, and how much, like Willie Pegram. He is

a true patriot, and a very brave American soldier. You are an example for all of us to look up to, Sgt. Norman, and our prayers and pride are with you.

Your most humble and obedient servant, ****

Capt. Ramsey

Commander F Co/ 21st Virginia



1ST LIEUTENANT'S REPORT

By the time you read this Christmas and New Year's will be over and we will be into 2006. I hope everyone had an enjoyable Holiday season and that things are getting back to normal whatever that is.

I would like to thank everyone for their support of the unit last year to whatever degree and in whatever way that was. Last year held several surprises and a lot of changes for the unit. We now have a new 1st Sergeant. I think Mr. Stafford will do a fine job. We have a new parent organization, Colonel Carver and the 1st Regiment.

Many times changes are unexpected but unavoidable. I have found that one of the constants in life is change whether we want it or not. I think the true test of a person's or an organization's character is how he or they react or deal with changes. I think we came through last year a stronger and more solid unit. We may have taken some hits but we are recovered nicely and are well prepared for the upcoming reenactment season.

Speaking of which, now is the time to take inventory and check out your equipment and uniform and see what needs to be repaired or replaced. We have a couple of months before the camp of instruction. Use your time wisely and don't wait until the last minute, even though we have two months. The COI will be here before we know it. I am looking forward to the new season and serving another year with F Company. I will see you all at the annual meeting in February.

Your Obedient Servant
1st Lt. Turley



1ST SERGEANT'S REPORT

Hello again to the members of F Company. I hope that your Christmas and New Year's holidays were enjoyable and your families are well. I managed to survive the holidays as well as can be expected. I would like to thank the members who were able to attend the Fredericksburg Event. We missed y'all that were unable to be there. It was definitely a brisk morning when we arrived. The company handled itself well, considering the way the event transpired during the day. I thought that our firings went rather well. I was impressed with our marching through the winter wonder-

land. The trip to the battlefield later in the afternoon was truly worth it! To be able to stand on such a site, and envision what our Southern countrymen endured was inspiring. I enjoyed the Captain explaining what had occurred at that very spot and how F company had been involved in the battle.

Now that the Reenacting season is beginning a New Year, remember to clean up your gear and replace your items that need replacing. The Company meeting is fast approaching, so mark your calendars and plan on attending. Also, the COI is in March and I am hoping to see more of y'all this year than were there last year. I would suggest that you look over your Soldier's Handbook. It will make it easier to brush up on drill and marching ahead of time than trying to remember on the first day. I am pretty sure it will be a busy two days. Don't forget that our Quartermaster has most of your replacement items that you might need. So get in contact with him as soon as possible. I look forward to seeing y'all at the Company meeting!

Respectfully,
1st Sergeant Stafford



A FEW WORDS FROM CPL. POWELL

The Company, as we knew it is no more. That is "F" company still exists and good Lord willing will for some time but it has gone through a metamorphosis; a reconfiguration of sorts. The platoons were realigned with the advent of a new command structure in the N.C.O ranks. This I truly believe will benefit everyone involved and more especially the 21st Virginia. It is my pleasure and honor to at this time to introduce the new 2nd. Platoon of which I have been very much graced with the responsibility of.

They are-----

- Pvt. Bob Baird
- Pvt. Jon Dachos
- Pvt. Ken Norman
- Pvt. Chet Parzych
- Pvt. John Parks
- Pvt. Jim Price
- Pvt. Skip Schirmer
- Pvt. Keith Talbert
- Pvt. Bill Ward

I can say as I have said about the entire company before, "not a rouge in the bunch". Allow me to take the time to say to all of them that I am honored and I hope with their help that I prove myself worthy of their company in the field. I am excited about this new adventure and I trust that they are as equally so. Gentlemen of the 2nd Platoon I am no "expert". I do at times have a problem with right and left things, more so when it comes to Gilham's. But I promise you all that I will try. To try that is all that anyone man can ask of himself and more so of anybody else that he is in the company of. With the help of all of you I cannot help but become better at this "thing" of ours and also be more gifted as a person with your assistance. Let me repeat myself, "I am excited about this".

Please never hesitate to ask for anything be it about the hobby or whatever may come about. Because I have always believed that it is to help one another is one of if not the most important reason that we were put here. This will be a way that I can start to repay my debt to those of you and those not among you for all the help through the years that was given to me. I have some pretty tough acts to follow as far as NCO's go for the 21st. There have been in my opinion some stellar people who have held and now hold those positions. Before I became a corporal I thought at times that I couldn't measure up to those of you in the 21st. But through the

benevolence, help and patience of everyone I'm still amongst you all. Now with same, I will endeavor to do my best and with the help of you all and especially those of the 2nd Platoon. I will try my best. My best can only be accomplished with the trust and help of those in 2nd. Platoon.

2nd Corporal Mike Powell



FROM THE DECEMBER MEETING

A special presentation was made to Lieutenant Turley for his many years of service to F Company.

A collection was taken for Christmas care packages and cards were signed for Ken Norman, who is training Iraqi infantry at the moment.

Tom Stafford was elected 1st Sergeant by a unanimous vote.

The membership voted overwhelmingly to join Colonel Carver and the Fighting First Regiment.

We decided on the following dates for next season:

- 2/4/06 - Spring Membership Meeting
- 3/11/06 - Camp of Instruction
- 3/18/06 - Endview
- 4/2/06 - Richmond Heritage Parade
- 4/29/06 - Hunter's Retreat
- 5/20/06 - New Market
- 6/3/06 - Cold Harbor LH
- 7/1/06 - Gettysburg
- 7/22/06 - First Manassas
- 8/17/06 - Fredericksburg LH
- 9/23/06 - Standardsville
- 10/21/06 - Cedar Creek
- 11/4/06 - Fort Branch



Portability combined with great power in Field, Marine, Tourists', Opera, and general out-door day and night double perspective glasses, will show distinctly a person to know him at from 2 to 6 miles. Spectacles of the greatest transparent power to strengthen and improve the sight.

A Toast To The New Year



HIGHWAY DRIVING BOREDOM
By Pvt. Parzych

Recently while returning from a day trip in Stephens City for work, I took a break off the highway. I exited I-81 in Mount Jackson due to the amount of historic signs I saw. I soon followed the brown signs to the historic Mount Jackson downtown district. I was glad I did.

My first clue that I ventured off into a neat place was the cemetery that was well visible just south of the exit on Route 11. I was surprised how easy it was to find such a site in a modern town. The gate was inviting, and I pulled over to the side of the road and parked. A cool day for a short walk, but it warmed the heart.

Buried in the plot are 400 soldiers from eleven states. These soldiers died here during their treatment at the hospital established here during the war. Remarkably, historic research moved the list of unknown's aside and each soldier has been identified. I scanned the iron tablets for clues, but no soldier reported to have been a casualty of F Co., of the

21st Infantry for that matter. However, I did find a 21st Cavalry member, and my heart fluttered for a moment.

A little further down the street one can visit the town offices, with their museum. Many relics from Indian days to World War II can be seen here. There is quite a collection of civil war relics on hand from private area collections. The collection of "biting" bullets from the hospital area was rather haunting. Some had very clear "almost yesterday" looking teeth marks in them. You would swear they were just taken from the amputating room. Further down Route 11 is a church that was not open during this season, but explained to me by the museum curator. Surrounding the church is a cemetery boasting Revolutionary War soldier graves, as well as more Civil War sites. The church itself was a hospital site also during the Civil War. It still bears pencil signatures on its walls (preserved behind plexi-glass) of its more energetic patients who did not want to be forgotten in death.

Soon, a covered bridge came into view on Route 11, and reminded me of my Norwich University days. Northfield Vermont had a bridge just like it in town. However, Norwich was not to be celebrated on this ground. Before long, I realized I was on the attack position site where VMI launched the boys into action. The morale of the story for this trip is to work hard, but don't forget to stop and smell the history. A hard day turned into great luck and a history tour. I recommend visiting in you get the chance. If you require more teasers, try <http://www.mountjackson.com/history.htm> I hope to see you all at New Market in our campaigns in 2006.



THE ORIGINAL COMPANY F

Archer Anderson

Born October 15, 1838 at Old Point Comfort, Fortress Monroe; he was the eldest son of Joseph Reid Anderson and Sarah Archer Anderson; family moved to Richmond in 1841; attended Turner's Classical School; entered the University of Virginia at age 15; completed degree by age 17; studied at the University of Berlin; returned to the states and enrolled in University of Virginia in 1858 to study law; married Mary Ann Mason in Paris in 1859; enlisted April 21, 1861 in Company F, 21st Virginia Infantry as a Private age 23; transferred to General Trimbles' staff in September, 1861; promoted Captain in October, 1861; Major and Assistant Adjutant on General T. H. Holmes' staff in February 7, 1862; Assistant Adjutant on D. H. Hills' staff in 1862; wounded while crossing the Potomac during The Maryland Campaign of 1862; Lieutenant Colonel on General D. H. Hills' staff in July, 1863; Assistant Adjutant General, General Joseph E. Johnston's army in February, 1865; entitled by act of Congress, passed just before close of War, to rank as Colonel; served until General Johnston's army was paroled at Greensboro, North Carolina in May, 1865; after the war he joined his father at the Tredegar Ironworks; appointed secretary and treasurer in 1867; elected Tredegar's president in 1892, after his father's death; member of the R. E. Lee Confederate Veteran Camp #1 from August 8, 1884 till his death; delivered the oration at the dedication of Richmond's Lee statue in 1890; honorary pallbearer for Varina Jefferson Davis in 1906; died January 4, 1918; buried at Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia. [His daughter, Sally Archer Anderson, served as president of the Confederate Memorial Literary Society from 1912 to 1952. She wrote in 1926 "we must pray that others will rise up to carry on the trust."

The CMLS is responsible for saving the White House of the Confederacy and founding the Museum of the Confederacy.]



**FIGHTING IN THE STREETS OF
FREDERICKSBURG**

GREETINGS, GENTLEMEN OF F COMPANY!

I just wanted to let y'all know of a great resource that will equip you with a deeper understanding of the Army of Northern Virginia without even having to pick up a book (no offense, Captain)! What I'm speaking of is a 24-part lecture series entitled "Robert E. Lee and His High Command" offered through a wonderful organization called the Teaching Company. The course is taught by the highly esteemed Dr. Gary Gallagher and answers the most-asked questions about Robert E. Lee and the men he chose to serve under him:

What was Lee actually like?

Was he someone whose character and ideas—as some have claimed—were mired in the past?

Was he really an "old-fashioned" general who was too much of a traditionalist and gentleman to fight the kind of modern, ruthless war demanded by the times?

Or was he a brilliant and aggressive strategist and tactician who understood exactly the kind of war he would need to wage, the size of his window of opportunity, and the kind of senior officers he would need if his strategy was to succeed?

How did he choose those officers, and what personal and tactical characteristics did they share? What experiences shaped them? Why did they succeed or fail?

How did what happened on the war's extraordinarily bloody battlefields influence public opinion on the home fronts of both the Confederacy and the Union?

And how did that opinion, in turn, shape the actions of Lee and his officers?

In-depth biographies are given of such legends as Stonewall Jackson, JEB Stuart, James "Cry Baby" Longstreet, Jubal Early, A.P. Hill, Richard Ewell, John Bell Hood, and many, many more men who wore the gray. Each lecture is 30 minutes, but it seems to go by much quicker due to Dr. Gallagher's informative and candid look at some of the most fascinating characters in all of American history. You might not necessarily agree with everything that he has to say, but you will still benefit from his encyclopedic knowledge of the Grand Army of the Confederacy. For more information go to www.teach12.com or call 1-800-832-2412. You can purchase the series on 4 DVD's or 12 CD's or audiocassettes. The 4-DVD set is currently marked at \$254.95, but every couple of weeks it goes on sale for around \$80 (which would be the obvious time to snag it). I have one copy of the DVD set and would be more than happy to lend it out to anyone whose curiosity has been piqued by this article.

Yours Truly,

Pvt. Jimmy Price



PRIVATE PATE'S WORDS OF THE MONTH

Forty-eleven - used to indicate an indefinite, but large, number, e.g. "fort-eleventh cousin"

Hand Book quotes of the month

Cartridges

Cartridges will be limited to no more than 60 grains of black powder for a .577 / .58 caliber ammunition.

Generalities of Reenacting

Do not salute the First Sergeant, he works for a living.

Setting A Good Example

The more experienced reenactors have a lot of influence over the overall general attitude of the whole group.

Policies and Procedures

Robert's Rules of orders shall govern all meeting either of the organization or the Executive Committee, although it is the intention that meeting informal as proper decorum permits.

Name and Purpose

The nature of services of this organization shall be volunteer. Members will not be reimbursed for organizational participation.



SUBMITTED BY THE CAPTAIN

This prayer is said to have been written by George Washington on Christmas at Valley Forge. As I am studying the great Virginian these days, just having finished the best book I've read this year, David McCullough's "1776," I thought it would be nice to share it with you all.

Almighty God,
 Father of All Men:
 To Thee we raise thankful hearts for deliverance from forces of evil...
 Deliver us also, we beseech Thee, from the greater danger of ourselves,
 Have mercy upon us and forgive us for our part in the present desolation of the world.
 Awake us each time to a sense of our responsibility in saving the world from ruin.
 Open our minds and eyes and hearts to the desperate plight of millions.
 Arouse us from indifference into action.
 Let none of us fail to give his utmost in sympathy, understanding, thought, and effort.
 Fulfill in us and through us Thy glorious intention: that Thy peace,
 Thy love, and Thy justice may enter into the regeneration of the world.



TWELVE MONTHS AFTER MARRIAGE
 "Bobby ought to love his Pet for taking such good care of his beautiful whiskers"



TWENTY YEARS AFTER MARRIAGE
 "My dear Bobby you must let me pull it off your Nose; it looks so horrid"

