



Vol. XXI. January 2022 Issue I.

Captain's Column

Gentlemen, F. Co 21st Va,

Happy New Year! With Christmas and New Year's over with it is time to say goodbye to 2021 and hello 2022. Hopefully that means we will have a good year remembering the 1860's and enjoying our hobby. I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and remembered the real reason we celebrate Christmas. It is not eggnog and gifts, but rather the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Interesting how Christmas has His name, yet so many people want to have us say "Happy Holidays". Eh, not me, sorry.

The end of 2021 saw F. Co participate in the Military Show in Richmond, and as I am not a regular to the event, I cannot say how it compared to previous years with certainty, but from speaking with Tony T. it seems it was smaller but still had decent size and turnout. Tony came up on Friday and he and I set up most of the booth on Friday and then he, and Jack A. took the first shift on Sat. Greg H and I finished up on Sat and took down the display with Tony staying almost the whole time. I believe we had a couple of decent prospects and Jack has followed up with them. As far as I heard, everyone that stopped by seemed pleased that there is still reenacting going on in the world. We also saw and said hello to some familiar faces including Bill Ward and Mark Ramsey and at least one other former F. Co member.

The next week saw F. Co at Gettysburg for the Remembrance Day Parade. It was a beautiful day and we had 11 men in the ranks, including some draftees that Mike V brings. I had gotten to town early with Ray H., and he and I met up with Greg H. as well as Kendall C. for breakfast at the Lincoln Diner. We met Mike V. and Mark R. at the Gettysburg Hotel downtown and got changed and ready for the parade. Apparently, Greg and Kendall decided to spend a day or two exploring town and had yet to be run out of town for bad behavior, so we took advantage of the room as a meeting spot. At our usual meeting place in the park, we got organized and fell into the parade line. It seemed to me that the overall numbers looked good, if that was because of the nice weather or just general enthusiasm since there was no parade in 2020 is difficult to say but I think the numbers and crowds indicate that we still are part of a functioning hobby.

Everyone made it the full route, which was the older longer route, so a decent haul. It was my first time trying to lead the company in a dress parade formation, keeping the Co in step and it was interesting. Trying to keep a decent distance to the company in front is not so difficult for me, but then add in not losing F. Co behind with starts and stops etc. gives one plenty to think about. There is an art to it. Being tall my normal stride is a bit longer and so I have to try to take 3/4 steps. I feel like one of those Peruvian Paso Fino horses! Thanks to everyone who came Gettysburg is still my favorite event of the year and I think that overall, we still made the best impression of any Confederate unit on the field.

So that brings us to 2022. After discussing it with Johnathan A, we will have the Co. meeting on Feb. 5th at 10am and it will be at the same location as last year, the Mechanicsville Library, 7461 Sherwood Crossing Pl, Mechanicsville, VA 23111. Basically, find the Cookout, or Arby's on the left on Rt 360 heading east off 295 and it is behind those restaurants. Prior to the meeting I will attend the Longstreet's Corp meeting in Jan and so have a feel for what they are planning. They have a lot of possibilities on their list, but I imagine that it will boil down to just a couple things in the end. If someone has something they are really interested in let me know and I will pay close attention to their discussion of that event.

I believe that is the news and announcements for this time. Keep Feb 5th on your calendar. Probably also we will have the fort workday March 19th, and then COI in

April. I look forward to seeing everyone out in the field this year, and if you didn't make it out much last year, we hope you can this year as you should not think of an F. Co as an obligation or work but think of it as a vacation from the 21st Cent to a more relaxing, restful time. Yes, there is some effort, there are some duties included, but really is there anything better than, as much as anything, sitting around a fire and enjoying life with men that you do not have to worry you will offend when you wish that Lee's statue still stood on Monument Ave?

The 21st worries will be there when you get back, leave them behind and rejoin living in the 19th Cent.

Your Obedient Servant,

Travis Clements, Capt. F. Co 21st VA

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant's Column

Happy new year everyone,

I hope everyone's Christmas and New Year holidays were pleasant. Cedar Creek and the parade went well all be it everyone was a bit rusty from not being in the field as much over the last two reenacting seasons. I imagine with the current political climate I expect more of the same but as the old Marine saying goes, we will adapt and overcome. As the Captain mentioned, the Annual meeting will be held at 1000 on February 5th I know this is a bit earlier than last year but due to the scheduling of the venue it was the only option to have the meeting in February. We are also expecting the Fort cleanup day on the 19th of March more to come on that in the next newsletter as well as the date for the COI. If anyone has any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me. Looking forward to some good camaraderie and fellowship.

1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Alexander



**New Recruits**



**Let's Go Brandon**



**Old Friends**

**Ode to Joe**

