



Vol. XI. April, 2012 Issue 3.

Captain's Column

Gentleman

This year's COI was held the weekend of March 30 – April 1. It was pushed back a week from the original date due to inclement weather. In spite of that the event was well attended with twelve members or prospective members present both days. Most of us arrived Friday afternoon /evening, or during the night. We also got a few showers during the night and even had to dodge a few rain drops Saturday morning after breakfast. But we were able to juggle the schedule around and get everything that we wanted to do accomplished.

Some of the highlights from the weekend were:

-Prospective member, Jay Butler, came out for the day on Saturday. He must have liked what he saw and experienced because he has indicated his intent to join the unit.

-Newest member, Joseph Houston, who comes to us via the filming from last November and also is still in high school (only 17), was able to attend. He did very well and is a very polite young man. You might say he's an example of "the perfect Southern gentleman". He has a promising future with F Company.

–Second Sergeant Eldridge Firth conducted another of his bayonet drill classes in spite of being in a high degree of discomfort from a painful left shoulder which has been bothering him for several months now. Eldridge is our resident expert on the bayonet drill. We hope to expand upon this drill at future camps Eldridge, unfortunately, had a mishap with a collapsing camp stool that caused him to aggravate his shoulder even more. We do appreciate Eldridge's personal commitment and sacrifice to F Company. We hope and pray that he will be much better soon. Thanks, Eldridge and God bless!

All in all I think the weekend went very well. We had people in different positions. David Gammon has stepped into the 1st Lieutenant's role and Matt Gammon is now 1st Sergeant. They both performed their duties flawlessly. Everyone was cooperative and attentive doing whatever was asked of them. We even had a visit from a tinsmith who volunteered to show and / or teach us how to make our own tin-ware. This could be a future muster or possibly an overnight company event. We will see. Sunday was an especially good day for drill. The maneuvers were

very nicely done. It gave the leadership chills and goose-bumps to see the troops perform so well. Great job, guys!

So the COI for 2012 is in the books. Next up later this month is the Buchanan Reenactment. We did this last year for the first time. While there is a high degree of "farbism", it really is a fun event. We have excellent numbers signed up for this and it should be a great time. Directions are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Special thanks go to Member - at - Large / Corporal Pate for all the hard work he did to get the fort ready for the COI. Thanks also to everyone who helped out on the fort work day. If nothing else we learned not to stand on the edge of the bridge (didn't we Private Wilson).

That's all for now. See everyone at Buchanan, God bless!

Your devoted servant,
Captain Turley

1st Lieutenant's Column

Greetings Men of F Company,

Have you ever bought a product or a piece of equipment and tossed the instruction manual aside like it was yesterday's newspaper. I know I have. We think we know better than the manufacturer how it works or what to do with it. Only to have it back-fire badly on us and then we go digging for the manual.

Well, life comes with an instruction manual too. Our manufacturer has supplied us with enough of them for everybody. It's God's word; it's the Holy Bible. It has guidelines for things like compassion, humility, love, forgiveness, and faith. It includes instructions for relationships, marriage, managing your finances, how to pray, temptations to avoid, raising your children, and even predicting the weather.(Matthew 16 : 1-3, for those who thought I made that one up.) Before life throws you a curve and you don't know what to do or how to handle it, pick up the instruction manual and read it. If you don't understand it call your local service representative (your pastor) with any questions you may have. You can also contact the manufacturer directly, He's available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and easy to reach but the call is best received if made from your knees. Trust me, it works. Read the book, don't wait for the movie.

God Bless You All,
1st Lt. Gammon

1st Sergeant's Report

Gentlemen,

First off, I would like to say thank you for making my first Camp of Instruction as 1st Sgt. run as smoothly as it did. As with any new position, I was nervous about my new duties and I greatly appreciate everyone's support. I look forward to my new roll and working with everyone in the future. Thank you.

As for the month of April, we have one event scheduled. Buchanan is scheduled for April 27th-29th. The following list contains those who are currently registered for the event.

Capt. T. Turley, 1st Lt. D. Gammon, 1st Sgt. M. Gammon, 2nd Sgt. E. Firth, 1st Cpl. N. Pate, 2nd Cpl. T. Clements, Pvt. M. Guillen, Pvt. D. Gunter, Pvt. J. Houston, Pvt. B. Ward, Pvt. Jo. Alexander, Pvt. S. Wilson.

Since registration, we have had one person inform me that they will not be able to come to Buchanan, therefore, if you are not registered and would like to go, it will be a first come first serve basis. Let me know if you would like to go and you will be filled in to the empty slot. It is imperative that you let ME know as soon as possible.

There will be two battles, one Saturday and one Sunday. Bring enough cartridges for both battles, between 70-80 should be sufficient. There is also street fighting if one is so inclined. We did not participate last year but the opportunity is there.

Also, last year, we were fed dinner on Saturday night but there is no indication of that for this year, so please be prepared to fend for yourselves as far as meals are concerned.

Last year we camped near the ball field in the town park. The park is located between Lowe Street and the River right in town. In addition, last year, parking was on Lowe Street and very close to camp. I understand that 1st Lt. Gammon and 1st Cpl. Pate will be in camp on Friday evening for those who want to join them. For those who choose to arrive on Saturday, please be IN CAMP no later than 8:00am.

Enclosed in this newsletter you will find maps and/or directions concerning the event at Buchanan

Lastly, as you all know, we are a probationary member in Longstreet's Corps. This means that we are being monitored and considered for full time membership in the Corps. With that said, we have two Corps Events rapidly approaching (Cross Keys/Port Republic and Spotsylvania). We could use additional support for those two events and we really need to pull together a nice contingency for those events. We want Longstreet's Corps to know that they can depend on us for their events, and we want there to be no questions next year when it comes time for us to be voted in. Please give this some thought.

With highest Regard,
1st. Sgt. M. Gammon

Fort Update

I just wanted to say Thank you, to all who attended C.O.I, and for making Sunday's 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.

Your Humble Little Helper
1st Corporal Pate

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 the Interstate, 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.



Friday evening,

Witness a street skirmish on Main Street in front of the Buchanan Theatre as word spreads about the pending arrival of Hunter's Troops. Following this battle enjoy a bluegrass concert in the Buchanan Theatre.

Saturday, April 28, 2012

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM Join in the Opening Ceremony in front of the Botetourt Artillery Monument on Main Street next to the Presbyterian Church at 10AM. 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 at the Buchanan Library, living history reenactment at the Rhein River Inn, period music and costumed reenactors and Cavalry throughout downtown.

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, April 29, 2012

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 Buchanan 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 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

