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Captain's Column

Gentlemen,

Here we are in August already. The summer is speeding by. Unfortunately the event for August had to be scrubbed due to lack of numbers. The muster is coming up in September, which you will read about in the 1st Sgt.'s column. Sounds like it should be a good one.

The fort work day was also scrubbed as there are some last minute changes coming down the pike. The landowner has a new vision for the fort. He would like for us to switch our focus from "restoration" to one of "preservation". What that means is this. He would like to focus on maintaining the fort in its current state. He does not want to pursue building the powder magazine, but would like to put that area back to the condition it was in when we found it. That now means that we have all those railroad ties that were donated for the magazine that may be able to be repurposed as decking for the bridge. That would save the enormous cost of purchasing the lumber for the bridge deck. We need to back up now and do a little engineering, if you will, and make sure that this will be a good fit structurally. If so, then we would like to reschedule the work day at some point in September or early October during cooler weather. We will keep you posted on all of this. Nate will be reworking the fort plan to reflect the landowner's new vision.

We will still be taking care of the undergrowth and cutting the dead trees for firewood, so we will still need tools, chainsaws and manpower. Speaking of firewood, I may be taking down a huge red oak that is leaning precariously toward my house in the next couple of weeks. I will be happy to donate several loads of firewood to the unit to be taken to the fort, but we will need some assistance with splitting and hauling. Any locals with trucks that would be willing to help out, let me know and we will try to set a time that works for those willing to help.

That's enough for now. Hope to see you all at the muster.

Captain Gammon

1st Sergeant's Column

Revised Schedule of Events (Aug-Dec 2015)

The following outlines upcoming F Co Events Schedule for the remainder of 2015.

Two events have been removed from the schedule due to lack of interest, Sully Plantation (14-16 Aug 15), and Siege of Fort Branch (6-8 Nov 15). The Event Schedule for the remainder of the year looks as follows:

19 Sep- F Co Muster

16-18 Oct- Battle of Cedar Creek

21 Nov- Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade

21-22 Nov- Richmond Civil War Show

Upcoming Muster Program (19 Sep, Sat) - The planned muster will take place at Antietam National Battlefield or Sharpsburg as us Southerners call it. The program will deal w/the battle that culminates in the Army of Northern Virginia's first invasion of the North after the hard fought 1862 summer campaign. While both armies fight to a draw it does prevent the CS opportunity w/this invasion to bring on a negotiated peace so the South can voluntarily leave the Union.

The program will begin promptly at 0900 at the Antietam VC w/the park's orientation movie and from there we will begin our driving tour of the battle action w/periodic stops at various points of key battle action. This tour takes place immediately following the key battle date of 17 September so the park maybe somewhat crowded so you should arrive between 0830-0845 to insure a seat in the theater. The admission fee to the park is \$5.00 and you should plan on lunch money as well. We will be eating lunch at "Bonnie's at the Red Byrd" just up the road in Keedysville, MD which is a good local's diner w/a varied menu which should please most everyone at approximately 1:00 PM. Tour will begin w/Federal attack in North and West Woods and CS defense then moving to Sunken Road (Bloody Lane) followed by final action at Burnside's Bridge. You can expect the tour to wind up between 5-6:00 PM.

Now for those of you traveling a distance to participate in this muster, Jack Alexander has kindly offered his home (6346 Bannister Dr., Frederick, MD 21701) for bivouacking on both Fri night prior to the Muster, and for Sat night following for those not feeling up to driving home. It is only a 35-40 minute drive from Frederick to the Antietam NB Visitors Center. You need to bring a sleeping bag along w/sleeping pad or whatever else you need to stay at Jack's.

The National Park Service will not publish its 19-20 Sep activities list until sometime in Mid-August which will then give me the opportunity to finalize the tour schedule to appear in the Sep "Regimental Dispatch". Put this F Co. activity on your schedule and you can expect the weather to be cooler!

My European Living History Experience or How I Beat Napoleon and the Frenchies at Waterloo!!!

In mid-June, four of us Americans (myself, Mark Riemer, Bob Gorgone and Paul Brooks) departed for Belgium to participate in the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo (19-21 Jun) as part of the 5th Westphalian Landwehr (Prussian Militia) in what was going to be one of the largest world- wide epic battle re-enactments ever held!

A little background is in order before launching into the narrative of our participation. Several of the Germans who compose this unit also do CW living history both in Europe and the US, and were known by our group for 25-30 years. Interestingly enough the 5th Westphalian Landwehr was formed immediately following the Gettysburg 125th at a chicken BBQ given by my wife and myself at our then home west of Fredericksburg, VA. In a discussion w/several visiting Germans I brought up the point that they weren't doing any European history based living history, and they ought to consider that in two years the 175th anniversary of Waterloo was coming up. Well their Germanic organized minds began to whirl and by the 175th Waterloo they participated as the 5th Westphalian, but unfortunately due to family conflicts I wasn't able to join them despite being the "Father of the 5th Westphalian"! Fast forward to the summer of 2014, a friend of mine in Gettysburg reminded me that the 200th anniversary of Waterloo was coming up in a year and we ought to participate. At that point I got in touch w/my German contacts and found they were planning for Waterloo, so I immediately began talking up participation w/several like minded friends such as Mark Riemer who interestingly enough had been present at the original chicken BBQ which launched the 5th Westphalian. A major planning meeting was held in Gettysburg in Oct 14 w/members of F Co. New England Contingent (NEC) attending, and it was agreed that participation at Waterloo was going to happen along w/European vacations!

We received German shipments of the needed buttons, green wool trim and hat insignia for our uniform coats and hats, and then Mark Riemer went into "high gear" in his free time sewing up frockcoats and hats! Additionally we all had to come up w/period correct linen shirts and trousers, plus needed field gear such as haversacks and knapsacks along w/flintlock muskets and bayonets. While most of the NEC had such items as they do Rev War re-enacting, I had to start purchasing and assembling all these needed items. At the same time all kinds of trip planning had to happen including passports, airline tickets, hotel and train reservations, and a whole myriad of other details! Starting w/an original 7-8, who were planning on attending Waterloo, we of course experienced "casualties" thru the winter of planned attendees as they began to understand the enormity and cost of this undertaking. By departure in mid- June 2015 there were 4 hardcore participants ready to fight and die for Marshal Bluecher!

I'm going to end my narrative here as this is going to be a three part series w/more to follow in upcoming issues of the "Regimental Dispatch".

Michael L. Vice
1st SGT, F Co.



Ode to Joe

