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Captain's Column

July has been a very busy month for F Company with three events/activities. I would like to begin with the last one first and that was the fort workday and cookout. We had an excellent turnout with twelve members present and one prospective member. The day was hot and humid, typical July weather for Virginia. It was kinda like “welcome to the jungle” when we got to the fort. We were expecting the area to have been bush-hogged but unfortunately it had not been. But we made due and pushed ahead. We sprayed some of the overgrowth outside the fort, cleared the overgrowth and debris inside the fort, began clearing some of the debris in the moat area around the fort, spruced up the outhouse. So there was plenty to do.

Fortunately, all this work did not drive the new prospective member away. In fact he made his decision to join the unit as the work progressed. So I would like to welcome Naval Commander, Kendall Chapman, to the unit as our newest recruit. He is stationed in Virginia Beach and is originally from Virginia, so he is a Confederate at heart. “Welcome Kendall You have made a wise choice.”

The work at the fort was followed by a cookout at the magnificent period Civil War home of Nick King and his wife. I want to thank them for putting on the cookout and having it at their home. In addition, thanks to Jeremy’s wife and Steve’s wife for also helping in making the cookout possible. Y’all did a great job. Great food. Great company. Great time. Thanks so much to all of you.

Now going back to the first of the month we had a living history program at Malvern Hill. This program was very similar to the one at Cold Harbor without the candlelight tour. There were demonstrations scheduled throughout the day alternating between us and the

Yankees along with artillery firings at each demo. It was hot and the mosquitoes and chiggers were out in force. We all got more than our share of chigger bites except for Jack who only got one or two? Kudos to the 1st Sergeant and Steve Adams who tuffed it out and stayed the entire weekend from Friday night to Sunday afternoon. Jeremy almost stayed the whole weekend but it was his anniversary so he left a little early. Probably the highlight of the event was the watermelon that Jack brought and served after Saturday's program. It really hit the spot!

The second event of the month was the Living History at the Bull Run Winery next to the Manassas Battlefield. The program was Sunday, 9 July, just the one day. This event seems to hold some special attraction for the unit. This was our second year attending the event and attendance each time has been excellent. It is among our best attended events if not the best. We did a demo for the public and had a small/battle skirmish for them as well. It was very much appreciated by the public.

Looking ahead to August things do slow down a bit. We only have one event scheduled and that is the company muster on the 19th. It will consist of a guided tour of part of the Gettysburg Battlefield. It is being conducted by our own expert tour guide, 1st SGT Mike Vice. This should be an excellent tour. You can family and friends. I will let the 1st Sergeant give you all the details.

Well, that is it for me. I will see everyone at the muster.

With kindest regards,

Tony Turley

Captain, 21st VA, Company F

1st Sergeant's Column

July was a busy month w/155th of Malvern Hill; Bull Run Winery event; and the Fort Clean Up Day. For the month of August see the end my column for all the logistics for your participation at the Gettysburg Muster.

Malvern Hill (1-2 July 2017)- Well I suppose we could sum up the 155th anniversary of Malvern Hill as hot, humid and lots of mosquitoes!!! More than one of us had an "experience" in getting to Richmond area due to 4th of July holiday traffic. Participants in this event included Adams, Alexander, Jack; Clements, Firth, Turley, Vice and Villanueva. All of us soldiered as privates w/the 12 VA Infantry which proved to be a pretty good experience as their Company Commander was competent and they utilized Gilham's drill. For those of you who have participated in the past at Malvern Hill then you know it's a remote location, but very much as it was during the CW. Myself along w/Private Adams and Villanueva spent Friday night on the ground which proved to be real tough deal given how bad the mosquitoes were, that is, constantly attacking us even when they weren't biting!

Dawn did come along w/our black powder inspection and turn-in of ammunition and caps. We held two firing demonstrations at 1200 and 1600 hours to decent crowds. Myself and

Pvt Villanueva made the decision to “bivouac” in our vehicles on Sat night so we could get some relief from the mosquitoes and have a chance to sleep. Pvt Adams “toughed” it out on the ground in the woods! We did another firing demonstration on Sun at 1300 and then departed for home station.

Bull Run Winery (9 July 2017)- This unusual and fun event saw a major turnout of F Company members including Adams; Alexander, Jack; the Hanson brothers along w/the Weidman Brothers plus King, Touart, Turley, Vice and Villanueva w/cooler sunny weather which served to keep up morale, that is, we weren't “drowned” like we were last year by a violent thunderstorm! The visitors to the event of course remained in good spirits w/wine in hand, but in fact took a great interest in our drill demonstration at 1300 and then the follow on skirmish w/the Federals at 1400. Lots of folks sought to have their photos taken w/us “Rebels”!!! We were employed as two platoons in skirmish drill for the 1400 event which gave everybody at least a notion of what skirmishing is like in the American Civil War. The crowds obviously appreciated our efforts.

Fort Clean Up Day (22 July 2017)- Well as the novelists say, “the day dawned clear and bright”, but also very hot! The Fort Clean Up Day was plenty warm w/humidity to match, but nonetheless, we had an excellent turnout of 13 members. Participants including both Alexander's; Adams, Clements, Firth, the Hanson brothers; King, Touart, Turley, Vice and Villanueva. Additionally, our latest recruit Kendall Chapman from Virginia Beach lent a hand w/the clean up. We certainly want to welcome Kendall to our ranks.

We had to wade through a fair amount jungle growth to get to the site, as unfortunately, the Harvie's were unable to mow prior to our clean up day, but nonetheless, everyone persevered. Work projects included cleaning the outhouse and clearing away debris around it; in the interior of the fort we cut budding trees as well as removing ground growth and left over hay from COI; plus a great deal of weed spraying and starting a walking path around the exterior of the fort. A special project headed by Nick King saw a work crew of 4 individuals removing a great deal of brush from the moat in a short amount of time utilizing hand tools in a very effective manner. Work was started by several persons around 0830 w/the effort being wrapped up by 1130.

From Fort Harvie we followed Nick King to his CW period home in the south part of Amelia County for our planned picnic. We ate sumptuously including pork chops, potato salad along w/water melon plus all kinds of chips and snacks plus libations was well. Getting to see the King's home (circa 1795 w/major 1832 addition) while it is undergoing restoration was a real treat.

Upcoming August Muster at Gettysburg (Saturday, 19 August 2017)

This year's muster will start the process of dealing w/the campaign and battle of Gettysburg. Note I said “start” as this year's muster will deal w/only the first days' fighting. Please keep in mind that this was the largest land battle ever fought on the North American continent which included 93,000-97,000 Federal troops; 70,000-75,000 Confederates; and the

approximately 20,000 residents of Gettysburg and Adams County. Gettysburg NMP covers some 6000 acres. For that reason we're going to spread this event out as it's literally impossible to properly cover and access this whole event in one day, and understand what occurred in any kind of a meaningful manner. Please note the following guidance for the upcoming muster and act accordingly:

- (1) Participants- When your Corporal calls you about your participation you need to respond or reply promptly, and include in your number count if any family members are also attending the muster. Knowing accurate participant numbers is critical to the planning of transportation needs.
- (2) Transportation- We will be moving from place to place using our own vehicles. Everyone participating should plan on having other co members ride w/them so as to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum to facilitate easy movement. So please, you need to bring a vehicle which can seat at least three other persons and it would be especially helpful if you can drive a mini-van or dual cab pick-up truck for this event. Gettysburg battlefield is especially busy on summer weekends, so keeping the number of vehicles to the smallest number possible is critical to our movements especially when it comes to stopping and parking on the tour.
- (3) Meeting Time and Place- The tour will begin promptly at 0900 on Sat from Parking Lot 1 of the park Visitor's Center, so you need to be in place between 0830-0845. We'll meet in the far end of the lot, that is, the farthest distance from Visitor Center so as to have enough parking spaces for vehicles being left behind. We'll consolidate riders and then begin our tour which should be concluded by 1600 hours (4:00PM).
- (4) Lunch- In order to allow for the maximum time on our tour please bring a sack lunch along w/whatever beverage you want. We'll utilize one of the park's picnic areas w/tables for our lunch meal.
- (5) Water and Snacks- Bring all the water you think you'll need for the day, and any additional snacks to keep you going as we tour the battlefield.
- (6) Clothing and Footgear- We are going to be dealing w/hot summer weather, so you need to consider wearing a hat along w/long pants (ticks are out) and comfortable boots or walking shoes as we will be traversing some open and rough ground in some tour areas. Please NO flip flops or sandals as they just are not practical!
- (7) General Outline of Tour- We'll drive from VC parking lot thru Gettysburg to West End Guide Station, dismount vehicles at that point to utilize map to outline the origins and reasons for the Gettysburg Campaign. From here we walk along to several monuments and key points associated w/battlefield actions to the left of the Chambersburg Pike. Load vehicles again for movement dealing w/additional action at Lutheran Seminary. Then across pike to review action to the right and onto Oak Hill to explore CS attack and repulse. Loading vehicles again we explore the defensive lines of the Federal 11th Corps and the CS 2nd Corps attacks on the first day. We'll explore Federal retreat thru town and defensive line at Cemetery Ridge and CS 2nd Corps potential attack.

Wear those F Company ball caps and t shirts!!! We need to demonstrate to both the National Park Service as well as the local community that F Co, 21st VA is making use of the battlefield for education purposes as well as tourism.

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

Ode to Joe

