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Captain's Column

Gentleman

The 2011 reenactment season has come to a close. It had a little bit of everything in it from the threatened cold, rain, and snow of the shortened camp of instruction to the blistering heat and humidity of the mega, 150th Manassas, from the quaint, "laid-backness" of the small time events like Buchanan and Luray to the detailed analysis of a company muster following the retreat from Gettysburg.

We gained some new members (including a direct descendant of an original F Company member) to help carry on the cause and sadly, we lost some old members who had already done their service and now are reaping their rewards in heaven. I want to thank everyone who helped support the unit in whatever capacity you were able whether on the field (and let's face it, we are only as good as what we can actually produce in the way of a field presence) or some behind-the-scene activity which in many cases makes our field presence possible.

The time has come to go into winter quarters. But that does not mean that all activity has ceased. There is still a lot to be done. F Company will pursue membership in Longstreet's Corp. It is time to do that. Leadership positions need to be filled and the schedule for 2012 determined. We need to update sources for supplies and equipment and repair and /or replace worn out uniforms and accouterments. There is still much to be done.

So go ahead. Take a break and enjoy the holidays. But don't rest too long. Before you know it we will be back together again.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
God bless,
Captain Turley

P.S. There will be no January newsletter. The next one will be February 2012.

Date to remember: February 25, 2012 tentative date for Annual Meeting

1st Sergeant's Report

Gentleman

Well, the 2011 season is coming to a close. I would like to thank those of you who participated in our "grand finale", if you will, in Pulaski. The two film weekends went well, and the weather turned out to be fantastic. I won't speak for everyone, but I had an absolute blast. F Company performed flawlessly and represented itself well. We made a lot of new friends and may have picked up a new recruit. I won't get into the details, but I will leave that to Corporal Pate, who is writing a summary of the project. Thank you again to all who helped out with this endeavor.

Thanks also to Captain Turley and Sgt. Firth who manned our display at the Civil War Show in Richmond at the same time the second film weekend was going on. I understand that there are several prospects that they spoke to at the show.

I will remind everyone to check their gear during the off-season and make any necessary repairs or replacements early. Please don't wait until the last minute. Please attempt to purchase anything that you may have been missing this year as the loaner gear may have to be used for some of the newer recruits.

Lastly, but certainly not leastly, I would like to wish everyone a merry CHRISTmas and a happy New Year. Remember, Jesus is the reason for the season!!!! Not to be crude, but if that offends you, then you are in the wrong group.

Luke 2 : 7 - 14

⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Respectfully,
1st Sgt. Gammon

I am sure you are aware of my involvement with the newsletter and this is the first time I have felt truly compelled to write an article. With this being said, I am sure you will understand the impact of the experience I just had the pleasure of receiving.

The last two weekends (Nov 12th, 13th, 19th 20th) have been rewarding, enriching, and enlightening for me in many ways. When I was first told about the production of the movie, as expected I was excited. Finally the day to make the trek to Pulaski County was upon me and as I was driving home from work, I began to think about how we would be treated? Immediately my mind accessed the schemas I have for Hollywood stereotypes and I pictured the producer as the tofu eating pansy. Of course as everyone knows, producers of this caliber are always wearing black French beret with long cigarette holders in hand and the silk neck scarf while marching out of his trailer and demands his latte before the shoot! Now, being the self respecting southern gentleman I am though, the poor little feller who just needs a hug.

Dom Deluise - Blazing Saddles



My thoughts then went on to the crew, what would the crew be like? Well, mindless robots wearing all black with headphones on, going about like busy little bees! Well until their 15 min. union mandated break. Once again my mind wandered to the one thing I usually think about! You know! Food! I wondered if they would have a table with food! Like a small endless Thanksgiving. Wow! Then on the opposite end of the spectrum, I started to think of what men would normally hate to do! Makeup! I am not a Maybelline kind of guy. I like True Minerals better. Well as you can imagine I was excited and very curious.

Around about midday Saturday I began to realize how wrong my schemas were. I began to see that the producer, the actors, and the crew, where just, nice, friendly, polite, goofy, huggers just like me. Saturday evening a herd of people gathered around the camp fire telling stories, joking around, and having a great time. We had some of the film crew's family there, the Actors were gathered around along with the other unit, and even the producer all laughing and having a good time.

I had a phenomenal time over those two weekends! It was truly a joy and a pleasure to work with the film crew. I can't express in words the multitude of mixed joyful emotions I felt. Leaving was like being on vacation as a kid and having to leave the wonderland of the beach one last time, only to long for the return of the summer.

GOD bless you all and have a Very Merry Christmas.

Your humble little fella
Cpl. Pate

Conscription of Molly Clay



Morning Formation



Saturday evenings jolly frivolity



Steven's death seen

Ode to Joe

