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### Captain's Column

Gentlemen,

Several weeks after the Cold Harbor event, the very similar Gaines' Mill living history was held. I could not be there on Saturday, but Lt. Gammon joined by 2<sup>nd</sup> Sgt. Firth, and privates Martin and Pennise held down the fort despite the inclement weather and threat of storms. They assisted the 3<sup>rd</sup> VA in putting on the first two demos of the day and the storm put an end to the third.

I arrived on Sunday morning and Sgt. Firth, and privates Martin and Pennise returned as well. Lt. Gammon had informed me that the 3<sup>rd</sup> VA was losing some people overnight and that they already had a Captain, so I dusted off my musket, leathers and brogans and fell into the ranks as a private. That took me back a ways, but ole times there were not forgotten. I actually remembered most of it. We did two demos on Sunday and headed for home.

Please see the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt.'s suggestions about communicating with the media, or anyone else for that matter, about the recent controversy over our battle flag. We do not need to have any bad publicity because we could not show a little restraint.

Please also note the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt.'s column for info about the fort work day. The fort is in need of some serious care so please help out. One quick cleaning before C.O.I. each year is not enough to keep it up or show the land owner that we care. He does not have to let us use that fort, so we should show our appreciation and take care of it.

Hope to see you all there,

Captain Gammon

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

Cold Harbor (30-31 May 2015)- I arrived at Cold Harbor on Fri afternoon (29 May) after having had to make a cross country trip from I-95 as I-295, the usual route to Cold Harbor exit, was blocked due to a major accident which had all lanes blocked. There I encountered Chris Martin along w/the Martin boys and we decided to set-up our campsite along the edge of the wood line for cooler temperatures and more freedom from mosquitoes. The Martin's and myself met up for local BBQ in Mechanicsville and had an enjoyable evening before moving back to our bivouac site. Dawn the next morning saw the arrival of several members including our officers and 2<sup>nd</sup> SGT Firth along w/SGT Warner from the 4<sup>th</sup> NC.

While F Co. was faced w/the possibility of doing all three musket demonstrations for the Sat firing program due to low Federal participation, the Federals did in fact come thru and provided one of the demonstrations. Muskets were inspected and ammunition collected, and stored per NPS Black Powder regulations. Starting w/the first demonstration I had to provide the general program narrative as Larry Bopp (Cmdr, 4<sup>th</sup> NC) wasn't present this year to provide his usual program overview. Demonstrations went well and would you believe Pvt Hanson's musket didn't misfire! Wonders will never cease! The Co. stood down following the last afternoon firing demo as the park had a different scenario this year for the candle light tour which did not involve F Company's participation. During the late evening hours 2<sup>nd</sup> SGT Firth provided an excellent bayonet training class which proved most beneficial to all participating.

Following a restful night of good sleeping weather, I awoke to find that Capt Gammon had been able to "engineer" the Federals into doing the Sun afternoon firing demonstration while F Co took the morning demo. So all were able to depart at a most reasonable time for home station. All in all a good interpretive program for the public w/a good deal of interplay w/visitors following each demonstration.

Fort Work Day (25 July 2015)- The Co. will be working this Sat on clean-up including bridge reinforcement, brush clearing and firewood cutting at this site. Every member needs to plan for a 4 hour work contribution from 0900 to 1300 hours. We need a good turnout for this work effort. A reminder to all Co. members that this is both our training site as well as major CS preservation project and that your work effort is both needed and expected!!!

On 15 Jul (Wed), myself along w/Jack Alexander and Greg Hanson will be meeting at the Fort to develop a work plan for the 25 Jul, and evaluate needs for bridge wood replacement. You will be receiving additional email and Corporal guidance on tools needed and work plans for this Fort Work Day between 15 and 24 July.

Participation at Waterloo- I'm back from the Continent w/a major European reenactment under my belt. Starting w/the Aug issue of the "Regimental Dispatch" I will begin a narrative of my travel and reenacting adventures in Belgium and France.

Confederate Flag Controversy- While I was in Europe this whole mess appeared on European news networks, but I was able to follow it in some reasonable fashion on the BBC and the International New York Times. I'm not going to make an editorial comments here about this issue as I don't know whose accessing our website seeking whatever they can about what us Confederates are up to or feel about all this, however, I will give the following specific guidance. Do not talk to any media types as whatever you feel about this will be taken out of context and

made into something it isn't! As an example, the Gettysburg July reenactment has been delayed until 7-9 Aug due to very heavy rains which have made the battle site land extremely soggy and impassable. The media, both local and nationally, is attempting to portray this delay as being related to the controversy over the Confederate Flag! Whatever you say reflects on F Company, so while I can't and won't in anyway restrict your 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Rights to freedom of speech, think very seriously about what you're saying before you say it!

Michael L. Vice  
1<sup>st</sup> SGT, F Company

**Ode to Joe**

