

Vol. XI. July, 2012 Issue 6.

### Captain's Column

The dog days of summer are upon us and since day one the weather has been brutal. The winter was so mild and the spring so nice but come June 21<sup>st</sup> summer arrived with all its glory --- high heat and humidity, wicked thunder storms with their accompanying power outages and fallen trees. Even with that somewhat dubious description of summer I hope everyone is enjoying this time of year with its holidays and vacations.

To review the month of June, we had two events. The first was the Cross Keys / Port Republic event the weekend of June 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. It was staged at the Cedar Creek Battlefield. The organizers did everything they could to not make the battlefield look like Cedar Creek. This was a Longstreet event so we were under the command of Colonel Shelton. It was pretty much the typical battle reenactment with a battle each day accompanied by the usual "hurry up and wait". We did see something somewhat unusual and that was a Union officer surrendering his sword after his troops were routed by our far superior numbers. The heat of the event was somewhat deceptive and took its toll on some of us. As a result we have decided not to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas event in August. That is also to be staged at Cedar Creek. The second event of the month was the Gaines Mill living history. As I was not able to attend due to a family function, I will let the 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant summarize this event.

Now for the month of July, we have the Retreat from Williamsport the weekend of July 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. I will let the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant give you the particulars of this event. Please prepare accordingly. This is July, so you know it will be hot.

Since we will not be going to 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas, August 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> would anyone be interested in going to visit the new MOC in Appomattox that Saturday, the 4<sup>th</sup>. We could do this as a company muster and go out to eat afterwards. If you are interested please let the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant know so we can plan accordingly.

That is all for now. Try to keep cool.

With kindest regards,  
Captain Turley

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

## The Old Rugged Cross

When you think of the many means of execution that have been used down through the ages, the images you come up with are hardly beautiful or wonderful. All of them are horrible or agonizing ways to die. There is one however that the Christian can look at and find peace and a wonderful promise of eternity. The old rugged cross was a terrible means of execution but it stands for something so fantastic today that it can hardly be put into words. The words of the old hymn by the same name put it best.

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suffering and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,  
Has a wondrous attraction for me;  
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary.

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,  
A wondrous beauty I see,  
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,  
To pardon and sanctify me.

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,  
Where His glory forever I'll share.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it some day for a crown.

Jesus willingly took our place on that cross and bore that agony and the weight of our sins and paid the price that we might have eternal life. We owed a debt we could not pay and He paid a debt he did not owe. He died for our sins and rose from the dead on the third day and sits at the right hand of the Father, making intercession for you and for me. It's this that makes me able to look at that cross and see a beautiful and miraculous work of God and a promise of life eternal. So I will cherish and cling to that cross until I can exchange it some day for that crown.

GOD Bless You All,  
1st Lt. Gammon

## 1st Sergeant's Report

Gentleman,

The month of July brings us one event on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The battle of Williamsport will be taking place in; you guessed it, Williamsport, Maryland, located just SW of Hagerstown, Maryland. There is not a plethora of information regarding the logistics of this event but stayed tuned, I will do my best to get you as informed as possible.

The following members are signed up for the event: T. Turley, D. Gammon, M. Gammon, N. Pate, Ja. Alexander, M. Guillen, D. Gunter, J. Houston, J. Pennise

I have had one member inform me that they will not be able to make it to the event, which means there is a spot to be filled. Just to make it clear, F. Co. was actually in Williamsport, so that makes this event that much more special.

To my knowledge, most will be arriving on Saturday morning, if that applies to you, please be IN CAMP by 8:30. For those of you who arrive late...well, nothing happens, but we ask you to be on time anyway.

(You will find maps and/or directions later on in the newsletter)

As far as a schedule of events, the schedule provided on the website is a bit cloudy. Plan to bring around 60 cartridges and that will be plenty. There will be a march on Sunday, and for those of you who have participated in these types of events, it is brutally hot, and has potential to be miserable, but we are typically very well taken care of, which makes for a great time, in spite of the weather.

As usual, there is not a company mess, so prepare to eat/fend for yourselves. As is the tradition, I imagine some of the men will trek out into town to find some grub Saturday night.

Your Humble Servant  
1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Gammon

### Gaines' Mill

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, F Co. attended the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend at the Watt House on the Gaines' Mill battlefield. There were several of us there along with the 3<sup>rd</sup> VA, and a large number of the Liberty Rifles who were portraying Hood's Texans. We did 3 demos on Saturday and 2 on Sunday. The entire group of Confederates would come roaring out of the woods and sweep up the hill and through the fence, all while waking the dead with a hair-raising rebel yell. The larger than normal crowd of spectators absolutely loved it. I am told that the park saw more than 1000 spectators just on Saturday.

Much to Ed Sanders' chagrin, we came out a bit off-cue for the 2<sup>nd</sup> demo on Saturday. We marched into the woods to prepare for the demo and someone must have angered a plague of yellow jackets that would have rivaled the population of Wisconsin during the annual cheese festival. We came storming out of the woods, a lot earlier than designed and in a worse degree of disarray than desired, flailing and swatting, led by the ever fleet of foot, private Guillen. The smoking mad little critters chased us all the way up to the parade ground.

This sneak attack aside, the weekend went well. Thanks go to Mr. Catlett and Mr. Stafford who both came out to visit us on Saturday. We miss you guys on the field, and hope that you can join us there again someday. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sgt. Firth also came all the way up to join us on Saturday, despite not being able to carry the musket yet. It is always nice to have Sgt. Firth and his vast experience in camp. He took a lot of photos of the demos as well. Hopefully he will be back to health and in the ranks soon.

Hope to see everyone in the field soon.

1st Lt. Gammon

## Driving directions to this event locations

Springfield Farm: 12 Springfield Lane: Williamsport, MD 21795

### To Springfield Farm:

From Interstate 81:

Take Exit 2 (Williamsport)

Proceed South on Route 11 (Virginia Avenue)

After passing through your first stop light (Clifton Drive)

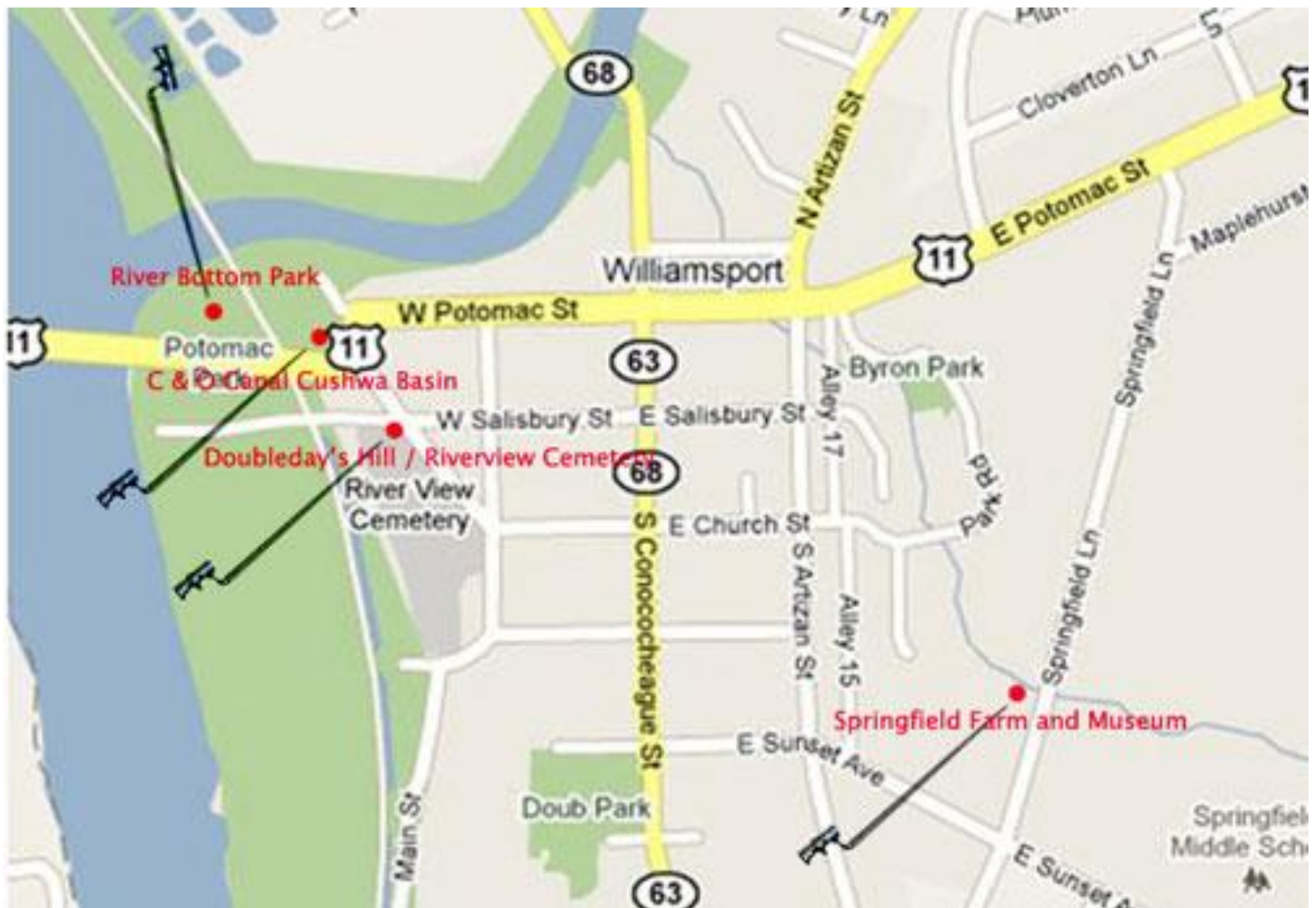
Take your next Left (Springfield Lane)

Proceed to the Barn and park in the upper parking lot

REGISTRATION IS LOCATED AT the Tenant house located at THE SPRINGFIELD FARM. Please follow signage IT BEGINS AT 12:00 ON FRIDAY AND ENDS AT 7:00 P.M. ON FRIDAY. LATE ARRIVALS SHOULD REPORT DIRECTLY TO their respective camp commander.

ALL REGISTRANTS WILL HAVE TO SIGN A WAIVER FORM THAT WILL BE PROVIDED AT REGISTRATION

WATER, FIREWOOD, AND BATHROOMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR FREE AT BOTH CAMPS



Ode to Joe

