

Vol. XI. June, 2012 Issue 5.

Captain's Column

Gentleman

The "Magnificent Seven" of F Company attended the Spotsylvania Re-enactment on the weekend of May 19th & 20th. This was our first event as a member unit of Longstreet's Corp. Our main duty for the event was to act as General Lee's guard. As such we were camped right down from the General's Quarters. And as you may or may not know David Palmer of Fincastle, Virginia portrays General Lee at a lot of Civil War events. He is a very personable gentleman who does an excellent job in the role as the General. I think he is rather fond of F Company and has asked for us when he needs a unit to assist him in some way. Most of us know him from passed Cold Harbor events.

Most of the unit arrived on Friday evening / night. The weather was very agreeable with cool nights and slightly warm days. There was a battle each day. The Confederates outnumbered the Yanks about five to one but with the Yanks having their bullet-proof vests as they normally do they put up a good fight and had very few casualties.

The organization of the event was mixed. They did a good job supplying firewood, hay, ice, bottled – water, and all at no charge. The schedule of events, especially for the General could have been better. At times it seemed that no one knew what was supposed to be happening. Spotsylvania is a relatively young event and is in its building stages. All in all I would say this was an enjoyable event but there is room for improvement.

For the month of June we have the Cross Keys / Port Republic event which will be staged at the Cedar Creek Battlefield. It's the weekend of June 9th & 10th. I will let the First Sergeant update you on this.

As is proving to be the case again our attendance at events is rather low. As of this writing we are already down once again to just seven guys for the June event. It does not look good when we can't muster a decent size unit for a battle reenactment. Much to their credit despite our small size the commanders at Spotsylvania let us be ourselves instead of throwing us in with another unit. I don't know how long that will continue if our numbers stay as low as they have been. We were the smallest company out there. It is somewhat disheartening when members

don't support the unit with their presence. I know that of course family and work obligations and health concerns come first. Reenacting is just a "hobby" and I don't expect everyone to attend everything. But I do know that people make time to do what they really want to do. We can have the best uniforms, the best equipment, be the most proficient at drill, and be the best- looking unit, but if we can't muster a decent size company at events what good is it?

We may have to institute a minimum number of sign-ups as a requirement for the company to attend events. If that number is not reached F Company will not be going to that event as a unit. You could still go as an independent and fall in with another company but gas is too high and time is too precious. I thought that the "150th" would spur interest in the hobby and bring in more new members and rekindle the interest of the veterans. We do have a few new members and I am thankful for them but we are barely holding our own in replacing members that we have lost. We are not really growing. I don't mean to sound so bleak but it is discouraging when a unit of our caliber does not get the support that I think it deserves and is capable of. Maybe it is the leaderships fault to some extent for not doing enough or expecting too much or just not being realistic. Sorry to be so down and to end on this train of thought. I invite your comments. If I am out of line please tell me. We are open to suggestions but just be willing to back up your suggestion with actions.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at Cross Keys / Port Republic. You will decide if we are there!

Earnestly yours,
Captain Turley

1st Lieutenant's Column

"LET GO, AND LET GOD"

Have you ever given a child a chore to do and as soon as you finish telling them what it is, gotten up and begun to do the chore yourself without even giving them a chance to get it done? Probably not. Have you ever given an employee a task or project to do and then left the office and started work on the job yourself? Again, probably not. You at least have enough faith or confidence in them to believe that they will get the job done or at least give it a good effort. Why is it then that we treat God this way? We go to him with a problem in our life or something we may be stressing over, be it work, or finances, or family, or any number of other things, and as soon as we get off of our knees we go right back to stressing over it and trying to fix or handle it ourselves. Why do we ask God for help and then continue to interfere instead of getting out of the way and allowing Him to work? We have to come to the point in our walk with God where we can have faith that he will provide for us and take care of us and help us through our trials of life.

Jesus said in Matthew chapter 17, verse 20 & 21; "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."

The next time you hit your knees and talk to God about a mountainous problem or need, give it to him and get up and go about your business with a smile on your face and a heart full of faith in him that he will take care of you. LET GO, AND LET GOD!!!!

God Bless You All,
1st Lt. Gammon

1st Sergeant's Report

Gentlemen,

There are two events for the month of June. The first, Cross Keys/Port Republic, will take place on June 8th-10th. The following names are registered for that: T. Turley, D. Gammon, M. Gammon, N. Pate, D. Gunter, J. Houston, B. Ward, M. Guillen, S. Wilson

As you already know, we have had two spots come open for this event and would greatly appreciate any additional support. As is the case, your registration is paid given that you register under a pseudonym, being one of the two men that registered and cannot make it.

This event will take place at the same location as the Cedar Creek Event. There are directions and/or site maps located later in this newsletter. There will be two major battles, which will require roughly 40 rounds apiece, so 70-80 for the whole weekend. Please be prepared, do not assume someone will have rounds for you. As for food, plan accordingly. There will be vendors on site or you are welcome to cook for yourselves. Be sure to bring cash for the vendors. Parking is located some ways away so we will hopefully be able to drive into camp, unload, and go park. HOWEVER, be prepared to carry what you have into camp if the need should present itself. Please be in camp by 830am on Saturday morning, I did say please!

The second event will be the Living History at Gaines' Mill on June 23rd-24th. The following names are signed up for this event: D. Gammon, M. Gammon, E. Firth, N. Pate, T. Clements, M. Guillen, D. Gunter, J. Houston, B. Ward, J. Pennise

Keep in mind that this event is NOT a registered event and you are more than welcome to show up, even at the last minute if need be. The added numbers are always welcome, and we always have such a great time at this event.

As for logistics, there will be five relatively short demos, three Saturday, two Sunday. These will be slightly different from years past but I cannot imagine by much. Please account for 10 rounds per demo or 50 rounds for the whole weekend. We will be parking at the Garthright house down the road, and we will be shuttled back to the Watt House where we will camp. We will also be able to unload gear at the Watt House before parking. The food situation is the same as in years past, No vendors will be present, but I imagine a group of us will be taking a trip to a local establishment for dinner. Please be in camp by 800am, see, I said please again!!!

Lastly, bear in mind gentlemen, the company needs support. Thank you.

With highest Regard,
1st. Sgt. M. Gammon

The Midnight Meeting

Gentlemen of F-Company,

On the weekend of May 19th-20th, F-Company participated in the reenactment of Spotsylvania. While this event proceeded to start off and end up like all other civil war reenactments, an event would occur that would separate it from all others. Now as time passed by on Saturday the 19th, things at the reenactment were going along as usual with the whole routine of waking up that morning, eating breakfast, preparing for the coming battle, participating in the battle, going out for dinner, and eventually ending up back at camp and relaxing.

As night time drew upon us though Private Houston, myself, and the 1st Sergeant wandered away from camp to attend the period dance that was being held in the town square that featured the 2nd South Carolina String Band. While the dance, and the subsequent time spent telling stories instead of dancing done by the three of us was fun, the dance eventually did come to an end. Having stayed as long as we pleased and having filled our stomachs full of chocolate chip cookies we started the long trek back to camp.

As we neared camp we passed by General Lee's tent and the good general happened to be sitting outside at that moment. Now for those of you who do not know this, the good general is quite the talker and will talk your ear off, So of course as we passed by the general struck up a conversation with us, but about of all things, Lynyrd Skynyrd and many of the other great southern rock groups of his youth. Now I know what you are thinking, how could this moment be any more awesome!?! Well as we stood around the general's tent and discussed the likes of Skynyrd, Molly Hatchet, and such, a group of men approached us from out of the dark. As the group drew nearer we could vaguely make out the outfits of Confederate officers with the aid of their lantern light. When the group finally made it close enough and had made their introductions we finally realized who we were now in the presence of, General Jackson! Needless to say the three of us were shocked and honored to be in the presence of two of the greatest military minds of the civil war. It was not until we eventually picked our jaws up off of the ground that the gravity of the scene unfolding before us hit. We lucky few were witnessing a midnight meeting between two of the Confederacies most celebrated heroes.

As we stood around watching the two men talk, the scene began to feel as if it was real. By this I mean we actually felt as if we were back in the 1860's witnessing a meeting between the two actual men. We were experiencing that moment that many re-enactors feel, of actually feeling as if we had been transported back in time to that actual time period, even though realistically Jackson would have been killed before Spotsylvania. Now to describe why this was so realistic I will borrow some words from the 1st sergeant who would later say, "During the day time you can pick out and plainly see the differences between the impersonators and the actual men, but at night, with the fire casting shadows over their faces and seeing their silhouettes in the dark, they look just like the real thing." Trust me gentlemen his words are nothing but the truth, that night the men looked eerily similar to the real thing. This moment was one that would send shivers down the spine of the most veteran re-enactor it was so perfect and period like. Needless to say the three of us were as giddy as a bunch of school girls when we got back to camp and were discussing what had just transpired in front of us and, no offense Joseph or Matt, but we were pretty giddy and ya'll cannot deny it. I would have to say without a doubt this was the highlight of the weekend, and probably one of the most profound events I will experience while reenacting. This just goes to show that you never know what will happen when you attend an event, be it small or large. Also it shows that you never know what you will experience at an event when you stay up later and wander about through the camps. You never know what you will happen upon, or what will happen upon you.

Respectfully yours,
Pvt. Gunter

Cross Keys/Port Republic

<http://www.cedarcreekbattlefield.org/ckprspectator.html>

8437 Valley Pike Middletown, VA 22645

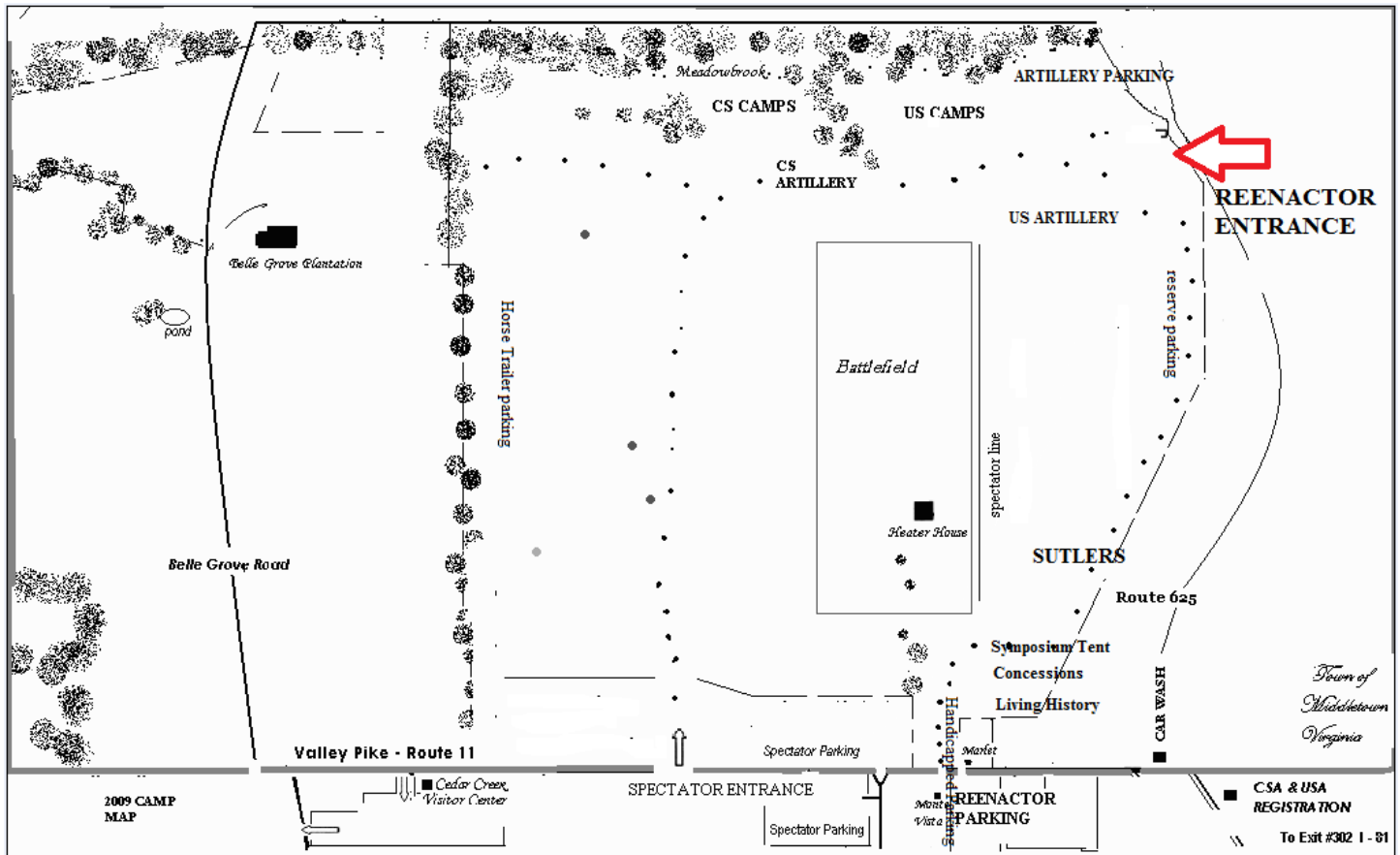
Directions & Parking

The event is held on the Cedar Creek Battlefield at 8437 Valley Pike along US 11 just south of Middletown, Virginia. Parking is conveniently located at the entrance gate.

From the north: Take I-81 South to Exit 302 for Middletown. Make a right at the end of the ramp onto Reliance Road. Reliance Road will end in 0.5 miles at US 11; turn left and go through Middletown. The battlefield is just south of town on the right.

From the south: Take I-81 North to Exit 298 for Strasburg. Make a left at the end of the ramp onto US 11 North. Drive approximately 3 miles; the battlefield will be on your left.

From Washington D.C. and the east: Take I-66 west to I-81. Merge onto I-81 South and take the first exit (Exit 298, Strasburg). Make a right at the end of the ramp onto US 11 North. Drive approximately 3 miles; the battlefield will be on your left.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
150TH ANNIVERSARY REENACTMENT
OF
STONEWALL JACKSON'S VALLEY CAMPAIGN

Saturday, June 9	
9:00 AM	Gates open
9:00 AM	Hupp's Hill Civil War Park opens
9:30 AM	<i>Battlefield</i> - Artillery Demonstration
10:00 AM	<i>Symposium Tent Presentation</i> : Colonel Wlodzimierz Kryzanowski & the Role of German Troops in the Shenandoah Valley
10:30 AM	<i>Battlefield</i> - Infantry Demonstration
11:00 AM	<i>Symposium Tent Presentation</i> : Meet Stonewall Jackson
11:30 AM	<i>Battlefield</i> - Signal Corps Demonstration
12:00 Noon	<i>Symposium Tent Presentation</i> : Witness to War – The Diary of Mrs. Hugh Holmes Lee
1:00 PM	<i>Battlefield</i> - Reenactment of the Battle of Cross Keys
3:00 PM	<i>Battlefield</i> - Medical Demonstration
5:30 PM	<i>Symposium Tent Social</i> - Commander's Reception (<i>ticket required, open to all</i>)

Sunday, June 10	
9:00 AM	Gates open
9:00 AM	Hupp's Hill Civil War Park opens
10:00 AM	<i>Symposium Tent</i> : church service
11:00 AM	<i>Symposium Tent Presentation</i> : Meet Stonewall Jackson
11:30 AM	<i>Battlefield</i> - Infantry Demonstration
12:00 Noon	<i>Battlefield</i> - Signal Corps Demonstration
1:30 PM	<i>Battlefield</i> - Reenactment of the Battle of Port Republic
3:00 PM	<i>Battlefield</i> - Medical Demonstration
3:30 PM	<i>Symposium Tent Presentation</i> : Witness to War – The Diary of Mrs. Hugh Holmes Lee

Directions to Gaines' Mill Battlefield

Gaines' Mill Battlefield
6283 Watt House Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Take I-295 N to CREIGHTON Road EXIT 34A
Turn RIGHT onto VA-156/COLD HARBOR Road.
Stay STRAIGHT to go onto WATT HOUSE Road.

Ode to Joe

