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Captain's Column, June 2016

I hope everyone is surviving this very wet and somewhat gloomy spring. I know we still have summer ahead and that we may be wishing for rain in July and August but I can't remember a spring that has been more wet than this one.

This report will be rather brief since there was been no real activity for the last month. We did not participate in New Market due to lack of numbers but we do have something coming up the first weekend of this month, June 4 & 5. That is the living history program at Cold Harbor in Mechanicsville.. I will leave the particulars to the 1st Sergeant but it usually consist of two to three firing demonstrations each day so you will need to bring rounds.

The highlight of the weekend is usually the candle light tour on Saturday night. The Park Service will have several different scenarios going on during the tour which is normally very well attended. It looks like the 4th North Carolina will be falling in with us so we should have good numbers. You can come in on Friday evening and spend the night if you wish. Again, as I said, the 1st Sergeant will have more details. I will see you all at Cold Harbor.

With kindest regards,  
Captain Turley

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

We've got an active month in June, so pay attention to what follows concerning planned F Co activities:

**Cold Harbor (4-5 Jun 16)**- NPS interpretive program on the actual battle site w/musket firing programs by F Company. I will arrive on site on Fri afternoon to spend the night if you are planning on getting an early start. NPS schedule looks like the following, but you need to arrive by 0800 hours:

Saturday- 0900 Commanders Meeting  
0930-1000 Musket Inspection. See information below  
1100 US Musket Demonstration  
1300 CS Musket and Artillery Demonstration  
1500 US Musket Demonstration  
1730 Walk Thru Candlelight Tour  
2000-2200 Candlelight Tour

Sunday

1100 US Musket Demonstration  
1300 CS Musket and Artillery Demonstration

Please note the following as they apply directly to our participation:

- (1) You need to bring 40 rounds of blank ammunition and at least 60 percussion caps. These items must be bagged up in either a plastic or paper bag w/your name on them. Bagged ammunition will be turned in on Sat morning to our company ammunition box. At the end of each firing event we will turn in any excess ammunition or percussion caps per NPS Black Powder regulations.
- (2) DO NOT bring any ammunition or caps in either your cartridge box or cap pouch as the NPS will be inspecting to insure their regulations are complied with.
- (3) Bring your musket cleaned to Cold Harbor as NPS will be inspecting on Sat AM and again on Sun AM! We will be cleaning muskets in the field, so be prepared to do so.
- (4) The firing sequence is subject to change, so we may in fact be demonstrating more than planned, thus the reason for large quantity of ammunition and percussion caps.
- (5) We will be participating in the Candle Light tour this year at two stops in the trenches, so everyone is needed in the evening for this program.

Everyone needs to turnout for this event! It doesn't cost you any money and serves to keep up our relationship w/the National Park Service both in getting to participate in real CW sites and meeting space at the park.

**Battle of Cross Keys (10-12 Jun 16)**- Major CW interpretive and fund raising program in the Valley. The 2010 program was excellent and is coming back again. The following individuals

are registered for this event: Alexander, Jack; Travis Clements, Greg and Ray Hanson, Tony Turley, and Michael Touart. I will not be participating due to a granddaughter's graduation in North Carolina. F Co will have to be folded into another unit for participation due to small number of participant's, however, most all the participating Confederates will be high quality units.

Go to website at [crosskeysreenactment](http://crosskeysreenactment) for needed schedule of events and directions to site. Remember this is a fund raising event w/a serious authentic flavor so you need to do your part!

**Gaines Mill (25-26 Jun 16)-** This event has been dropped from the schedule due to so few participants signing up, however, if you interested then the Richmond National Battlefield would be more than happy to have you as a walk on.

**Fort Work Day (16 Jul 16)-** Everyone needs to get this on their calendar and be prepared to participate in general maintenance as well as bridge building. More to follow in July newsletter.

Respectfully,  
Michael L. Vice  
1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant, F Co 21<sup>st</sup> VA

## Pea Ridge

As reenactors living in the east, we tend to only focus on events from the Eastern theater of the Civil War. We never see or learn about battles in the Western States. Two weeks ago I got to visit one of the two major battlefields west of the Mississippi.

Fought in the northwest corner of Arkansas, Pea Ridge was a critical battle in determining the fate of Missouri. To my surprise and delight, the battlefield was in excellent condition and the Visitor Center was first rate - complete with movie theater, store, museum and excellent paintings from a local artist.



The battle was fought March 6-8 in 1862. Confederate commander Earl Van Dorn was marching north with 16,000 troops with the objective of capturing St. Louis (this was before he was shot and killed by the jealous husband of a lady he was courting). In his way was 10,000 Union soldiers under the command of Samuel Curtis.

I'll spare you all the history lesson, but it is a very interesting battle that's worth reading about and worth seeing.



It's about an hour outside of Joplin Missouri and if you ever find yourself in the area, it is definitely worth seeing.



Hope you enjoyed the pictures,  
Respectfully,  
Jeff Pennise

Ode to Joe

