



Vol. XIII. March, 2014 Issue III.

Captain's Column

Gentlemen,

Well, our annual meeting is behind us. Thank you to all who made the journey to be with us. For those who could not attend, I hope between the 1st Lt's. email and this newsletter, we can catch you up to speed.

As most of you know, Captain Turley has had a difficult time this past year. He has been limited to what he could participate in with caring for his father and helping out his late brother during his illness. He and his father have returned to Richmond and Tony has returned to work. Please keep Tony and his father in your prayers. He had asked to not be nominated for the position in 2014. With that said, the election has some new folks in new positions.

I was elected to fill the Captain's position, and I cannot thank the unit enough for their vote of confidence. I will do my best to fulfill the duties of the position, and I ask for your patience as I make the transition. Matt Gammon was elected to fill the position of 1st Lt., Mike Vice was elected to fill the position of 1st Sgt., Jack Alexander will remain as Treasurer, and Nate Pate will remain as member at large. Eldridge Firth has agreed to continue as 2nd Sgt. I look forward to working with these gentlemen as we sail F Company through this time of transition.

The event sheets were handed out at the meeting and the 1st Lt. has emailed it to those who could not attend. The event sheets really need to be back by March 8th. I know technically we have until the 15th, but there are three events that need to be registered early. If you must be after the 8th turning yours in, then you may miss getting registered for some of the events.

The dues were set at \$100.00 for 2014 and if you have not paid them yet, please send them to Jack as soon as you can. There is a lot of work that will be going into registering for events and

planning for the C.O.I., so please help out those doing the work and get your dues paid so you can be counted for the events and camp.

I cannot stress enough how important it is for everyone to attend the Camp of Instruction. The camp begins on Friday, March 21st, and runs through Sunday, March 23rd. I plan to be at the fort around noon or shortly after on that Friday. Please arrive on Friday if you can. It makes setup so much easier. Some folks will be going into town on Friday evening for dinner and some will stay in camp so you have either option. We will be doing a company mess for breakfast on Saturday and Sunday and supper on Saturday. We split up the cost of the food for these three meals, so bring some cash to reimburse the 1st Sgt. All other food will be your own responsibility. I will leave the details of all of that to the 1st Sgt. Please see his article for instructions. There will be a camp schedule included later in this newsletter.

I am really looking forward to seeing everyone at the C.O.I., and to getting the season kicked off. I have a lot to learn and we all could use the practice to get the rust knocked off. The 1st Sgt. has a lot of training programs planned for the weekend, so please don't miss the opportunity to learn.

Respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant,

Captain Gammon

Chaplain Corner

After reading the following excerpt, I can't help but think about the famous poem, "footprints." It reminds me that the more difficult our struggles are, the closer Christ walks with us, until, at our lowest of moments, we are carried by the love and grace of Jesus. The reading states, that all it takes is a desperate cry. All that is asked of us, is a simple cry for help. A comforting feeling is to know that there is absolutely nothing that life can throw at you, that you will have to bear alone. Isaiah 30:19 states, "God will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, he will answer you."

1st Lt. M Gammon

Boo — Julie Ackerman Link

March 6, 2014 — by [Bill Crowder](#)

Read: [Isaiah](#) 30: 1-5, 18-19

One of the early games that many parents play with their children involves a fake scare. Dad hides his face behind his hands and suddenly reveals himself while saying, "Boo!" The child giggles at this silliness.

Being frightened is a fun game until the day when the child experiences a real scare. Then it's no laughing matter. The first real scare often involves separation from a parent. The child wanders away innocently, moving from one attraction to another. But as soon as she realizes she is lost, she panics and lets out a loud cry of alarm. The parent immediately comes running to reassure the child that she is not alone.

As we get older, our fake scares become sophisticated—scary books, movies, amusement park rides. Being scared is so invigorating that we may begin taking bigger risks for bigger thrills.

But when a real scare comes, we may realize that we, like the ancient Israelites (Isa. 30), have wandered from the One who loves and cares for us. Recognizing that we are in danger, we panic. Our call for help does not require sophisticated words or a well-reasoned defense, just a desperate cry.

Like a loving parent, God responds quickly for He longs to have us live in the protection of His love where we need never be afraid.

*I never walk alone, Christ walks beside me;
He is the dearest Friend I've ever known;
With such a Friend to comfort and to guide me,
I never, no, I never walk alone. -- Ackley*

Trusting God's faithfulness helps dispel our fearfulness.

1st Lt. M. Gammon

1st Sergeant's Column

Gentlemen,

I appreciate the confidence shown by the membership in my election as 1st Sergeant of F Company. I do look forward to the opportunity to once again serve as the senior non-commissioned officer of this a very exceptional Civil War living history unit. It was heartening to see 19 individuals including three new recruits at the Annual Membership meeting taking care of the company's important business as well as enjoying the camaraderie of their fellow soldiers. I can be contacted at any time if you've got a recommendation for an upcoming event; a possible new piece of equipment; a potential article for publication in the "Regimental Dispatch" or whatever. That also means that if you've got a complaint or grip then I'm the individual you ought to approach about trying to resolve it.

We've got the upcoming Camp of Instruction coming up on 21-23 March 2014 at Fort Harvie. This event is not to be missed as it will provide an excellent training opportunity for every member of the company as well as an enjoyable interlude from the cares of the modern day world. Everyone regardless of their experience level needs this training as we have a very active year of service coming up as we participate in the 1864 battles of the 150th anniversary. Please note that everyone needs to bring \$10.00 to the COI to pay for rations. You'll be getting three hot meals (two breakfast and one supper meal) which at this price is far cheaper than McDonald's!

As the 1st Sergeant I'm also the Secretary of F Co., which means I've got the overall responsibility for company administration. So I'm admonishing you to get those dues sent to Treasurer Jack Alexander and get your Event Sign-Up Sheet to 1st LT Matt Gammon Immediately! Additionally, when your Corporal contacts you by email, telephone, or however, you need to respond! Everyone in this company has an obligation to every other member of this company to provide timely information as requested so we can accomplish the company's mission.

In conclusion, I think some background on myself is in order as a majority of F Company members today never served w/the company previously when I was 1st Sergeant and need to understand my motivation as I perform my duties. I started doing CW living history in 1962 as a 16 year old in the CW Centennial and have been very active ever since. While participating in CW living history I've held every enlisted grade from Private to Sergeant Major, and occasionally as a commissioned officer which I've usually avoided. I've also been a shooter of CW weapons since 1966 when I joined the North-South Skirmish Association. All this CW living history and shooting experience is coupled to the fact I've served as an active duty Army Infantry officer including combat in Vietnam as a rifle platoon leader and company commander w/additional service in the National Guard and the Army Reserve. Additionally, as a Federal employee I worked for 30 plus years as a museum curator including 10 years as the Chief Museum Curator at Gettysburg National Military Park, which houses one of the largest CW artifact collections in the nation.

As result of the service cited above I've got the necessary background, experience, and know how to fulfill the duties of 1st Sergeant as well as Chairman of the Uniform and Equipage Committee. The great advantage for the F Co membership is that you get to profit from all my background knowledge and more especially get to avoid many of the pitfalls and mistakes in this hobby that I've already made!

I'm going to expect you to rise to the occasion and present a well-rounded, serious military interpretation of the Confederate soldier to the American public. In my estimation far too many Confederate living history groups talk about honoring the Confederate soldier in their programs, but in many cases fail pretty badly due to both ignorance and laziness in presenting that true picture of our Confederate ancestors and thus don't really do them honor. F Company is going to do its part to present an honorable and true picture of these valiant fighting soldiers!

Cordially,
Michael L. Vice
1st Sergeant
F Co, 21st VA Infantry

Report on Fort Clean-up (1 Mar 14) from 1st Sergeant

Members of F Co met on the morning of 1 Mar to clean-up and prepare Fort Harvie for the upcoming COI (21-23 Mar 14) w/a total of 10 members in attendance including 1 brand new recruit who joined that day, Mike Disimone! Tasks completed included cutting down 2 large standing pine trees (always an adventure!); cutting, splitting and stacking firewood; stump removal; dirt removal and ground leveling; filling in holes within fort interior; and cleaning the outhouse. Coordination also took place for delivery of additional firewood and straw for bedding. Thanks to co. members for providing chain saws and hand tools for accomplishing this needed work.

Fortunately, the weather more than cooperated w/temperatures in the upper 40's-low 50's to the point that coats could be removed while chain sawing and splitting firewood, as well as the sun being out most of the time. Given how this winter has gone that was a great bonus for our workday! Additional discussions also took place about future restoration work, but more to come later on that topic.

Thanks to Nate Pate for coordinating our clean-up activities, and most especially for Private Chris Martin bringing his two sons, Mike and Hunter to help out. The boys proved to be most helpful and willing.

F Company, 21st Virginia Camp of Instruction 2014

Friday 21 March

Time	Activity	Director
Afternoon/ Evening	Arrivals As individual schedules permit. It is recommended that one arrive before dark. All supplies and equipment in camp. Camp setup: Determine Company Street Erect Tents Dig Fire Pit Supper In Camp or in Town ---Your Choice--- Camp Comradery	1 st Lt. and 1 st Sgt.
2300	All Quiet in Camp	

Saturday, 22 March

Time	Activity	Director
0645	Everyone in Camp	
0700 – 0715	Reveille Formation. Orders for the Day	1 st Sgt.
0715 – 0800	Prepare and serve breakfast meal – 2 nd Platoon	1 st Sgt. and 2 nd Cpl.
0730 – 0830	Inventory Sale	Quartermaster
0800 – 0830	Kitchen Police – 1 st Platoon	1 st Sgt. and 1 st Cpl.
0830 – 0900	Company Philosophy and Purpose	1 st Sgt.
0900 – 1100	Drill for New Members	Captain and 1 st Sgt.
0900 – 1100	Drill for Veterans	1 st Lt and 2 nd Sgt.
0900 – 1000	Stationary Drill, Form Company, Position of Soldier, Manual of Arms, Stacking and Inspection	

1000 – 1100	Firing Drill Load in Ten Time Fire by Company, Oblique firings Fire Kneeling, Lying Down	
1100 – 1200	Company Drill	Captain and 1 st Lt.
1200 – 1230	Lunch from Haversack	
1230 – 1400	Marching Drill, Form Company Facings, Wheels, Skirmish Drill	Captain and 1 st Lt.
1400 – 1430	Target Setup	Safety Officer
1430 – 1500	Safety Practices + Procedures Musket Cleaning Techniques	Safety Officer
1500 – 1600	Musket Live Firing	Safety Officer
1600 – 1630	Target take down	1 st Lt. & 2 nd Sgt.
1600	Begin Supper preparation – 1 st Platoon	1 st Sgt. and 1 st Cpl.
1630 – 1700	Clean Weapons	2 nd Sgt.
1700 – 1730	Serve Supper – 1 st Platoon	1 st Sgt. and 1 st Cpl.
1730 – 1800	Kitchen Police – 2 nd Platoon	1 st Sgt. and 2 nd Cpl.
1800 – 1830	Results of Live Firing	1 st Lt.
1830 – 2230	Camp Comradery	
2230	All Quiet in Camp	

Sunday, 23 March

Time	Activity	Director
0700 – 0715	Reveille, Orders for the Day	1 st Sgt.
0715 – 0815	Prepare and Serve hot breakfast – 2 nd Platoon	1 st Sgt. and 2 nd Cpl.
0815 – 0845	Kitchen Police – 1 st Platoon	1 st Sgt. and 1 st Cpl.
0845 – 0915	Church Call	Captain
0915 – 1015	Training Classes: 1. Digging & Chopping in the ANV 2. Army Soldier Tin ware	Chair. Uniform Committee
1015 - 1045	Cleaning, Maintaining and Polishing of Brogans	Chair. Uniform Committee
1045 - 1215	Inspection – Full equipment layout	1 st Sgt.
1215 – 1230	Haversack Lunch	
1230 – 1330	Refresher Drill	Captain and 1 st Lt.

1330 – 1400	Final Formation / Strike Camp / police area	Captain, SSgt's. & Cpls.
1400	Departure	

PLEASE NOTE: Schedule is subject to change due to weather conditions and time constraints. Some activities may require more time, some less. The schedule will be adjusted accordingly.

Fort Directions
Nate 804-512-5882

Coming from the North via I-95

I-95 South

Take the I-295 exit, EXIT 84B, toward CHARLOTTESVILLE. 0.4 mi

Take the US-1 S exit on the LEFT toward RICHMOND. 0.2 mi

Merge onto I-295 N via the exit on the LEFT toward I-64 W/CHARLOTTESVILLE. 8.5 mi

Merge onto I-64 W via EXIT 53A toward CHARLOTTESVILLE. 2.5 mi

Merge onto VA-288 S/WORLD WAR II VETERANS MEMORIAL HWY via EXIT 175 toward CHESTERFIELD. 12 mi

Merge onto US-60 W toward POWHATAN. 8.5 mi

Turn LEFT onto DORSET RD. 1.6 mi

DORSET RD. becomes SCHROEDER RD. 3.3 mi

SCHROEDER RD. becomes GENITO RD. 3.6 mi

GENITO RD. becomes VA-604/CHULA RD. Continue to follow CHULA RD. 1.8 mi

Turn LEFT onto COVERLY RD.

Beginning at the corner of Chula Rd and Coverly Rd follow the F Co. signs.

Coming from the South via I-95

I-95 N

Merge onto VA-288 N/WORLD WAR II VETERANS MEMORIAL HWY via EXIT 62 toward CHESTERFIELD/POWHITE PKWY. 14 mi

Merge onto US-360 W toward AMELIA. 18 mi

Turn RIGHT onto CHULA RD. 3.0 mi

Turn RIGHT onto COVERLY RD.

Beginning at the corner of Chula Rd and Coverly Rd follow the F Co. signs.

Ode to Joe

