



Vol. XIII. May, 2014 Issue V.

### Captain's Column

Gentlemen,

I am writing this article on Easter Sunday and I would like to wish everyone a happy and blessed Resurrection Sunday, even though it will be late by the time you read this. It's never really too late, as we should always glory in the promise and hope of our risen Savior.

We had the event at Endview plantation a few weeks ago and it was fantastic. The weather was beautiful despite a frigid Sunday morning. I would like to thank those who still attended after a barrage of last minute vacancies threatened to spoil the weekend. Our numbers were small, but we still had a good time. I do want to encourage everyone to please make an effort to attend when you sign up. We all depend on each other to make these weekends fun and enjoyable and we miss each one when they are not there. Thanks goes out to Eldridge Firth for stepping in as 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. and Ricky Ladd for being our Corporal for the weekend. Thanks also to Mike Kulikowski, Jay Butler, Wes Catlett, and Chris Martin for hanging in there with us. Thanks to Mike Martin (Chris' son) for spending the weekend with us as well. Mike is a very well mannered, respectable young man and he did a fantastic job all weekend. His parents should be very proud.

We have the Wilderness/Spotsylvania event coming up on the first weekend of May. (May 2-4) It is my understanding that there will be two battles on Saturday and one on Sunday. The first one on Saturday has us marching out pre-dawn, and is supposed to be a tactical battle. Therefore, I suggest that you arrive on Friday afternoon or evening. I will be there on Friday afternoon. From what I have read, we are camping in the same area that we were in at Chancellorsville last year, for those of you who attended that. I will leave the details of the event and what you need to do to be prepared to the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt.

We also have New Market coming up on the weekend of May 16-18. There are ten people signed up for this and I have spoken to or emailed them all and stressed the importance of showing up for it. We cannot afford any drop outs for this. We are already small and need each one to step up to make this worthwhile. I will attempt to be there on Friday for this as well. I would expect a night mission to Dan's Steakhouse on the mountain on either Friday or Saturday evening. Corporal Clements will more than likely be leading that expedition.

I hope we will get June's newsletter out early enough, but in case we don't, I will remind you of Cold Harbor's living history program on May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be a much larger presence there this year for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There is going to be a drum and fife corps there as well as a period photographer. We will be camping back at the trenches this year like we did for several years. I may come out and set up on Friday, and return on Saturday morning. If I can stay Friday night, I will, but I am not 100% sure yet.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at these next few events.

Respectfully,

Captain Gammon

## Chaplain Corner

Obstacles seem to be a popular thing to discuss these days. Management training, sales training, motivational speaking or self-talk, all seem to have one common theme, and that is overcoming obstacles. Everyone is full of advice on how to manage ones stress, anxiety and life's other obstacles.

Each one of us, at some point in our lives, have been the child in the following story that has been "let down" abruptly. As trying as those times are, as lonely as they may be and as down as you may feel, you are never going through those moments alone. Having faith, unmovable faith, allows one to be comforted by this though in times of need. The thought that Jesus walks with us each and every day of our lives no matter what our needs may be.

Although life will let us all down at times, faith in God's love and mercy allows us to not get down and stay down. Give the following message a read, and my hope is that you will be encouraged in whatever your time of need may include.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. M Gammon

### Never Let Down- Joe Stowell

April 24, 2014 — *by Joe Stowell*

Read [Lamentations 3: 13-26](#)

When I was a child, one of my favorite pastimes was playing on the teeter-totter in the nearby park. A kid would sit on each end of the board and bounce each other up and down. Sometimes the one who was down would stay there and leave his playmate stuck up in the air yelling to be let down. But the cruelest of all tricks was getting off the teeter-totter and running away when your friend was up in the air—he would come crashing down to the ground with a painful bump.

Sometimes we may feel that Jesus does that to us. We trust Him to be there with us through the ups and downs of life. However, when life takes a turn and leaves us with bumps and bruises, it may feel as if He has walked away leaving our lives to come painfully crashing down.

But Lamentations 3 reminds us that “the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end” (v.22 esv) and that God is faithful to the end even when everything seems to be falling apart. This means that in the midst of our pain, even though we may be lonely, we are not alone. And though we may not feel His presence, He is there as our trusted companion who will never walk away and let us down!

*Thank You, Lord, that we can trust in Your faithful presence even when we feel alone. Help us to wait patiently for You to manifest Your steadfast loving presence.*

*When everyone else fails, Jesus is your most trusted friend*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. M. Gammon

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

Gentlemen,

This is going to be a rather lengthy column as F Co. has three events for the month of May! We start the month w/the 150<sup>th</sup> Wilderness/Spotsylvania (2-4 May 14). Everyone needs to be prepared for movement back and forth between our campsite and the trench areas during the event, and additionally mentally prepared for an early AM Saturday movement which will be a tactical, that is non-scripted. So you need to be able to travel light and make sure you've got rations to support you throughout the event. There will be a total of three battles for this event, so you'll need 40 to 60 rounds of ammunition per battle for a total of 120-180 rounds as Longstreet's Corps does like to “burn powder”!

Everyone needs to report to 9104 Courthouse Road, Spotsylvania 22553 (use for GPS purposes as well) for registration prior to moving to CS bivouac area. F Co is part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division (Longstreet's Corps). Vehicles have to be out of camp by dark on Fri (2 May), so if you can arrive on Fri afternoon you'll be the better for it! General directions to event from I-95, take exit 126 to southbound Route 1(Jefferson Davis Hwy). Go south approximately ¼ mi then turn right onto Southpoint Parkway. Go 1 mi to Rt. 208 (Courthouse Rd) and turn left. From there look for registration signage. Go to 150<sup>th</sup> Spotsylvania.com for more information.

The following individuals are registered for the 150<sup>th</sup> Wilderness/Spotsylvania: Alexander, Jack; Baird, Butler, Disimone, Gammon, D.; Gammon, M.; Gunter, Jensen, Kulikowski, Ladd, Martin, Pate, Pennise, Vice, Ward, Weidman B. and Weidman, K. for a total of 17 soldiers.

The next upcoming event is the 150<sup>th</sup> Battle of New Market (16-18 May 14) which is being held at the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park just off I-81 in the Shenandoah Valley. This event will also have three battles as well including a Fri PM engagement so plan your ammunition accordingly. The weather ought to be pretty nice given that its spring in the Valley and thus good sleeping weather.

For GPS purposes use 8895 George Collins Dr., New Market, VA 22844 and see website [www2.vmi.edu/museum](http://www2.vmi.edu/museum). General directions coming from the north going south on I-81 are to look for exit 269 as you can literally see the battlefield from the interstate. From Richmond take I-64 W and then I-81 north to reach battlefield.

The following individuals are registered for the 150<sup>th</sup> New Market: Clements, Disimone, Gammon, D.; Gammon, M.; Jensen, Kulikowski, Ladd, Martin, Pate and Wilson for a total of 10 soldiers.

The last event for May is 150<sup>th</sup> Cold Harbor (30 May-1 June 14) which is held on National Park Service site (Richmond Natn. Battlefield). This will be a much different event w/limited firing demonstrations, but much more public interpretation and scrutiny including an evening candle light tour. We have a good relationship w/this NPS site, so you need to be very attentive to having both authentic equipage and camp impression, and being interactive w/the visiting public. We've been advised that we'll camp in the trench area at the turnout rather than at the park visitor center site as in years past.

For GPS purposes use 5515 Anderson-Wright Dr., Mechanicsville, VA 23111. General directions from I-295 South (Bypass around Richmond) take Exit 34A then go to Cold Harbor Road/VA 156 and turn right. Follow till you see park visitor center on the left.

Every soldier attending this event must bring all their ammunition and percussion caps in a paper or plastic bag w/their name on bag as all ammunition will be turned into NPS and issued out just prior to each firing demonstrations. Everyone should bring 30 rounds of blank ammunition and at least 50 percussion caps for this event. To repeat again, everyone will turn in all ammunition and your cartridge box and cap pouch will remain empty up until firing demonstration!!!

The following individuals are registered for the 150<sup>th</sup> Cold Harbor: Alexander, Jack; Alexander, Johnathan; Catlett, Disimone, Firth, Gammon, D.; Gammon, M.; Jensen, Kulikowski, Ladd, Martin, Pate, Stafford, Vice and Ward. Additional Mark Riemer and Bob Gorgone of the New England Contingent will be making the drive to fall in w/F Co., so you Richmond slackers need to turnout as these guys are driving 10 hours to participate w/us!

Planning for Ammunition Usage- The question has been raised about how much ammunition to plan for the usual battle re-enactment. The rule of thumb should be 40-60 rounds per battle. That rule should take care of most of your planning needs in rolling cartridges. You'll need more percussion caps in order to allow for clearing weapons prior to and after each battle scenario.

### **Private Chris Martin**

I would like to thank everyone who has been so friendly and helpful as a I learn the ropes of this new hobby. Through countless emails, phone calls, and texts I was guided smoothly through the process on the who, what, and when to acquire the necessary items for completing my impression from a multitude of the members. The COI was instructive and fun up to and including the 4am encounter with the coyote under the bridge. Since the COI I have had an opportunity to attend my first event at Endview. I am glad that the unit takes the extra effort and time to "knock off

the rust" for the seasoned veterans, as well as give us new guys an opportunity to learn the basics before getting out into the field. I kind of felt like I knew what I was doing.

The Endview event had a couple of people drop outs at the last minute that gave me the opportunity to bring my oldest son Mike along. I asked Mike to provide a description of his experience below:

*This past weekend I was able to participate in my first Civil War reenactment. It was one of the most memorable experiences for me. My family has always been huge history buffs, reading about and visiting most of the sites around Central Virginia. When my dad texted me and asked if I would be interested in filling in for someone who had dropped out of the Endview event I almost jumped out of my desk in Chemistry. The Captain and Ricky were able to pull together all of the necessary material to get me an outfit and my dad was able to give me a crash course on the things he had learned during the COI.*

*I was very excited when we were preparing for the first battle. We marched from our camp site and formed up with the Battalion, had our weapons checked, then marched into the fort we would be defending. After a few minutes of waiting for the Union line to advance, our unit was deployed in a skirmish line formation along a fence line. I was partnered with Mr. Jay so he and I alternated shooting. The first battle was fun, and got even more exciting when a cavalry horse got loose and ran straight towards our fence only to veer away at the last second. My favorite battle was the third, mostly because the cavalry were not in our way and the Union troops finally figured out how to die. I would like to thank the unit for allowing me the opportunity to participate.*

I am proud to be a part of this organization that prides itself on authentic historical accuracy. I have enjoyed everyone's help and friendship this first few months and look forward to the rest of the year.

Best regards,  
Chris Martin  
Pvt. F CO, 21st VA

### **Private Mike DiSimone**

My name is Mike DiSimone and I am one of the newest additions to F Company. After my experience at the COI, I am honored and feel privileged to be part of such an outstanding Company of reenactors, who take such pride in their impressions. As an active duty Army soldier of 6 yrs and Afghanistan combat veteran, I feel a special comradery with my fellow combat vets and appreciate our special bond. However I saw a similar bond between our members at the COI and the fort work day a couple weeks earlier, which is not as commonly seen amongst reenactors as some would think. Though I am new to F Company I am no stranger to our hobby. I have been around Civil War Reenactments ever since my parents took me as a child, and even spent some time with a previous unit when I was 16. I have never seen such an authentic and well organized unit as this. Most other units you get a time and location of an event and that is about it, a lot of units don't even have board members or even official rosters and have dues as high as \$30 a month. My first interaction with F Company was the day I sent my enlistment request on our web site; I was shocked when I received a call within hours by our treasurer Jack Alexander who couldn't be more cordial and informative. After our conversation and my first meeting with our members I knew this unit was for me, and that I found as realistic a unit as one can possibly find. At the COI, I enjoyed myself very much and learned many new things such as civil war drill and ceremony and all of our equipment specifics. I was also pleasantly surprised to find that many of our members use real Civil War Relics to help with our impression. I very much enjoyed

learning about tin works and tool usage of the time period from Mike Vice and am looking forward to continuing my learning and education. The way we set up camp and lived over the weekend is very realistic and isn't too different from today's Army during campaign. The fact that we have excellent moral and comradery also makes for a great impression when portraying soldiers relaxing on their off time, which no one can truly imitate. I thank F Company for their warm welcome and love of preserving our great history and heritage. I am looking forward to many more years to come. Thank you for everyone's dedication to F Company and I am looking forward to seeing everyone again soon.

You're Obedient  
Michael DiSimone

## **Wilderness & Spotsylvania**

### **DIRECTIONS:**

From I-95: Exit 126 to Southbound Rt 1 (Jefferson Davis Highway). Travel south approximately 1/4 mile. Turn right onto Southpoint Parkway. Travel approximately 1 mile. Turn left onto Rt 208 (Courthouse Road). Proceed approximately 5 miles. Old Battlefield Blvd is on the left. Follow signs as appropriate.

**9019 Old Battlefield Blvd**  
**Spotsylvania, VA 22553**

### **Cold Harbor**

**Cold Harbor Battlefield**  
5515 Anderson-Wright Drive  
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

### **New Market**

**New Market Battlefield**  
8895 George Collins Drive  
New Market, VA 22844

**Ode to Joe**

