

Vol. XIII. October, 2014 Issue X.

Captain's Column

Gentlemen,

September has come and gone and now we brace for cold weather again. I can't say that I am excited about that, as it also means that another reenacting season is winding to a close.

We took such casualties as attendance goes that we had to forego Lexington. A couple guys did attend and fall in with another group. I understand there is supposed to be an article from one of them in this newsletter. The New Market Heights event was held on the weekend of September 26th – 28th in Henrico County, Virginia. If you missed that one, you missed a spectacular event. The weather was perfect with close to 80 degree temps during the day and upper 50's at night. The County did a fantastic job putting on the event. There was a meal on Saturday evening and a free hardback book set that we all received. We had a great wooded campsite, once we ran off the snakes on Friday afternoon. The battles all went well and we managed to avoid the predawn tactical. I appreciate our friends from the New England area coming out to support us. It was also great to have Mr. Turley in camp with us again. We have missed you Tony.

It is now October and we need to turn our attention to the upcoming 150th Cedar Creek event. The date for that is October 17th – 19th. We have the perfect number of people signed up for this. We cannot, however, afford a lot of casualties that would cause us to not be able to field a company. I cannot stress enough gentlemen that if you signed up, please make every effort to attend. If you did not sign up but want to go, please let your Corporal, or the 1st Sgt, or myself know. Keep in mind that this is one of the “MAXIMUM EFFORT” events for Longstreet’s Corps for this year. We are part of the Corps and we need to make sure that we are represented. This may be the last “big” 150th event, since most of what is left is Sailor’s Creek and Appomattox very early next year. The 1st Sgt. will have details about the event in his article. I heard somewhere that the Confederate camp would be near the Belle Grove Plantation, which is just south of where Confederate camp usually is, but I will let the 1st Sgt. address that.

Gentlemen, please try to make it to Cedar Creek. It was so nice to have a large unit in the field at New Market Heights. A good time was had by all and I would like to see this season go out on a similar note.

Respectfully,

Captain Gammon

Chaplain Corner

Healthy people don’t need a doctor. It is the broken, lost and empty people that Christ is fervently seeking. Just like the old mattresses being recycled and repurposed, we too can experience the same repurposing via salvation. In a dual example of second chances, Keenen not only recycles the mattresses, but also gives second chances to those individuals that our society finds easy to cast out. Life is like a river, cutting its way through terrain, flowing over and around rocks and debris, through thick swamps and the roughest of rapids. We are all expected to experience our share of rocks and debris, and just like the river slows down, so do we. It is easy to get bogged down and feel like we have nowhere else to go and no one else to turn to. It is important to understand that despite all the obstacles, every river finds its way, and we too are fortunate enough to have a shepherd guide us to our destinations. Never hesitate to turn to him when you may be feeling down and out and you are sure to find the peace and direction you so long for!

A Fresh Start- David C. McCasland

September 30th, 2014 — by *David C. McCasland*

Read [Luke 5: 17- 26](#)

In many countries, health laws prohibit reselling or reusing old mattresses. Only landfills will take them. Tim Keenan tackled the problem and today his business employs a dozen people to extract the individual components of metal, fabric, and foam in old mattresses for recycling. But that's only part of the story. Journalist Bill Vogrin wrote, "Of all the items Keenan recycles . . . it's the people that may be his biggest success" (The Gazette, Colorado Springs). Keenan hires men from halfway houses and homeless shelters, giving them a job and a second chance. He says, "We take guys nobody else wants."

Luke 5:17-26 tells how Jesus healed the body and the soul of a paralyzed man. Following that miraculous event, Levi answered Jesus' call to follow Him and then invited his fellow tax collectors and friends to a banquet in honor of the Lord (vv.27-29). When some people accused Jesus of associating with undesirables (v.30), He reminded them that healthy people don't need a doctor—adding, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance" (v.32).

To everyone who feels like a "throwaway" headed for the landfill of life, Jesus opens His arms of love and offers a fresh beginning. That's why He came!

*The power of God can turn a heart
From evil and the power of sin;
The love of God can change a life
And make it new and cleansed within. — Fasick*

Salvation is receiving a new life

1st Lt. M. Gammon

1st Sergeant's Column

Absolutely everyone who attended the 150th New Market Heights event had a good time as well as a serious CW experience. What w/having our own company, great field fortifications, and excellent logistical support then literally every need was met for each soldier's personal enjoyment! Captain Gammon located us in an excellent camp site and in direct proximity to both water and sanitation sources. The weather cooperated wonderfully w/only warm days and cool nights. I can't say enough good things about the support provided by Henrico County for what was their first ever CW event. Registration went well; parking out of the way, but close at hand as well sutler's row being close by; an excellent free BBQ dinner on Sat night; and a fabulous free book give away to participants. The book, "Henrico

County Field of Honor” sells for \$90.00 per the 2 volume set which each participant got for free! This excellent history by Louis Manarin is in fact a history of the CW in the immediate Richmond and Henrico County area and will prove most valuable to our membership. Additionally, w/our New England participants we had a total of 16 soldiers and 2 officers present for duty which made for a respectable size company.

Now we turn to the 150th Cedar Creek (17-19 Oct 14) which is a maximum effort event for Longstreet’s Corps and will be a large scale event. Logistically plan for two battles (one Sat and one Sun) w/a need for at least 120 rounds of ammunition; look for cool weather so that two blankets will be useful; there will be a large sutler’s area for those of you needing to spend your money; and bivouacking right on the original battlefield as well as access to the Belle Grove plantation house. A event not to be missed!

For directional purposes, that is, GPS use 8437 Valley Pike, Middletown, VA 22645 for an address.

For general directions from Richmond go I-95 North to Hwy 17 West at Fredericksburg merging onto I-66 West to I-81 South then to Exit 298 on US-11 (Valley Turnpike). Look for signage as site is well marked and then as usual go to registration before accessing camp area. Additionally, for useful web information go to the 150th Cedar Creek event site.

Mike Vice
1st Sergeant

Report of the actions of Sept. 12th & 13th, Lexington, VA.

Sept. 13th

F. Co was scheduled to go to “Thunder in the Valley” in Lexington but with to many desertions the company as a whole did not go, however Mike Touart and Mike Kulikowski, came to my house on Friday eve. We started with a short tour of the Battle of Piedmont which were would be fighting the next day. We drove over, down the road which was the Confederate line, and read the markers. Then we went out to dinner at an outside café and had a nice time. We worked a bit on some gear and then all spent the night at my house and got up on Sat and drove the rest of the way down to Lexington. We checked in, got our passes and drove over to the camp. It was a quite hilly venue, the sutlers were probably a half mile from camp and across a pretty wide valley. We found Col Shleton, and then Capt. Russell of the 47th and asked to join, and were accepted. After some chatting we found out that while there was a fair contingent of Federal Cavalry, there were only a handful of Federal infantry if that many. We decided to stay anyway since it was Mike Touart’s first battle and he did look snazzy in all his new attire. We went

over to the sutlers and did the usual shopping and eating before heading back to camp where we waited out a small shower under the hatch of my bus.

We formed up about 12:30, had the usual inspections and were stirred by a rousing speech by Col. Shelton. I will say I had the best looking file partner that I ever had! His name was Shasa, and if I didn't know better I would swear he was a she, but since that couldn't be, women can't be in the army, I will just have to wonder where the 47th found such a feminine soldier! We marched out of camp over to a hill and took up positions in support of the artillery of which we had three pieces I believe. The Yanks had two and there was a short artillery duel to start the battle. Our infantry numbered perhaps 150 and we were split into three wings, one out to each flank while F. Co. members were in the center, part of the color guard company and waited behind the artillery. The wings drove off some Federal Cav, and then we slowly advanced down the ridge pushing back a Federal skirmish line. (the Feds had been filled out somewhat with a few Galvanized Confederates) About halfway down the ridge I took a shot in the forehead and went down. (It was a nice vantage point for the rest of the battle) and watched as Mike and Mike kept with the colors and worked their way down the ridge and partway up the other side before the Cavalry overran the Yank Artillery and few infantry they had on the field. I don't believe Mike or Mike were hit.

So the Confederates swept the field clear of Yanks, which seeing as it was supposed to be the Battle of Piedmont, was unusual. After the battle Mike K. left and Mike T and I went over to Lexington and I drove him past the VMI parade ground, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, General Jackson's house, Church, and gravesite, as well as Lee's Chapel, Sam Houston's birthplace and the McCormick Farm. Mike T, said he had a good time and was looking forward to New Market Heights, and Mike K, said he was simply glad to do something outside as he has a new baby in the house and had felt a bit confined being inside for three months.

I had a good time being a tour guide, and showing that the Valley has a few interesting things to see, and while the battle was a bit small, in a way it was fun. If the company could have been there it would have been better, but since there were so few Yanks it was a bit of a strange battle. Lexington though is always nice so I will say the company did miss a battle they would.

That is my report, Sir,

Thanks

Cpl. Clements

New Market Heights

The Battle of New Market Heights is not one of the larger main battles of the Civil War, so it was all the more surprising that this turned out to be one of the best events that any of us have attended. The weather couldn't have been more cooperative, with sunny, mild days and cool nights.



Haze and campfire smoke
in the morning sunlight.

I didn't know what to expect, so I brought most of my equipment. I had planned to drive my truck back and drop off everything and then park, but I registered and then someone drove me to my truck in a golf cart and I put my gear in it and he took me to the edge of the woods where our camp was!

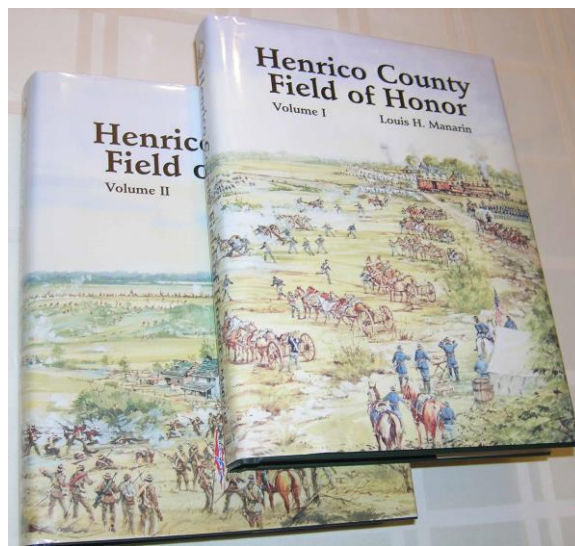
We formed up for battles at 11 am and 2 pm, which were Confederate losses. Henrico County went all out and had actually dug two series of earthworks for the battles. There were about 1,000 reenactors, including Union Colored Troops that had come from as far away as the northeast and Ohio and Illinois.



Forming on the earthworks before a battle.
Note the "E" shaped earthworks and the
long line of spectators in the distance.

Afterward, some of us went and walked the sutler area. They had a free bar-b-que dinner for everyone, so sat down and had bar-b-que, baked beans, a brownie and a chocolate chip cookie and listened to a period brass band strike up some tunes.

All of us had gotten coupons at registration for a book set, so we went to trade them in and, in return, we got two big hardbound volumes of *Field of Honor*, a history of Civil War Henrico County for free. The first 250 registrants got hardbacks and the rest got paperbacks. As you know, F Co is always one of the first to register for events and this time it really paid off.



The two-volume set, *Henrico County Field of Honor*, by Louis H. Manarin.
The price was definitely right!

In the evening, those of us who weren't off at the sutlers enjoyed the camaraderie of our pards around the campfire.

Sunday morning, we chose to forego the dawn tactical and there was coffee from the big F Co pot. It was actually very good as Captain Gammon had ground the beans right before the event and some went to the sutlers for breakfast. Chaplain Gammon then led our company church service with a message on faith.

I started packing up little by little and Bob, one of the New England guys that had come down, hailed a golf cart for me and they took me and all my equipment to the truck, loaded it all in and they brought me back.

Sunday's battle was at 1 pm. Unlike yesterday, we won this time and it's always good to walk away a winner. But, either way, because of the great job done by Henrico County, all attendees were winners!

Ode to Joe

