

Vol. XIII. September, 2014 Issue IX.

Captain's Column

Gentlemen,

It has been a long summer off, but September is upon us and I for one am ready to get going again. We will be in Lexington on the weekend of September 12 – 14. New Market Heights in Henrico County will be on the weekend of September 26 – 28. Please see the 1st Sgt.'s column for details.

I am short winded this month as I am writing this the day after my sister's funeral. You may or may not know, but my sister passed away on Sunday, Aug. 24th after a very long, 10 plus year battle with cancer. Cancer may have won this battle, but she won the war. I know she is in the presence of the Lord.

I will very much need the escape of a weekend in the field. Please make every effort to attend if you signed up. If you didn't sign up but wish to attend, please contact your Corporal to see if there are openings to get you in.

Respectfully,

Captain Gammon

Chaplain Corner

The article gives insight saying that God's plan is for us to be patient with one another. We are in fact one body and one faith, united under Him, our patience with one another will allow the body of Christ as a whole, may be edified. We are encouraged to be patient with one

another, as Christ is patient with us. As the article explains, we all contain that fatal flaw that detracts would be relationships from forming, just as we are drawn to or away from others based on their attitude and qualities. Remember that we are created in His image, with that in mind patience, understanding, acceptance and forgiveness, to name a few, are entirely possible. As you go throughout your day, try to look at people as a member of your own family (essentially they are) and let that dictate your interactions. Everything you do, do it from a foundation of love, and people will feed off of that. If you put good in, you will inevitably get good out!

1st Lt. M Gammon

Difficult People- Dennis Fisher

August 7th, 2014 — by *Dennis Fisher*

Read [Ephesians 4:1- 12](#)

The book *God in the Dock*, author C. S. Lewis describes the kind of people we have trouble getting along with. Selfishness, anger, jealousy, or other quirks often sabotage our relationship with them. We sometimes think, *Life would be much easier if we didn't have to contend with such difficult people.*

Lewis then turns the tables on us by pointing out that these frustrations are what God has to endure with each of us every day. He writes: “You are just that sort of person. You also have a fatal flaw in your character. All the hopes and plans of others have again and again shipwrecked on your character just as your hopes and plans have shipwrecked on theirs.” This self-awareness should motivate us to try to show the same patience and acceptance to others that God shows to us daily.

In Ephesians, Paul exhorts us to arm ourselves relationally “with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love” (4:2). The one who is patient is better able to deal with a difficult person without becoming provoked to anger and retaliation. Instead, he or she is able to endure, exhibiting grace in spite of upsetting behavior.

Are there difficult people in your life? Ask God to show His love through you.

*Some people can be difficult to love,
And so we do not even try to care;
But God says, “Love them just as I’ve loved you—
You’ll bring Me glory as My love you share.” —Cetas*

See others as God sees you.

1st Lt. M. Gammon

1st Sergeant’s Column

Well after having a slow summer we’ve got two events scheduled for September! The first is “Thunder in the Valley”, the 150th Battle of Lexington (12-14 Sep 14), and second is New Market Heights (26-28 Sep 14). So start checking out your kit, get that musket cleaned again, and start loading ammunition.

Thunder in the Valley is in the Shenandoah Valley for those of you not aware w/its scenic vistas and mountainous terrain. While this event puts emphasis on cavalry due to Hunter's Raid, nonetheless, it has an infantry component w/F Co. being a key part of that. This event will have two battles w/one on Sat and one on Sun, so you should plan on 100-120 rounds of ammunition including caps. Might want to bring an extra blanket as the Valley will start to cool down in the evenings this time of year. For travel purposes your heading for the Virginia Horse Center, 487 Maury River Road, Lexington, VA 24450. Head out of Richmond on I-64 West following it into the Shenandoah Valley and turning south then west just north of Lexington. Look for signs for Virginia Horse Center and exit off of I-64.

Our second event is sponsored by Henrico County which is sponsoring the Battle of New Market Heights, which is part of the Federal investment of Lee at Petersburg w/something like 1000 acres for our use. This will be an authentic event so be prepared for movement w/all your equipment as well as feeding yourself in your mess group, so start talking to your mess partners! Three battles are planned w/two on Sat and one on Sun, so I'd recommend 120-150 rounds of ammunition as I expect all of these to be serious fighting. If you've got a period shovel or other period digging implements then plan on bringing and using them as we'll be bivouacking in the trenches on Sat night and we'll be expected to improve our positions. For travel purposes your going to 8750 Willis Church Road, Henrico, VA 23231. Take Hwy 5 (New Market Road) from Richmond south, which is the James River Plantation route, to the vicinity of the Malvern Hill Battlefield area and look for signage to Willis Church Road. Strongly recommend you arrive on Fri as this is a free event for the public so traffic and parking will quickly become an issue on Saturday.

Non-Commissioned Officer Training Course

I'm giving serious consideration to conducting a Non-Commissioned Officer training course for F Co. provided I have at least 5 serious applicants to attend the course. The purpose of the course will be to cover the 19th century military duties of the NCO, and the 21st century administrative functions of an NCO w/emphasis on the duties of the Corporal as a platoon commander. Tentative date for course is the second Sat in Dec in the Richmond area w/the course lasting 4-6 hours. Participants will be provided w/handouts along w/hands on refinement of military drill and military leadership skill development. Participants in this course will be given preference in future F Co. promotions as non-commissioned officers.

I need to hear from you by phone, email or postal mail by 5 October 2014 as to your commitment to attend this course. Your first test as a potential NCO is to meet this suspense reporting date!

Sincerely,

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

New Market Heights

In the next few weeks there will be updates being emailed from the County, but I wanted to send you all a quick update and request for information.

First of all, I want to thank each and every one of you for your participating in this landmark event.

The battles of Fort Harrison, New Market Heights and Second Deep Bottom have never been recreated before, especially not on this scale. My philosophy is simple, history first, last and foremost.

From *Fire on the Mountain*, *Burkittsville 2001*, *War on the James*, *Summer of '62*, *To the Gates of Washington*, *September Storm*, *At High Tide*, *Return to Manassas*, *Hope's Campaign* and *Along the Potomac, Maryland my Maryland*

and a host of others, we have provided reenactors with events that put history first.

We must always remember, it's about "them," the Brave Boys of '64.

We all spend thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours to participate in this great hobby of ours, and you must be rewarded with the best Civil War Experience available- not one watered down for the common participant, but one that will provide you with the experiences we all set out to find.

For the past ten years we have been using the following model:

1. *Historic Progressive Scenarios*, with unit-specific researched scenarios, historical force ratios, good combat distance, and background information so each unit can properly research their role in the event.
2. *Fun*. Bringing back the fun of the hobby. We will have good battles, plenty of living history and reenactor education programs, good camping areas for both campaign and garrison troops.
3. *Event rule enforcement*. Most events have rules, but no one enforces them, causing the actions of a few to mar the weekend of the many. This will not happen at this event. There will be even-handed polite but firm event rule enforcement. Please review the rules and regulations as listed on this site. These are not "hard core" rules, nor are they lax. They are basic quality and safety rules. For an organizer or commander, this is not the "fun" part of the job (if there is one), but rather the hardest part, but one that is rightfully expected by the participants, and as such is the most important part of my job. I owe it to you that the actions of a few do not detract from the experience of the many.
4. *Treating reenactors with respect*. Not as zoo animals put there for some organizer's profit.
5. *Honoring and Remembering* those Brave Boys of 64, of BOTH sides!
6. *Public education*. Our goal is to provide high quality demonstrations in order to better educate the attending public and create in them a better sense of our collective history.
7. *The Civil War Experience*. To set the stage for each of you to truly experience those tragic days of 1864 and provide the field on which each of you will excel.

At the event, you will experience scenarios that have never before been recreated, on pristine land, complete with field works that have never been as detailed and historically correct. By

working together, as one team, we hope to bring respectability and honor to those Brave Boys who gave their final devotion to the cause they embraced.

To help you prepare for the event- I have not only provided several links [here](#)

Be sure to read the Confederate Impressions Page and the Tutorial for Commanders.

Also it is key that you read the rules and regulations posted [here](#), as I promise you they will be enforced as written.

I am working now to set the Order of Battle and have also attached the CS Camp Layout and the General event site layout.

Information for in processing to speed your registration process will be sent out from the County shortly.

Also, you must remember several key things- Reenacting is ACTING. Each of us owe it to the Boys of 64 to represent them as accurately as possible.

This means whenever you are under fire, ACT LIKE YOU ARE.

No stopping to dress lines, just absolute controlled, or semi controlled chaos.

When advancing on the enemy, hunch together and lean forward as if into a thunderstorm.....when you fall back, break and run like hell , if captured throw down your weapon and scream don't shoot, if you are taking a hit, go down screaming and rolling.

11 men were wounded on average to every man killed, so the ground around the battle lines should be filled with men rolling stumbling, yelling and crying.

Many times over the weekend we will have men captured, or breaking and running, this means RUNNING for cover.....

If you have any questions on the rules and regulations ask them NOW, when we have time to address them.

I have also attached a short tutorial called HAVERSACK 101- or how to live without a cooler.

In camp NO modern items (clothing, food stuffs, coolers etc) can be seen at anytime all weekend.

All cars will be out of the camp area by 11pm Friday night or they will be towed. Cars will not be allowed back into camp until the end of the event.

Any unit who breaks the rules and regulations may be asked to leave.

History comes first, and this covers your kit, your actions and demeanor.

Both nights CS troops will be able to occupy the works, to work to improve them and to experience what those men did so long ago.

Be sure to HYDRATE and get yourself in the best shape possible so that you may physically enjoy the event.

There is a lot more information I will be sending you shortly, but review all of the attached files and links, and let me know what I can do to serve you better.

I Remain,

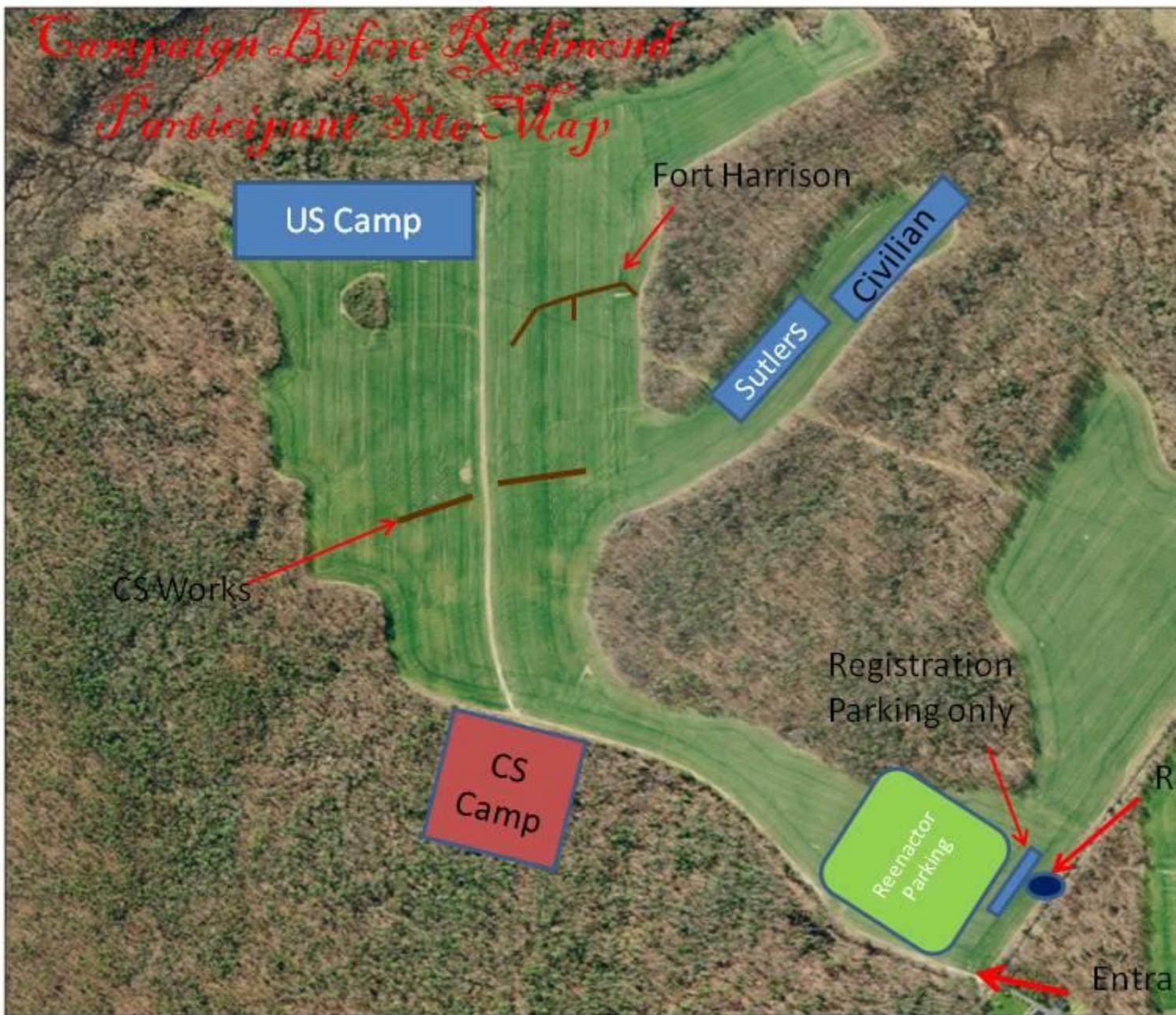
S. Chris Anders

Gen'l, Command'g

States Rights Forces

CBR







Campaign Before Richmond Rules

The following rules are in place to insure maximum authenticity and enjoyment for all participants, and also to be sure we properly represent history to the public. The spectators who attend reenactments today are far more educated than in the past, so it is our responsibility to them to raise our standards so as not to disappoint or mislead them. All questions concerning these regulations should be addressed to the event host. Thank you for your participation.

There will be 4 main camps established- the First two will be military only camps for the respective sides that will be run as military camps of 1862, period. Next there will be an authentic civilian camp that will have specific authenticity regulations and limited participation, and finally a camp of convenience for those who wish to camp mixed (civilian and military together) which will be separate from the respective military camps, and have their own logistical support and Camp Chain of Command.

These rules apply to all participants equally.

1. No illegal drugs. THIS IS A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY.
2. Artillery and cavalry and **all Confederate impressions** by invitation only. This is to maintain proper force ratios.
3. No specialty impressions (Lee, Grant, Lincoln, Davis, female soldiers, vivandiers, foreign observers, general's without commands, Belle Boyd, Indians, zouaves -unless specifically

called for in a scenario), seaman, marines_ and so forth- are allowed without pre event approval. Please contact the event organizer with any questions concerning this.

4. There will be 4 main camps established- the First two will be military only camps for the respective sides that will be run as military camps of 1862, period. Next there will be an authentic civilian camp that will have specific authenticity regulations and limited participation, and finally a camp of convenience for those who wish to camp mixed (civilian and military together) which will be separate from the respective military camps, and have their own logistical support and Camp Chain of Command.
5. No excessive drinking will be permitted in any camp, period.
6. Military: All commanders will be held liable for the actions of their troops, **both on and off the field.**
7. Civilians: There will be a civilian coordinator on site, and all are encouraged to work together to improve their experience. Any Civilians wanting to enter the Military camps must receive a pass to do so.
8. ALL participants must be in period dress from 7 a.m. Saturday through Sunday after the battle. Anyone not attired in period dress will be asked to leave the period camps.
9. No modern items are to be open to public view. Camps will be patrolled by the provost to insure maximum authenticity at all times.
10. No cars will be allowed in camp after 11 p.m. Friday until after the battle on Sunday. No participants are allowed to break camp prior to the Sunday battle.
11. No dead animal parts on uniform or weapons. This means plumes, feathers, animal tales or other such ornamentation, unless prior documentation is provided to the event organizer.
12. No Zouave muskets, Kentucky Rifles, Shotguns, Hawken Rifles, or any other weapon not of the 1864 timeframe will be allowed without prior approval and documentation.
13. NO modern glasses, shoes, watches or any other clothing item will be allowed. This is a zero tolerance policy. **ZERO.**
14. All military impressions should be of the 1864 period. See the "Looking 1864" portion of the web site.
15. Children must be dressed as per children of the 1860's, not as kids in uniforms playing war with cap guns...this will not be allowed.
16. Correct Corps Badges for Federals- will be designated per scenarios and sent out through the chain of command.
17. Only commissioned officers will be allowed to carry side-arms, with the exception of mounted troops who will be allowed one pistol per person.
18. Only full-scale artillery allowed. This means 57" inch wheels. We are limiting the number of guns per side to allow for more historical portrayals. Please contact the organizers prior to registering as Artillery.
19. No unscripted hand-to-hand combat will be allowed.
20. All troops not following orders from the respective commanders will be asked to leave the event.
21. Each camp will be patrolled by event staff to insure maximum authenticity at all times. No modern food containers, coolers or beverage containers will be allowed out in public view. All companies and participants that require the above conveniences must keep them hidden at all times during public hours and are strongly encouraged to do so at other times. This is to increase the quality of the event for reenactors and spectators alike. If a company violates this policy they will be subject to be removed from the event at the discretion of the staff.
22. No participants under the age of 16 will be allowed to carry weapons at any time, on or off the field.

23. All participants under the age of 16 must be functional musicians to be allowed on the field and no one under the age of 13 allowed on the field at all. This is for both authenticity and safety reasons.
24. **Ramrods are not to be used at any time during the battle**
25. Those participants who portray barefooted soldiers are permitted to do so, however, the event is in no way responsible for injuries caused by this portrayal.
26. All troops are encouraged to carry a full kit during the battles - blanket or knapsack,.
27. Any horse on site must be listed on your registration form.
28. All participants are highly encouraged to camp as light as possible, for the troops we are portraying are for the most part veterans, and would have shed unnecessary baggage.

Eating in the Field

Haversack 101

Living out of your haversack doesn't have to be a deprivation experience, nor do you need to fill it with ice or convert it into a refrigerator. Fear about food spoiling over the course of an event, are, with some easily avoided exceptions, mostly fairy tales.

Here's the broad rules for a good experience:

1. No modern packaging. No tin foil, no clear wrap, no plastic. Wrap it in brown paper or cloth. Cloth sacks are invaluable in keeping the sugar out of the coffee- out of the bacon- out of the flour.
2. Plan on spending time preparing your food. Right, this is not the modern expectation. We think about food and, moments later, we eat food, thanks to microwaves and ranges. Food in 186x required preparation.
3. For your first time eating from your haversack, keep it simple.

Tip #1: Most people who get sick shortly after reenacting events are suffering from food contaminated with fecal coliform. Whether it's portapotties, a laurel bush, or lack of awareness about just how fast horse manure can get from the horse to the field to your shoe to your hand to your food, it's contamination and it will make you sick. So the first tip is two-fold: Be aware of the danger you face, and wash your hands before you handle food. This isn't a modern imposition. Most everyone in 1860 grew up with the admonition that cleanliness was next to Godliness, even if some were too stupid or too tired or too far away from soap and water to implement the advice.

Tip #2: You can fry food, you can boil food, but either way, the smaller the chunks you start with, the faster the process. Faster cooking means less time spent nursing a fire and less time gathering firewood.

Tip #3: Things that you wouldn't normally think of combining, like ham, rice, apples and onions, take on a whole new aspect in the field. The solution for that combination is to put the thing that needs the longest cooking on the fire first, then add the rest in stages. That would be rice (you have to bring it to a boil and then keep it at a simmer. Twice as much water as rice), onions (take longer than you think), ham, and apples (if you overcook apples, they disintegrate into a visually disturbing red mass of peels.)

Tip #4: Things that are first fried and then boiled impart different flavors. Fried onions added to rice and carrots yield a very different taste and texture than onions that are simply boiled.

Things you can bring:

Beginner's menu:

Dry sausage (it's available at most supermarkets. It's the stuff they don't refrigerate. That's a clue that it won't spoil. It will last longer than an Egyptian mummy.)

Two apples

Two small onions

Hardtack

A small sack of coffee

A small sack of sugar

A small sack of salt.

This menu uses minimal water. You can cube the sausage, apples and onions, fill up your big tin cup half way, dump it in and put it on to boil. Crumple up a piece of hardtack when it's about done and you've got most of the basic food groups warm and tasty.

Intermediate menu 1:

A pound of slab bacon (it will get eaten, don't worry).

One each: onion, potato, carrot and apple.

Coffee, sugar, salt

Hardtack

Rice

You now have the option of frying the bacon in a pan or canteen half, generating grease, and breaking up hardtack and frying that in the grease also. It is surprisingly good, especially if you eat this Saturday after a day outdoors. The rice can be boiled and used in combination with any of the other ingredients.

Intermediate menu 2:

All of the above, but substitute groats for rice. Groats are shelled but not pressed or otherwise processed oats or buckwheat. It's cereal; you cook it like rice, and it can go either as breakfast, in which case you might want to hit it with sugar, or a main meal, in which case it's used just like rice.

Hardtack and groats can be found at various suppliers, you just need to get online.

Beyond the basics:

When you figure out this stuff isn't going to kill you, it's time to refine what you do. Our 19th century counterparts had access to vegetables and foods that have fallen out of favor today, things like parsnips and Jerusalem artichokes. It is also good to check what the availability of food would have been in the areas and at the times being reenacted; apples have a long storage life, but peaches as peaches have a short season. Canned or preserved peaches are a different possibility.

Researching the foods available will help you prepare your impression for the weekend, and learning these skills will not only heighten your education, but also your appreciate of the common Civil War Soldier and help you look "1863."

Ode to Joe

