

# The Rebellion Crier

Newsletter of 16<sup>th</sup> Virginia, Co D. and 41<sup>st</sup> Virginia, Co F  
Volume 2, Number 1 – April 12, 2007

## A Letter from the Colonel



Attention  
Brigade!

As you were!

That sure  
sounds  
different!

Well, I am so  
sorry it has  
taken so long  
to put out a

newsletter. As you all know, we have been very busy preparing for Cold Harbor. I have to say we had a lot of work, meetings etc., to pull it off! Speaking of pulling it off, WE DID IT!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Everyone was so pleased with the event. We made a few mistakes but with the county's help we got everything fixed. I want to thank everyone who came out on the work weekends to get the site ready. We were down to the wire but we did it! I want to specially thank Tim Downey and Ron Pierce for helping out at the planning meetings. I want to thank Armand and the provost for keeping everything moving Friday. Before I forget it, Evan thanks for sticking it out at registration for 10 hours. Also to everyone parking cars etc.! The re-enactors were so impressed how friendly and how helpful you all were. Keep up the good work. We had 3000 spectators for the weekend. There were 1200 re-enactors on site. I wish I had a dollar for every ounce of powder that was fired that weekend. I do not know yet how much was cleared after all was paid for. I hope to know more by this coming Wednesday night. The ANV was so impressed that they have asked us to host the 145th Anniversary of the Battle of

Chancellorsville. They are working with the North and South alliance to get the blue down. They feel they can do it. So I told them we will do it. We have really made the big time!! Now down to business ! It is time for us to act as Mahone's Brigade! Not as the 16th or the 41st. The reason we made the 41st was to help us grow and also help the battalion grow as well. Last weekend I heard things I did not like at all. We need to get things straight. Until the 41st is able to hold it's own as a company on the field, they will be in the ranks with the 16th. We will help train their NCOS. While one company is in the support of another company, the supporting company is senior. This means that the NCOS are junior until they can support themselves. This does not mean you have to change your rank or anything like that. All men including NCOs and officers must show military courtesy toward each other. As soon as the 41st gets up to strength, we will begin forming the 12th Va. They will fall junior to the 41<sup>st</sup> and so on. We have to work together or this will not work. This is what happened in the Brigade in the 80s. Let's not repeat history. We have a long way to go. I was contacted to see if I would command the 150th Big Bethel in Hampton in 2011. I will tell you more as I learn more. I hope to see you all in Smithfield for Patriots day. Until then,

I remain your obedient servant,  
sirs!

Colonel Billy Smith

## **A letter from Captain Pierce**

Well guys, we did it. The event was a great success. I believe it will be talked about for a long time. Everyone was impressed with all that we had done. The ANV staff was really impressed with the event. Over all it was a great weekend. The camp life and the battles were great fun. I would have to say Saturday's battle was the best to me. Fighting across the field and into the works and holding off the cavalry. Every one did well. By the way, thanks for wearing the blue. It made the event. I would like to say that you guys were great all weekend, from the drills to the battles. And to all the NCOs - great job. I would like to say to the new Lt. and 1st Sgt. thanks for making everything work so well. Now, as for the work weekends. I think that Billy and I were impressed with the turnout of guys and how well the work got done. It was a lot of hard work, but it was worth it. Hats off guys! Job well done. One last thing. I would like to thank every one for the way you jumped in Friday night and helped with the parking and registration. And to Evan thanks for all you did being there all the way helping me with every thing. You did a great job. Well until next time we meet, keep your powder dry.

Your obedient servant

Capt. Ron Pierce  
16<sup>th</sup> VA. Co. D

## **A letter from Captain Dufresne**

Great news !!!!! The 41st Va. Co F is here. As most of you know, last October at Cedar Creek, Billy asked the company to start a new unit. We are growing. We

have seven members to date. I would like to welcome the following new people to the unit: Robert Miller, J C Kimmer, (pastor) Troy Brewer and Stephen Arrington. Cold Harbor was our first event. The men fell in with the 16th. When we have to wear the blue, we will be known as the 53 Massachusetts. We also have our own web site, special thanks to Ken for making the site for us. We should be linked to the 16th site soon, check us out. I would like to thank all that came out and worked to make the Cold Harbor site ready for the event. Great job men. As most of you know, this is the last year for Chesapeake Civil War Days. It will be sad to see it end after 15 years. Again, I will take care of the registration. Everyone that wants to go will need to let me know by Dixie Days. Same as last year: \$5.00 and two breakfast's and Saturday night meal, by Orpax again. You can pay me when you arrive at the event. If anybody has any questions feel free to call me, (757) 366-8907. I understand that the 79th New York will not be there this year. Again, I will ask both units to camp grey and fight blue.

Yours in Service

Capt. Armand Dufresne  
41<sup>st</sup> VA. CO. F

## **From the desk of the Quartermaster**

Well boys, we did it! We pulled off our first major event at our new home. There are so many of you that put in a lot of time to make it all work. Billy, Ron and I started going to meetings right after Christmas with the County to start the ball rolling. It took so much time but I also feel proud that I was

involved in making this event a hit. You guys ain't seen nothing yet! This is just the start of something huge! A local event on the scale of Cedar Creek! If anybody can do this it's this great bunch of guys that are members of Mahone's Brigade. My report from the Quartermaster will touch on a few things. The unit stickers that we have will bleed after a while, as everyone knows. Col. Mullen is the only one that I know of that did not cut his. His sticker did not bleed and that is probably the best way to display them. Anyhow, I have a few left so if you need one let me know in Smithfield. The next run I will change a few things to make them better and will also include the 41st CO F. We also have a good lead on unit hats, jackets, and t-shirts. I issued four Mahone's shields for shell jackets and I am also working on other ideas to make them more durable. Also, keep in mind that when I get my inventory list finished any items that the 16th or the 41st may need can be issued or signed out for use. Both First Sgts will be the responsible party for any equipment. Any company equipment for both companies and any future companies that we may form will be my responsibility until Col. Smith sees fit to increase the Quartermaster to two positions. Remember guys this equipment is yours to use so if you need something request it.

Quartermaster Sgt. Tim Downey

## 2007 Schedule

April 14th - Patriot Days in Smithfield

April 15th - Work Party to build shed at Billy's

May 18th - 20th - Ft. Pocahontas.

June 9th -10th - Dixie Days Battalion Event

July 28th - 29th - The Crater Living history Petersburg Va. DATE TENATIVE

Aug 11th - St. Lukes Smithfield living history. 1 day event.

Sept 8th - 9th - Chesapeake Civil War Days

Oct 19th - 21st - Cedar Creek ANV Max event

Nov 3rd - 4th - Locust Grove

Dec 8th - 9th - Christmas event. IWC

## Hand Made Haversacks

Last year, I visited the Museum of the Confederacy and while there, spoke with the museum director, a VMI alumnus. He allowed me to take measurements of one of the real Confederate haversacks in the vault. From these measurements, I have learned how to hand make authentic Civil War haversacks.

If anyone is interested in buying one, I will sell them for \$27 a piece. Any haversack that is machine stitched is farby and not authentic. These average \$20 to \$25. By contrast, a handmade haversack can cost anywhere from \$60 to \$95 dollars. Check the website <http://www.haversackdepot.com/haversack.htm> and look at the Alabama Haversack. It is the same style I am making and is \$59.00 + \$5.00 for shipping.

For \$27, which will include the cost of shipping, I will give you a handmade, high quality Civil War Haversack for the price of a cheap machine made one.

The Specifications are:  
56 inch strap - longer than most, but it should fit everybody

10 inches across pocket  
10.5 inches deep pocket  
Flap is 4.75 inches from the tip  
to the base.

The haversack's stitches are  
close together for strength and  
sides are stitched both inside  
and outside according to the  
original for durability.

If you are interested, please  
let me know. Send me a check to  
my address VMI Box 32,  
Lexington, VA 24450 until May  
15<sup>th</sup> - 349 Lynchburg Drive Newport  
News, VA 23606 after the  
15th.) Include your mailing  
address. I will put your  
haversack into the mail as soon  
as I receive the check. If you  
have any questions, please let  
me know. My  
regular e-mail is  
[abruzzesevw@vmi.edu](mailto:abruzzesevw@vmi.edu) Thanks!

Vincent Abruzzese