

Chase Farm AAR

On the weekend of 14-15 September 2013

The 1st Company, Richmond Howitzers participated in their Sixth event of the season.

Weather:

I am not sure why, and I am not complaining, but for the second event in a row we could not have asked for nicer weather. While the temps were overall a little cooler, (it is almost Fall), the day time temps were in the mid/ high 70's with bright sun and clear skies. Night time temps were in the mid 50's.

Friday 13 September 2013

Due to many of our membership living close by or family commitments, only Mike showed up Friday night and arrived about 1930. He, with the help of his son Andy, set up one A-frame and waited for the rest of the Company to help setup camp in the morning.

Saturday 14 September 2013

One by one the membership arrived that included; Wayne, Randy, Joyce and Vinny, Dan, Bob, and Linda. Three additional A-frames and the Company fly were put up and the cannon was offloaded from the trailer.

The field where we camped had our tent backs right next to the infantry and the battlefield was in our front, only 25 yards away. To our right about 25 yards were the vendors and Suttlers. The Union forces and Cav were up on the hill to our far right (where we have normally been in past years). Overall we had a very nice location with easy access to everyone and everything.

At 0930 we held the "Drill of the Piece" with Linda #1, Dan #2, Randy #3, Bob #4, Mike was the Gunner, Vinny was #5, and Wayne was at the ammo box. We ran through several drills, as we had two people learning new positions, and fired two live rounds.

For the rest of the morning and until forming up for the afternoon battle we visited with friends, Suttlers, had lunch and just relax in each others company and enjoyed the nice weather. The crowd was always flowing and we had many opportunities to tell them about ourselves and our cannon.

We formed up for battle at 1330 and positioned ourselves just below the knoll. The spectators stood to our right. To our left was our infantry. Our men were in the same positions on the gun as for the morning drill with Captain Wayne running powder and being our primary safety observer. The Cav broke into two 3-horse squads; one Confederate and one Union and fought early in the battle in our front. In the past, we were on the opposite side of the battlefield so our new position gave us a vastly different prospective. The Union artillery, which had three cannons, was located across the field from our position. The infantry on both sides fought it out in the middle of the battlefield.

Our battle loosely played out as a real engagement 150 years ago and with the aid of an announcing system the crowd was kept informed of what was happening in almost a play-by-play description. Overall it was fun to observe and to participate in.

We safely and effectively fired 10 rounds. – Nice job!

Back in camp and after a short rest camp we had a short Company meeting whereby Linda was voted in as a full member.

Later in the late afternoon the Freeloves, Bob, Linda and Wayne left to return to their quarters. Mike and Dan remained and held down the “fort.”

Sunday 15 September 2013

Morning found those who went home to quarters returning to camp. The Freeloves brought with them a very welcomed “box of Joe.”

At 1000 the Company fell in with the rest of the Battalion for Dress Parade, even our smallest member Vinny was smartly present for this formation.

There was a Battalion-wide meeting held during which COL Paul announced that, due to his launching on a new career, he will not run for Colonel next year. Major Lee Jones announced that he would seek the Colonel’s position. Several other topics were brought up to include that for Miss Judy this would be her last event.

At 1300 we formed up and proceeded to the battlefield and positioned ourselves to support the infantry on the right wing [not too far from Saturday’s position.] Our infantry forces were entrenched in an earthen and wood fortification. Once again the scenario mimicked an actual battle and the movement of infantry units, the Cav and the artillery firing made for a grand show. Eventually the Union forces were too strong, charged and took our fortifications. Our forces were either killed trying to defend them or were forced to surrender. Since our position was far enough to the right we were not over-run and withdrew from the field to the right and returned to our nearby camp. We cleaned our gun and waited until the closing ceremony ended.

Our crew performed without a flaw and we fired 9 rounds before we were driven from the field.

We were back in camp at 1400 and the event closed at 1500. We were allowed to bring in our wagons at that time and by 1540 we were saying our goodbyes and heading home.

In total for the weekend we fired 21 rounds.

– **NICE job** to all who attended and thanks for coming out.

NEXT EVENT:

Worcester, MA event –

The Worcester, MA [Green Hill Park] event WILL BE a Company-wide Day-trip (Saturday 12 October). We will spend the day under the fly and maybe have a tent or two to change and stow our stuff. After the event we can say our "thanks and goodbyes for the season" and for those who would like, we can go out for a simple bite to eat before we head home.
– Look for more information about this event in future emails.

* * * Comments * * *

(1) PICTURES of Chase Farm by Joyce and some photographers who came to this event are on our RHs' Website

<http://1stcorichmondhowitzers.com/photo-gallery/?album=1&gallery=17>

*More will be
POSTED shortly*

(2) Congratulations:

To Linda on becoming a full membership of our Company

(3) Madison, CT event scheduled for 28-29 Sept:

Due to most of our membership having other commitments and we having insufficient people to man a gun crew; the Richmond Howitzers will NOT be attending this event.

(4) Weekend Summary:

-- This is the same thing I wrote last AAR, but it is still true for this event!

Weather --- Excellent

Location & Battle --- Super

Company's Performance & Friendship Shared --- Outstanding [priceless]



Yours in services and respectfully submitted

Wayne
Captain Wayne