

Chesapeake Volunteer Guards



DISPATCH COURIER

Volume I, Issue 2, May 2006

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Gentlemen,

When you start a new organization, many changes will occur in the first year as we grow and evolve. The first for us is a name change for the new battalion.

When we selected the Washington Light Infantry for our name at the initial meeting, we were not aware of the Washington Light Infantry of SC. I was shortly thereafter told about them, and contacted them to find out they have been the WLI since 1807, and own that name in South Carolina.

I sent them a letter telling them of our plans and our mission, and I shortly received a call from them, objecting to our use of the name. Legally we could still be the WLI, but after discussions with our own leaders and the leaders of the Washington Light Infantry in SC, we decided to change our Battalion name out of respect for the current WLI. They've had the name for a very long time as a fraternal military organization with pride and honor and we respect that.

Therefore, after some discussion and some very creative ideas, our new Battalion will be called The Chesapeake Volunteer Guard or CVG. Since this Battalion will do both US and CS impressions depending on the event and has members both North and South of the Mason-Dixon Line, we felt the Chesapeake was symbolic of our battalion in how the Bay geographically brings North and South together.

The CVG is our current operating name until it is confirmed by the membership, or not, at the next annual meeting. This name was chosen by the Officer and NCO corps of the Battalion for our use in 2006. At the

2007 Annual Meeting, members can choose to confirm or change the name.

The web site is now active at:

www.chesapeakevolunteerguard.org

Remember, it is not important what we are named, but rather what we do that truly matters.

Feel free to call me with any concerns or questions about this or any other topic concerning the battalion.

So please do register for Shenandoah 1862, Perryville and other events now as the CVG. And by the way- register for both events today, sometimes we put stuff off and it never gets done. Having put on many events, I understand how it feels to have 400 pre registered a month out, and then 2000 register the last five days.

Ever complain about logistics at an event? Try planning one when the above happens! I hope we in the CVG will step up and help organizers plan better events for us by registering early.

All for now, the Campaign of 2006 has begun.

Guards Forward!

S. Christian Anders
Commanding
Chesapeake Volunteer Guard



www.chesapeakevolunteerguard.org



FIRST BATTALION EVENT: SHENANDOAH 1862

June 2-4, 2006

SHENANDOAH 1862: Confederate

REGISTER now at:

WWW.SHENANDOAH1862.ORG

Confederate forces 1862; a true campaign event, we will cover 7-8 miles that weekend, fighting on the actual battlefields of Cross Keys and Port Republic. 1st MD will be our guiding impression. **Guidelines start on page 8 herein.**

We should have over 70 members present, and it is the first official battalion event, so it would be “key” to see everyone there. This would start us off on the right foot, and make a statement for all to see.

“IF WE CAN GET SUFFICIENT NUMBERS ON THE FIELD, WE WILL HAVE OUR OWN BATTALION.”

Remember this is a preservation event, and **Dave Pridgeon** has worked hard to find matching funds that will triple whatever we raise, so pitch in a few extra \$\$ to help out.

There will be a ration issue, and the WLI is in overall command of the event. If you have to chose one event this spring- this is it!

More information will follow. Check the web page as new information emerges.

The official registration form is on-line and **fees and the signed two page form are due no later than (NLT) 19 May 2006.**



CAMP OF INSTRUCTION

May 12-14, 2006

Camp of Instruction, Fort Delaware: Federal.

Please see www.wmhf.org for the 1861 impression guidelines and other general information.

Highly encouraged for officers and NCOs, with period schooling - this will count towards the requirements for officer and NCO training.

Period Saber Drill for officers, and Bayonet Drill for Enlisted, along with School of the soldier and Customs of Service.



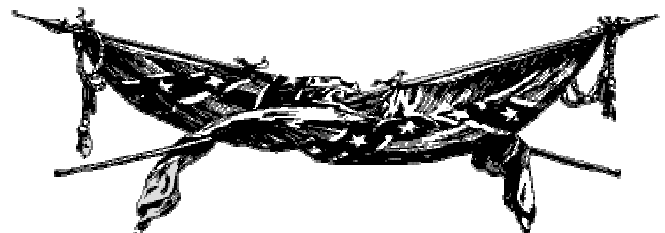
EVENTS SCHEDULE

www.chesapeakevolunteerguard.org

Consult the web page for the latest details.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Any member of the CVG is welcome to submit articles for publication in the Washington Light Infantry Dispatch Courier. Time urgent type articles will be used as first priority. Please contact Jack Hefestay at: hefestay@yahoo.com for additional details. Constructive comments on the newsletter are always encouraged.



May 27, 2006

Sharpsburg Memorial Day Parade and NPS National Cemetery Program. Federal 1862

This is the Annual Parade the National Park co-ordinates with the town.

We will be doing Federal in Full Marching Order- this means knapsacks. The primary guidelines are basic 1862 Federals, Caps preferred over Hats, and if you have a frock wear it.

This is Paul Chiles' final program for the park as he retires from Antietam on May 31st and has invited us and the Boys from the CMF in gray to be his final living historians.

As we will be doing a 21-gun salute at the National Cemetery, I ask each of you to be cleaner than usual. No torn or muddy uniforms out of respect.

Those who attend the parade are invited to stay at Chris Anders' house, as on Sunday he is having his daughter's 5th Birthday party combined with a house warming party. This means once again he will be smoking a whole hog...in other words- FREE FOOD. Let Chris know if you can support the parade effort.

June 9-11, 2006

Battle of Funkstown: Federal.

A fun laid back event for the local guys to come out and recruit while just relaxing. Those who do attend come as Federal - please bring your Hardee Hats. This is an interesting event, and a good "outreach" event. The event web site is hosted at www.wmhf.org

June 16-18, 2006

Rich Mountain, WV - Supported on both sides

This is an individual event, and please represent the CVG well.

June 23-25, 2006

Gilmor's Raid: Federal.

A fun little event organized by CVG member Charlie Kibler, and he needs some local support in blue. Our Pard Stephen Dunn is organizing the CS Cav to raid the village, and the Federals get run out of town - that is us! Be good to see a company of the CVG there to support Charlie, the event is located near Baltimore, and the web site is:

<http://www.jerusalemill.org/gilmor.html>

This is another great chance to recruit for the Battalion. Remember at these local events are our best chances to recruit membership and grow our battalion.

September 8-10, 2006

Sharpshooter Camp of Instruction Confederate, Dunlop's Battalion of Sharpshooters - Pamplin Park

Mike Hendricks and company have been working very hard n this program, and it is looking to be the ground breaking effort in 2006.

As a primer, please go to:

<http://sharpshooters.cfspress.com/index.html>

and read over that site, and if you can, order the book- "*Shock Troops of the Confederacy*" by Fred Ray. This book is excellent and the first written on these troops since Dunlop's autobiography in 1899. A must read, and it sheds so much light for the first time on the evolution of tactics on this level. A great read for a great impression.

The Web Site will have updates and general event information shortly.

October 6-8, 2006

US 79th PA - Perryville, KY



November 18, 2006

Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade, US Iron Brigade/24th Michigan Infantry.

UNIT MEMBERS BIOGRAPHIES

Charles Kibler

I was born in the eastern Tennessee hills near Kingsport, and am a proud member of the 1979 graduating class of the University of Tennessee. I moved to Baltimore in 1981 to start working at the Avalon Hill Game Company as a board-game artist and (eventually) wargame designer. In 1995 I started a 5-year employment stint at TalonSoft, maker of computer wargames. While employed there I first became aware of CW reenactments, as the boss would take me to help him hawk computer software titles (such as "Battleground: Gettysburg" and "Battleground: Antietam") to gullible, computer-savvy reenactors at area reenactments. Basically, Mr. Boss needed someone to man the table every time he and his son went off to enjoy the kewl battles. In 2000 I began working at Breakaway Games, where a fellow employee & avid reenactor (Bruce Milligan, Co. K, 1st Pennsylvania Reserves) finally pushed me enough to shoulder a musket and put on the wool. He didn't have to push very hard, actually. I was hooked from the start – there was absolutely NO turning back.



I prefer to do some sort of reenacting about three weekends -- out of the month ... more if possible. There was a stretch in the spring of '05 when I was out of the house eight weekends in a row. Somehow I still don't mind eating salt pork and hard crackers in the rain, and sleeping on the ground in 30-degree weather.

I prefer to do some sort of reenacting about three weekends -- out of the month ... more if possible. There was a stretch in the spring of '05 when I was out of the house eight weekends in a row. Somehow I still don't mind eating salt pork and hard crackers in the rain, and sleeping on the ground in 30-degree weather.

I'm currently a proud member of Co. H, 2nd Maryland Infantry (PACS), as well as Co. A, 3rd Maryland (NR). Oh, and some new-fangled group that can't settle on a name, something like the Chesapeake Volunteer Guards. Go Vols!

William "Dan" Paterson, Jr.

I was born in Washington, DC and raised in Bowie, MD and now reside in Centreville, Va. I'm married with one son who also reenacts with me occasionally. I've been involved in reenacting since 1996 and joined my first unit, the 7th Maryland Volunteer Infantry in 1998. I got involved in the hobby during the mid-nineties, which coincided with the Longstreet Memorial Project. My first event was Gettysburg in 1996 where I fell in with the 7th Battalion of the ANV: Tim Perry's outfit. He was a Longstreet impressionist at the time and it is this unit that got me more interested in the hobby. I happened to run into them at the Spotsylvania event a couple of years ago and was pleased to hear from them that I had come a long way over the last several years.



After several campaigns wearing the blue with the 7th Maryland I decided to go "campaigner" with the Liberty Rifles where I could wear both the blue and the grey/butter-nut and participate in more events. I am a great-grandson of Gen. James Longstreet, CSA and also kin to BG Samuel Garland, Jr. killed at South Mountain. I also

have an ancestor that was a Federal officer from Pennsylvania (a lieutenant Gardner) - just one of the many reasons I like to portray and honor the soldiers of both sides of the conflict.

I'm a 1981 graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park and I am also board member of both the Longstreet Society and the Pickett Society as well as a member of the John Bell Hood Historical Society. I have a program that I've given over the years to various historical groups entitled, "A Longstreet Pictorial History," that contains photographs from the general's personal photo album.

BRATTONSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA AAR, 23 APRIL

To the Commanding Officer, Chesapeake Volunteer Guard; herein is a summary of the activities of 1st platoon, Company A, of this service, to wit:

As order by command on the 21st the 1st Platoon detached from Company A and marched east from the village of McConnells to scout the area in and around Brattonsville Plantation. In order to determine enemy movements and to destroy any and all contraband found in the vicinity.

Upon arriving within the vicinity of Brattonsville, this command was halted for the evening and pickets were posted to guard while I awaited stragglers to arrive. On the morning of the 22nd with all 12 men accounted for in my command I advanced by the rear flank on the plantation. Ordering two scouts to advance ahead of the platoon they were soon engaged by the enemy upon entering the area of the barns and outbuildings. I immediately ordered the platoon to advance as skirmishers in order to engage the enemy and to determine its composition and strength. I soon determined the enemy was composed of regular troops and units of its Home Guard, which do to their superior advantage of numbers, attacked both my right and left flanks and threatened to envelope my force. After a sharp engagement I was forced to rally my command and retreat some distance to my rear. The platoon suffered one loss, Pvt. Thompson, who was wounded and regretfully left on the field combat. Sadly his body was later found and determined to have been executed by the enemy.

After pausing for some two hours to allow my troops to refresh I again formed the platoon and advanced once more on the plantation only to find that the enemy had fled. I immediately posted guards at the main plantation house and demanded entry. I found the house to be occupied by the Mistress of the plantation, Mrs. Bratton, two young children, and one old mute female Negro slave. I informed the Mrs. Bratton that the house and grounds would be searched for all contraband and the Negro was here by freed from her bondage. Detailing two men to search the plantation house I then ordered the rest of my troops to search surrounding houses and outbuildings. After finding a quantity of hams, side meat, sacks of cornmeal, flour, and rice, two bales of cotton, chickens, sheep, one fine

quadruped and its colt, and three bovines. The Mistress of the house was given by my order one minute to collect any and all possessions and to seek shelter with her family. Thereupon I put to torch all outbuildings, barns, cotton, wagons, and destroyed any and all farm implements we could find. In addition those farm animals that could not be driven off with my troops were slaughtered to deny these Seeches the ability to succor and nourish the enemy. I left only the main plantation house standing after determining no contraband remained inside and was only occupied by Mrs. Bratton, her children, and the mute Negro slave woman who elected to stay with her former master.

On this the 23rd of April, after bivouacking on the plantations grounds for the night my command is now moving northeast in order to join with the Company and the main body of the Army near the fords of the Catawba River.

D.M. Jones

1st Lt. Co. A., Chesapeake Volunteer Guards

* * * * *

I would personally like to thank all members of the Chesapeake Volunteer Guards who with friends turned out to make this event a complete success! We received high marks by both the spectators in attendance and by the Historic Brattonsville site coordinator, Mr. Keagle, and also by the chief curator of this historic site. Acting as my 1st Sergeant and the presenting an outstanding interpretation program to the public on the actions of Federal troops marching through the Carolinas was by John Pagano of the Hardtack Society. In addition we were assisted by four of his organization members whose names I regrettably cannot remember other than Mr. Keagle's. Representing the Chesapeake Volunteer Guards and going above and beyond their duties were Jeremy Cheeks, Scott Douglas, Layton White, Tim Gilligan, James Thompson, along with their friends Phil Hatfield, and 'Railroad' Bob. I'd also be remise not to thank our 'opposing force' the North State Rifles and Palmetto Society who did contributed greatly to this events success. Due to an injury and allergic reaction suffered by one of our members I had to leave the program Sunday afternoon in order to transport him home, but I'm sure the program was a complete success. Lastly, I would like to say if you ever are in South Carolina near this historic site it is well worth your consideration to visit because it is truly one awesome historic site!