



Captain's Report : Skirmish at Jeffersonville, Tazewell, VA April 2009

Gallant lads of the 28th Virginia,

For those of you not fortunate enough to have been able to participate on the field at Tazewell earlier this month, you certainly missed out on a wonderful event. Due to family obligations I was unable to attend the Friday evening encampment or serve the men on the field Saturday afternoon, but from all accounts of those present, the event was well done for a small event and a great time was had by all.

I arrived in camp late afternoon of Saturday and must tell you, the drive to Tazewell made the entire trip worth it of itself. What a beautiful country the Lord has provided us with and how wonderful He is to bless His children with such scenery as He has given us in our beloved Virginia Highlands. The camp at Tazewell was a beautiful meadow situated snug between the green, highland hills. With just a little imagination one could certainly imagine oneself standing in a great Scottish Glen between the "craggies."

Saturday evening was begun with a lavish dinner generously given by the hosting unit of the event and not a man left the place hungry. As night approached, a wonderful and fellowship filled evening of camaraderie ensued. The conversation was broken only to stroll over to the next company street to the home of a lively East Tennessee company and their home made instruments playing rousing period music. Cpl. Compton's rendition of "Old King Crow" was a hit with all, especially your Captain, who feels we may have to adopt this tune as our "company signature tune." We were also very pleased to make acquaintance with the fine fellows of the newly formed 14th Virginia Cavalry and made pledges all around of camaraderie and future cooperation between our two units.

Saturday night passed fair and warm dawning to a slightly overcast day but one that would be rain free at least until after the battle. The 28th was honored with the duty of opening the engagement on Sunday advancing alone to take on the Union Cavalry (14th VA), who surrounded us but could not break our square (actually more of an oval but you get the idea). It was great to be able to again work with a good Cavalry unit up close for some saber rattling. Bully 14th, Bully! The Confederate Cavalry (14th VA) supported us on our left flank and drove off the Union Cav, leaving us free to engage the vanguard of the Union advance. As we were being outnumbered, we were supported our right by the battalion of Captain Rick Henry. Though our forces fought valiantly to stay the tide of the Union advance, we were driven into the redoubt and eventually succumbed to superior numbers and firepower.

Jeffersonville will be an event that the 28th Va certainly should consider again and hopefully bring other Longstreet's Corps units with them. The event has the potential to be even better than it was this year, especially if some of our sister Corps units will galvanize for increased Federal numbers.

I sincerely look forward to seeing each and every one of you at New Market on May 15, 16, 17.

Until then I remain your Obedient Servant,

Captain Bishop