

AAR for Chase Farm, Lincoln, RI

This past weekend (17-18 September) saw: Darwin, Lisa, Mike, Michelle, Andy, Ellie, Bob, Elodie, Aaron and Wayne participated in the reenactment event at Lincoln, RI.

Weather both Saturday and Sunday was very nice during the day and a little cold at night.

FRIDAY: Darwin, Lisa, Mike and Wayne arrived late afternoon. Four tents were set up; one for Darwin & Lisa, one for the Mike, one for the Company and one for Wayne. Our camp was setup with Morton's Battery to our immediate front.

We went to our local favorite restaurant, The Lodge and the four of us had an enjoyable meal. Upon our return to camp, a fire was started, some stories and tells were shared, and by 2200 it was time for people to turned in for the night. While around the fire it was almost comfortable, once inside ones tent the temperature was cold. It was decided to seek warmth and Wayne, Darwin and Lisa proceeded to Wayne's home not too far away. Mike got the extra blankets, a coal heater and stuck it out knowing his mom's house was a short distance away if needed.

SATURDAY: By 0830 Wayne, Darwin, Lisa, Bob & Elodie, Aaron [put up a fifth tent], Paula (brought Aaron and spent some time catching up prior to her departure), Michelle, Andy and Ellie were on site and welcomed by a great fire started my Mike. We conducted gun drill at 0915. With Aaron as #4 and Michelle as #1. Filling out the rest of the positions was Darwin as #2, Lisa #3 and Bob on the ammo box. 1030 we fell into formation with the battalion and were inspected by General Lee. At 1115, Col Joe held an All Liberty Greys meeting and announced that he would retire at the end of this season. We had lunch and formatted up and moved out to the battlefield by 1330. The battle started a 1400 and due to the scenario the artillery did not get involved until half way into the battle. While the battle was good, due to this late entry we only fired 5 rounds. Henry joined us as a Cannoneer for the battle and ran the box while Bob ran the rounds. Both Bob and Lisa were able to break off and shoot their pistols off to our left with the dismounted Cav.

Open face chicken sandwiches, mash potatoes and corn were our main items for our dinner. Very yummy. For desert, we celebrated Andy's 11th birthday with cake and song.

Around 1945 we conducted a night firing and fired 7 rounds – lots of fun. Aaron, Michelle and even Wayne got an opportunity to pull the lanyard and fire the cannon. Check out the pictures online.

By 2030 most folk where at the Ball and dancing up a storm.

Overnight found Bob & Elodie, Michelle, Andy & Ellie and Wayne seeking shelter in quarters. Darwin & Lisa, Mike and Aaron guarded the camp.

SUNDAY: All hands returned from Quarters and were back in camp by 0815. At 0900 we held our RHs Activity. Wayne talked about recent Civil War news and current and past activities regarding the Richmond Howitzers. Bob and Mike lead discussion on what battles one considers to be the most significant and what theater of the war, East or West, made the biggest impact on the outcome of the Civil War. Everyone was given several handouts of the above to allow further research and reading on their own. I have saved copies for Joe and Dan.

At 1030 we joined the battalion for Dress Parade. After lunch we marched off to the battlefield.

The battle began at 1330 with the firing of our cannon. We were in a great location to fire without interference and in fact fired a record number of rounds (12). Michelle was a “lady” today (she is always a lady) and Henry did not join us. Wayne covered the box and #4 and Mike covered #3 and Gunner when Bob & Lisa were detached to fire pistols. After the battle we cleaned the cannon and returned to camp. We once again fell into formation with the battalion to hear Col Joe’s Farwell remarks.

By 1500 we had our wagons on site and proceeded to break camp. By 1600 we said our good byes and headed home.

NOTES and THANKS

1. Well done to Mike as Gunner this weekend, Aaron as #1 and #4, and Michelle as #1. Of course the rest of our veteran crew carried out their duties in their traditional fine fashion.
2. Aaron was with us for what might be his last event as he has enlisted in to the USMC and he leaves for Boot Camp on 23 January 2012. He will miss Rutland due to USMC training.
3. Aaron has donated his tent to the Company – Thanks Aaron and “Semper Fi”
4. Nice job to the TEAM work display by the 1st Co., Richmond Howitzers during this weekend.
5. Rounds fired 24 – and Thanks to Michelle stepping up and being a Cannoneer.
6. Thank you to Darwin for organizing camp, and arranging for the dinners.
7. Thanks to Bob and Mike for their presentations at our RHs Activity time.
8. Andy helped the Cav with Scout duty and the “Official” discharger.
9. Our “shy” young lady – Ellie – asked a young man to the dance. – Oh MY!
10. While we are on the subject of the dance. Cannoneers dancing together are a sight that should not be missed. LOL
11. We received from the Event Coordinator a \$50 bounty.

I am sure I am forgetting someone or something special, but not intentionally.

This has been said many times before, but the feeling has not diminished and in fact has only gotten stronger. I am so PROUD to be part of the Richmond Howitzers for the effort and freely giving and contributing of all members not only at this event but throughout the entire season.

Overall this was a GREAT event. The event coordinators did a super job with a lot of extra touches that we have not seen at this event in the past.

Special note: We elected to full membership Elodie. This was a quick and easy vote as Elodie has been a welcome addition to our camp for several events this year.

Next up is:

Our last event for the season is 1-2 October at Rutland, MA. Several of us, Darwin & Lisa, Bob & Elodie, Dan and Wayne have reservations at a nearby hotel. The Brady's live relative close by and will day trip it.

We will meet on site SATURDAY morning around **0730-0745** to set up the fly and one wall-tent for the Company membership to stow their personal effects.

For RHs Activities we have Dan and Michelle who will talk to us about Civil War photography.

Please prepare for your own lunches or use the vendors on-site Saturday and Sunday.

I anticipate Saturday's dinner to be at a restaurant.

Respectfully submitted
Captain Wayne
Commanding Officer
1st Co., Richmond Howitzers