



# 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Company B

**TO:** Membership  
**FROM:** Rolf Madole, 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant  
**DATE:** February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
**RE:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant's Report for 2021

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I have the honor to present the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant's Report on the 2021 campaign season.

The Company agreed upon seven events for 2021. Considering the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, many of the events that we traditionally participate, were canceled in 2021. Below is a comparison of the number of lists planned versus the number of events conducted:

Event Type	Planned	Actual
Living Histories	2	1
Parades / Honors	2	2
Reenactments	1	1
Drill	1	1
History Tours	1	1
Meetings	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>

Actual events and attendance:

Event	2021 Attendance	2020 Attendance	% from last year
Annual Meeting	15	15	100%
Manassas Drill Weekend	14	X	
1st Bull Run/Manassas Staff Ride	6	X	
Bristol Station Living History	3	X	
Cedar Creek Reenactment	18	X	
Gettysburg Remembrance Day	11	X	
Fredericksburg Commemoration & Picnic	14	12	117%
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>45*</b>	<b>180%</b>
<i>Avg Attendance/Event</i>	<i>11.6</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>77%</i>

\*45 is the total attendance of all events of the 2020 season, not just the events listed above.

With seven events accomplished, two members have "perfect" attendance for the season (see Attachment 1). Overall attendance was up predictably from last which can be accounted by in the increase of the number events. As with last year, this should not be construed as usable trend data considering the current pandemic.

Company drill was conducted in June at Manassas National Battlefield Park (MNBP) on Henry Hill. Along with the opportunity to kick off the two-year rust, the company provided a living history and firing



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demonstrations for the public. The MNBP staff was very supportive and extremely appreciative of our efforts. So much so, they have asked us to do it again in 2022.

For the first time, the regiment conducted a battlefield staff ride. The event was conducted at the Manassas NBP and followed the First battle of 1<sup>st</sup> Bull Run/Manassas. The all-day event spurred excellent conversations and an opportunity for company camaraderie.

The Fredericksburg 159<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial National Park Service (NPS) "March of the Irish Brigade" interpretive walk/march with Frank O'Reilly, was cancelled by the NPS. The Company continued with the traditional grave recognition and wreath laying ceremony at the South Docks. Unfortunately, Amy's Café could not accommodate the annual regimental dinner due to COVID restrictions. To compensate for the lack of a venue, we had a lovely picnic with catered and homemade barbeque at the city docks.

Even with the limited number of opportunities in 2021, there are members that deserve recognition and thanks. I submit the following not as a comprehensive list, but a few of many standouts from the past year:

Joe Abernathy for providing Taps on the bugle for various events. Joe was also the point of contact for the Bristol Station living history coordinating facilities and demonstrations.

Olaf Seaman the masterful demonstration of barbeque prowess in making a delicious brisket for the regimental picnic.

Hal Lapham for taking over quartermaster duties and providing loaner equipment for our new members and candidates.

Rae-Ann and Bill Voekner for coordinating the delicious camp meals and procurement of rations.

Joe Pankey & Dennis O'Connell for providing effective leadership and communication with the membership, event organizers and other associated organizations throughout these difficult times. Several of last year's events were events that had to be put together by the leadership such as the Fredericksburg commemoration and picnic.

I am sure that I have missed a few people and deeds that deserve mentioning this past year. Last year was certainly an improvement over 2020. I am optimistic that 2022 see continued improvement in the hobby. My sincere wish if for optimism that accompanies a new year, I look forward to the field and sitting around the campfire with each of you.

Your obedient servant,

*Rolf B. Madole*

1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant, Company C.  
28<sup>th</sup> Mass Vol Infantry

### Attachments

1. 2021 Attendance Roster

