

FEDERAL *Generals Corps*

“Preserving History through Living History”

After Action Report: Appomattox 2011

Appomattox “Long Road Home” – Cold Harbor Report:

The FGC and Lee’s Lieutenants has joined together with the Appomattox Co. Historical Society, Clover Hill Village, and United Daughters of the Confederacy Appomattox Chapter 11 to present a unique program of living history and reenactments called the “Long Road Home” (LRH). This five year program will honor five major battles culminating with the 150th Anniversary of Appomattox in 2015. During the weekend of April 8-10, 2011, the program featured the Battle of Cold Harbor held on the grounds of Clover Hill Village in Appomattox, VA. Both Joe Schafer (Federal Commander) and Jim Opdenaker served (and continue to serve) on the LRH committee.

During the weekend, reenactors and living historians engaged and included spectators into battle planning, camp life, caring for wounded soldiers, and many other facets of the lives of Civil War soldiers. The weekend also featured General Grant leading a council of war. On Sunday morning, a memorable church service was led by Pastor Rene and his wife.

Although the weekend was cold and wet, our spirits were never dampened, as three of our members burned powder in the reenactment of the Battle of Cold Harbor. While the Union forces charged the entrenched rebels, Union and Confederate generals, observed the battle.

Jay Vogel (General Longstreet) wore a blue uniform and joined the Union troops in the battle where he was wounded. Several youngsters then tried to drag the fallen soldier to the medical tent, but unfortunately he succumbed to his wounds along the way.

On Sunday, the sun came out drying out tents, flags and soldiers. A closing ceremony was held in which Gen. Lee handed out medals commemorating the five LRH Events along with the Cold Harbor hanger to FGC officers, while Gen. Grant did the same for Lee’s Lieutenants.