



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HISTORICAL COMPANY

To Honor, Preserve, And Educate

Protecting Our Future By Preserving Our Past

1 December 2022

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To: Mr. Dale Lee Sumner

From: GySgt (Ret) Thomas E. Williams, Director
United States Marine Corps Historical Company

Dale,

My apologies for the delay in writing to you. For the past two months we have been kept excessively busy with classes at the Naval Academy and Quantico, public educational programs (including The "At All Times Ready" Harpers Ferry program), and of course supporting several Marine Corps Birthday Balls and Ceremonies including the CMC's Ball.

With that said, I want to thank you for the copy of your book "*The Forgotten Marines*". I've now finally gotten a chance to sit down and read it, and I wanted to compliment you on a well written and well researched novel. The USMC Historical Company has been partnered with the NPS and Harpers Ferry National Park staff for over 30 years writing and presenting public programs (and PME's for various Marine Corps commands) telling the story of the John Brown Raid from the Marine Corps perspective. Over the years, although we have been able to touch thousands of visitors and Marines with our live programs, it is only a small number in the larger scope of things. Your book will be a lasting legacy and bring the story of those Marines and their role in Brown's raid to light for a much wider audience. Writing a novel verses a 'history book' gave you the latitude to flesh out the characters in the story far better than just presenting facts. Your characterizations of the various personages does an outstanding job of humanizing and bringing to life the story of those Marines for the reader. A difficult thing to do in a written format.

As you may be aware the USMC Historical Company is a professional not-for-profit educational corporation ancillary to the United States Marine Corps, and Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. Our job is to develop and present outreach and traveling historical educational programming and classes focused on telling the Marine Corps Story. This includes developing partnerships with historic sites (such as Harpers Ferry) across the country where the Marine Corps had an impact on the site's history. We cover the entire history of the Corps from prior to the American revolution to today. Although we have an aggressive and dedicated research team, our mission unfortunately leaves little time for us to focus on any one individual incident. It takes dedicated authors such as yourself to flesh-out the many stories from the Corps history.

I've recommended your book to all of my staff and volunteers and passed on your information to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation which oversees the gift shop for the National Museum of the Marine Corps, and to the Harpers Ferry National Park book store.

Please keep up the great work, and stay in touch. I look forward to one day meeting you in person.

Semper Fidelis;