

# IN THE TRENCHES

A NEWS LETTER OF THE  
LT GENERAL JOHN C. PEMBERTON CAMP 1354  
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI  
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

December 2013 Issue

Wayne McMaster  
Eddy Cresap

Commander  
Editor

## Commander's Report

It is Christmas time already again. Our Christmas program at our room will be light pick up foods and Larry Holman will teach the ones of us that do not know how to play "dirty Santa" just how it works. Everyone if possible bring a gift. Do not bring something very expensive. Looking back through the old newsletters we had the election of officers at the Dec. meeting. We will have the election first and get through with it.

Mary and I will bring some coffee and whatever else she thinks about.  
I wish each and everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Christmas wish for all of us; may all of our aches, pains and illnesses be more bearable and easier to live with. The young people will not quite understand that wish, but they will as time goes on.

Lets all get out and see if we can get our AWOL members to come to the meeting.  
Thank you and see you the 1st Tuesday night, Wayne

## Officer Elections For Upcoming Year

The camp will ask for nominations at our December meeting. We can vote them in and swear them in then or wait till Jan to vote and swear based on a vote of the camp.

The list of nominations presented will be:

Commander	Wayne McMaster
First Lt Commander	Eddy Cresap
Second Lt Commander	Joel Bailey
Adjutant	Larry Holman
Chaplain	Bryan Dabney
Quartermaster	Tom Dabney
Historian	Sam Price & Larry Holman

Additional Nominations may be sent to me, Eddy Cresap... charlescresap33@att.net.  
Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

## **Upcoming meetings**

Our meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month. The meetings start at 7:00 pm and are held at the Southern Heritage Complex. Visitors are always welcome.

If you would like to present a program, please contact Commander Wayne McMaster at waynemcmasteris@gmail.com.

Below are the list of upcoming meetings and speakers.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Topic</i>
December 3	Christmas meeting	Story time
January 7	McMaster and Cresap	Lee and Jackson

## **New Member**

Dr. Michael Davis was voted in as our newest member at our November meeting., Welcome!

## **December Meeting**

Our December meeting will be held at our normal location and time. For the meeting bring an Hors d'oeuvre tray, a \$20 dirty Santa gift, and a story

## **January Meeting**

For our January meeting we will celebrate General Lee and Jackson's Birthday. There will be sandwiches, chips, and drinks provided. The cost should be about \$10.00. There will be a program presented on General Lee and Jackson

## **Heritage Month**

We should start thinking about Heritage month. I am thinking about a normal meeting, a memorial service in Soldiers' Rest and a 1/4 page add in the Vicksburg newspaper promoting Southern Heritage.

## **Upcoming events**

S.D. Lee Institute Feb 7-8, 2014 in Chattanooga, TN

2014 Division Reunion will be held June 6-8, 2014 in Corinth, MS

SCV annual convention July 16-19 in North Charleston, S.C.

## **A Web Site To Visit**

For a good read on Forrest and Wirtz go to: <http://youwereliedtoabout.com/>

## **Camp Website**

Go to [www.scv-camp-1354.com/](http://www.scv-camp-1354.com/) to view our website. Thanks to our Webmaster Bill Fryer

## Poets Corner



*Replica of Shiloh Methodist Church  
Built in 2003 by the Tennessee SCV  
The original was destroyed during the battle.*

*Battle of Shiloh April 6-7 1862  
(aka Pittsburg Landing)*

*Over 23,000 men dead or missing  
after this two day battle.*

### ***THE GHOSTS of SHILOH***

*by: Joel T. Bailey*

*One of the greatest battles of the civil war  
Was fought in Tennessee  
It was called the battle of Shiloh  
One of the bloodiest in history*

*When the battle was over  
Thousands of men were dead  
The bodies of soldiers lay everywere  
And the ground ran a bloody red*

*The battle got its name from a church  
That was close to the battle ground  
The word Shiloh in Hebrew means peace  
But on this day no peace could be found*

*Now they say the battlefield is haunted  
By the ghosts of the men who died that day  
Some say they hear the cries of wounded  
Others hear a drummer boy play*

*Sometimes you can hear distant gunshots  
And the sound of marching at night  
To them the battle will never be over  
For the ghosts of Shiloh still fight*

## Chaplain's Corner

For the Brethren:

In St. Matthew's gospel account (24:42), our Lord commanded us to *Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come*. This is in keeping with his parable of the wise and foolish virgins (St. Matthew 25:1-13). The particulars of this parable are these: we have ten virgins who are in anticipation of the coming of the bridegroom for his bride to which the Rev. Matthew Henry observed, "It was the custom among the Jews that the bridegroom came, attended with his friends, late in the night, to the house of the bride, where she expected him, attended with her bridesmaids, who upon notice given of the bridegroom's approach, were to go out with lamps in their hands to light the way for him into the house. The Bridegroom is our Lord Jesus Christ. They that follow the Lamb are said to be virgins [Revelation 14:4], this denotes purity." And *Halley's Bible Handbook* notes concerning this passage, "This parable means just one thing: that we should keep our minds on the Lord, and be ready when he comes." And Pastor David Guzik observed that, "there were three stages to a Jewish wedding in that day. The first was engagement - a formal agreement made by the fathers. The second was betrothal - the ceremony where mutual promises are made. The third was marriage - approximately one year later when the bridegroom came at an unexpected time for his bride... In this parable, the first two stages have already taken place. Now the wedding party (the ten virgins) await[s] the coming of the bridegroom for his bride. Why does Jesus describe ten virgins? Talmudic authorities affirm that there were usually ten lamps in a bridal procession... [our Lord went further with his description labeling] five of them [as] wise, and five [as] foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps [but] took no oil with them, [while] the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. And while the bridegroom [abided in his place], they all slumbered and slept. [Then] at midnight a cry was heard... [T]he five foolish virgins [only] appeared to be prepared for the bridegroom, because they had their lamps. But they really were not... because they took no oil with them... Without oil, the virgins were not ready for the bridegroom.

.. No one can be a true Christian without the indwelling Holy Spirit ..." As stated in our gospel lesson we are to *watch... for we know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh*. To watch means being active and alert, as well as ready. When our Lord advised us in another parable (St. Luke 19:13) to *Occupy till I come*, he was calling on us to work, to be proactive, to keep to our duties in his service. Yes, we are to watch for his coming but we are to be working till his comes again. This is a good example of what I call biblical multi-tasking. We have been given a set of duties to carry out and we are commanded to do them with the clear understanding that at any given moment, the Lord Jesus could call us away from them. We are thus to live like there is no tomorrow, and one day such will happen. That is why have been implored to watch for his coming which then makes us watchmen as well as witnesses for Christ. Now it would not be uncommon in today's world to envision a watchman as being a person who provides security for a business or plant facility after hours. But such would not accurately fit the biblical description of a watchman. Consider that throughout the Old Testament, we have the metaphor of a *watchman* being applied to the prophets. These chosen vessels stood before the people and gave them the revealed truth of God which they had received either in visions or by direct communication. But why, one might ask, did God call them watchmen? In ancient times, most people lived in walled towns or cities and these locales often had watchtowers placed every so many yards along their walls for two very good reasons. The first had to do with surveillance of the surrounding region. If an enemy appeared the watchman would then notify the commander.

The second reason was that every watchtower doubled as a strong-point in the defense of the wall. From them, archers and spear men could direct their missiles on attacking troops which would have to subdue each watchtower in order to secure the perimeter. Because of their prophetic messages, men such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel were akin to the familiar watchmen on the walls who warned of coming troubles as well as the coming of the Lord himself. And just as the watchtowers on which the earthly watchmen served were spaced accordingly around a locale, so were the prophets positioned among the people in those times which God had called them. Likewise, you and I are to serve as witnesses for Christ to those around us all the while watching and praying for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has given to us the words of the prophets, the apostles, the patriarchs, the righteous kings of Israel, and the very words of our Lord and Master. We have also been given, through the workings of the Holy Ghost, the capacity to understand the words which God had previously communicated to those biblical figures and writers. In sum, we have been given spiritual

discernment which is a trait that no unregenerate person possesses. St. Paul noted in I Corinthians 2:14 that *the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.* The wise virgins of our parable had such a discerning heart. The very fact that they brought extra oil for their lamps speaks volumes in support of their understanding of what was coming. The foolish virgins brought no extra oil because it just did not cross their minds that they did indeed need such in spite of the knowledge that the bridegroom could come at any time. They thought they had enough oil to last until he arrived never considering that he might tarry longer than the limited capacity of their lamps. As the Rev. Matthew Henry observed, “Too many good Christians, when they have been long in profession, grow remiss in their preparations for Christ’s second coming. They intermit their care [and] abate their zeal, their graces are not lively, nor their works found perfect before God.” One may even hear the callous comment as recorded by St. Peter in his second epistle (3:4), *Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.* No doubt, you have probably heard this quote before in some form from the unregenerate. If we are doubtful about Christ’s second advent, then we need to re-think our faith in him. We cannot be effective witnesses on his behalf if we cannot accept one of the principal tenets of the Christian faith. It is my hope that each of you will have the courage of your faith to meet such comments head-on especially from those who are supposed to be of the household of faith. Doctrine matters and in particular those things which our Lord clearly set forth as truth for us to trust in. We have been told to watch for we do not know the day nor the hour of our Lord’s return. Over the millennia since he departed from the precincts of our world, there have been several views on the second coming of our Lord ranging from his imminent return in the time of the apostles to his coming in a time far in the future. All we have been told is that he will come again after a litany of signs and events which have been set forth by both the prophets and apostles. Two thousand years is a long time in anyone’s book, nevertheless, if it is another two thousand years till he comes, it should not diminish our zeal nor dampen our spirits in the faith. He could come back today, this evening, or tomorrow ; but we will not know the day nor the hour until it happens. We have been given the times and the seasons, and frankly its seems to be close. Nevertheless, we must watch and work until he comes. And when we see him coming, let us all raise the shout of victory for our promised redemption has arrived and run to him who is our Saviour and Lord. Therefore, I urge each of you to watch, witness and pray for verily he will come again as he has promised us in his word written. Be then like those wise virgins who made provision for themselves and honored the Bridegroom at his coming by being lights along his path. The Bible says *let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.* God expects that from each of us so let us go forth bearing the oil of the Holy Spirit to lighten not only our paths but that of others: that they too will see our light and seek the same from him who is the giver of every good and perfect gift. May God encourage you and enliven you in his service as you stand your watch. Amen.

Let us pray, Father God, you have given us the gift of faith that we might be regenerated, born again in the name of thy dear Son; help us to watch for his coming again and to witness to others regarding the same, that through our witness more souls will be added to thy book of life; for this we ask in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen