

IN THE TRENCHES

A NEWSLETTER OF THE
LT GENERAL JOHN C. PEMBERTON CAMP 1354
VICKSBURG MISSISSIPPI
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
December 2014 Issue

Wayne McMaster Commander
Eddy Cresap Editor

Commanders Report

To the members of the Lt. G. J.C. Pemberton Camp 1354. This is to be my last newsletter to you as Commander of our camp. I cannot thank all the people that have come forward and helped me over the years, but would be severally amiss if I did not thank Eddie Cresap; several times I probably would have thrown in the towel if not for his being there for me! I leave this position in the very capable hands of Edward Campbell, who I am sure all of you know, I request that all of you help Edward as you have helped me in the past. I am not going anywhere, plan to be in attendance as I have in the past, you just will not have to listen to me ramble on behind the podium.

Enough about me though, Cmdr. Campbell told me he would get the camp Christmas party organized. I will volunteer to bring the coffee, cokes, sprite and water. Y'all be sure and tell the Cmdr. what you wish to bring to the party. Thanks to all of you, will see you at the Christmas party.

Wayne McMaster
Past Commander
Pemberton Camp 1354

Welcome our New Commander

Dear Compatriots,

It is indeed an honor for me to serve as your new Commander for the upcoming year. I look forward to getting to know all of you better and working with each of you to defend our Heritage and honor the great name of the Confederate soldier. Thank you for the honor of electing me as Commander. I will need the help of each of you to help build up our camp and in getting speakers for our monthly meetings. I already have two extra speakers lined up. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Christmas party and I wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving. On a personal note, please keep my father-in-law, Mr. Bo Phillips of Jasper County, in your prayers as he has many health issues right now and we are dealing with the stress of going over every weekend and helping out. Pray for my wife Robin and myself also, as well as my mother-in-law.

Thank you ,

Edward Campbell, Commander

Upcoming meetings

Our meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00 pm. Our meeting location is 216 Miller Street in the Disabled American Veterans building. Our website contains direction to the meeting location. Visitors are always welcome. If you would like to present a program, please contact Commander Edward Campbell at ewccrystalsprings@yahoo.com

Below are the list of upcoming meetings and speakers

<i>Date</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Topic</i>
Dec 2	None	Christmas Party
January 6, 2015	Edward Campbell	Robert E Lee
February 3	Josh Edwards	John Cashman CSA
March 3	Marion Roberson	J.S. Gage of the 11th Ms.

December Meeting

Bring your favorite snack tray and a story for our traditional Christmas party.

New Officers for 2015

Congratulations are in order for the newly elected officers of our camp

Commander Edward Campbell

First Lt Eddy Cresap

2de Lt Joel Bailey

Adjutant Larry Holman

Chaplain Brian Dabney

Sergeant at Arms Tom Dabney

Surgeon Lamar McMillin

We need to all work together under the leadership of Commander Campbell to make this the best year ever. Give the new commander thoughts for the upcoming year and even better volunteer to participate in the projects

March meeting

The program for our March meeting will be done by ancestors of J. S. Gage. For a short review of J. S. Gage go to the Oct newsletter. The archived newsletters are on our website. This will be a do not miss.

A Giant Thanks

I would like to extend to Commander McMaster a heartfelt "thank you" for a great job over the years. He served as commander of our camp as we approached the great flag fight. He was Lt Commander of the Mississippi Division as we took on and won the flag fight. He was Mississippi Division commander as we won the right to have our license plates. He returned to be our camp commander as we approached the National Convention with a loss of our leadership. Wayne has been a good friend, and very effective leader as I worked with him over the years.

Donated to Camp

Sam Price donated an atomic radio controlled clock to us.

My Aunt Jane Ireland donated a battle flag in memory of her Grandfather, Lt. Isaac Henry Read, 7th Tennessee Calvary to fly over Soldiers Rest.

November Meeting

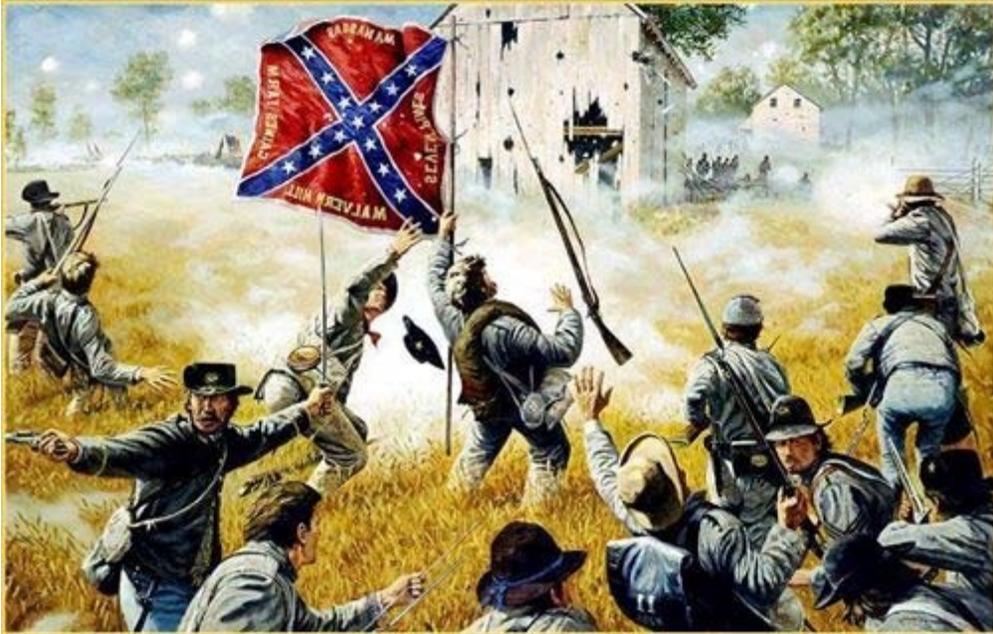
The meeting was opened with prayer by Brian Dabney followed by Pledges, salutes, and charge led by Thomas Dabney. Mr. Merck of the Brandon Camp provided a very informative presentations on guns of the period. New officers were elected. Our meeting was closed with a prayer by Chaplain Dabney.



Mississippi Executive council meeting

Paul B. Johnson, III submitted his resignation from the Beauvoir Board of Directors effective Oct. 1, 2014. This will require the Executive Council to appoint someone to that position until June 2015 when the membership will vote to replace the position. The Executive Council will vote to appoint someone at our next meeting which is to be held on Dec. 6th, 2014. The board will also be presented facts concerning the proposed Mississippi Heritage proposition.

Changing the Name Against the Law,



The University Greys. These young men were students at Ole Miss. They died in defense of their homeland, families and altars. This name change is not only against the law but is also counter to common courtesy and the ever taunted cry of inclusion.

Poets Corner

THE REBEL SOLDIER

by: Joel T. Bailey

*Just a boy in a uniform of ragged gray
Thankful he survived another battle today*

*The sights and sounds run thru his head
The cries of the wounded and so many dead*

*He hurts inside for all the friends he lost
Both sides today paid a very high cost*

*He wonders how long they'll have to fight
The thought of dying fills him with fright*

*He thinks of his folks now oh so far away
And the girl he left on their wedding day*

*Slowly he bows his head in silent prayer
And puts his life in the Lords care*

*With tears in his eyes he drifts off to sleep
Old enough to die but young enough to weep*

Franklin

Thanks to Charles Pittman for info used in the article. As a side light, a portion of this battle was fought on Charles Pittman's GGG Grandfather, Thomas Ridley's, farm on the Holston River.

November 30 marks the 150th anniversary of the bloodiest five hours in Tennessee History; the Battle of Franklin. As the Confederate Army of Tennessee crossed back into the state of Tennessee after the loss of Atlanta, they were met with a prophetic sign," Tennessee: a free home or a grave"

On November 30, 1864, the Confederate Army of Tennessee, commanded by General John Bell Hood, made one of the most heroic charges of the War for Southern Independence. After four long years of disappointment and hardship, twenty thousand members of this tattered courageous army threw themselves headlong against the fortifications of the Union troops at Franklin, Tennessee. With Bayonets fixed, tattered flags flying and bands playing, this gallant army charged into history. The charge began at about 4:00 PM and continued through the night until about 11:00 that night. This battle virtually destroyed the Southern Army and its command structure. After this battle the army remained in the field as an effective fighting unit until its surrender in North Carolina with General Johnson. The Battle of Franklin is complete with everything required to ascend into legend, but instead is largely forgotten. During this hallowed day, all of us should read the story of the Battle of Franklin and share the story with anybody that will listen. With the courage shown by our ancestors at this battle in our minds, we should never have any problem facing seemingly overwhelming odds. My great Grandfather Cresap made the charge, He was in the thick of the fighting as he charged up Columbia turnpike.

John C. Pemberton Camp Website

Go to <http://scv-camp-1354.com/> to view our website. Thanks to our Webmaster Bill Fryer. Bill is creating a "Wall of Honor" for our ancestors. Check it out on the web site and add your ancestor. Also find directions to our meeting location

Thanksgiving

After the Thanksgiving school hoopla once, I asked my grand daughter what was the first colony and she replied Plymouth. History re written to young children to avoid any mention of the South in a positive light. What a shocker.

On December 4 1619, the first English Thanksgiving in the New World was held in Virginia, not Massachusetts. Sometimes we do not realize the extent to which our own history has been "revised". In November the entire country will celebrate Thanksgiving, a day set aside to Thank God for Our Many Blessings. But this day of Thanksgiving that is set aside is not the historical anniversary of the First Thanksgiving as many espouse. We have been taught that the First Thanksgiving was in Plymouth in 1621 and observed by the Pilgrims. This was a very commendable act by the Pilgrims, but it was not the first in our country.

The direction given the arrivals to Virginia in 1619 was: "We ordaine that this day of our ships arrival, at the place assigned for plantacon, (meaning plantation) in the land of Virginia, shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God".

Before the Pilgrims even departed for their trip across the Atlantic, the First Day of Thanksgiving had already been observed. On December 4, 1619 the first Day of Thanksgiving was observed in Virginia.

Every day should be a day to give Thanks for Our Blessings, but Truth is still Truth and the First Thanksgiving was on December 4 in Virginia.

Newsletter

If anyone has read a good book, visited an interesting place, would like to post a bio of their Confederate ancestor, or just has a thought they would like to share with the membership, forward the article to me (charlescresap33@att.net) and I will place it in the next newsletter. Also if you have any ideas for making the newsletter better serve you, please let me know.

Flag Restoration

In many cases the old veterans' battle flags are our last physical link to their valor. Many of their flags are in possession of the State of Mississippi Archives and History. There they are rotting away to dust. It is up to us as decedents of these brave men to preserve their battle flags for our descendants to see. There are three funding activities. Direct donations, SCV car tags, and sale of coffee cups. Our camp has a supply of coffee cups.

Chaplains Corner

For the Brethren:

Per the words of our Lord as recorded in St. Matthew 24:42, we have been commanded to Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. This is in keeping with our Lord's parable of the wise and foolish virgins found in the following chapter of that same gospel (25:1-13). The particulars of this parable are these: we have ten virgins who were awaiting the coming of a bridegroom for his bride. According to one bible commentator, "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." Another bible teacher once 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 the parable of the virgins, 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 St. Matthew 24:42, 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. 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 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. Those 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. 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. The attackers 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 and Saviour. 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 mentioned in

St. Matthew 25 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 another biblical commentator noted, "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 verse repeated in some form whether in church or in the world by those who are not of the true faith. If we are doubtful about Christ's second advent, then we will not be effective witnesses on his behalf. 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 commanded to watch for we do not know the day nor the hour of our Lord's return. Over the millennia since he departed the precincts of our world, pastors and ministers have reminded their congregations that he will come again after a litany of signs and events which have been set forth by both the prophets and apostles. And so we must watch and work until he comes. 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 for this season of Advent and beyond.

Let us pray,

We thank you O most gracious God for the gift of faith; we also pray that you will assist us as we watch for the return of thy dear Son, and that in our witness to others, they too might be added to thy coming kingdom; for these things we ask in the name of thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Heritage Operations Committee

Dear Compatriots,

We of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the direct descendants of the most courageous and steadfast Army ever to take to battle, now face one of our greatest challenges ever as an organization. It is not an overstatement to say that the forces who wish to destroy our heritage and our culture are now in command of the political battlefield. Never before has the positive memory of our ancestors been under more of an orchestrated and well-financed attack. On every front, all across America, the purveyors of an agenda driven history are in collusion with South-bashing demagogues of every stripe. This "politically correct" cabal has gone after our museums, our schools, our cemeteries, our monuments, and all of the beloved symbols of the Confederate cause. They are on what they believe is a righteous mission to rewrite history and to destroy every vestige of our honor and pride. And they are having success at the level of academia, the media, the press, at the corporate level, and worse, in our court system.

Recent events in Memphis, in California, in Richmond, at Washington and Lee University, at Ole Miss in Oxford, and indeed throughout the United States have shown us the strength of those who would now revise and rewrite history in order to demonize our "ancient dead".

The Sons of Confederate Veterans are the last and strongest line of defense against this onslaught of venom and bigotry. There is much that we can do on a daily basis to counteract the misinformation, the myths, and the outright falsehoods of these charlatans. Carrying our positive message of pride in our heritage and love for our family history is a big part of it.

But perhaps the most important action we can take is to courageously stand against the insults and almost daily attacks upon our ancestors, their symbols, and their heroic legacy. We are in a crisis! The "South bashers" and the "Confederacy haters" have chosen the Sesquicentennial as the time to open old wounds that had taken generations to heal.

They have aggressively taken many intentionally divisive actions. Several of these have required court actions, and we need to immediately replenish our funds for

Heritage Defense, as much as possible as soon as possible. Many times our ancestors, outnumbered by overwhelming odds, stood their ground when the battle seemed hopeless. The best way that we can honor their courage and sacrifice is to stand our ground now and re-double our efforts for Heritage Defense.

Compatriots, they call to us from afar to "stand like a stone wall." We must act. "If not us, who? If not now, when?"

Ben L. Jones

Chief of Heritage Operations

onecooter@aol.com

Mississippi Division Guardian Program

The Purpose of the program is to honor the memory of our Confederate ancestors and through its implementation will provide the preservation of their final resting places and will document for future generations their sacrifices. Any Mississippi Division camp member in good standing, who is at least 12 years of age and who has demonstrated his desire and ability to serve as a GUARDIAN may apply for the program. All compatriots are encouraged to participate in the program to honor our ancestors and to protect their final resting place.

The guardian shall care for and protect the grave(s) of a Confederate Veteran, ensuring that the grave site is kept clean and well maintained year round. He shall perform these duties personally unless he is physically unable because of health reasons. At no time shall these responsibilities be passed on to another without the approval of the GUARDIAN committee for the Mississippi Division.

He will be responsible to appropriately mark the grave so it is designated as a final resting place of a Confederate Veteran. This can be by stone, plaque, Cross of Honor, etc.

He will also be responsible for replacing or repairing any marker that is worn, damaged or destroyed.

He shall personally visit the grave a minimum of two times a year to include Confederate Memorial Day or at least one week prior.

He shall place a wreath or a small Confederate flag or both on the grave.

If you are interested in the program contact me at charlescresap33@att.net for an application and more details.

Friends of Beauvoir

Beauvoir the Home of Jefferson Davis is Owned and Operated by the Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Here is an Invitation to give the Past a Future!

Go to http://www.beauvoir.org/Support_Beauvoir/index.html for details

Bricks for Beauvoir

The plans are for a brick plaza around the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Each brick would cost \$50.00 and would have the name of a Confederate ancestor of members of the SCV who give to the effort. "The Bricks for Beauvoir" Project is spearheaded by Larry McCluney, Past Commander of the Mississippi Division. Thirteen columns, in a crescent, will represent the 13 States of the Confederacy and will fly the flag of each respective State. By purchasing an Ancestral Memorial Brick for just \$50.00 each, your money will go to rebuilding a national treasure. Each brick will be laid, memorializing your ancestor, in a plaza around the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Soldier at Beauvoir.

Pearl Christmas Parade

On Saturday December 6, the Lowry Rifles Camp of Rankin County will be marching in the Pearl Christmas Parade. We are in need of Confederate reenactors who can march in the parade. The parade starts at 9:00am Everyone is to meet up at the large Trustmark Bank on Hwy 80 at 8:00am. The parade route is from the bank to Trustmark Park. Please try to come and lets show our pride in Pearl. Our camp always leads the parade so we are seen first!!!! We also invite members and friends of our camp to march along with us. You all can bring your small confederate flags and march behind the soldiers. So come one' come all!!!!

Fourth Brigade Picnic

The Fourth Brigade Johnston, White Picnic will be Co-Sponsored by the Jefferson Davis Camp 1862 and the Lowry Rifles 1740 . Start time will be 10:30 at the Historic Newton Doolittle C.S.A. Cemetery on Saturday March 28, 2015. We will honor our Confederate Heroes by placing a MS Division Memorial Bench at the C.S.A. Cemetery. There is a call for all performing available Color guard to attend. Pot luck will be the order of the day for dinner. Paper plates, forks and cups will be furnished. The Fourth Brigade elections and other activities will take

place after dinner. In case of bad weather our activities will take place at the Historic American Legion Post 89. Bring a lawn chair for observation in comfort.

Memorial Service in Quitman

A Living History Encampment and Memorial Service will be held on February 28, 2015 in Quitman at Mary Carter Park with the Memorial Service at the Confederate Cemetery just outside the city limits. For more information, please contact Dianne Carlin at dianne.l.carlin@gmail.com or by calling 601-678-5382.

Lee Jackson at Summit

It is my pleasure to announce the 3rd Brigade Lee/Jackson Banquet to be held Jan 17, 2015. The guest speaker will be Mr. Tomas V Strain, Jr. Lt Commander in Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. This is a family event please make plans to attend and encourage other camps to come and be represented. We look forward to seeing everyone. For additional information please contact:

Joseph Abbott
1036 Abbott Lane
Summit, MS 39666
(601) 684-5376 (h)
(601) 810-7132 (c)

Reenactment of the Battle of McLeod's Mill

Greene County MS is having a 150th reenactment of the Battle of McLeod's Mill. It will be Dec 6, 2014 in Leakesville Ms. There will be a monument dedication on Dec 5 with a day of Living History. The town has agreed to let us set up camp almost directly across from the Courthouse on the main highway through town which were the men camp in 1861. We also plan to have a Ball on Saturday. Contact Marinda Gillie Kane Email: Mrngill9@yahoo.com for more info.

120th Mississippi Division Convention

2015 Division will be in Columbus Ms hosted by the General William Barksdale Camp 1220

Upcoming National Conventions

2015 – Richmond
2016 – Dallas/Ft. Worth
2017 – Memphis

Stephen Dill Lee Institute

The Stephen Dill Lee Institute will be held Dallas, Texas at the Double Tree Hotel on February 6-7, 2015 and will be hosted by the Texas Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The overall topic will be THE REAL RESULTS OF 1865. Please register on the website or contact Ms. Cindy White at 1-800-My Dixie. Hotel reservations can be made directly at the hotel or as specified on this website. Please feel free to contact me at 804- 389- 3620 or visit our website at www.StephenDLeeInstitute.com for further information.

Remember our Recent Visitor from Texas

The City of College Stations Veterans Memorial Park has a multi-station loop with monuments honoring the veterans who fought in all the U.S. wars from the Revolution through the War Against Terror. The current monument under development is for the War of Northern Aggression. The site for this monument is a field which is divided by a split rail fence that was constructed as an Eagle Scout project with the assistance of SCV Sul Ross Camp 1457. The remainder of the site is to have two bronze statues, and benches. The Union soldiers statue and cannon will be funded by city/ county funds. The Confederate statue and cannon are to be funded by private contributions. The Sul Ross Camp is asking all Southern patriots to consider making a contribution to this effort. In this time of political correctness, it is rare that a City/County government will allow a monument depicting Confederate warriors to be placed in a public space. This is your opportunity to assist this effort. Donors to this effort will be recognized on the site. Additionally, the site will be dedicated on 9 April, 2015 and we will need re-enactors to represent the brave and noble Confederate warrior. Please address any contributions that you would like make to: Henry Mayo, Sul Ross Camp adjutant PO Box 9169 College Station, TX 77842 Thank you for your consideration of this project. Sincerely yours, Bill Boyd Commanding Sul Ross Camp 1457.

Crown Hill Cemetery

<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/lots/crownhill.asp>

The Crown Hill Cemetery Confederate Plot in Indianapolis was established in 1931 as a memorial and burial place for 1,616 unknown Confederate Soldiers. Most of the soldiers interred here died at Camp Morton, a Union prison on the north side of Indianapolis. Between 1862 and 1865, at least 9,000 Confederate prisoners passed through the gates of Camp Morton. Initially, deceased prisoners were interred in the nearby Greenlawn Cemetery. In 1912, the federal government erected an imposing, 27' tall Confederate monument in Greenlawn Cemetery, featuring the names of persons who perished at Camp Morton. Greenlawn Cemetery closed in 1928, and the Confederate monument was relocated to the city's Garfield Park to make it more visible to the public. Five years later, the remains of the Confederate soldiers were moved to Crown Hill Cemetery, and placed in a mass grave. On top of the mound a new granite monument was erected, commemorating the unknown Confederate dead.

The original inscription on the 6' tall granite monument erected on the site in Crown Hill Cemetery in 1933 read: "Remains of 1616 Unknown Confederate Soldiers who died at Indianapolis while Prisoners of War." In 1993, a local effort led to the rededication of the site, which included a modification of the original monument. Today, a bronze tablet on its base reads: "Confederate Mound: These Confederate soldiers and sailors died at Indianapolis while prisoners of war. They were transferred here from Greenlawn Cemetery in 1933 to rest eternal.

In this hallowed ground of Crown Hill Cemetery lay the earthly remains of our gallant Confederate soldiers who were held at Camp Morton. We are looking for people who had an ancestor that was held at Camp Morton to participate in a restoration project of the monument in Garfield Park. Indiana members of the Major General William D. McCain Camp 584, Sons of Confederate Veterans, are working with the Indianapolis Parks Department, the Indy Parks Foundation, and several community groups to restore the monument in Garfield Park to its former glory. We have nationally renowned sculptor, Gary Casteel, from the National Civil War Memorial helping as an adviser on this project. The monument has the names of 1,616 confederate prisoners of war from every Confederate State. There are also Native Americans, and African Americans veterans listed among the names on the plaques. This monument has not had any maintenance or restoration done in over forty years. The Indiana members of camp 584 are seeking donations to restore this one hundred two year old monument. Tax deductible donations can be made to the Indy Parks Foundation on a secure line at

www.indyparksfoundation.org, or you can mail in a donation to the address below;

Indy Parks Foundation C/O Lisa Westenberger
615 N. Alabama Street Suite 119
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-860-3251

Please make sure to mark all donations for Confederate POW Monument, Garfield Park. Thank you so much for your consideration.

In the Bonds of the Old South.

Brian Blevins SCV HQ camp

317-217-0243

Oakwood Cemetery

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Oakwood Restoration Committee is dedicated to the preservation, protection, and promotion of the Confederate Section at Oakwood Cemetery, Richmond, VA. These “HALLOWED GROUNDS”, the final resting place of our ancestors, HEROES, from every Confederate state except Missouri, approximated at over 16,000, Confederate soldiers, deserve and will be honored with the highest standards befitting a National Military Cemetery. This vision as seen by “The Ladies Memorial Association for Confederate Dead of Oakwood” in April of 1866.

HISTORY OF THE CONFEDERATE PLOTS at OAKWOOD CEMETERY

On April 19, 1866 an organization known as “The Ladies Memorial Association for Confederate Dead of Oakwood,” near Richmond, Virginia, was organized for the purpose of rescuing from oblivion the names and graves of the gallant Confederate Dead who sleep at Oakwood Cemetery.

This Cemetery, situated one mile east of the City (center).

Today approximately 16,000 of our heroes, and ancestors are resting in the “HALLOWED GROUNDS” of the Confederate section of the Oakwood Cemetery in Richmond, VA, thus making it one of the LARGEST military cemeteries in America.

These soldiers were the casualties of the battles around Richmond including the Seven Days Campaign, Gaines Mill, Cold Harbor, Malvern Hill and many others. Many were patients that failed to recover in hospitals such as Chimbarazo, Howard’s Grove and Winder.

Many Union soldiers were also originally buried near the Confederates in Oakwood but in 1866, the federal government relocated the bodies of most of the Union soldiers to the beautifully maintained Richmond National Cemetery. This is a sharp contrast to the condition of the Confederate Plots of Oakwood Cemetery. The graves in Oakwood are marked with a small square stone for every three graves with only a numerical inscription. Only a few individual graves were marked with the vast majority having no name, unit, or home state to mark their final resting place.

HISTORY AND GOALS OF THE OAKWOOD RESTORATION COMMITTEE
In 2006 the Virginia General Assembly passed a bill awarding financial support to the Oakwood Restoration Committee, which operates under the authority of the Virginia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans a 501(c)3 organization, and several years later, a historical agreement was struck between the Oakwood Restoration Committee and the City of Richmond. The City of Richmond awarded a contractual agreement to the Oakwood Restoration Committee with agreed upon capital repairs to be performed either jointly or independently by the Oakwood Restoration Committee.

Today, the City of Richmond, is very pleased with the progress of the Oakwood Restoration Committee, almost EVERY cited capital repair has been made! AND one prominent concern of the Oakwood Restoration Committee has been addressed but is pending a legal response from the Veterans Administration, UPRIGHT HEADSTONES, for each of our resting heroes.

The Oakwood Restoration Committee applied for the upright headstones from the Veterans Administration, the request was approved, the committee was directed to work with a Veterans Administration employee in Nashville, and then the hatchet came down from higher powers in the Veterans Administration and all of a sudden the upright headstones were denied! The Oakwood Restoration Committee hired prominent and skilled attorney, Mr. Pat McSweeney, and we sought out and gained the support of Sen. Jim Webb. After much communication, the Oakwood Restoration Committee requested a legal hearing. Today, we await the legal opinion from the Judge. We have been told that the "legal opinions" are running several years behind. NOW! Please understand! The LAW is on our side. Our attorney, Mr. McSweeney, advises us to hold tight! Are we frustrated? Of course, BUT we are abiding by the advice for which we have paid.

PRIMARY CONCERN AND INTEREST

This brings us back to our PRIMARY interest, UPRIGHT HEADSTONES...the focus of the Oakwood Restoration Committee is and has always been to install an

upright headstone for each resting hero. The goal of this Committee has been to make Oakwood Confederate Plots the “Confederate Arlington Cemetery” of the South. We will get there, BUT, patience is needed, it takes time to work through the avenues of a “hostile” government, and it will take time to install each headstone. The people of the South have always had the patience required to accomplish our desired tasks and those tasks demanded of us..

The Oakwood Restoration Committee asks that those of you who have been supporters continue to be supportive and those who are just learning about us become supporters...please help the Oakwood Restoration Committee, Virginia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans 501(c)3 continue to preserve, protect and promote the “Hallowed Grounds” of the Confederate Plots of Oakwood Cemetery, Richmond, VA.

May God Bless the South, Mike Pullen, Chairman jmpullen1234@aol.com

Division Newsletter

At our Division Convention in June, a motion was made and passed to go electronic with the Jeff Davis Legion Newsletter. Our method to distribute the “Legion” will be to notify the Camp Adjutants and/or Commanders when the Legion is posted on the Mississippi Division website. A link to the newsletter will be provided. It will be the duty of the Camp Adjutant to provide the link to their members. The Adjutant will have to print copies for members who do not have computers or access to the internet for mailing or handout. If the mailing of the “Legion” becomes too great a financial burden for a Camp, the Division will consider re-assuming the mailing of those copies.

Disclaimer

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not the opinions of the Sons of Confederate Veterans at any level, but are the views of the author of the material.