



Picket Lines

The Official AOT Newsletter



"Focus on the Future through honoring the Past"



THE **ARMY OF**
TENNESSEE

June 2010

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Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General
United Confederate Veterans
New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.





AOT COMMANDER

Army of
Tennessee

Charles Kelly Barrow

Compatriots and Friends,

The BP oil spill has been the main topic on news stations for many weeks. We watch as oil pours out of a hole into our Gulf, harming people, wildlife and even the lively hood of several states, namely Louisiana. We ask questions like “How did this happen?” or “Why can’t they stop it?” or “Why were fails safes not in place?” All are valid questions, yet the oil is still destroying lives and the eco system.

Water and oil never mix. Oil floats to the top creating a filmy layer on the water. No mater how much you stir, both are basically two separate entities. I use this illustration to explain the Sesquicentennial. Essentially, the politically correct view point of this 150th anniversary will be on slavery, 54th (Colored) Massachusetts, Abraham Lincoln, General Grant, Underground Railroad, and many more similar topics. Individuals like Robert E. Lee will only be mentioned in a negative light, if at all. Our Confederate ancestors will be maligned, spit upon and compared to Nazi’s, all in the name of fairness. Like water and oil, the truth about the Confederacy and the Sesquicentennial will not mix in main stream media.

As stated in my previous columns, the SCV must be prepared for this. I cannot not say it enough or encourage you and your camp/ brigade and Division to be ready for the attack that is inevitable. As this is my last article as Commander of the Army of Tennessee, I want to impart on you once again of the importance of the next five years. Our leadership in all facets, not just on the National level, must be prepared to help in this fight. It will take YOU to stand up and carry the colors proudly as to rally the troops. Don’t wait on anyone else to do it for you. If we wait, we will be asking “Why?” at the end and our youth will not be aware of the importance of the Confederate States of America.

Many have seen or know of the quote from Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne, but I feel it is only suiting to once again use it, “Surrender means that the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy; that our youth will be trained by Northern school teachers; will learn from Northern school books their version of the War; will be impressed by all the influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors, and our maimed veterans as fit subjects for derision.”

Let us not let our ancestors be ashamed of what we do or don’t do during the anniversary of the War Between the States. They answered the battle cry, are you willing to stand up for them today? Or will you consider them “traitors... fit subjects for derision”? I pray that each member of the SCV, UDC and CofC is prepared to tell the world about our Confederate ancestors.

My time as your Army Commander has been rewarding and exhilarating. During my service, I have seen our army unite, experience continually growth and deal with many triumphs. Monuments were erected, AOT members took a stand, our President was honored and Beauvoir was restored. All of this and more in just a short four years thanks to the members of the Army.

Continued next page...



In my travels around the Army I have met a lot of people, heard many thoughts and made a lot of new friends. I am thankful of your many prayers and concerns for Cassie, Georgianah, and William. I have been truly blessed.

Now that my term is coming to an end, I will need to move on. But let me be clear. I am completing one experience and starting another. But know this; I will take each and every one of you with me wherever I go. And trust me when I say that I am a better man for having done my service in your company.

I hope to see each of you in Anderson at our National Reunion. I would like to petition your support for my candidacy as Lt. Commander in Chief. No matter the outcome of the election, I will work hard to see the SCV grow during this crucial time.

If I can be of any assistance to you, please contact me at kiltedkelly@inbox.com or 770.412.1646.

Deo Vindice!

Charles Kelly Barrow

Cmdr, Army of Tennessee

“Focus on the Future through honoring the Past”

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AOT COUNCILMAN

TOM STRAIN

Compatriots,

I hope that you and yours are all doing well. We have a lot going on this time of year between Division Reunions and the upcoming National Reunion in Anderson, SC. I have been traveling around the Army speaking with many of the camps about the upcoming Sesquicentennial of the War Between the States. Gentlemen we are at the doorsteps of the Sesquicentennial of the War Between the States and it is our responsibility to make sure that our beloved Confederate Veterans are not forgotten. We don't need to allow trials and tribulations that these men went thru during four plus years of what was truly hell on earth be forgotten! We don't need to let people forget that these men were out manned, out armed, under fed, etc. but considering all that they didn't have they did have something the enemy didn't have. That was the heart and soul of a grand warrior and after enduring these four years they still had pride in a job well done. Many of these men weren't trained soldiers they were farmers, students, and merchants that joined together to become one of the greatest fighting forces that this world has ever known. It is going to be us the men and women of the SCV and UDC that has the task of getting the true history of these men out to the masses. The schools aren't doing it, the media is not doing it, WE are going to be the ones to do it. These brave men were PATRIOTS and deserve to be honored as such!

On May the 8th I had the distinct pleasure of traveling to Vicksburg with Kentucky Division Lt. Commander Bazz Childress for the Kentucky Confederate Monument dedication. The service was held by the Kentucky Division in conjunction with the Mississippi Division and United States National Parks Service. Commander in Chief Chuck McMichael spoke during the service and Executive Director Ben Sewell, a native Kentuckian was the keynote speaker during the dedication. The monument is a fitting tribute to the fine men of Kentucky that fought in Vicksburg during the war and is a much better monument than the "other" Kentucky state monument. The men of Kentucky should be very proud of their stellar achievement and the Parks Service should be commended for their help in this endeavor.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your support over the past two years while I served you as your Councilman. These have been some of the most rewarding of my life and I hope to continue serving you as your Commander as we move forward after Anderson. I have always voted on the GEC with the best interest of the Army of Tennessee in mind and if elected this will continue as we move forward. Please go to my website www.scv-strain.com and look at my platform and if you have any questions please feel free to call me. My contact information is on my website. I hope that all of you have a great day and I'll be seeing you in Anderson!

Deo Vindice,

Thomas (Tom) V. Strain Jr.
AOT Councilman





AOT Division Reports



Alabama



No Report sent by
Division Commander
Robert C. Reames

Georgia

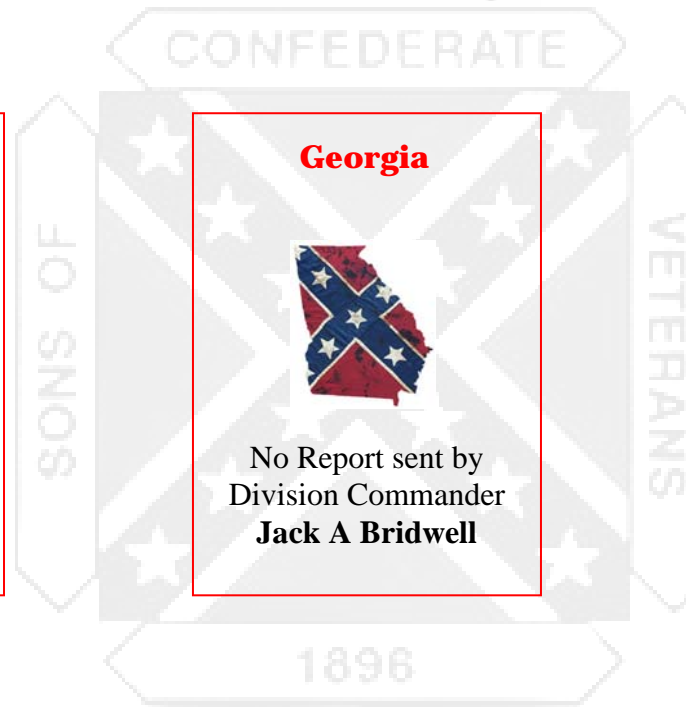


No Report sent by
Division Commander
Jack A Bridwell

Mississippi



No Report sent by
Division Commander
Bill Atkinson



Please visit
www.confmemparkinc.plpow.com

Check out the SCV *Blog Spot*
<http://sonsofconfederateveterans.blogspot.com/>



Report of the Illinois Division

The Illinois division has finished its annual convention in Northbrook, Illinois. Our division elections were held and our guest speaker was Lt. Commander-in-Chief Mike Givens.

Camp Douglas Memorial commander John Jeffers was elected as Illinois division commander, and Compatriot Tim Lake was elected as 1st Lt Commander. Lt. Commander Lake comes to us from the Rock Island Memorial POW camp # 2229. This camp was just recently established last year.

During our convention Lt Commander Givens was asked about Commander Jacob Lake of camp 2229. We told him that Commander Lake had started the camp and worked to make it a reality- this at the age of 17. Lt Commander Givens was asked if he knew of a younger camp commander. He replied that the youngest he had heard of was 19. So we in the Illinois division take special pride in the fact that we have young compatriots willing to jump in and take a leadership role in our prestigious organization.

I have high hopes for Commander Lake and our other up and coming young compatriot in Camp Douglas Memorial, Mitch Ransdell.

The Illinois division has been “Brigaded” due to the fact that most of our camps lie either along the southern or northern border of our division. We think this will make it easier to coordinate events, and activities amongst the camps. The Southern brigade commander is Gale Red, and the Northern brigade commander is Jacob Lake. Dr Mark Woolfington has been elected to the rank of camp commander of Camp Douglas Memorial #516. At this time he is appointing his cabinet of officers. Past Division Commander James Barr still retains an active role in the division and the Camp Douglas.

The division is just about finished re-organizing itself and we have adopted our theme of ‘Moving Forward’. There are plans to expand our division by a few camps and try to plant them where we need them- mostly in the central part of the division.

I have attended the memorial ceremony held by the George Dixon camp #1962 in Alton, Illinois and that was unexpected adventure. The next event on the division schedule is the annual memorial service at Mounds National Cemetery- just outside Cairo, Illinois by the Private Spince Blankenship # 1802 at the end of this month.

The Illinois Division will be represented at the National Reunion by Past Division Commander Barr, and Rev. Dr. Mark Woolfington, commander Camp Douglas #516.

Until next time-DV-
John Jeffers



Report of the Michigan Division

For many years, the Admiral Raphael Semmes Camp of Michigan made an annual pilgrimage to Johnson's Island Confederate Cemetery to honor our fallen ancestor's by participating in the Memorial Day Sunday service. This cemetery is all that remains of the Confederate officer's POW camp located in Sandusky Bay, Ohio. While there are 206 headstone's made of Georgia marble, many of which are marked "Unknown", research indicates that there may be as many as 267 actual grave's.

A monument was placed at the site in June of 1910 by the United Daughter's of the Confederacy. Atop the marble base is a bronze sculpture of a Confederate soldier entitled "The Lookout" designed by Sir Moses Ezekiel. Moses was a world renowned sculptor as well as a VMI graduate and CSA combat veteran. He is buried in the Confederate section of Arlington National Cemetery near the base of the Confederate Memorial monument that he also designed.

Sadly, by the early 1990s, the statue had fallen on hard times and was badly in need of repair. The forward end of the rifle barrel had been wired in place. Camp Commander Stanley White began writing letter's and making phone calls to address this problem. Initially, we were informed by the National Park Service that many "Union" monument's were in need of attention first. Finally, due to the efforts of our camp, in June of 1995, the statue was removed and professionally restored to its original grandeur.

This coming Saturday June 12th, 2010 at 2pm, the Ohio Division of the United Daughter's of the Confederacy will have a re-dedication ceremony of this monument. The Ohio Division of the Children of the Confederacy will decorate the grave's with Battle Flag's. Our camp will attend and try to assemble a Color Guard like the one pictured in the 1995 photo. A strong turnout is expected by the public.

Our camp visit's always included the placement of a Battle Flag on each grave. Last year on May 25th, Memorial Day Sunday, Camp Cmdr. Stan White, 1st Lt. Cmdr. Darron Williams and camp member Gary Stevens placed Battle Flag's on all of the grave's as shown in the picture. Island resident's were pleased to see the attention given to what they described as "a largely ignored" cemetery.

Adm. R. Semmes
Camp #1321
Michigan



Above: Johnsons Island 2009

Left: Michigan Division members serve as Color Guard at Johnsons Island in 1995.



Report of the Florida Division

On Wednesday, March 24, 2010, the Color Guard from the General Jubal A. Early Camp 556 in Tampa, Florida participated in the dedication of two reconditioned WBTS-period cannon at Plant Park on the campus of the University of Tampa.

The cannon formerly overlooked the Hillsborough River and were used to defend Tampa during the War for Southern Independence. Federal troops subsequently captured the cannon and for nearly 100 years they were mounted on obscure concrete placements on campus. The Fort Brooke Commission raised funds to recondition and reset the cannon in a more prominent and fitting location.

The Commission invited the Early Camp Color Guard to be part of the ceremony. The Color Guard was recognized by Commission Chairman Charles Spicola, who has always had a sincere respect for the Early Camp.

Pam Iorio, the Mayor of Tampa, conveyed warm greetings to the Color Guard prior to the ceremony. With so many politically correct in attendance at the ceremony, our presence was indeed vital and reassuring during the 40 minute program. Several county commissioners and the President of the University were also on hand.

Continued next page...



Above: Early Camp members (left to right) Dave Anthony, Art Davis and Scott Rose stand guard over one of the reconditioned cannon at the ceremony.



Above: (Left to right) Pam Iorio, Mayor of Tampa, Cmdr. Mike Herring and members of the Early Camp Color Guard.

Right: Early Camp Color Guard with Mayor Pam Iorio at the University of Tampa campus in Tampa, Florida.





On April 24, 2010, Cmdr. Clement Lindsey and members of the John Hance O'Steen Camp 770 in Trenton, Florida dedicated an granite obelisk memorial to the Confederate Veterans of the western part of Alachua County, Florida, which became Gilchrist County in 1925. The memorial is located at the Veterans Memorial Park just to the south of the Gilchrist County Courthouse in Trenton.

Pictured from left to right are John Adams, Clement Lindsey, FL Division Cmdr. Doug Dawson, Harry Hurst, Earl Green, Jimmy Darby (kneeling) and Bob Hurst.



On May 22, 2010 at the Florida Division Reunion in Ocala, candidates for National officer positions gave spirited presentations to those in attendance. Candidates included (left to right) Charles Kelly Barrow of Georgia, Paul C. Gramling, Jr. of Louisiana, Michael Givins of South Carolina and Ed Butler of Tennessee. Barrow and Gramling are vying for the position of Lt. Cmdr.-in-Chief, Givins is campaigning for Commander-in-Chief of the SCV and Butler is seeking the position of Commander of the Army of Tennessee. We appreciated their presence and presentations at the Florida Division Reunion.

Art Hays, Cmdr.
9th Brigade
FL Division, SCV





Bob Hurst of Tallahassee, FL prepared the following article for publication in the Wakulla Area Times. His articles also get disseminated and published in other papers, too.

TWO INSPIRING SIGHTS

There was once a time in America when all across the Southland the melodious and uplifting strains of "Dixie" were heard during athletic contests, parades and many other social gatherings and occasions.

There was a time when Southern schools taught of the nobility and character of Robert E. Lee, the military genius and absolute goodness of Stonewall Jackson, the boldness and flair of Jeb Stuart, the audacity and brilliance of Nathan Bedford Forrest and the courage and honor of Jefferson Davis.

There was a time when monuments and statues were regularly raised on courthouse lawns to honor the deeds, the devotion and the spirit of our Confederate ancestors and heroes plus celebrations were held at these iconic sites to remember the heroism of the remarkable Confederates who had fought so hard for the independence of the Southland.

But times change.

About five decades ago this country went through a paradigm shift and began a transformation to a place many of us were, and still are, uncomfortable with. The putrid wind of political correctness began blowing its foul fragrance across this land with especially severe impact on our beloved South. It became verboten to play or sing the wonderful "Dixie" at any of those venues where it had been so common before. Why, the student senate of my undergraduate alma mater, one of the most conservative universities in the country, even voted to have the school band stop playing that wondrous melody at home football games. I never imagined that even a handful of students at Auburn would have voted that way much less the entire student senate.

Another great Southern university, Ole Miss, was every Southerner's "other" favorite school because they were the "Rebels" and their fans waved the Confederate Battle Flag at athletic events. That, too, changed a few years back when a liberal administration banned the waving of the CBF in the stands at athletic contests. They even changed the school mascot from a well-recognized Southern gentleman figure to something absolutely indescribable.

Many other things of this nature have happened throughout our Southland as political correctness has come to dominate so many aspects of our lives and one of the primary targets for extinction by the PC crowd has been anything having to do with the Confederacy. That is why I found two recent events here in our hard-to-recognize-as-still-Southern state of Florida to be so gratifying and inspiring.

The first occurred on April 24 in Trenton, the county seat of Gilchrist County. On that date a brand new monument was dedicated to the Confederate soldiers who hailed from that part of the state. The key point about the dedication of this monument is that the memorial is located on the grounds of the county courthouse - a public place.

Continued next page...



Now, there was a time when it was not unusual at all for Southern groups, primarily the United Daughters of the Confederacy, to have Confederate monuments erected on public property with the full cooperation of elected officials. This, sadly, has become a thing of the past. Too many city, county and state officials are now so afraid that someone might claim to be "offended" by any display of pride in the Confederacy that they meekly give in to the complaints of the Always Complaining People.

This is why it was so inspiring to me to watch two members of John Hance O'Steen Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans remove the covering from the monument and reveal to the large crowd in attendance the most recent memorial to our ancestors. I could also detect the pride felt by Camp Commander Clement Lindsey and camp member John Aulick, Jr. as they did the honors.

I know from previous conversations with Commander Lindsey that this was a project several years in the making and I can only say, "Job well done, gentlemen, you did us all proud." Kudos to everyone involved in this remarkable project.

By the way, making this accomplishment even more gratifying is the fact that just a couple of years ago the officials in a nearby county had had a Confederate monument moved from the spot at the courthouse in that county where it had sat for decades.

Also remarkable was the good (and fair) coverage that the event received in the very liberal Gainesville SUN newspaper. The article even contained a picture and was located on the front page of the "Local and State" section. Good job, SUN!

Only two days later (April 26) and not far from Trenton, another wonderful event took place. In Cross City, the county seat of Dixie County, a Confederate Memorial Day celebration hosted by Dixie Defenders Camp, SCV, was held on the steps of the courthouse in that fine town. Not only was there a good-sized crowd in attendance but both the city commission and the county commission presented proclamations to the camp declaring that day as Confederate Memorial Day in the city and county. Among those in attendance in front of the courthouse were many people who worked inside the building and a number of elected officials.

As nice as all this was, the most electrifying moment of the day came when (by permission of the county manager and county commission) the Third National Flag of the Confederacy (the current governmental flag of the Confederacy) was run up the sole flagpole at the courthouse and remained there throughout the ceremony. The Third National did not fly alone, however, as just beneath it was hoisted a new Confederate POW flag that was designed by a member of the Dixie Defenders Camp.

Continued next page...



I know how hard Camp Commander Joe Sparacino has worked over the past several years to develop a good rapport with the government officials in the city and county. It all paid off with this wonderful and inspiring event which I understand Commander Sparacino hopes to make an annual affair.

I had the privilege of being one of the two speakers for the event (Tampa radio personality Al McCray was the other) and I can say, without reservation, that I will always be proud of my participation in this great occasion and will always look back upon it with fondness.

Since I'm writing about fine events, let me conclude with a heads-up for everyone in this area about an upcoming event that you should find interesting.

My very first CONFEDERATE JOURNAL article for the Wakulla Area Times, written almost five years ago, was about the terrible damage done by Hurricane Katrina to magnificent Beauvoir, the retirement home in Biloxi of President Jefferson Davis. The huge wave surge and winds did extensive damage to the house itself but simply destroyed the other structures on the property including the museum/library.

The Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, owns and operates Beauvoir and has overseen the complete restoration of the wonderful old house which has been re-opened to the public. Now it is time to rebuild the museum/library and this, of course, will require financial support.

On June 19, 2010, Col. David Lang Camp, SCV, in Tallahassee will host a Jefferson Davis Banquet to help raise money for this rebuilding program. While the Mississippi Division holds title to the presidential shrine, this wonderful place is the responsibility of all true Southerners and especially those in the SCV, OCR, UDC, CoC and other Southern heritage organizations. I invite those of you living in this area to contact me about tickets to the banquet and if anyone reading this article would like to contribute to this worthwhile cause (any donation is appreciated) then please feel free to contact me about this. My contact information is at the end of this article.

Richard Flowers, the curator at Beauvoir, will be the keynote speaker for the evening and will also bring many items from the Beauvoir store (books, collectibles, etc.) which will be available for purchase by those in attendance at the banquet.

I plan for our camp to continue hosting this banquet annually at least until such time as the library/museum is completely rebuilt and again open to the public. I encourage you to help us make this first event a real success.

For the Cause.

Bob Hurst is a Southern Patriot who belongs to a number of heritage, historical and ideological organizations. He has a special interest in Confederate history and the antebellum architecture of the Old South. He is Commander of Col. David Lang Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, in Tallahassee and is 2nd Lt. Commander of the Florida Division, SCV. Contact him at confederatedad1@yahoo.com or 850-878-7010.



Report of the Kentucky Division

On the 8th of May, 2010, the Kentucky Division dedicated the Kentucky Confederate Monument at Vicksburg National Battlefield Park, thus culminating nearly 15 years of dedicated work and anticipation.

Under a sunny south-Mississippi sky, Dr. T. Y. Hiter, the Division Commander, transferred title to the great Georgia granite monolith to fellow Kentuckian and SCV Executive Director Ben Sewell, who was at that particular moment representing Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear, who in turn transferred it to Park Superintendent Mike Madell.

Some 300 spectators were on hand as muskets volleyed, cannons saluted, wreaths were laid, and children from across the south removed a parachute drapery to officially reveal the monument to the world. SCV Commander in Chief Chuck McMichael was on hand, as were AoT Councilman Tom Strain and Mississippi Division Commander Bill Atkinson. It was a wonderful event in every way. The Kentucky Division wishes to thank all those who helped make it possible.

In other business, we're continuing to move forward on the Childress case. As most will recall, Division Lieutenant Commander Childress was absolved of all criminal charges and we sued the hotel and the chain they work for. We were in court in January. Some of the charges in our suit were dropped; some were not. We've appealed the dropping of those that were. It's a huge, long, frustrating thing, and very expensive, but we're seeing it through.

Our Division Reunion is scheduled for the weekend of 18-20 June, in Corbin. Details are on the website, and we'd love to see any or all of you there!

Thomas Y. Hiter Ph.D.
Commanding

www.scvva.org/Oakwood/index.html

At the 2009 National Reunion in Hot Springs, Arkansas, Commander-in-Chief Chuck McMichael and Virginia Division Cmdr. John Sawyer signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the City of Richmond.

Visit the link above to read all about this momentous agreement!



Elect Charles "Kelly" Barrow

LT. CMDR IN CHIEF

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Report of the Tennessee Division

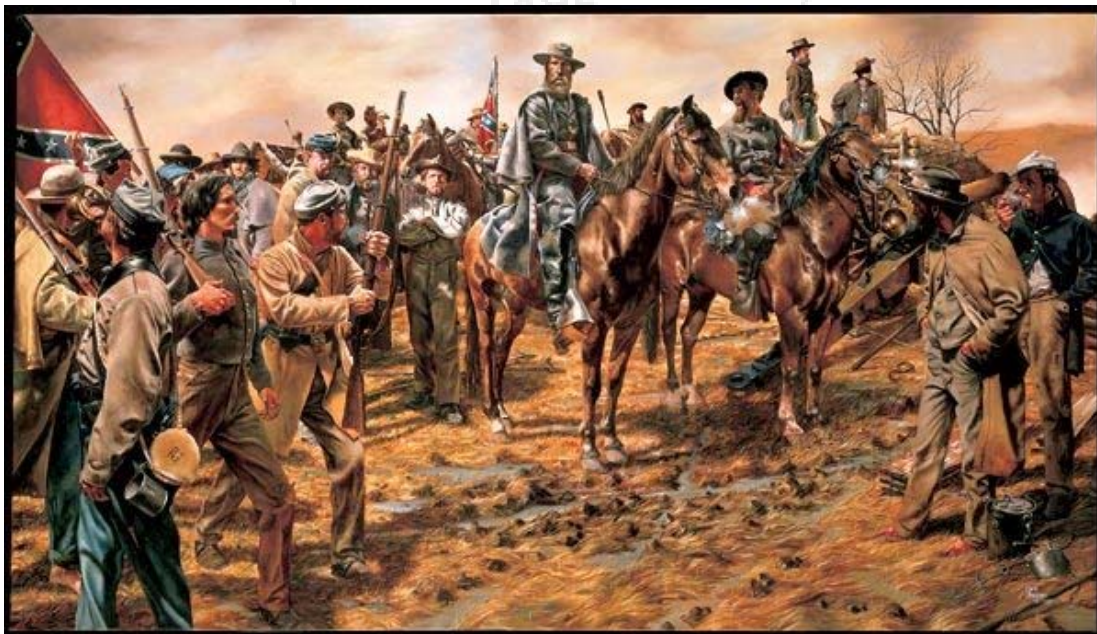
The Tennessee Reunion was held in Manchester on April 23-24. Mike Beck was elected the new Division Commander.

Congratulations Commander Beck!



I wish I was in the land of cotton,
Old times there are not forgotten;
Look away! Look away! Look away, Dixie Land!
In Dixie Land where I was born in,
Early on one frosty morning,
Look away! Look away! Look away, Dixie Land!

Then I wish I was in Dixie! Hooray! Hooray!
In Dixie Land I'll take my stand, to live and die in Dixie!
Away! Away! Away down South in Dixie!
Away! Away! Away down South in Dixie!





Report of the Ohio Division

All is well in The Ohio Division!

The Captain Thomas W. Patton Camp # 2021, located in Boardman, Ohio, has volunteered to host the 2011 Division Convention. Thanks to Commander Johnson and the men of Camp 2021 for their dedication to The Ohio Division and the SCV!



In recent news, Compatriot Glenn Venner hosted a grave dedication for 8 Confederates interred in Covington, Kentucky on May 30th. There were 50 plus people in attendance.

Participants included a bag piper / bugler, author, C.L. Gray, which gave a very good speech, and ladies dressed in period mourning attire. The “mourners” stood behind each grave and as each name of the men interred was read aloud the lady removed a black cloth covering the grave marker. Each mans unit history was also given.

Below are photos from the event.

In Southern Brotherhood,
Michael Lawson
The Ohio Division

Right:
Division
Adjutant
Mark
Wells



Left:
Glenn
Venner
standing
2nd from
right





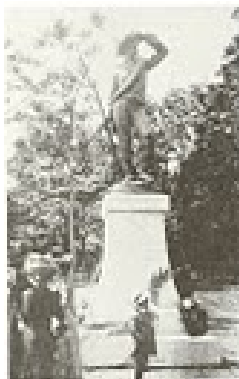
The Ohio Division

United Daughters of the Confederacy

and Johnson's Island Committee

invites you to attend the 100th.

year rededication of the



"Lookout" Monument.

Saturday, June 12, 2010 at 2:00pm

Johnson's Island, Marblehead, Ohio

for information e-mail rjw@ohio.net



VOTE FOR

And

ELECT

Tom V. Strain Jr.

AOT Commander

The "RIGHT" Choice

Thomas V. Strain Jr.

AoT

Commander

www.scv-strain.com



Report of the Indiana Division

Indiana

On April 24th seventy-five men and guests from all over the Indiana Division gathered to pay tribute to the sacrifice of the 1,616 Confederate POW's who now lie in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis, following nearly a solid week of rain. Although under cloudy skies, not a drop of rain fell as Keynote Speaker David Fraley, former historian at the Carter House in Franklin, Tennessee delivered a stirring tribute. All in attendance stood silently with tear in eye as Compatriot Charles Chandler once again played Taps on bugle and Commander David Wires initiated a new tradition with the playing of Amazing Grace on bagpipes.

On May 15th, the 146th anniversary of the Battle of New Market, the Thomas Henry Hines Camp of Michigan City, with a memorial ceremony and Iron Cross dedication by the General John Hunt Morgan Chapter, UDC, initiated another new tradition for our Division. Forty-five men and guests gathered on a beautiful sunny day at the grave of VMI Cadet Captain Carlton Shafer, who commanded Company B during the battle, in La Porte's Pine Lake Cemetery. Historian and VMI alumnus Dean H. Armstrong, Jr. of Avon Lake, Ohio delivered the Keynote Address and a luncheon and Division meeting was held afterward where Division Life Membership lapel pins were presented.

Commander David Wires of Evansville's Colonel Robert M. Martin Camp and Commander Jamie McKechnie of the Adam Rankin Johnson Camp of nearby Henderson, Kentucky have provided an inspiring example of cooperation and support between Camps separated by Division lines and in this case the Ohio River, as members from both Camps have made an effort to attend meetings and events sponsored by the other.

With the much appreciated help of the Virginia and Tennessee Divisions and of course the aforementioned ladies of the General John Hunt Morgan Chapter, UDC we were able to meet our \$10,000 fundraising goal for the Ladoga Monument in 8 months. The 8½-ton granite monument is currently being cut with 75 names of Confederate patriots from Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, Kentucky and North Carolina who now lie at rest in Montgomery County, Indiana. A September date is tentatively planned for a formal dedication.

In accordance with our Division Constitution, Dues Statements have been mailed to all of our members prior to the last day of May and since our Division has operated solely on contributions for the past 18 months, we look forward to building our Division treasury even further this year in preparation for the challenges of the years to come. Inserts included with the Statements encourage voluntary contribution for those who are able, beyond our modest \$5 Division dues so that we may maintain our record of never having a dues increase in our 20 year history.

We have managed to maintain our 200-member status attained last year in spite of a worsened economy, have increased our Division Life Memberships to 65% of our National Life Members and have finally taken delivery of a lapel pin to exhibit that level of commitment. We also recently presented a National Life Membership to Commander Rod Stouffer of the Captain Arthur M. Rutledge Camp in recognition of his recruitment of 10 new members between April 1st and June 1st of this year, thus winning our first Division Recruiting Contest.

For several months we have been planning our trip to the National Reunion at Anderson, South Carolina and for the first time in several years 100% of our Indiana Division Camps will be represented in the all-important voting for our national leadership!

In the Bonds of the Old South,

Stephen Lee Ritchie, Cmdr.
Indiana Division



AOT Chaplain David Chaltas



Army of
Tennessee

Prayers of the People

"That in all things Christ might have the preeminence."

HIS BROTHERS' KEEPER

During the terrible War Between the States, there were many unheralded heroes. We all recall Sergeant Richard Kirkland's heroics at the Battle of Marye's Heights. But there comes to mind another hero whose name is known only to God. General Gordon related the story about this Unknown Soldier.

During the winter campaign of 1863, General Longstreet attempted to gain possession of a notorious fort called Loudon. It was later named after a Union general killed during the siege of Knoxville. His name was William Price Sanders. The earthen structure was said to be seventy feet above the surrounding plateau and was protected by a twelve foot wide ditch. The entrenchment was eight feet deep. There were twelve cannons manned by four hundred men of the 79th New York Infantry.

The battle took place in the dawn's early morning on November 29, 1863. The air was frosty and the ground frozen. Armed with misinformation regarding the depth of the trench (he had seen a man cross a wooden plank, which created an illusion of the ditch being shallow). Instead of scaling ladders, General Longstreet decided to have his men dig footholds when they assaulted the incline. Both plans proved to be disastrous.

After running a gauntlet of telegraph wires tied to tree stumps and brush, slowing the advance and making the men easy targets, the gallant boys reached the entrenchment. Realizing that the walls were almost vertical, they nevertheless charged into the predetermined gravesite. The frozen ground would not yield to their efforts at creating footholds. With sheer determination three flags were planted at the top, only to be cut down by point blank fire from the Union troops.

Fire rained down upon the trapped men in the manmade canyon. One young Confederate soldier saw the mayhem and heard the cries of the wounded and dying. He could not contain himself. He grabbed as many canteens as he could carry and made a dash towards his comrades, without thought of his own safety. The men of the 79th New York witnessed his efforts and upon realizing his mission, they lavished him with an incredible cascade of admiration, instead of shot or shells.

General Gordon stated in his own words that, "If the annals of war record any incident between hostile armies which embodies a more beautiful and touching tribute by the brave to the brave, I have never seen it." (Reminiscences of the Civil War; Gordon, John B.; Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, The Martin & Hoyt Co, Atlanta; 1904 pages 198-199)

His name has been lost to obscurity but his Christian deed must live on to honor those unheralded voices of yesteryear. Even during the worst of times, the best of humanity can surface and remind us of God, Country, and Honor. This act of kindness and love demonstrates to us all that we have a higher calling and to serve our conscience by doing what is righteous and honorable, glorifies our Creator.

In Matthew 10:42, the Bible tells us, "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." Mark 9:41 states, "For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward."

Humbled by the bravery of an unknown soldier and honored by those who stood in his path, I remain the old general



Our History Project is a weekly show that will take history and make it his - story. We will focus on the story behind the story, capturing history from firsthand accounts, when possible, and bring to light what impact those decisions made in their lives. We know the history; we can see the facts, now let's hear the influence of those events from the people who were there. Our goal is preservation; we want to preserve these memories for the ages, or in the immortal words of author and poet Joseph Rudyard Kipling, "Lest we forget."

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