



CAMPTALK

The monthly Newsletter of the Capt. J.J. Dickison Camp 1387, Sons of Confederate Veterans, 10th Brigade, Florida Division, Army of Tennessee, Melbourne Florida

Vol. 24 No. 10 October 2009

Editor Don Young

October 2009 MEETING

MEMAW's BBQ 600 East Eau Gallie Blvd. Indian Harbour Beach, FL

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Order from the menu

7:00 – 8:00 Program

8:00 – 8:45 Business Meeting

CAMP OFFICERS

Chaplain Tim Cobb 321-259-8391
Treasurer Don Jones 321-727-3986
2nd Lt. Gerry Carson 321-259-0837
1st Lt. JR Williford 321-984-4369
Adjutant Kevin Atchison 321-242-1126
Commander Don Young 321-452-3207

CAMP STAFF

Color Sgt Evan Phillips 321-961-9407
Q'termaster Evan Phillips 321-961-9407
Judge Advocate Don Lock 321-752-9276
Public Information Officer Open
Photographer Ryan Washburn
Editor Don Young 321-452-3207
Heritage Don Young 321-452-3207
Matron Of Honor
Miss Lee Phillips 321-452-3207
UDC/OCR Liaison Miss Lee 321-452-3207

COMMANDERS CORNER

In September, 17 compatriots and guests heard a fact filled presentation about Confederate General Donald B. Jones and his 6 soldier brothers. The General was an ancestor of our Treasurer Donald B. Jones IV (his grandson is Donald B. Jones VI). My apologies to Don for the mix up in last month's Camptalk announcement with General Richard Taylor. General Taylor was also an ancestor of Don's, but that's another story and another program. A tip of the kepi to Don for a fascinating program.

This month we will have one of our favorite speakers, Bob Flaniken, who will present a new program he has produced "Truth, Justice and the Confederate Way". The phrase has a certain ring to it if you were around in the 1950's. The subject is the causes of the War for Southern Independence.

New compatriot Ed Slaughter is working with the Canaveral Light Chapter of the UDC and St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Courtenay to gather CSA grave information. The pioneer church has several Confederate graves and Ed will collect information including GPS coordinates for the SCV register.

Compatriot Tom Watkins is starting some updates to the camp's website; the site has had no maintenance in the past 2 years. A tip of the kepi to Tom.

Fall Officer's Call is Saturday 17 October. This is a chance for compatriots to meet and visit with their Confederate brethren from the Southeast Region. Call Commander Young if you would like to attend, he has seats available for the ride to Vero Beach.

Veteran's Day is coming up and we intend to march in the Homestead Veteran's Day parade. The locale VFW has asked the SCV not to march because other groups say they will not march if the SCV does. When politics decides which American veterans groups are acceptable and which ones are to be excluded, our communities and our nation has lost the freedom our ancestor's have fought over a period of 200 years to gain. The Homestead VFW should be ashamed of their request. We will also participate in the annual Massing of The Colors at BCC. The Order of World Wars who sponsors that event keeps the invitation open to the SCV despite "complaints".

DUES ARE DUE. Your annual dues are due and will be late as of 30 October. If you are late you will have to pay a \$5 reinstatement charge. Reenlistment has been high, thank you for being prompt and maintaining your membership. If you are among the few who have not yet paid your dues, please reconsider staying with the SCV. Call Adjutant Kevin Atchison or a Camp officer in the next several days or mail your dues to Kevin. Please renew your membership – The South needs all her sons.

Commander Young will be out of state for the October meeting, Adjutant Atchison will conduct the October meeting.

In Service of The South, Don C. Young Commander Camp

EVENTS

17 Oct	Fall Officer's Call
22 Oct	Camp Meeting
09 Nov	E-Board Meeting (2 nd Tuesday)
11 Nov	Veteran's Day, Homestead Parade and BCC Massing of the Colors
19 Nov	Camp Meeting (3 rd Thursday)

PROGRAM

TRUTH, JUSTICE AND THE CONFEDERATE WAY

Camp friend and real historian **Bob Flaniken** will present a new program he has produced on the causes of the War for Southern Independence. The causes and start of the War is one of the most entrenched and enduring myths. We all need to understand the real history, don't miss it!

PRAYER LIST

Compatriots Tom Watkins and Tim Cobb are still in need of remembrance in our thoughts and prayers due to long term illness.

THE SACKING OF ATHENS by Commander Bob Hurst

Apparently the subject of northern atrocities committed against Southern civilians struck a chord with the readership of CONFEDERATE JOURNAL. I received more feedback from readers about last month's article concerning the crimes against Confederate-leaning Missourians than from any other article that I've written in the four-year history of this series appearing in the Wakulla Area Times. I even had one telephone request to go state-by-state revealing Federal war crimes against Southern civilians.

With so many topics to write about, I don't plan to devote that much attention to just one; but, I will be revisiting that particular topic occasionally - starting with this month, in fact. I have chosen to write about the deplorable actions of the Federal army in May of 1862 when the small town of Athens, Alabama was sacked and northern public opinion seemed to change on what constituted acceptable war policy toward civilians.

Athens today is an attractive Alabama town of almost 20,000 citizens. It is located just south of the Tennessee state line and a few miles west of the larger city of Huntsville. It is a picturesque community with many attractive older homes and there is a small college, Athens State University, located in the town. There is also a historical marker on the square in Athens with the heading "ATHENS SACKED AND PLUNDERED". After more than 140 years the good people of Athens still remember what happened to their fair town when the Yankees came calling.

In the spring of 1862, Athens was a town of about 900 inhabitants. Some of the attractive older homes of today had already been built as had the college, although at that time it was strictly a women's college.

Federal forces entered the area shortly after the Battle of Shiloh which had taken place in early April 1862. The federals had already occupied Nashville and continued a southward push through Murfreesboro, Shelbyville and other Tennessee towns before crossing into Alabama and occupying Huntsville which became a base of operations because of the railroad which ran through the town.

Confederate partisans in the area, not appreciating having their homeland occupied by foreigners in uniforms, developed the irritating habits of sometimes wrecking federal troop trains, cutting telegraph lines, capturing supplies and even firing on Federal troops from ambush. The Union commander, Brig. Gen. Ormsby MacKnight Mitchel, blamed local civilians for these actions.

One Union officer, Col. John Beatty of the 3rd Ohio Infantry Regiment, issued an ultimatum stating that every time the telegraph wire was cut a house would be burned and every time a train was fired upon a man would be hanged and this would continue "until every house was burned and every man hanged between Decatur and Bridgeport". Then, for good measure, he ordered the small town of Paint Rock burned to the ground. Fine fellows, these yanks.

The problems of Athens actually began the first day of May when the First Louisiana Cavalry Regiment, under the command of Confederate Colonel John Simms Scott, advanced into town and attacked the main force of the Eighteenth Ohio. Although badly

outnumbered, the Confederates quickly scattered the Yankees who panicked and rapidly fled back toward Huntsville abandoning their tents, supplies, equipment and weapons in the process. The citizens of the town joined in the festivities by taunting and harassing the fleeing federals and even taking potshots at the rapidly retreating posteriors of the bluecoats.

Union commander Ormsby Mitchel was so enraged by the sight of his army slinking into Huntsville that he ordered the retaking of Athens the very next day. For this task he chose a Russian-born Cossack who was a colonel in the federal army. His name was John Basil Turchin. Actually he had been christened Ivan Vasilievitch Turchaninov, or Turchinenoff, or Turchinov, or something like that.

The next day Turchin took a force consisting of the Nineteenth and Twenty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantries, the 37th Indiana Volunteer Infantry and the Eighteenth Ohio into Limestone County to retake Athens and teach the town a lesson. As with much of the Union Army, a large number of these troops were immigrants who had only recently arrived from Germany, Hungary and other parts of Europe.

One Illinois soldier was quoted as saying that "our troops were in an ugly mood". Nonetheless, when these troops arrived in Athens, Turchin told the large force that "I shut my eyes..." and "I see nothing". Given this license by their commander, what followed was rampage, pillage, theft and rape by the federal troops. Homes were looted of anything of value that could be carried away (money, silver, jewelry, etc.) and those items that could not be (pianos, portraits, etc.) were simply destroyed. Town businesses were ransacked and looted and, in one instance, a supply of 300 Bibles was destroyed by the marauders. At the Hollingsworth home, the pregnant Mrs. Hollingsworth was treated so badly that she first lost her baby and later died herself.

The initial reaction to this behavior on the part of the Union soldiers was anger and outrage by people of both the South and the North. Major General Don Carlos Buell, Commander of the Third Division of the Union Army, filed charges against John Turchin and a court-martial was convened.

The court-martial of Turchin began on July 10, 1862. The presiding officer was Brig. Gen. James A. Garfield. Early in the trial, Gen. Garfield commented that Turchin's men had committed the "most shameful outrages here that the history of this war has shown".

Interestingly, attitudes began to change as the trial progressed. Turchin's wife traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with Abraham Lincoln and plead her husband's case. Northern newspapers that had initially editorialized against the brutality and excesses of the federal troops suddenly began to opine that the Southern people deserved this treatment for entering into a "rebellion" against the federal government.

Garfield was even quoted as saying, "Until the rebels are made to feel that rebellion is a crime which the government will punish, there is no hope of destroying it." So much for civil treatment of civilians. Despite this waffling, the facts could not be denied and Turchin was found guilty of conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline.

At this point you are probably thinking that Col. Turchin was shortly thereafter relieved of his command and drummed out of the army in disgrace. Right?

WRONG!

During the trial Turchin had been nominated for promotion to the rank of brigadier general. What Abe wanted, Abe always got. On July 17 the promotion was approved by the U.S. Senate and Turchin was rewarded for the sacking of Athens with a promotion to brigadier general. This seems to be a pattern that occurred on several occasions during the war. Oh, by the way, he was awarded clemency despite being found "guilty" in the courtroom.

Ah, well, it's not really what you do, it's who you do it to. Things certainly haven't changed much in these nearly 150 years.

An Athens resident, Mary Fielding, exhibited great prescience when she wrote in her diary, " I don't see any use in trying them for what they did here, twill be done again and again all over the South where they have the power." How right she was!

The loser in this affair (other than the people of Athens) was the Northerner who acted most honorably. Major General Don Carlos Buell, who insisted that Turchin be punished, was soon being vilified by northern newspapers and public opinion. He was relieved of his command by the Lincoln Administration in October 1862 and eventually resigned from the army.

James A. Garfield, who first condemned the actions of Turchin's marauders before changing his tune, later suggested that it might be good tactics to have the same treatment Athens received foisted on some towns in troublesome border states. Garfield was, of course, later elected president of the United States. I'm sure you also recall that he was assassinated only months into his term of office.

And what became of General John Basil Turchin? After suffering from mental problems for many years, he spent the last years of his life in an insane asylum eventually dying there. I'm sure the good people of Athens have an occasional chuckle about this and probably mutter something under their breath about karma.

By the way, the citizens of Athens submitted a bill to the U.S. Government in 1862 for damages in the amount of \$54,389.16. This was for the substantial damage done to the town by the Union thugs. By today's standards this is not a great sum. By 1862 standards it was a considerable amount. The U.S. Government never bothered to pay.

Perhaps the true significance of Athens was that it represented a change in how civilians in the South could and would be treated by Northern combatants. The failure of the northern people and press to condemn the actions of Turchin and his troops was a sad foreshadowing of what was in store for millions of other Southern civilians.

Bob Hurst is active in several Southern and Confederate heritage organizations. He is also Commander of Col. David Lang Camp 1314, Sons of Confederate Veterans, in Tallahassee and 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Florida Division, SCV. Contact confederatedad1@yahoo.com or 850-878-7010.

SCV DECLARES HAYWARD SHEPHERD DAY

The Army of Northern Virginia of the Sons of Confederate Veterans will kick off the Sesquicentennial of the War Between the States on Saturday, October 3, in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, by holding their annual meeting beginning at 10:30 at the Block house (John Brown's Fort).

The purpose of the meeting is to announce that October 16 will be known as HAYWARD SHEPHERD DAY, honoring the unfortunate black citizen who met his death as John Brown's first victim 150 years ago. Hayward, a faithful employee and Baggage Master of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was murdered in furtherance of John Brown's nefarious scheme to capture the arsenal in that famous city. The SCV will honor Hayward Shepherd by placing a wreath at the 1931 marker honoring him across from the Engine House where Brown's raid ended. Mr. Richard Hines, a well known historian from Alexandria, Virginia, will discuss the real John Brown.

Many today try to whitewash Brown's crimes and call him a martyr. Mr. Hines will discuss Brown's true motivations and his association with a group of famous Northern abolitionists (the Secret 6) who financed his plot and encouraged him to murder and commit crimes against his fellow Americans. The public is welcome to come see the wreath laying and hear Mr. Hines speak.

HERITAGE VIOLATION

THE SOUTHERN LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER **UPDATE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2009, P.O. Box 1235, Black Mountain, NC 28711/(828)669-5189/ slrc@slrc-csa.org**

SLRC ADVISES FAMILIES IN HAWTHORNE T-SHIRT DISPUTE

HAWTHORNE, FL -- The Southern Legal Resource Center is guiding the families of students at Hawthorne Middle and High Schools who have found themselves caught up in a sudden and apparently arbitrary ban on Confederate-themed clothing.

In mid-September, parents and guardians of several middle and high school students in Hawthorne, a small town east of Gainesville in Alachua County, contacted the SLRC after the students had been sent home for wearing t-shirts with designs that incorporated the Confederate battle flag. The incidents took place at the beginning of the new school year in August and parents said there had been no prior warning of a ban on Confederate clothing. Furthermore, they said, such clothing has been worn at the school without incident for many years.

At first, according to parents, Hawthorne Middle/High School Principal Veita Jackson-Carter specifically (although verbally) banned Confederate symbols by name. Later, they said, she amended her position, indicating that she would abide by the results of a written poll that was to be conducted among both students and parents. She then indicated she would delay further action until after a visit to the school on by Southern activist and former NAACP officer H.K. Edgerton.

However, ballots were handed to the students on September 8 and parents' copies were asked to be returned by September 14, the actual date of Edgerton's visit. Moreover, copies of the survey obtained by the SLRC show no mention of the Confederate flag or any other specific content. The poll asks respondents to rate, in general terms, the school's new dress code and several other innovations. The dress code, also obtained by the SLRC, likewise makes no mention of Confederate symbols.

Mrs. Joann Justice, grandmother of two of the affected students, said she received a voice mail message from Ms. Jackson-Carter on September 17, stating that the principal had set aside the written ballots and instead conducted her own "informal poll" among students and faculty as to what they thought about the Confederate flag. The results of this survey, she said in her message, had led her to stand by her original decision to ban Confederate symbols. She did **not**, according to Mrs. Justice, say how she had conducted her survey or what the actual results were.

The principal also stated she had taken a videotape of Edgerton's lecture to the Alachua County Board of Education for review by Superintendent Daniel Boyd, but did not say what Boyd's reaction had been. When Mrs. Justice questioned Ms. Jackson-Carter on these points in a follow-up phone conversation, she said the principal "became very irate" and terminated the call.

The SLRC helped Mrs. Justice draft a letter to Superintendent Boyd in which she related her dealings with Ms. Jackson-Carter and asked for clarification of the same points. She hand delivered the letter to Boyd's office on September 24 but to date has received no response, she said.

"I just appreciate so much the advice we are getting from the SLRC, and we also appreciate all the support and offers of help we are getting" Mrs. Justice said. "We are very confident about the way things are going forward."

"We have developed a game plan for the Hawthorne situation and we are following it," said SLRC Executive Director Roger McCredie. "At this point, that involves playing everything pretty close to our vest. We know that feelings are running high in this case, but we would urge folks at this point, unless they are citizens of Alachua County themselves, to refrain from contacting the principal or other school officials.

"We will post new developments as they occur, and meanwhile anybody who would like to be brought up to date is welcome to contact the SLRC and we will be glad to fill them in, to the extent that we can do so without compromising our agenda."

Here is some of the information that we have found for the school and school board:

Principal
Veita Jackson Carter, M.E.D-P
jacksovl@gm.sbac.edu
352-955-7880
FAX 352-481-4859

Kirby Smith Administrative Center
620 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 3601-5498
Superintendent
Dr.W.Daniel Boyd.Jr
supt@gm.sbac.edu

Vice Principal
Libby Hartwell
mshartwelles@g.sbac.edu
352-481-1900

352-481-1900
Deputy Superintendent
Sandy Hollinger
hollinsh@gm.sbac.edu
352-955-7880

High School Dean
Laura Green
352-481-1900
School Board of Alachua County

Hawthorne Jr./Sr. High School
P.O.Box 40
Hawthorne, Florida 32640

Homestead Veteran's Day Parade

The situation in Homestead has turned for the worse. The city and Military Affairs Committee have not said that the SCV could not march in their Veteran's Day Parade, but they have said we could not carry the Battle Flag. Further, a local veteran's group, the VFW, has asked the local SCV Commander to "...gracefully bow out of the event". They

claim that "... lots of other participants say they will not participate in the parade if the SCV is represented." It is a sad day for our constitution and our nation when political correctness favoring ANY GROUP causes a mainstream veterans organization like the VFW to adopt a policy of EXCLUSION of other veterans groups. The hypocrisy of political correctness unfortunately is prospering in our society and nation.

The SCV will march in the parade unless forced out. This situation is all too common across the South and our entire nation. Commander Young and Color Sgt. Phillips plan to march in the Homestead parade, if you would like to participate contact the Cmdr.

CIC Letter to Bill O'Reilly - 14 September 2009

Dear Mr. O'Reilly,

As usual I watched the Factor tonight and am writing in reference to the discussion of the Joe Wilson situation, specifically comments by Juan Williams. Mr. Williams tried to make the point that Ms. Dowd (NY Times) was making a circumstantial case of racism against Rep. Wilson by pointing out that he may have been a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. This will have the effect of leaving your viewers with the impression that this organization is racist. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Mr. Williams is normally more fair than that.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans was formed in 1896 to continue the legacy of honoring those American Veterans. The SCV is a non-partisan, educational and historic organization made up of men who have Confederate ancestors regardless of race, creed, national origin or religious preference. In fact we have members from many backgrounds. The SCV has traditionally and repeatedly disavowed and rebuked hate groups that use Confederate symbolism for the wrong purposes. You may recall the discussion last Memorial Day on whether or not the President would continue the tradition of sending a wreath to the Confederate Memorial at Arlington Cemetery. He did. I personally sent him a thank you letter for this action and this has been reported in the news.

The decent, patriotic and hard working members of the SCV deserve better than to have the impression given on the Factor that they are racist. I would expect out of fairness, at the least, this could be clarified on air, or better an apology from Mr. Williams. We would be more than willing to provide a spokesman for the SCV to make the point for us should that be possible.

Thank you for your consideration,

Chuck McMichael

Commander in Chief

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Camp 1387 Web Site

Compatriot Tom Watkins has started working on the camp website. The site has had no maintenance in 2 years. Thought you might like to see these updated pages:

http://tew4515.com//Camp1387/Events/MarkerDedication_1-10-2009/Captain.%20A.

J.%20Whitlock_Marker_Dedication.html

<http://tew4515.com//Camp1387/Events.htm>

<http://tew4515.com//Camp1387/CAMPTALK.htm>

<http://tew4515.com//Camp1387/Camp1387/CampOfficers.htm>

If you have recent photos of camp events – like the last Melbourne Cemetery ceremony, please send them to Tom, Adjutant Kevin Atchison or Commander Young so they may be posted for all to share.

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FALL OFFICERS CALL SOUTHEAST COAST CAMPS October 17th:

When: Saturday, October 17th, 2009 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon Eastern Time

Where: The Little House Meeting Room, 1846 18th Ave, Vero Beach, FL (772) 778-7442

Take exit #147 off I-95 (SR 60) and go and go east 6.3 miles to 18th Ave. Turn right and go 1.5 blocks to building. No food is available at the meeting site, so please govern yourselves accordingly.

SCV Camps to attend: 471, 1387, 1395, 1516, 1595, 1599, 1680, 1903

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SLRC ISSUES URGENT APPEAL FOR DONATIONS

This year the country's in the midst of the worst economic downturn in decades, when a lot of folks have shelved the whole idea of taking a vacation and are just trying to make ends meet. Consequently the SLRC's income has suffered. We haven't been able to put out the hard copy version of our newsletter, "The Update", since April because we just can't afford the printing and postage. That puts us in a Catch-22 because the Update is one of our primary fundraising tools. So, in this time of prioritizing personal expenditures, we offer a humble plea for you to prioritize the SLRC. Remember: there is no such thing, to us, as a small contribution; anything you can afford will help us live to fight another day.

Editor: The Southern Legal Resource Center is the only group of dedicated Southern Culture lawyers in the country. The SCV is their primary support. Donations may be sent to: SLRC, PO Box 1235, Black Mountain NC 28711-1235. **At the September meeting the camp voted a \$250 donation, please consider a personal donation.**
