



# CAMPTALK

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

Vol. 27 No. 11 November 2011

Editor Don Young

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## November 2011 MEETING

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

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Order from menu 7:00 – 8:00 Program 8:00 – 8:45 Business Meeting.

Meetings are the fourth Thursday of each month.

Male descendants of men who served the Confederacy, their wives and others interested in the War Between the States are invited to attend.

## CAMP OFFICERS

Chaplain Tim Cobb	321-259-8391
Treasurer Tom Watkins	321-254-0241
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Open
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Don Young	321-452-3207
Adjutant	Open
Commander Kevin Atchison	321-242-1126

## CAMP STAFF

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

## COMMANDERS CORNER

Our October meeting featured Compatriot Ben Dubose in one of his programs on Teddy Roosevelt. Ben presented the genealogy of Roosevelt's family along with acting (1<sup>st</sup> person) the part. For those who were not there you missed a great program on a significant part of American History. Thanks again to Ben for joining us for the evening. We look forward to hearing from Ben in future as he has promised another program on Roosevelt. This month's program will again feature Robert Meeks and his continuing series on WBTS prisons. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> in the prison series.

Please don't forget our Veteran's on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup>. If you are not able to participate with our Color Guard at the Melbourne parade or the BCC Massing of the Colors, please at least take a moment and remember our Veterans and say a prayer for them.

At this month's meeting we will be collecting can goods to take to CITA (Christ is the Answer). Please look around your house and pack up non-perishable items that could be used at CITA.

In addition, the camp voted to contribute \$200 from our kitty to give to CITA for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. I know in previous years they have been very appreciative of our contributions.

Just a reminder, due to the holidays our next two meetings will be earlier in the month. Our November meeting will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> while in December we will meet on the 8<sup>th</sup>. In December we will have our Annual Christmas Party. Everyone is encouraged to bring a wrapped gift (under \$10) to participate in a gift exchange.

A final note to those who have not paid their dues for the 2011-2012 cycle, there will be a \$5 late fee charge for reinstatement to National HDQ. So far we have 5 members who have not paid.

In Service to The South, Kevin Atchison Commander Camp 1387

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## EVENTS

11 Nov	Veteran's Day Parade Melbourne
11 Nov	Massing of Colors BCC
17 Nov	November Camp Meeting
08 Dec	Annual Christmas Meeting
9-11 Dec	Raid at Ft. Pierce
13-14 Jan	Lexington VA Vigil

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## PROGRAM

### Prisons North and South

Camp **Compatriot Robert Meeks** will present the next in his continuing series of programs detailing the WBTS Prisons and how they were run. If you think you know and understand this subject the odds are that you are mistaken and your information is likely incorrect! Most of us had ancestors who spent time in one or more of these manmade hell holes and most of us know little more than broad information about them. This is a long neglected subject and **Robert** has been doing an outstanding job of presenting detailed information for our education.

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### Veteran's Day Parade

We will muster on Melbourne Ave., which runs along the creek just south of old downtown, at 9 AM on Friday 11 November. Step off will be at 10 AM. We will have a decorated vehicle, Color Guard and Mechanized Cavalry. We always get a warm welcome from spectators and the march is only about 1.5 miles, the Liberty Bell Museum is at the end of the march and O'Malley's is available for lunch. Ya'll come and join us; it is a good time and for the right reasons.

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### Massing of The Colors

We will leave the parade and go to Cocoa Campus of BCC for Massing of The Colors. We will muster at 2:30 PM and step off is at 3. This is another great event our Camp has done for many years.

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## **LEXINGTON LEE/JACKSON VIGIL**

WHEN: FRIDAY JANUARY 13, 2012 & SATURDAY JANUARY 14, 2012.

WHERE: Downtown Lexington, Virginia  
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The Heritage Defense Committee of the Sons of Confederate Veterans is sponsoring a confederation-wide vigil and protest in Lexington, Virginia for the city's passage of an insulting, discriminatory and illegal ordinance that bans Confederate flags from flag holders on city owned light poles.

Off and on since the early 1900's, the Sons of Confederate Veterans have sponsored a Lee/Jackson birthday events in Lexington. Since 2000 the Stonewall Brigade Camp has sponsored a Lee/Jackson Birthday celebration complete with seminars, memorials and a downtown parade festooned with Confederate flags on city light poles.

In 1991 the SCV was forced to sue the city of Lexington to have their Lee Jackson parade go forward – the city signed a court enforceable consent decree promising not to interfere with Confederate symbols again.

Now, in an insulting move deliberately aimed at the SCV, the City has passed an ordinance permitting only government flags (US, VA & city of Lexington) to fly from the city light poles.

Unfortunately for the city, legal research has shown that if sued over the unconstitutional ordinance, the City of Lexington will most likely lose. The lawsuit is being drafted as I write.

Until the filing date, we must put maximum pressure on the city of Lexington to peacefully redress this ongoing insult to our heroes – Lee & Jackson, in the town where their hallowed remains lie.

In response to this ongoing outrage, the Sons of Confederate Veterans urges all available compatriots to attend the Lee/Jackson celebration in Lexington (<http://leejacksonday.webs.com>) and to participate in a weekend Flag vigil/protest in downtown Lexington. A resolution by the Commander-in-Chief encouraging your participation will soon follow this notice.

Remember the excitement generated in 2000 at the Columbia SC Statehouse Rally – let's rekindle that excitement! And we will hold this event annually until this insult to our heroes is lifted.

**WILL YOU HELP? WILL YOUR CAMP HELP? IF YES, HERE's HOW:**

1. Plan to come to Lexington, VA the weekend of January 13-14, 2012. If necessary, plan your own Camp's Lee-Jackson celebration for the following weekend. If your camp's celebration is the same weekend as the Lexington event, consider sending a representative delegation to Lexington. Info at: <http://leejacksonday.webs.com>
2. Have your Camp sign up to man one of the 60+ light poles in downtown Lexington. From Friday 13 January 2PM til dark and Saturday 14 January 10AM until dark your Camp will

be responsible for having a 2-member team holding a Confederate flag at the Camp's designated light pole. Your Camp may name the pole to honor a Confederate hero (and will be so listed in the event program). Registration is \$100 (which will be used to fund the Lexington Litigation). We suggest no more than 2 hour tours per team – so the Camp needs to make sure they have sufficient man power to cover their pole. If necessary 2 camps can register for the same pole. Children may participate accompanied by a responsible adult. Each team should have a cell-phone with them.

3. Register at: [LexingtonLeeJacksonVigil@gmail.com](mailto:LexingtonLeeJacksonVigil@gmail.com) or call 828-669-0097. Checks made payable to SCV Heritage Defense (note on check for Lexington) and mailed to P.O. Box 59 Columbia, TN 38402. Follow this event on Facebook at: **Lexington Lee Jackson Vigil/Protest** and **Save Our Flags – Boycott Lexington, Virginia**

FROM THE DESK of Dr. Thomas Y. Hiter, Chief of Heritage Defense, SCV

**Web sites of interest:-** Read much more on these web sites - UDC & SCV a chance of a lifetime - March with the Stonewall Brigade Camp 1296 in the Lee-Jackson Day Parade in Lexington where Lee & Jackson lived and are buried.

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/saveourflags/?ref=ts>

<http://www.saveourflags.webs.com/>

**SAVE OUR FLAGS IN LEXINGTON, VA**  
*Dixie Outfitters™ Designer Series*

Save Our Flags  
LEXINGTON Virginia

Lexington Virginia City Council  
discriminates against Southerners

"The people that forget their heroic dead are already dying at the heart"  
STONEWALL JACKSON

**10% PROCEEDS GO TO THE STONEWALL BRIGADE CAMP  
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS #1296 - LEXINGTON, VA**

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=220905114633808>

<http://www.leejacksonday.webs...com/>

**Old Jubilee's Near Miss**

Those of you who are regular readers of this series will possibly recall that the October 2010 article was about a missed opportunity by the Confederacy to capture Washington after routing the Federal Army at the Battle of First Manassas. That situation involved General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's desire to follow the fleeing yankees into the practically undefended city and capture the northern capital and possibly Abraham Lincoln himself. This possibly would have brought a quick end to the War. That action did not come to fruition, though, as President Jefferson Davis would not allow General Jackson to go on the offensive by launching an attack on the capital since the Confederate president was committed to the Confederacy taking the high road and maintaining only a defensive strategy for the War.

This column will be about another narrow miss by the Confederates in capturing Washington which occurred much later in the War and involved another of my favorite generals of the Confederacy, Lieutenant General Jubal A. Early. Before we look at the missed opportunity, let me first tell you a bit about General Early, or "Old Jubilee" as he was frequently called.

Jubal Anderson Early was born into a fine Virginia family of Franklin County. He graduated high in his class at West Point (Class of 1837) and, after a brief stint in the military returned to his home county to begin a practice in law. He served as a member of the Virginia Secession Convention and was actually opposed to secession. He immediately offered his services to his State, however, when Virginia voted to secede. He joined the Confederate Army and was recognized as someone with great potential by Robert E. Lee and was given the rank of colonel. He rose quickly through the ranks because of his command skills and was promoted to brigadier general from July 1861, major general from January 1863 and lieutenant general from May 1864.

General Early was considered outspoken and of strong opinion. He was recognized as an expert strategist and one of the outstanding combat commanders of the Confederate Army. Altogether he was an accomplished person and military commander. One of the things I have always admired about Jubal Early came after the War had ended. He served as the first president of the Southern Historical Society and maintained a solid and well-reasoned defense of the Confederate effort and especially of Robert E. Lee during a period when many were trying to attack both. Jubal Early lived for almost thirty years after the War ended and remained unreconstructed until the day he died - truly a man that I can admire.

Now that we've discussed a bit about this outstanding Southerner, let's look at how he came so close to taking Washington and bagging Abraham Lincoln in the process.

This episode in the history of the War began in mid-June 1864 when General Robert E. Lee sent a dispatch to General Early concerning a rather ambitious plan for summer action. At this time Jubal Early was commander of the Army of Northern Virginia's Second Corps which was known as "The Army of the Valley".

In this plan General Lee wanted General Early to first take Lynchburg and then make a sweep through the Shenandoah Valley to the northern extremities of Virginia before turning south through Maryland and eventually end by making an assault on Washington. Two other elements of this ambitious plan, in addition to overthrowing Union garrisons along the way, were to destroy telegraph and railroad lines in the vicinity of Washington and Baltimore and also have part of the force make a lightning strike into southern Maryland to free the Confederate prisoners being held at the infamous Point Lookout prison.

The plan was extremely ambitious but General Lee knew that the South was running out of time and it would take something daring to turn the tide on the scourge in blue which had a vastly larger supply of soldiers to extend the War, money to finance the War and supplies to support its army. Plus, Lee had always been a risk-taker and in General Early he felt he had the most capable commander to successfully execute such a daring plan since the death of the redoubtable "Stonewall". Another element of this bold plan was to hopefully draw the armies of Grant and Meade away from the Richmond/Petersburg theater when they realized an attack was being made on Washington. This would offer some relief to General Lee's army.

General Early's sweep northward through the Shenandoah Valley began well with a resounding defeat of the blue coats at Lynchburg on June 18 and 19. This victory was especially gratifying since the yankee commander was General David Hunter, one of that group of reprobate northern commanders who delighted in attacking Southern civilian targets a la Sherman and Sheridan.

By early July General Early's forces had reached as far north as Harper's Ferry and Martinsburg where federal garrisons were taken by the boys in gray. Early, at this point, slowed down the approach to Washington to allow his weary troops to rest and relax for awhile and enjoy the feasts intended for the yankee troops at the captured garrisons. General Early also spent time in this area ransoming some of the neighboring towns to make the northern sympathizers pay for the destruction done to the Shenandoah Valley by the likes of Hunter and Sheridan. This delay in the advance on Washington, however, created problems as we shall soon see.

A major hurdle on the advance toward Washington occurred at Monocacy. Under the outstanding leadership of Early and generals John B. Gordon, John C. Breckenridge, Stephen Ramseur, John McCausland and Robert Rodes the Confederates inflicted massive casualties on the federals (more than 20% of the federal troop count) and the victory opened the way to Washington but the battle proved more difficult than anticipated and caused another delay in the approach to the capital by the weary troops. [ An interesting sidenote to the battle is that the Union commander, General Lew Wallace, after the War authored the marvelous book BEN HUR: A TALE OF THE CHRIST which was many years later made into an Oscar-winning motion picture. That picture to this day remains one of the all-time favorites of a certain fellow who first saw it as a young boy growing up in Alabama. OK, I'll admit that some yankees did accomplish some things worthy of recognition.]

By July of 1864 the city of Washington resembled a fortress. Since the beginning of the War, some 60 forts had been built around the city in addition to 37 miles of earthworks containing sites for artillery. More than 31,000 troops were available for the defense of the city but few of these were regular troops or battle-hardened veterans. Many were troops in training and even government workers and few had the ability to capably handle artillery duties. All of this was known to General Early since Washington was filled with Confederate spies.

By July 10 General Early was ready to make the final approach to Washington. Unfortunately the Confederate troops, wearied by month-long campaigning over long distances in the stifling heat, were near exhaustion. On the afternoon of July 11 it was reported to General Early that it likely was possible to breach the defenses at Fort Stevens, one of the chain of forts surrounding the city. As the Confederates advanced, however, they were being met by Federal reinforcements of regular troops that had begun arriving that morning. General Early and his officers decided to not force the issue that day but to give the men another day of rest and survey the situation the next morning.

The final advance on Washington began in the morning of July 12. By this time Federal reinforcements had flowed into the city - by some estimates as many as 20,000 troops. The 14,000 Confederates engaged the Federals for most of the day and there were numerous skirmishes and some artillery fire but Washington was not going to fall that day.

The most interesting event of the day, however, involved Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln and his entourage had traveled out to Fort Stevens in the afternoon to watch the battle. Lincoln's group was standing on the parapet of the fort viewing the action when a Confederate sharpshooter stationed almost 1000 yards from the fort noticed a tall man wearing a top hat standing among a group atop the fort. The sharpshooter took aim and fired and saw someone go down. It was impossible, though, to determine exactly which person he had hit because of the distance and the haze created by the extreme heat of the day.

The individual who was killed by the shot was a physician named Cornelius Crawford. Crawford had been standing beside Abraham Lincoln. When the group realized how close Lincoln had come to being killed they quickly rushed him down from the parapet. As Lincoln removed



himself from his position of vulnerability, he issued an order authorizing artillery bombardment of the area harboring the sharpshooters. This included the civilian homes in the area.

At the end of the day of skirmishes, General Early ordered his troops to withdraw back to Virginia.

In his dispatch to General Early, General Lee had indicated that he wanted Early to "threaten Washington". This could be interpreted as meaning General Lee never envisioned the capital being taken but merely threatened to the point that forces under Grant and Meade would be pulled from the Richmond/Petersburg theater, thus taking pressure off Lee's army, to rush to the defense of Washington.

Hindsight indicates that had Jubal Early been able to get his troops to Washington just a day or two earlier then it is entirely likely the city could have been taken. The overall plan was so ambitious, though, that it exhausted the Confederates trying to cover such a great distance and accomplish so much. The battle at Monocacy also played a major role in delaying the Confederate forces in reaching Washington before reinforcements arrived and likely saved the city from being captured.

It seems certain that if Early could have taken Washington or if the sharpshooter's bullet had found Lincoln then things would have been changed drastically in the summer of '64. It's even possible that the Federals would have called a cease-fire since losing their capital would have certainly created a damaging psychological blow to the North. The War never was very popular among the civilian population of the North.

As it stands, though, it is just another "what if". Of course, you cannot change history. I truly wish that General Early and the boys in gray could have gotten to Washington just two days earlier. Ah, well, as Whittier so wisely wrote: "For of all sad words of tongue or pen the saddest are these: it might have been!"

Bob Hurst is a Southern Patriot who has strong interests in the Confederacy and the antebellum architecture of the South. He is Commander of Col. David Lang Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, in Tallahassee and is also 2nd Lieutenant Commander of the Florida Division, SCV. Contact information is [confederatedad1@yahoo.com](mailto:confederatedad1@yahoo.com) or 850-878-7010.

Note: CONFEDERATE JOURNAL articles from 2005 through 2009 are now available in book form. Book 1 contains articles from 2005-2007 and can be ordered online at <http://createspace.com/3540609>. Book 2 contains articles from 2008-2009 and can be ordered online at <http://createspace.com/3543269>.

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### **Historic Battle Flag recovered -**

RICHMOND - A stolen Civil War battle flag recovered by the FBI is heading back home to a Louisiana museum.

The FBI says agents from the Richmond division recovered the stolen 14th Louisiana Infantry Regiment Confederate Battle Flag in late September. Officials say the flag was stolen in the 1980s by a former volunteer at the Confederate Memorial Hall Museum in New Orleans. An investigation found that a collector purchased the item in 2004 without knowledge of it being stolen and voluntarily turned the item over to the FBI.

It was presented to board members from the Confederate Memorial Hall in Louisiana at a ceremony Wednesday at the Museum of Confederacy Richmond VA.

**CSS Albemarle**



The CSS Albemarle, 3/8 scale replica of the ram. It's 63 ft long with an outboard motor on a pontoon boat hull. There are two guns on the boat, both 2.25" 6 pounders, one in the bow and one stern. She really makes a boom :) The guys sail her up and down the river, chasing the little Union rowboat around, both firing on each other. And then at night during the lamp light tour...when the spectators are gathered around the riverside, and the story of the Albemarle is told, the boys always let loose a shot from her guns and scare the life out of those folks because in the dark, the ram is virtually invisible. It's a great event, and a great story.

### **Tampa Flags Across Florida Site – Photos of recent work**

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I hope you enjoy the **9 pictures** at this link:

<http://s678.photobucket.com/albums/vv149/gatorstick/?action=view&current=GatorGa034.jpg#loZZ1QQcurrentZZhttp%3A%2F%2Fs678.photobucket.com%2Falbums%2Fvv149%2Fgatorstick%2F%3Faction%3Dview%26current%3DGatorGa034.jpg>

If you're in the East Tampa area, the park is on the NW corner of US Hwy 92 (Hillsborough Ave) as it goes under I-75. Please stop by & visit the site as it's well worth the trip.

Photos Courtesy ...Phil Walters

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### **REMEMBER VETERAN'S DAY 2011**

**Where our military headstones come from is a great story.**

Click on the link below, turn up sound.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7367662n>

### **Kirby Smith Camp – Jacksonville**

Camp 1209 does routine clean-up work at the Old City Cemetery where several notable Confederates are laid, including J.J. Dickison. Here is a recent photo of Gen. Finnegan.



History of Veteran's Day, <http://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp>



