



CAMPTALK

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

Vol. 31 No. 9 September 2012

Chartered 28 March 1981

Editor Don Young

September 2012 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 For Southern Independence are invited to attend.

CAMP OFFICERS

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

CAMP STAFF

Color Sgt Evan Phillips 321-961-9407
Q'termaster Larry Thornton 321-704-2834
Judge Advocate Don Lock 321-752-9276
Public Information Officer Open
Editor Don Young 321-452-3207
Heritage Don Young 321-452-3207
Recording Sec. Miss June 321-984-9967
UDC/OCR Liaison Miss Lee 321-452-3207

COMMANDERS CORNER

I would like to thank George Khoury for our August program. It was very enlightening to hear about Judah Benjamin and his service to the Confederacy. This month I will be presenting a program on my recent trip to Northern Virginia. I will be showing slides of Col. Mosby's haunts as well as brief tours of 1st and 2nd Manassas and Ox hill battlefields.

I would like to thank all of you who have paid your dues. So far we have had more than 80% of our members pay their 2012-2013 dues. If you haven't paid please do so very soon as the final due date to get monies into National HDQ is the 31st of October.

In addition, Rick Debord is still collecting money for new camp shirts. This will be the last month before he sends in the order. He will be at our September meeting collecting for this.

In Service to The South, Kevin Atchison Commander Camp 1387

EVENTS

13 Sept Camp E-board meeting
21-23 Sept Cemetery Workshop and Workday 10th Brigade event
27 Sept Camp Meeting
06 Oct Fall Officers Call
11 Oct E-board meeting
13 Oct 12th and 14th Brigade Awards Banquet with George Khoury speaking
13 Oct Rededication of CSA Monument at Olustee Battlefield
20 Oct Division Executive Committee meeting Ocala
27 Oct Lt. Don and Miss Lee's Halloween Costume Party – everyone invited

PROGRAM

Touring Mosby's Confederacy

Commander Kevin Atchison will present a slide show and running commentary on his recent visits to Battlefields and historic towns and sites in Northern Virginia close to Washington DC. It has been some time since we have had a program of this type, so come join us for some informative and interesting looks at places we study – then and now.

ORDER OF CONFEDERATE ROSE FLORIDA SOCIETY

Is giving away a 46" flat screen television

Drawing to be held November 18, 2012

Do Not have to be present to win.



Single - \$ 5.00 per ticket
6 Pack - \$ 25.00
12 Pack - \$ 45.00
24 Pack - \$ 85.00

TV to be purchased with raffle proceeds, balance of proceeds to benefit the Various projects undertaken by The Sons of Confederate Veterans FL Division.

Miss Lee is selling these tickets at the Camp meetings and at 452-3207

Camp 1387 Flag Bases

Folks, at the August meeting several volunteers broke down and loaded the camp flags into Lt. Young's truck. We are missing a total of 3 of our bases. Inquiries and a search at McMaw's have been unsuccessful; does anyone know where they are located? Please contact Lt. Young if you know what happened to the bases.

.....



We ask that your thoughts and prayers be with Camp Chaplain Tim Cobb and compatriot Bob Weaver during their present health issues.

.....

It is with the greatest sadness that I report the passing of Colonel John Masters Sr. He peacefully crossed the river Friday September 14.

Our Camp (St. Augustine) and the entire South had no greater friend or loyal supporter.

Jim Davis, Commander Florida Division

Editors Note: For 3 decades Col. Masters was the keeper of the Florida Division Cemetery and Grave Data Base, which we are presently updating. The thousands of graves and sites he catalogued were with pencil and paper. May a merciful God receive his servant.

MURFREESBORO

Each year the Sons of Confederate Veterans holds a national convention to dispense with necessary business, recharge the batteries of all those in attendance and, as Southerners are prone to do, have a genuinely good time socializing with old friends met through previous SCV events and meeting new friends at this grand affair. In admiration of, and out of respect for, our Confederate ancestors, these large gatherings are termed "reunions" since the true Confederates held many reunions in the decades following the War for Southern Independence and we, the descendants, gladly and faithfully maintain the tradition.

The site of the national reunion varies each year and I truly enjoy the opportunity to visit different places and experience local customs and foods. Additionally, as you might expect, each of these venues has a strong Confederate connection so it is possible to experience some Southern history either through the tours available by the reunion or individual adventures of your own choosing. I usually choose the latter and head out with my camera in search of any beautiful antebellum homes in the area.

The 2001 reunion that was held in Lafayette, Louisiana, for instance, was especially enjoyable for me as I was able to make time to travel down to the Bayou Teche area and photograph houses that I had never visited before. All of the host cities are interesting, though, and all have something special to offer to the interested Southerner. Sites for the reunions have been as varied as coastal cities such as New Orleans and Mobile to mountainous venues like Asheville and Dalton. Recent locations have all had a connection to the sesquicentennial (150-year anniversary) of the War with the 2010 reunion held in South Carolina (SC was the first state to leave the Union, seceding in 1860), the 2011 reunion in Montgomery (the Confederate government was formed in Montgomery in 1861), and the 2013 reunion scheduled for Vicksburg (it was in 1863 that the citizens of that fine town made a gallant 47-day resistance to continuous bombardment during the siege of that river city by the invading yankee horde).

I didn't forget about the 2012 reunion which was held last month in the attractive Southern city of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. I saved it till last because this article will be about two significant military events that occurred in 1862 (150 years ago) in Murfreesboro involving the gallant men in the sacred gray defending our Southland against invasion by those odious beings from the other place.

Murfreesboro is a pretty town and history everywhere. The host hotel for the reunion, Embassy Suites, was conveniently located not far from the interstate which made access easy. It was

also a fine facility for an event such as ours. Altogether I was very pleased with everything about my stay in Murfreesboro. Far more pleased, I'm sure, than the Union forces who, on two different occasions, had to face the guns and the guile of the boys wearing gray in the year 1862.

The first confrontation between the two armies took place on July 13, 1862. July 13 is a date that is very special to many Southerners and you will find out why later in this article.

First, some background. At the time of this first encounter, Union forces were occupying both Nashville and Murfreesboro which is located about 30-35 miles southeast of Nashville and about a hundred miles northwest of Chattanooga. The railroad that went from Nashville to Chattanooga went through Murfreesboro and Union quartermasters had been stockpiling supplies there for the Union troops in that strategic part of Tennessee.

The Union Army of the Ohio (Union armies were generally named for rivers) was commanded by Major General Don Carlos Buell who had his sights set on making a sweep from Kentucky down to Chattanooga and taking that Southern stronghold. A Union victory in Chattanooga would create a very difficult situation for the Confederacy and even possibly bring an end to the War.

Unfortunately for Buell, Nathan Bedford Forrest had other plans in mind.

The Union garrison at Murfreesboro was manned by the 23rd Brigade of the Army of the Ohio which consisted of regiments from Pennsylvania, Kentucky (the yankee portion), Michigan and Minnesota. Buell had already worked his way all the way south to north Alabama and was planning on moving eastward toward Chattanooga. Forrest, who was a colonel at the time, knew that the Nashville to Chattanooga railroad was the main supply line for Buell's forces and that he could totally disrupt Buell's advance by attacking Murfreesboro and severing Buell's means of survival.

Forrest was also enraged when he learned of the mistreatment of many civilians in the area by the Union Army. Not only had homes and farms been burned but as many as 400 men had been jailed and there were planned hangings for many of these.

Forrest had his men ready to move out at 1 AM on the morning of July 13 and by 4 AM they had reached the first units of the bluecoats, most of who were still sleeping. Forrest had learned of the divided deployment of Union troops (the guys from Michigan didn't like the guys from Minnesota and the guys from Minnesota didn't like...well, you get the picture) and had divided his own forces to take on the various groupings of Union soldiers. By early afternoon all Union forces except those from Michigan and Minnesota had been subdued and the amazing Forrest then performed one of those feats of wizardry that only he could pull off.

In the afternoon his troops had skirmishes with units from both Michigan and Minnesota regiments. Forrest, the master of the ruse, then started rotating his troops in front of the Minnesotans in such a fashion as to make it appear that he had more troops than he actually did. He then contacted the commander of the Minnesotans and convinced him that everyone else had surrendered. Amazingly, the yankee commander quickly surrendered. When the commander of the Michigan regiment heard of this he also quickly surrendered. This is the same tactic that Forrest would use again later in Rome, Georgia, to convince Union colonel Abel Streight to surrender to him even though Streight had four times as many troops as Forrest - he just didn't realize it. Of course, there was only one Forrest!

After all this, Forrest and his officers retired to Oaklands, a fine mansion in Murfreesboro dating from 1813, to celebrate the birthday of Col. Forrest which happened to be that very day. Forrest received a belated birthday present eight days later when he was promoted to brigadier general. Oaklands still stands and there is a plaque on the grounds indicating that during this clash there were 19 Union soldiers killed, 120 wounded and 1200 captured. By the way, one of those captured was Union general Thomas Crittenden who had arrived just the day before to assume command of the garrison. Altogether it was just a typical event for the remarkable Forrest.

.....

Even though this encounter was not a major battle of the War, it did have a significant impact. Forrest had his men carry off or burn all the supplies that Buell had collected at Murfreesboro for his planned advance to Chattanooga. This prevented Buell's planned invasion of Chattanooga and later led to the loss of his command. He eventually resigned from the army. (As an aside here, Don Carlos Buell was one of the few Union commanders that I think highly of. He was a man of high moral character and on numerous occasions he bucked the tide by calling for punishment of Union soldiers and even officers who were involved in committing atrocities against Southern civilians.)

Incidentally, this encounter is frequently referred to as the First Battle of Murfreesboro. The much larger battle fought later in the year is commonly called the Battle of Stone's River, the Second Battle of Murfreesboro, or just the Battle of Murfreesboro (especially in the South). In this article I will refer to that contest as the Battle of Stone's River.

While the July 13 confrontation was little more than a skirmish, the Battle of Stone's River was a major battle of the War that also proved to be one of the bloodiest. There is too much to write about this clash to include an in-depth coverage in this article (I will likely revisit the battle later in another article), but I will give a synopsis and touch on some of the interesting elements of Stone's River.

After the Kentucky campaign, General Braxton Bragg had withdrawn his army to Murfreesboro and had prepared to go into winter quarters. The army, which had been known as "The Army of Mississippi", had recently been renamed "The Army of Tennessee". The newly created Union "Army of the Cumberland" was occupying Nashville under the command of General William Rosecrans and was being urged by the administration in Washington to advance to Murfreesboro and attack the Confederates there.

Rosecrans left Nashville on December 26, 1862, with his army of 44,000 troops and the intent of defeating Bragg and his army of 37,000 at Murfreesboro. Rosecrans reached Murfreesboro on December 29 and his army settled in about two and a half miles northwest of town near the Stone's River. The Confederates were prepared for battle and attacked at dawn on December 31. That day became the single bloodiest day of fighting in Tennessee during the entire War with a total casualty count of more than 17,000 between the two armies. The day went strongly in favor of the Confederates but to Bragg's surprise Rosecrans and his army did not withdraw. There was no fighting the next day on January 1, 1863, but the following day Bragg ordered a strong ground attack against an elevated position across the river that was fortified with more than 50 cannon. Both General John C. Breckenridge and General Roger Hanson strongly opposed this strategy by the commander but had no option other than to obey orders. Attacking across a large, open field the Confederates sustained heavy losses, including General Hanson, and had to withdraw to their original position. Later that day Bragg received information that Rosecrans' army had reinforcements on the way that would raise the troop strength of the Union forces to 70,000. The next day General Bragg moved the Confederate Army south to Shelbyville.

Of all the major battles of the War, Stone's River had the highest percentage of casualties on both sides with a combined total of more than 24,000. Although the Union Army suffered greater casualties and was unable to overrun the Confederates, the fact that Bragg withdrew his troops to Shelbyville allowed the yankees to claim a victory and get a morale boost from the encounter. Every battle has so many stories and there is no way to tell them all (in fact, many will likely never be known), but there were three events that occurred during the Stone's River engagement that especially intrigue me.

The first took place the evening of December 30 and involved, of all things, the bands of the respective armies. Most all armies had bands to provide entertainment for the troops during those long periods between actions. On the evening of the 30th the two bands were entertaining their respective armies. Since the armies were camped in close proximity, each side could hear the tunes of the other and this soon led to a battle between the two bands as each sought to

outdo the other. The Union band would blast out tunes like "Yankee Doodle" and "Hail Columbia" and the band in gray would counter with "DIXIE", "Bonnie Blue Flag" and other Southern favorites. I found this an interesting prelude to the bloody event that was soon to follow.

The second event that intrigues me involves the order given by General Bragg on January 2nd to launch an attack across an open field against a strongly fortified elevated position. As mentioned earlier, this order was strongly questioned and opposed by General John C. Breckenridge, the Division commander, and General Roger Hanson who was commanding a brigade. Although Breckenridge violently opposed the strategy, he did not go so far as his friend and compatriot, Hanson, who actually volunteered to go to headquarters and shoot Braxton Bragg. Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed. Sadly, while leading his brigade in the attack across the large field, General Hanson was wounded severely and died two days later. I wonder if he had a premonition of this as he led his men through heavy fire?

The event that intrigues me the most, however, did not involve generals, or bands, or strategies or casualty counts, or any of the other things you so frequently read about concerning battles. This event involved a group of Mississippi troops who can only be described as "bold and true fighters". These remarkable individuals were troops of the 44th Mississippi Regiment. Before the battle started, smallpox struck this unit and it was quarantined along the banks of Stone's River. Their weapons were taken and given to other units since they weren't expected to see action. As the battle raged on the first day, however, it was determined that the Confederates needed every available man and the Mississippians were ordered to battle. As these amazing fighters advanced on the enemy, they picked up sticks, tree branches or anything else they could find that they might use as a weapon. According to a letter sent to CONFEDERATE VETERAN magazine many years later by a veteran of the 44th, these unarmed Mississippians came out of the battle with more guns than they needed - guns they had collected from fallen compatriots and fallen enemies as they advanced. I think the words of Lieutenant General William Hardee sums up the situation well concerning these remarkable men and all the Confederate soldiers:

"It is worthy to remark that at Murfreesborough, whenever the fight was confined principally to musketry, and the enemy had no advantage in artillery, we were successful. It was only when they massed heavy batteries, under cover of railroad embankments, that we were repulsed. In every form of contest in which mechanical instruments ... can be used, the Federals are our superiors. In every form of contest in which manly courage, patient endurance, and brave impulse are the qualities and conditions necessary to success, we have invariably been successful."

The actions of the men of the 44th Mississippi, who so honored the Cause that they were willing to go into battle unarmed, was a testament to the courage, bravery and fortitude of the Confederate soldier and just another reason why so many of us hold our Confederate ancestors in such high esteem and always will.

Note: Previous articles of CONFEDERATE JOURNAL are available in book form. Articles from 2005-2007 are in Volume 1 which can be ordered online at <http://createspace.com/3540609> while articles from 2008-2009 are in Volume 2 and can be ordered at <http://createspace.com/3543269>.

Bob Hurst is a Son of the South who has special interests in the Confederacy and the antebellum mansions of the South. He is Commander of Col. David Lang Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, in Tallahassee and is also 2nd Lt. Commander of the Florida Division, SCV. He can be contacted at confederatedad1@yahoo.com or 850-878-7010 (after 9 PM, EST).

.....

.....

Camp Shirt Project

Our new camp shirts will be a basic gray golf shirt with collar, button vee neck and pocket, like our current shirts. The Camp name will be embroidered in large letters above the pocket on the left breast, the SCV logo will be embroidered on the right breast. The back of the shirt will be silkscreened with an image of Captain JJ Dickison standing beside a table and "Florida Division Sons of Confederate Veterans Melbourne Florida."

The shirts are priced small to extra large \$25 each. For 2X to 5X large \$30 each. This is a good price for the quality shirt and all the custom work. The Camp will pay the set up fee and we need a minimum of 20 orders to have them made. Rick took 16 orders in August, to place your order come to the September meeting and bring cash or a check made out to "Camp 1387 SCV" for the number of shirts you would like. We will need to know your size selection as well. Orders may also be placed by mailing a check and size orders to: Treasurer Tom Watkins, 4515 White Road, Melbourne Florida 32934. The cutoff date to place your order will be at the 27 September meeting.

Nominating Committee and Camp 1387 Election Process

Commander Atchison has formed our Camp 1387 Nominating Committee for 2012 elections. The committee is charged with presenting one candidate for each camp elected position in accordance with Camp Bylaws. These positions are:

Chaplin; duties include meeting and event Invocation and Benediction as well as health wishes, prayers, cards and flower sending as needed.

Treasurer; collects or receives camp monies and writes checks as needed.

2nd Lt. Commander; conducts recruiting activities (phone contacts, etc), greets visitors and maintains the sign in sheet. Coaches new members with application process and presents to e-board.

1st Lt. Commander; plans and arranges programs and meeting places, fills in for Commander.

Adjutant; conducts camp correspondence including membership renewal, maintains camp rooster.

Commander; Camp leader, conducts all meetings, appoints members to positions not elected, represents camp in all venues, must have previously held a camp elected position.

Elected offices are open to any Active Member in good standing willing to take on the duties. Office term is 2 years.

All elected officers are equal voting members of the Executive Committee which conducts routine camp business at a meeting called by the Commander as needed, typically each month. Appointed positions are not voting members of the e-board.

The committee presents their slate of proposed officers to the e-board in October. The slate is published in the October and November issues of Camptalk.

Election is at the November Camp Meeting with nominations accepted from the floor and new officers sworn in at the December Christmas Social.

The committee chair is Past Commander Gerry Carson, 321-432-8239, with compatriots Robert Meeks, 321-779-0854, and Rick Debord, 321-631-7258, completing the group. If you are interested in participating as a camp officer please contact any member of the committee or a current camp officer.

Fall Officers Call Florida Division Southeast Region SCV

10th Brigade Commander Larry Rowe - 102 Orlando, 1387 Melbourne, 1516 Kissimmee, 1630 Ocoee and 2120 Christmas

12th Brigade Commander Wesley Frank - 1595 Ft. Pierce, 1680 Vero Beach

14th Brigade Commander Mike Mitchell – 471 Miami, 1395 Ft. Lauderdale (Davie), 1599 West Palm Beach

The Florida Division Southeast Region will hold its Fall Officer's Call Saturday 06 October 2012 at Marsh Landing 44 North Broadway, Fellsmere Florida 32948. I-95 North or South to Exit 156 (Fellsmere Rd - 95th St - CR 512), west 3 miles to N. Broadway, 0.1 mile north to Marsh Landing on the right.

Camp and Brigade Officers are invited and encouraged to attend to be involved with reporting of current events and the formation of new direction. All compatriots are welcome to attend and meet old friends and make new ones.

We will have order from the menu breakfast for early arrivers from 0800 to 0900. If you are a bit late enjoy your breakfast while we begin the business meeting.

Our business meeting will be from 0900 to 1200 hours with short breaks each hour. Please be timely for the start of the business meeting as we have a full agenda with several reports and discussion items. Each Camp will receive a copy of the agenda and handouts. Your input on the discussion items is important for your Division Executive Council (DEC) representatives to know your current thinking so they can present your views at the DEC 20 October meeting in Ocala. Please be prepared to present a brief overview of your Brigade and Camp activities from the March timeframe until now.

Lunch (Dinner to some of us) will be at 1200 hours following the business meeting.

In Service of The South,

Don C. Young
Lt. Commander Southeast Region
Florida Division
Sons of Confederate Veterans

Hate Article Dujour

Editor's note: The following "comment" was in response to an article in the Tampa Tribune about an SCV Camp amicably splitting in two. We all need history lessons and this individual is certainly no exception. **FACTS** are usually hard to come by in such tirades, though there are a few in this one and even **some opinion** here that we would agree with. Perhaps this individual is a student and can plea brainwashing at the behest of our US PC myth mongering school system. He presents nothing but regurgitation of PC myth. We agree he has cause to be ashamed, though not the one he presents. Hate Speak by any other name is the same old thing regardless of whose opinion it represents. How very sad to see such behavior.

Brian Johnston, University of South Florida

"A subgroup of rednecks within a subgroup of rednecks. I am a direct decedent of one of the top generals in the Confederacy (Gen. Joseph E. Johnston). Yet you don't see me out celebrating or honoring him. I am actually ashamed. The people in this modern day Sons of the Confederacy nonsense are, way more often than not, motivated by and somewhat covert demonstrating support for racism. If they were true Americans, they would realize that succeeding (sic) from the United States was treasonous and unpatriotic. It is not something to be celebrated. Lastly, don't give me this states' right crap either. If you go look at the Articles of Succession by every southern state, there were no mentions of "states' rights" in them. There were dozens of mentions of slaves though. Go read the letter SC (first state to succeed) drafted on succession. That states' right crap is nothing but a smokescreen because these people are too cowardly to be publicly racist. Get over it you hicks. You lost and the South will not be rising again any time soon. In fact, the south is the poorest, dumbest, fattest, and overall worst area of this country. You should feel lucky the rest of the US hasn't kicked you out of the present union. Have fun playing war like a bunch of children though."

"Nothing fills me with deeper sadness than to see a Southern man apologizing for the defense we made of our inheritance. Our cause was so just, so sacred, that had I known all that has come to pass, had I known what was to be inflicted upon me, all that my country was to suffer, all that our posterity was to endure, I would do it all over again." - Jefferson Davis

Janney Furnace Memorial Alabama



Check out the inspiring story of this monument

at <http://www.janneymemorial.org> .
