



# CAMPTALK

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

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Editor Don Young

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## November 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

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Treasurer Tom Watkins 321-254-0241  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Open  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Don Young 321-452-3207  
Adjutant Kevin Atchison  
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### CAMP STAFF

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### COMMANDERS CORNER

I would like to thank George Khoury for our September program. It was very enlightening to hear about "The Hidden Lincoln". We look forward George's future programs about Lincoln and his last days. 1st Lt. Commander Don Young will present this month's program. His topic will be a local CSA veteran. Also, at this month's meeting we will elect new officers for the 2013-2014 time period.

I would like to thank all of you who have paid your dues. So far we have had more than 90% of our members pay their 2012-2013 dues. We still have a few members who did not up their dues. To be reinstated there will be a \$5 service fee payable to National HDQ.

I would like thank Rick Debord for heading up the effort in getting our new shirts. If you ordered one he will be available at our November meeting to get the shirt to you. We do have a few extras but many of those have been spoken for.

Don't forget our observance of Veteran's Day with the Melbourne Parade Saturday and the Massing of the Colors on Sunday.

Please note that our November meeting will be 15 November (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday) and December will be 13 December (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday).

Finally, our condolences go out to Doug Dawson's family. He will be missed not only from all of us in the Florida Division but across all of the Confederation. Please keep all of his family in your prayers.

In Service to The South, Kevin Atchison Commander Camp 1387

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#### EVENT

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 08 Nov               | E-board meeting   |
| 10 Nov               | Melbourne Veterans Day Parade   |
| 11 Nov               | Massing of the Colors   |
| 15 Nov               | Camp Meeting 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday - ELECTIONS                     |
| 01 Dec               | 12 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> Brigade Awards Banquet Davie FL |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec | Camp Christmas Social and Awards 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday             |

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#### PROGRAM

##### Hiram Smith Williams

Williams was an ex Confederate soldier from New Jersey and became a founding father of Rockledge. Our continuing research and information gathering for the update of the Col. John Masters Division Cemetery Registry has reminded us of this Brevard County pioneer – who is buried in his back yard. Compatriot Don Young will present the story of Private Williams, his very unusual background and the historic Queen Anne style home he built for his family that still stands on the Indian River banks. If you are interested in local happenings of your county, don't miss this program.

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Camp 1387 joins the Florida Division and the entire Confederation in mourning the passing of immediate Past Division Commander Douglas D. Dawson. Commander Dawson crossed over the river to rest in the shade on 30 October and was buried in his long time home of Pensacola on 03 November. Please keep Miss Sherry and Doug's family in your thoughts and prayers. Godspeed to our leader and friend.

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## Veterans Day Events

**Saturday 10 November 2012** Honor America is sponsoring the annual Melbourne Veterans Day Parade. Camp 1387 will muster at 0900 for a 1000 hour step off.

We will muster on Melbourne Ave. starting about where the overhead railroad trestle runs across the creek along side US 1 just south of 192. The route is a bit less than 2 miles and runs through old downtown and on to the Liberty Bell Museum. All of that should sound familiar as it is the route followed by parades for several years.

We do not have a float available for those who can not walk, but we will have a vehicle for anyone who may need to fall out. We will have a Color Guard, riflemen, decorated convertible and probably some Mechanized Cavalry.

We always have a good time at the Melbourne events with very receptive crowds and supportive shouts from the sidewalks.

**Sunday 11 November 2012** Camp 1387 will participate in the Massing of The Colors at the Cocoa BCC campus sponsored by The Military Order of the World Wars Chapter 170. We will muster at 1400 and step off will be 1500. Participants must be in Confederate uniform and only 4 are required.

Please RSVP with Don Young or Kevin Atchison

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## Duty Demonstrated

**Editors Note:** For Veterans Day 2012 the American people are in need of a reminder of what we as a nation are all about. This photo may give your aching patriotic heart some comfort.



Unknown Soldier Arlington Cemetery during Hurricane Sandy

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### **Camp 1387 Elections**

The following candidates are running for the officer term 2013-2014.

1. Commander Kevin Atchison
2. Adjutant Rick DeBord
3. Lt. Cmdr. Don Young
4. 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Rick Still
5. Treasurer Tom Watkins
6. Chaplin Tim Cobb

Our elections will be held during the 15 November meeting with new officers being sworn in at the 13 December Christmas Social and Awards Meeting. Floor nominations will be accepted.

### **Camp Shirt Project**

Our new camp shirts were delivered at the October meeting. If you missed placing your order the Camp has bought a limited number of shirts for future members that you may purchase. Call compatriot Rick DeBord 321-631-7258.

**Southern Wisdom** Well butter my butt and call me a biscuit.

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### **TRAGEDY and ENIGMA**

We are constantly confronted with enigmas. Why do bad things happen to good people? Why are innocent children born with conditions that cause either an early death or a much-diminished quality of life? Why do voters so often seem to elect unscrupulous people to public office? Why do good things happen to bad people? On a somewhat lesser scale is the question of why do some people with seemingly less intelligence and ability get continued promotions and praise while others, with greater favorable attributes, get passed over? This article will address that question as it relates to an accomplished and capable Confederate officer during the War for Southern Independence.

James Henry Lane was a Virginian by birth, born at Mathews Court House in 1833 into a prosperous family. He entered Virginia Military Institute in 1851 and was graduated in 1854 with the honor of being named "most distinguished" academically. He continued his studies at the University of Virginia and graduated in 1857.

After a period of working as an engineer and a teacher, he returned to VMI as an assistant professor. In 1859 he took a position of professor of mathematics and commandant of cadets at West Florida Seminary (now known as Florida State University) in Tallahassee. The next year he left to join the faculty of the North Carolina Military Institute where the superintendent was Daniel Harvey Hill. ( D.H. Hill, of course, would eventually rise to great fame as a Confederate general and, later, as a respected college president.)

With the outbreak of war in 1861, the 1st North Carolina Regiment was formed with D.H. Hill as colonel and Jim Lane as major. Major Lane immediately began to prove his military and leadership abilities at the engagement at Big Bethel where D.H. Hill credited him with being responsible for the rousing Confederate victory. After this, the 1st North Carolina became known as the "Bethel Regiment" and James Lane picked up the nickname of "Little Major", which was a play on his small stature.

In the Fall of 1861, Lane became colonel of the 28th North Carolina Regiment. In April of 1862, he reorganized the 28th and the regiment was assigned to the Army of Northern Virginia in General A.P. Hill's Division. General Lawrence O'Bryan Branch was Lane's brigade commander. Only a month later, Colonel Lane received high praise from General Branch, and even General Robert E. Lee, for his masterful handling of his troops during the engagement at Hanover Court House, Virginia, where his forces were vastly out-numbered by the federals. During subsequent months, Lane's troops were almost constantly in battle in Virginia at such encounters as Seven Days, Gaines Mill, Malvern Hill, Cedar Mountain and Second Manassas. Colonel Lane's troops continued to perform outstandingly during this period.

When General Branch was killed at the Battle of Sharpsburg (those in the North call it "Antietam"), Colonel Lane was quickly promoted to command of the brigade. Citing "gallant and meritorious service", his own troops requested his promotion to brigadier general. Lane was promoted to brigadier on November 1, 1862, upon the recommendations of generals Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and A.P. Hill.

Shortly after assuming command of the brigade after Sharpsburg (and before his promotion to brigadier general), Lane was called to report to General Jackson, who was in command of General Lee's Second Corps, to receive special orders for the brigade. This was the first time that Jim Lane had seen Thomas Jackson since VMI where Jackson had been an instructor. Lane recounts in his book about Jackson (written some twenty-three years after the War had ended) that General Jackson greeted him warmly, expressed confidence in his abilities and called for God's blessings on Lane. Jim Lane was surprised that Jackson had even remembered him and was much moved by the conversation. He recounts that from that point on he felt a warm attachment to Jackson and characterized their relationship as akin to that of father and son.

Jim Lane's first command as a general officer was a month later at Fredericksburg, another Confederate victory, and Lane's North Carolinians again performed admirably. Just more than four months later, however, General Lane would fight his last battle under the command of General Jackson as it was at this encounter, Chancellorsville, that the immortal Stonewall received the wounds that would eventually cause his death ten days later.

From that point until the end of the War, General Lane's brigade covered itself with glory. From Gettysburg, where the brigade took part in Pickett's Charge, to the "Bloody Angle" at Spotsylvania Court House, to Cold Harbor, to Petersburg and, finally, to Appomattox, Lane's North Carolinians continually distinguished themselves. After Spotsylvania, a LONDON TIMES reporter had written that no one could forget the "Little General" as he gave the command for the volley that checked Hancock's Corps and saved the right wing of Robert E. Lee's army. After Appomattox, General Lane gave a sincere tribute and compliment to his North Carolinians by reminding them that they were "first at Bethel, highest at Gettysburg and last at Appomattox". General James Lane performed admirably from his first encounter to his last - from Bethel to Appomattox. So what is the enigma associated with this capable and effective leader who excelled from beginning to end? It is simply that he was never promoted beyond the rank of brigadier general. Despite his outstanding record, he was never promoted to major general although 72 others were and that's not even mentioning the 25 others who achieved the ranks of lieutenant general or full general.

So, the question becomes, "why them and not him?"

To possibly answer this question we must return to the Battle of Chancellorsville. The day of May 2, 1863, proved to be a day of great triumph and great tragedy for the Confederacy and for General Stonewall Jackson. His famous flank march and savage attack on the Federal right is still considered one of the most effective actions ever taken in war. The only thing that prevented Jackson's forces from completely devastating Union general Hooker's entire line was the onset of darkness. The darkness set the stage for the great tragedy that was to occur. Later that evening, as General Jackson was making a reconnaissance with members of his staff to survey the situation, the group was fired upon in the darkness by troops of the North Carolina 18th Regiment under Major John Barry. The 18th was a part of the brigade commanded by General Jim Lane. This regrettable action was obviously a result of the darkness, the confusion caused by both forces being in close proximity and the uncertainty concerning the enemy's location.

Ironically, as General Jackson and his staff were beginning their reconnaissance mission around 9:15 PM, the group rode through the North Carolina 18th and one of the regimental officers asked Jackson if this wasn't the wrong place for him to be. The great Stonewall called back to the officer that the enemy had been routed and the danger was over.

General A.P. Hill and some of his staff members were on the same type mission but about 25 yards behind Jackson's group. The Federal forces were so close at one point that one of Hill's staff actually rode into a Union battery and was taken prisoner. Since the generals now knew the location of the Union lines they started back to the Confederate position. The two generals and their staffs totaled more than two dozen mounted riders since Hill's group had caught up with Jackson's.

In the darkness the group was mistaken by troops of the North Carolina 18th to be Union forces. Shots were fired and this caused return fire from the nearby Federals. General Hill raced about shouting to the Confederates to cease firing but Major Barry of the 18th, thinking this to be a ruse, yelled to his men to keep firing. He did not recognize General Hill in the darkness. The mounted Confederate officers were only about twenty yards from the Confederate ground forces when a solid sheet of rifle fire was launched by the North Carolinians. Several of the officers were killed and more than a dozen dead horses were later found. General Jackson was wounded badly and an arm had to be amputated as a result. He died ten days later from various complications.

When General Lane questioned Major Barry immediately after the tragedy, the major said he knew nothing of Hill and Jackson going to the front and that, in the darkness, it was impossible to tell friend from foe so when the horses started galloping he had thought it was Federal cavalry and had ordered his men to fire. Even though General Jim Lane had no direct responsibility for the tragic and mistaken shooting of General Stonewall Jackson, there obviously was some malice displayed toward him since the shooting had been done by "Lane's troops".

Could this be the reason that James Lane never received the promotions that he deserved? Well, the greatest authority on General Stonewall Jackson certainly thinks that is a possibility. The renowned Jackson scholar, Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr., of Virginia Tech, wrote in his acclaimed biography of Stonewall Jackson that the tragedy at Chancellorsville "may explain why Lane never received promotion to major general, despite a sterling record to the end of the war." If that is indeed the case, what a shame. It is also a shame that Jim Lane has never received the credit he deserves for his outstanding service to the Confederacy.

Returning to his Virginia home after the War, Jim Lane found his family destitute, the house plundered and the livestock and crops taken. He eventually returned to teaching and in 1869 was married. He taught at what is now Virginia Tech for a number of years and in 1882 he took a position as Chair of Engineering at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute in Auburn, Alabama. That great school is now known as Auburn University. He would remain at this post for 25 years and is, in fact, buried in Auburn at Pine Hill Cemetery.

As he had been an outstanding military figure, Jim Lane was also a highly respected academician and in 1896 the University of West Virginia conferred upon him an honorary doctorate in philosophy.

Jim Lane could never throw off the sorrow caused by the tragic mistaken shooting of Stonewall Jackson. The longtime Superintendent of VMI, Francis Smith, commented that anytime James Lane tried to speak of it his voice broke and tears would roll down his face. Smith also stated that he had a strong personal respect for the "ability and solid character" of Jim Lane.

I have had a personal interest in General James Henry Lane since I first read about him some years ago. Part of this interest is because of several common ties that we have. My undergraduate degree is from Auburn University. My graduate degrees are from Florida State University. My fraternity, Sigma Nu, was founded at Virginia Military Institute. Then, of course, there's this thing about the Confederacy. I think you understand.

Jim Lane lived an admirable life in every regard. Although he might not have received the recognition and acclaim due him, I can assure you that he will always have one big fan.

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

Bob Hurst is a Son of the South who has particular interest 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, Florida Division, SCV. He can be contacted at [confederatedad1@yahoo.com](mailto:confederatedad1@yahoo.com) or 850-878-7010 after 9PM EST.

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## **MONUMENT TO VICTIMS OF WAR CRIMES DEDICATED IN ROSWELL**

**(Atlanta - October 22, 2012)** It reads like something taken from the tragedies of Bosnia, Iraq, and Cambodia. An invading army entered a small town left undefended and proceeded to burn the cotton mills, which were the only industry native to the region and the only livelihood of the remaining inhabitants of the small town. Nearly 400 of the surviving women, children, and elderly men who worked in the mills were rounded up, arrested for treason as civilians, found guilty by the ranking commander of the invading army, and summarily sentenced to deportation out of their native region. The 400 victims were then subjected to a forced march of thirteen miles, where they were herded into locomotive cattle cars. Many did not survive the ensuing trip of more than 400 miles; and most of those who did were never heard from again in their native region.

This historical story is not that of some third world country but of Georgia citizens who suffered as the victims of war crimes at the hand of Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman in Roswell, Georgia during his infamous "march to the sea" during the War Between the States. The incident of July 10, 1864 ignited outrage against the atrocities of Northern troops in both the North and the South during the War and nearly resulted in the entrance of England into the War on the side of the Confederacy.

In 2000, a Victorian style monument dedicated to the memory of the 400 Roswell mill workers was erected in the park on Sloan Street in Roswell; and on Saturday, September 30, 2012, a history marker which tells the story was placed near the monument as a joint effort of the local Sons of Confederate, Veterans Roswell Mills Camp 1547 and Georgia's Civil War Commission as part of the ongoing commemoration of the Sesquicentennial (150th) Anniversary of the War. More is planned in 2014 on the 150th anniversary of the deportation of the Roswell mill workers.



For interviews regarding the historical monument dedicated to the Roswell victims or for more information, please call Jack Bridwell, Division Commander for the Georgia Sons of Confederate Veterans at 1-866-SCV-in-GA or visit online at [www.GeorgiaSCV.org](http://www.GeorgiaSCV.org).

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## **Volunteers find, honor Civil War veterans buried in Southwest Florida cemeteries**

By Amy Bennet News-Press.com Ft. Myers Florida

For video [http://www.news-](http://www.news-press.com/article/20121104/NEWS0110/311040045/Volunteers-find-honor-Civil-War-veterans-buried-Southwest-Florida-cemeteries?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Home)

[press.com/article/20121104/NEWS0110/311040045/Volunteers-find-honor-Civil-War-veterans-buried-Southwest-Florida-cemeteries?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Home](http://www.news-press.com/article/20121104/NEWS0110/311040045/Volunteers-find-honor-Civil-War-veterans-buried-Southwest-Florida-cemeteries?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Home)



Tom Fyock of Cape Coral paints the cross on the grave of a Confederate soldier Thursday at the Fort Myers Cemetery. The crosses, which are from the 1920s, were rusted, so the Sons of Confederate Veterans were restoring them. The members also marked the locations of the graves of Union soldiers

List of the known Confederate States Army burials at the Fort Myers Cemetery., compiled by members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Major W.M. Footman camp and the Southwest Florida Historical Society.

For Robert Gates, it's a matter of honor.

Over the last few months, Gates and a small corps of volunteers have spent hundreds of hot, buggy hours tromping the Fort Myers Cemetery's 67 acres, hunting for the graves of long-dead men.

Their original goal was to record, flag and map the final resting place of every Confederate veteran — 49 so far — but along the way, the project expanded.

"Out of honor, we did map whatever Union soldiers we came across," Gates says.

The volunteers have found five Yankee graves.



Heading up the project is the local chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans — the William Footman Camp, with help from their Marco Island counterparts as well as the Fort Myers chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Southwest Florida Historical Society.

Once the Confederate graves were found, each got a Confederate States of America flag and will soon display a CSA medallion. And the 70-plus-year-old iron crosses marking 15 of them got an overhaul, all at the volunteers' expense — \$1,300 and counting.

For SCV member Thomas Fyock, it was all of the above plus knees and back. He took on the cleaning, sanding, priming and repainting of most of the old iron crosses until they gleamed like new. "Just doing my duty," he says.

"We put a lot of time, effort, heart and money into this," Gates says, but it's a small price to pay to "remember the good names of those who sacrificed wealth, family, health and livelihood to defend Florida."

Another point of pride has been pointing out that a lone iron CSA cross labeled "Unknown" should be plural.

Based on historic records and what he knows about old cemeteries, Gates is certain it was placed not to mark the final resting place of one unidentified man, but intended to honor all the veterans whose markers had been lost over time. "That's a common occurrence in cemeteries," he says. So, the group has hired east Lee County's General Memorials to make the \$500 correction, he says. Another of the project's rewards, Gates says, has been the chance to learn about the veterans the volunteers were honoring.

"It's almost like time travel," he says.

For example, the first person to be buried in the cemetery in 1888 was Fort Myers resident Charles Stebbins. Born in Massachusetts, he wasn't even a Southerner.

"He was a Yankee," Gates says, "but when the war went down, he stuck by and defended his new state of Florida."

Stebbins took a bullet to the left lung in the 1865 battle of Fort Myers, but he recovered, returned to civilian life, married and went on to become the city of Fort Myers' first clerk and treasurer. Yet more than two decades later, the wound proved fatal when the shell worked its way out of Stebbins' lung.

Many of the veterans laid to rest in the cemetery didn't fight in that battle, but were natives deployed elsewhere or veterans from other places who retired, died and were buried here. Gates also marvels at the story of Francis Wilson, who became a Confederate cavalry scout when he was 12 and served until he was 16.

"Pretty cool imagining a young teenager skulking around the wilds of Florida looking for Yankees," Gates says.

Gates, a Cypress Lake High School graduate and decorated Air Force veteran, is a charter member and commander of the Footman camp. For him, honoring Confederate veterans is a daily duty motivated by a keen sense of place and history. Gates' routine includes checking the Robert E. Lee Statue in Fort Myers and caring for Confederate graves at the Buckingham, Alva and New Prospect cemeteries in North Fort Myers, where the SCV has raised money to place markers on all Confederate graves.

Local history expert Helen Farrell helped with the project. She says noting residents' and the region's role in the Civil War is simply acknowledging historical reality.

"Lots of people I've talked to are kind of shocked to learn so many Civil War soldiers — both Confederate and Union, too — are buried here," she says. "No matter what your own opinions are, they were doing what they thought was right. And there's quite a fascination in knowing the stories of the people who served."