

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

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Editor Don Young

January 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.

CAMP OFFICERS

CAMP STAFF

Chaplain Tim Cobb	321-259-8391	Color Sgt Evan Phillips	321-961-9407
Treasurer Tom Watkins	321-254-0241	Q'termaster	Open
2 nd Lt. Denny Daw	321-243-9696	Judge Advocate Don Lock	321-752-9276
1 st Lt. Don Young	321-452-3207	Public Information Officer	Open
Adjutant Open			
Commander Kevin Atchison	321-242-1126	Editor Don Young	321-452-3207
		Heritage Don Young	321-452-3207
		Matron Of Honor	
		UDC/OCR Liaison Open	

COMMANDERS CORNER

I hope everyone had a merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I took off a week from work and traveled to Oklahoma to visit family. While there I was able to share with family members their ancestor's service to the Confederacy. I was happy to see that my cousin's son was very interested in his ancestry and have hope that he will become a SCV member in the future. I hope every camp member will take some time the next few weeks and invite friends and family to our local camp meetings. I know several people in my building that have expressed interest in the SCV. I hope to get some of them to meetings the next few months.

I would like to thank Miss Lee for planning all the activities at our Christmas social gathering during our December meeting. We had a good turnout for our gift exchange. I would also like to thank those that provided the treats for our deserts. Before our social gathering new officers were sworn in, they will take office on 1 January. We still need an Adjutant. Until we can fill than position, I will continue to act as the Camp adjutant.

For our 2010-2011 year we had a very good retention rate with only 1 compatriot not upping his dues. I will be asking several of you during the next few weeks to help fill appointed position

slots. If you have not served actively in the Camp in the past, I would encourage you to consider helping by accepting one of these positions.

We will soon be entering our active time of the year. We have already had the Florida Secession Reenactment in Tallahassee during early January. The Battle of Olustee Reenactment will be held 18-20 February while the Battle of Narcoossee will be held during 25-27 March. Our next Camp Color Guard event will be held at Cape Canaveral on 5 March for the commemoration of the last naval battle in the Revolutionary War. In closing, I hope to see everyone at our next camp meeting on 27 January.

In service to The South, Kevin Atchison Commander Camp 1387

EVENTS

27 Jan Camp Meeting

04-05 Feb SD Lee Institute - Charleston SC 18-20 Feb Battle of Olustee Reenactment

19 Feb Rally, parade, living history - Montgomery AL
 24 Feb Lee – Jackson Meeting, order from menu
 05 March Naval Battle Commemoration Port Canaveral

PROGRAM Columbine Mural

Our Florida Confederate History series will conclude with compatriot Dick Lee speaking on the Columbine building mural project in Palatka. Join us as Dick presents a video and comments on the production of this mural. The picture depicts the skirmish between Capt. JJ Dickison and the federal gunboat Columbine in which the boat was sunk.

THE LAST NAVAL BATTLE CEREMONIES SATURDAY MARCH 5, 2011

Camp 1387 will participate in this event, please let Don Young if you are available. The 228th Anniversary of the LAST NAVAL BATTLE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION will once again take place at the Canaveral Port Authority Administration Bldg., 445 Challenger Road, Cape Canaveral, FL. We will be assembling at 9:15am and our parade will step-off at EXACTLY 10am. In case of rain the ceremonies will be held inside.

The event is sponsored by the Florida Society SAR and hosted by the Brevard Chapter SAR along with the local chapters of the DAR.

The Last Naval Battle commemoration is a SAR National Color Guard event, that recognizes the March 10, 1783 naval battle fought offshore of Cape Canaveral, Florida. Capt. John Barry of the Continental Navy Ship Alliance was victorious over HMS Sybil, thereby saving the transport ship Duc de Lauzon and her cargo of much-needed funds headed for the Continental Congress.

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL AND GENERAL LEE REDUX

As each year comes to a close and I begin looking forward to January and a new year, I automatically think "Confederate Generals" month. This is because January has long been considered special by many Southerners because of the special birthdays that occur in the month

Now, there were 425 Confederate generals so the laws of probability would indicate that any month would likely be the birth month of somewhere between 30 and 40 of these military leaders. Ah, but it is the "who" and not the "how many" that makes January stand out since it is

the birth month of Robert E. Lee, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, James Longstreet and George Pickett. No other month has such an impressive array of Confederate heroes.

January is also the month when many Sons of Confederate Veterans camps around the country will hold a Lee/Jackson banquet in honor of the two generally most beloved of Confederate leaders. I should mention here that Gen. Longstreet's birthday is January 8, Gen. Lee's the 19th, Gen. Jackson's the 21 and Gen. Pickett's the 28. While 99% of camps will call their largest early-year event the "Lee/Jackson Banquet", I did have the honor several years ago to speak at a camp banquet in west Florida which was deemed the "Lee/Jackson/Longstreet/Pickett Banquet". Nice event.

I mention all this merely to emphasize how important these banquets are on the SCV calendar for January and the early part of each year since oftentimes these are the only major functions during this time period.

This coming New Year, 2011, will be a bit different, though. During the period 2011 through 2015 the country, the South, the SCV and other heritage organizations will celebrate and commemorate the sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) of each year of that great conflict known in the South as the "War for Southern Independence", in the rest of the country and academia as the "Civil War" (even though it wasn't), officially by Congress as "The War Between the States" and heaven only knows how many other appellations. In fact, I understand that many of the gentle folks of Charleston refer to the conflict merely as "The Late Unpleasantness".

And speaking of Charleston, that beautiful old South Carolina city is getting a head start on everyone else regarding sesquicentennial events as their first celebration is scheduled for December 20 of 2010 to commemorate the150th anniversary of the secession of the Palmetto State on December 20, 1860. South Carolina, of course, was the first Southern state to secede. (Note: As I write this the event has not yet occurred, but as you read this in the magazine it will already be a happy memory.)

The event in Charleston will be a marvelous occasion. It will be held in a large auditorium/hall and is completely sold out. There will be hundreds of people in period clothing, decorations as though it were 1860, a fine banquet meal, period music (including many renditions of "DIXIE", I'm sure) and a theatrical presentation of the SC Secession Convention. Altogether a truly fine and memorable evening. It is also guaranteed a great deal of media coverage. That is because the South Carolina NAACP ("National Association of Always Complaining People") has planned a protest demonstration in front of the hall during the banquet and you know how much the media just loves conflict, especially of a racial nature.

I understand that there has already been some national mention of the event. I was told that Keith Olbermann of MSNBC mentioned the event on his show and then made some swarmy remark about "celebrating 150 years of treason". I am repeating this second-hand since I rarely watch MSNBC and I simply cannot stomach Olbermann. I find him vile, uninformed and always wrong in his opinions. Bless his heart, though, with his audience so small, his ratings so low and his book unable to crack even the top 1000 at Amazon, poor Keith has good reason to always be in a bit of a funk.

Charleston is just the first of many hundreds of events planned for the Sesquicentennial celebration. Here in Tallahassee there is a planned reenactment of the Florida Secession Convention which was held January 10, 1861 at the State Capitol. (Note: Florida was the third state to secede.) The reenactment will be held Saturday, January 8, 2011 in the Senate chamber of the Old Capitol where the original convention was held. The presentation will begin at 12:30PM and should be completed by 3PM so catch an early noon meal on the 8th and come on by. Admission is free and I understand there is enough seating (and standing room) for about 400. Any dress is acceptable (but please wear something) and if you have period clothing that would be outstanding.

Now, for those of you who have emailed me, phoned me or approached me at parades, restaurants or wherever to tell me I should announce these events in advance rather than merely writing about them afterwards, consider yourselves told and I expect to see you at the Old Capitol on January 8.

You may be wondering why General Lee's name is in the title of this article since, so far, I have written primarily about the Sesquicentennial. Well, the rest of this piece will relate to that wondrous gentleman who was the best known and most beloved of all Confederates.

If you have read previous CONFEDERATE JOURNAL articles about Robert E. Lee over the past five years, you certainly know of my deep respect and admiration for this truly remarkable and truly good man. In these politically correct times in which we now live, there are people with an agenda who will go to any extreme to bring criticism against anything Confederate. Even an individual as decent, outstanding and historically well thought of as General Lee is not immune to the character assaults and outright lies of those who would attempt to tarnish him and, by extension, the Confederacy and its Cause. That Cause, by the way, was independence.

To learn the truth about historical figures it is generally best to read what was written about them by their contemporaries and, more specifically, contemporaries who were neutral, were great in their own right and could observe the subject both close-up and from a distance. That is why I was so happy to be able to purchase recently a book that I have been seeking for some time. That book is THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR: AN ENGLISH VIEW and contains the writings of Field Marshall Viscount Sir Garnet Wolseley.

Before I delve into what the great Wolseley wrote about General Lee, let me first tell you about Sir Garnet Wolseley and establish with you his credibility both for greatness in his own right and as an individual who could recognize greatness in others from the lofty perch of his own character and accomplishments.

Let me begin by saying that Wolseley is generally given credit for the transformation of the British army from a gentleman's army to a modern fighting force. He was the one who prepared the Brits to play a key role in the winning of the First World War.

He was attracted to the military at an early age and followed in the footsteps of his military father. From the beginning he was destined for greatness. His first action was in the Crimean War where he was elevated to the rank of captain at age 21. Because of his youth there was opposition to his holding this rank. When he threatened resignation if the rank were taken away, his superior officers recognized greatness and allowed him to maintain the rank. Just three years later he became the youngest lieutenant colonel in the British army.

Wolseley served in India and China before being sent to Canada in 1861 to help plan for possible war against the Union forces of the United States after northern forces had illegally removed two Confederate diplomats from a British ship. This was the famous Trent Affair. He traveled in secret to Virginia to study the organization and effectiveness of the Confederate army since it was primarily a volunteer army. He spent much time with generals Lee, Jackson and Longstreet and was highly impressed by all three. It was Robert E. Lee, however, who most impressed Wolseley.

Based on this time with the Confederates he wrote "A Month's Visit to the Confederate Headquarters" which was published in Blackwood's magazine and is still well-known today.

Garnet Wolseley later served in Cyprus as the first high commissioner of that island after it came into the empire and as governor and commanding general in South Africa Natal Province. In 1880 he returned to England and was made adjutant general which gave him authority over military training. In 1882 he was sent to Egypt to quell a nationalist uprising where his brilliant tactics led to suppression of the revolt. To show the gratitude of the British government, Wolseley was made a baron and paid a reward of 30,000 pounds. In 1884 he was made viscount and in1894 was made field marshall. In 1895 he was promoted to commander-in-chief of the British army.

Viscount Wolseley also found time to author THE LIFE OF MARLBOROUGH, THE DECLINE AND FALL OF NAPOLEON and SOLDIERS POCKET BOOK FOR FIELD SERVICE, the bible of the British army.

This is only a brief portrait of the brilliant Wolseley - a man of great honor, accomplishment and intelligence. How would a man of his stature describe Robert E. Lee? Let me list just a few direct quotes from the pen of this great man:

"I desire to make known to the reader not only the renowned soldier, whom I believe to have been the greatest of his age, but to give some insight into the character of one whom I have always considered the most perfect man I ever met."

Wolseley on Lee

"He was opposed to secession, and to prevent it he would willingly sacrifice everything except honor and duty, which forbid him to desert his State... Nothing would induce him to have any part in the invasion of his own State, much as he abhorred the war into which he felt she was rushing. His love of country (Virginia), his unselfish patriotism, caused him to relinquish home, fortune, a certain future, in fact everything for her sake."

Wolseley on Lee turning down the offer of command of the Union army to side with Virginia and the Confederacy

"He spoke bitterly of none - a remarkable fact, as at that time men on both sides were wont to heap the most violent terms of abuse upon their respective enemies."

Wolseley on the character and Christian nature of Lee

"Where else in history is a great man to be found whose whole life was one such blameless record of duty nobly done? ... The most perfect gentleman of a State long celebrated for its chivalry, he was just, gentle, and generous, and child-like in the simplicity of his character."

Wolseley on the character of Lee

"I have met many of the great men of my time, but Lee alone impressed me with the feeling that I was in the presence of a man who was cast in a grander mould, and made of different and of finer metal than all other men. He is stamped upon my memory as a being apart and superior to all others in every way: a man with whom none I ever knew, and very few of whom I have read, are worthy to be classed."

Wolseley on the greatness of Lee and finally,

"When all the angry feelings roused by Secession are buried with those which existed when the Declaration of Independence was written, when Americans can review the history of their last great rebellion with calm impartiality, I believe that all will admit that General Lee towered far above all men on either side of that struggle: I believe he will be regarded not only as the most prominent figure of the Confederacy, but as the great American of the

nineteenth century, whose statue is well worthy to stand on an equal pedestal with that of Washington, and whose memory is worthy to be enshrined in the hearts of all his countrymen."

Wolseley on Lee's rightful place in history

It is obvious from these quotes of Wolseley from his book that he recognized the greatness and uniqueness of Robert E. Lee. It is unfortunate that during the next four years of the Sesquicentennial celebration I am certain there will be many attempts by the politically correct, revisionist historians and general haters of the South to attack and denigrate the good name and spotless character of the magnificent Lee. When you read these attacks in print or hear them in broadcasts, be sure to contrast them with the descriptions of General Lee by Sir Garnet Wolseley and remember - the attackers never knew General Lee, Wolseley did.

Harry Birthday Confederate Generals and Happy New Year to all of you!

P.S. As a postscript allow me to leave you with one more quote from the brilliant Wolseley:

"The unprejudiced outsider will generally admit the sovereign right, both historical and legal, which each State possessed under the constitution, to leave the Union when its people thought fit to do so."

Another erudite individual who is honest enough to admit that THE SOUTH WAS RIGHT.

Bob Hurst is a Southern patriot who has deep interests in Confederate history and the antebellum architecture of the South. He is Commander of Col. David Lang Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, in Tallahassee and also 2nd Lieutenant Commander of the Florida Division, SCV. You may contact him at confederatedad1@yahoo.com or 850-878-7010.

South Carolina Secession Reenactment

Southern heritage groups including the SCV SC Division held a Secession Convention Reenactment and a Secession Ball in Charleston 20 December. Left wing local and state newspapers ran negative and inflammatory editorials leading up to the event. The naacp announced a protest and march to demonstrate against the event. Activist Al Sharpton spoke out against the event and said he would join the protest. The ball sold 400 tickets. http://www.cleveland.com/nation/index.ssf/2010/12/secession_ball_naacp_protests.html

SCV members took to the streets with video cameras and show the 6-8 protestors and the less than 80 marchers. No Al Sharpton. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzmIts0kh9Q

African-American state senator defends secession celebrations

http://www.examiner.com/charleston-democrat-in-charleston-sc/african-american-state-senator-defends-secession-celebrations The naacp thinks this true Southern leader is not black enough.

New South Carolina Marker Erected

 $\frac{\text{http://www2.counton2.com/news/2010/dec/20/4/new-marker-identifies-site-secession-signing-ar-1246030}{\text{ar-}1246030}$

Sesquicentennial Events - Florida Vote of Secession

Southern Heritage groups including compatriots and Camps of the Florida Division SCV staged a Secession Convention reenactment in the old Capital Building; this is the actual location of convention that declared independence 10 January 1861. The spectator crowd was large and nearly filled the space. Media response has largely been neutral to positive.





Article Sunshine State News

 $\underline{\text{http://www.sunshinestatenews.com/story/florida-marks-150th-anniversary-secession\#comment-17041}$

Tampa Bay Online

http://www2.tbo.com/content/2011/jan/07/071217/confederate-re-enactors-to-observe-anniversary-of-/news-breaking/

Jacksonville

 $\underline{http://jacksonville.com/news/florida/2011-01-10/story/floridians-mark-anniversary-joining-confederacy}$

Lake County News

http://lakeconews.com/content/view/17793/925/

2011 Civil War Stamps from the Postal Service





The Postal Service begins a series with these stamps commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, joining others across the country in paying tribute to the American experience during the tumultuous years from 1861 to 1865. The stamps will go on sale April 12.

A souvenir sheet of two stamps will be issued each year through 2015. For 2011, one stamp depicts the beginning of the war in April 1861 at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, while the other depicts the first major battle of the war three months later at Bull Run, near Manassas, Virginia. The Civil War profoundly changed the country, bringing an end to slavery, transforming the social life of the South and the economic life of the nation, and having a lasting impact on those who lived through the four-year ordeal.

Art Director Phil Jordan of Falls Church, VA, created the stamps using images of Civil War battles. The Fort Sumter stamp is a reproduction of a Currier & Ives lithograph, circa 1861, titled "Bombardment of Fort Sumter, Charleston Harbor." The Bull Run stamp is a reproduction of a 1964 painting by Sidney E. King titled "The Capture of Rickett's Battery." The painting depicts fierce fighting on Henry Hill over an important Union battery during the Battle of First Bull Run. For the stamp pane's background image, Jordan used a photograph dated circa 1861 of a Union regiment assembled near Falls Church, Virginia.

The stamp pane includes comments on the war by Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, and Robert E. Lee. It also includes some of the lyrics used during the Civil War in "Johnny is Gone for a Soldier," a song dating back at least to the Revolutionary War.

Dixie Played at the Scott Inauguration

The Florida National Guard Band played a medley of military and historic songs at the Florida Governor's inauguration. The grouping included DIXIE. The editor has not seen any discussion on weather or not Scott had any input into the selection or if it was done solely by the band. http://www.postonpolitics.com/2011/01/its-official-rick-scott-floridas-45th-governor/

Tennessee 150th Anniversary

Here is a good site that has some short video clips commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War in Tennessee produced and made by Nashville Public Television and Dept. of Education. They are really well done and I think you would enjoy these. There is even one from the Franklin reenactment.

Best wishes. Matt Editors Note: These are excellent short clips, take a look. http://www.wnpt.org/productions/civilwar/shortsubjects/monuments.html

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Lee's last years: What you didn't learn from PBS, Daily Caller

Yesterday, January 19th, was Robert E. Lee's birthday. As we approach the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, we'll hear a great deal about Lee the commander of the Confederacy's Army of Northern Virginia. Sadly, I suspect that we'll not hear enough about Lee the educator, the rebuilder, the advocate for reconciliation in a broken nation.

This suspicion was confirmed recently when PBS aired a piece on Lee's life as a part of its "American Experience" series. As PBS tells it, following the War a defeated Lee "hid himself away at the presidency of a small college in the mountains of western Virginia." There, Lee paid public lip service to "reunion and reconciliation" but remained privately unrepentant and resentful. "In death, as in life," we're instructed, Lee "divided the nation."

This portrayal of Lee by PBS is both inaccurate and incomplete, although consistent with a media narrative that will never give more than the most grudging respect to either military leaders or Southerners. Indeed, the inaccuracies in the presentation were hardly limited to Lee's last years, although that is the focus of this article.

Especially today, when our media elites profess to be concerned about civility and reconciliation, its unfortunate PBS did not consider suitable for public consumption information about Lee's actions and accomplishments at that "small college in the mountains." For, in fact, far from hiding himself away after Appomattox, in his final years Lee left a remarkable, lasting legacy for Washington and Lee University and for the nation.

In the spring of 1865, higher education throughout the South was — like much else — in complete disarray. Many schools had closed during the war. Washington College, in Lexington, Virginia, remained open but was hanging by a thread. A raid in 1864 by General David Hunter wrought havoc in the town, and occupation of the college by federal troops had damaged buildings, scattered the library, and destroyed equipment.

In August 1865, the Trustees of the College met to determine how to restore the school to health. They resolved to ask federal forces to vacate their buildings. And, in an even bolder move and unbeknownst to him, they unanimously elected Robert E. Lee president of the college. Lee was offered a salary of \$1,500 per year, plus the use of a house and a small plot on which to grow vegetables. Rejecting offers originating in New York and London, and many times more lucrative, Lee accepted and moved to the small town of Lexington.

In the history of American higher education, retired military officers have not been notably successful as college presidents. Lee proved an exception to this rule. And one of his several major contributions was in the design of an innovative curriculum, far more practical in its content than the classical course of study then prevalent at colleges and universities across the land.

As one commentator on Lee's presidency of Washington College put it, Lee presided over "a remarkable and unprecedented transformation of the institution's educational program." Just three weeks after his installation, the Board of the College approved Lee's recommendations for a new curriculum, introducing new course offerings in a range of subjects, including mechanical and civil engineering, metallurgy and the chemical aspects of mining, architecture and building materials, and even modern languages.

In addition, and of particular interest today, Lee's experience in the Mexican War and in Texas had persuaded him that Americans should understand the Spanish language and the culture of Latin America. Thus, under his leadership, Washington College became among the first of the nation's institutions of higher learning to offer not only an engineering curriculum, but also Spanish as a foreign language.